

### BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: James Higuchi

*"Well, I grew up with six older brothers. I was the youngest, so I was kind of spoiled. (Chuckles) We had a good home life. Every family in the camp, we used to raise our own vegetables, chickens, rabbit. And every family used to get their own garden. . . . And we had all kind fruit trees in the yard. You know, papaya, banana, whatever. And as far as community affairs goes . . . we used to have a PYPA, Pu'ukoli'i Young People Association. And every year, we used to get a New Year's dance. And we had our theater in Pu'ukoli'i."*

James Higuchi was born in 1926 in Pu'ukoli'i, West Maui. Pu'ukoli'i was a plantation camp of Pioneer Mill Company. The camp was located *mauka* of the sugar mill and was one of the area's largest. The youngest of Goro and Kiku Higuchi's seven sons, James attended Pu'ukoli'i School and Lahainaluna High School, graduating in 1944.

Upon graduating, Higuchi began his forty-four-year career working for Pioneer Mill Company. He retired in 1988. Today, he lives in Lahaina with his wife, Futaba Murayama Higuchi. The couple raised three daughters and has two grandchildren.

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

James Higuchi (JH)

Lahaina, Maui

February 5, 2003

BY: Maria Orr (MO)

MO: Wednesday February 5th, and it's about nine A.M., and I'm at the Masters' Reading Room at the Baldwin House with Mr. James Higuchi.

So let's start off with just telling me about where you were born and raised, when/where, and your family, your mother and father and so on.

JH: My name is James Higuchi. I was born 1926 at Lahaina, in the Pioneer Mill Hospital. And I lived in Pu'ukoli'i all my life. Not all my life, but till I moved to Lahaina. I was seventh son of my parents, Goro and Kiku Higuchi. I spent my life till 1970 in Pu'ukoli'i.

I went to grammar school. We had our own public grammar school in Pu'ukoli'i so I went to Pu'ukoli'i School from first through eighth grade. Then I went to Lahainaluna [School] for four years and graduated.

As far as living in Pu'ukoli'i, Pu'ukoli'i was a big plantation camp owned by the Pioneer Mill Company. We rented our homes from Pioneer Mill. Well, growing up in a camp like that was fun because there were about, I would say, maybe two hundred families with many children. All the families had about six, seven, eight, nine children. We had plenty playmates, so growing up was enjoyable.

As I said, I went to Pu'ukoli'i School from first to eighth grade. At school we used to participate in all kinds of activities. In Pu'ukoli'i, we had all the necessary things. Like we had our own dispensary, [run by] the Pioneer Mill [Company]. This Pu'ukoli'i nursery to take care of the people there. And then we had our three different churches: Catholic, Methodist, Buddhist. And we had our own restaurant. This was the big plantation restaurant that took care of—they had many single people living in Pu'ukoli'i. They had buildings, about three or four buildings, that the single people lived in. And then this restaurant cooked for these people. Of course, the buildings had their own kitchen that everybody used, but for lunch, to take to work, and dinner, they could eat over there.

At the same building they had two barbershops and one sundry store where they sold all kind of things. And then we had our own plantation store where we did all our shopping.

As far as entertainment, well, we always used to—most of the families didn't own cars at that time, in the [19]30s, [19]40s. So we usually played together. We got together and played whatever game we can think of.

And at the same time, we used to go to school, regular school. Then after school, we used to go to Japanese[-language] school. And they had a Japanese school that we all attended. The school was closed when the war broke out in 1941. So after that time, we didn't have Japanese school, but we were fortunate when we were growing up we had the Japanese school. So we did other things, you know, I mean in connection with Japan. We had that sumo wrestling. We had our own place to practice. And we used to come down Lahaina and participate against the other schools. And then we used to get play day, you know, like on New Year's. And what else?

Pioneer Mill took care of all the employees. So we depended on the plantation. Even if we had to travel to different places, plantation used to supply a truck. For example, we had an annual [Maui] County Fair. They used to supply the truck and we used to go to the fair [in Kahului] in the truck. And even playing sports, at that time they had the Alexander House Settlement. They used to take care of island-wide sports program. So, we used to have basketball, football, all those sports that they coordinated. So we were kept busy year round playing sports. They had basketball. They used to get a weight division, you know, eighty-five pounds, hundred pounds. They used to play by weight. Football the same thing. So we used to get our teams and we used to play together, then we used to play with the other camps. And we won West Maui champions. We used to go to Wailuku to play teams on the other side [of the island]. Football, too. That's the only chance we had to travel because we didn't have cars, eh? So we used to go to Ha'ikū, Pā'ia, Pu'unēnē. It was a treat for us to see those places. So, growing up, we were really kept busy so we never got into that much trouble. (Chuckles)

Well, I grew up with six older brothers. I was the youngest, so I was kind of spoiled. (Chuckles) We had a good home life. Every family in the camp, we used to raise our own vegetables, chickens, rabbit. And every family used to get their own garden. So we grew our own vegetables and we had all kind fruit trees in the yard. You know, papaya, banana, whatever.

And as far as community affairs goes, we come to New Year's. Every family used to make food. And then we used to go from house to house, tell them "Happy New Year," and then make the rounds the whole day. We used to have a PYPA, Pu'ukoli'i Young People Association. And every year, we used to get a New Year's dance. And we had our theater in Pu'ukoli'i.

Then we had our community bath. Filipino camp, Japanese camp, where everybody used to go and bathe. Of course, some of the houses, we had our own outside bathhouse.

MO: Tell me about your parents.

JH: Well, they're from Fukuoka, Japan. They came [to Hawai'i] in the early 1900s. My oldest brother was born 1912. So they was here from early 1900s.

MO: Your oldest brother was born here?

JH: Yeah. All of us were born here.

MO: Oh, okay. And they [parents] came over specifically . . .

JH: Well, at that time, the plantation was getting labor from Japan, and Philippines, and all that. So, they came with the intention of staying a few years, make some money, and go

back. But most of them ended up staying because the kids grew up. We all were American citizens because we born here.

MO: You guys didn't want to go back to Japan?

JH: Well, we were born here, so we didn't have any connection with Japan. I guess most of them got used to here, so they never did go back. They would go back for a visit. Most of the workers that came over to work here settled. So we were the second generation.

MO: What did your father do?

JH: He worked for the plantation, too.

MO: What did he do, though?

JH: Well, he used to work out in the field. And later on, he hurt his back, so he used to be custodian for the family. Then he used to work as a butcher. And my mom used to take in washing. You know, was plenty single guys over there. I remember when I was going grammar school, my mom used to do washing for the schoolteachers. You know, used to get single ladies that come [to Pu'ukoli'i] to teach. And some supervisors' homes were right alongside the school. Well, my mother used to wash their clothes. So I remember, on the way to school, I used to take the washing to deliver to the customers.

MO: How was it growing up as the youngest of all these boys? How did they treat you?

JH: Well, as I said, I had no problem. I mean, I was little spoiled but (chuckles).

MO: Who spoiled you? Your parents?

JH: Well, yeah. Because I had all older brothers. They took care of most of the things. But, we got along real good. Then after finishing high school, I got married. We settled in Pu'ukoli'i. We stayed in a one-bedroom house, then we moved to a two-bedroom. Then eventually we moved into my parents' home because they moved to Lahaina. They built their own home in Lahaina. I stayed at Pu'ukoli'i till 1970. Pioneer Mill opened up land in Lahaina to the employees [for purchase], so we can have our own place. In 1970, I moved to Lahaina, where I'm living now up Kelawea Mauka, up on the way to Lahainaluna [School].

So as soon as I finished high school, I started working for the plantation. Actually, we worked for the plantation while we were still going to school. You know, weekends and summers. But you see, at that time I wasn't a mechanic. So we used to go out and work, cutting grass, and spraying, and planting. All manual labor. But plantation used to hire all the kids. So we used to get fun.

MO: Before you went to grammar school, what kind of things did you remember doing before you went to school, as a real small kid?

JH: Well, I don't remember that much about it.

MO: Okay. What about in elementary school? What did you do? So from what year did you start [attending] the Japanese-language school? From first grade?

JH: Yeah.

MO: Oh, okay.

JH: Well, at school I was active in sports. I used to participate in all kind of sports, even in high school. My whole family was sports-oriented, too. Older brothers, like Fred, was five years older than me. He was a very good athlete, you know, football, basketball, track. So when I went up there [i.e., Lahainaluna School], they knew who I was, (chuckles) that's because of my brothers.

I worked in the [sugarcane] field for couple of years. That was in '44. Till about '46 I worked out in the field. Then Pioneer Mill had a dairy, in Honokōwai. So the boss, the manager over there, I knew him, so he came to ask me, come down work for him. So I went down there and started working for him in 1946. Used to deliver milk all over West Maui: Honolua, Downtown [Lahaina]. We started 4:30 in the morning and go out delivering milk, all the way until Honolua side and then come back. And after breakfast, come Lahaina, deliver to all the stores and crews out in the field.

The dairy had place to milk the cow. And there was a place to bottle the milk.

MO: Where was the dairy located?

JH: Honokōwai.

MO: Oh, Honokōwai.

JH: Oh, yeah. They used to make chocolate milk and strawberry milk. And the plantation used to sell these tickets for the workers to buy the milk. So during the day, we used to go out in the field and sell these guys milk. And then in the camp and in the schools, too. And individual residences.

While I was working there, one incident I remember—we had this Crater Village up in the mountain over there. They had pumps to pump the water for irrigation. And so, usually they get a family over there to take care of all the pumps and everything. So had one family living up there. Since that was kind of out of the way, we never used to go every day, but we used to go couple times a week. And they had these preschool[-aged] children. (Chuckles) Two girls, one boy. When we go deliver milk, we used to pack all these small [bottles of] strawberry and chocolate milk in the ice. What we used to do is, in the morning, get these crates, and we put in about one dozen quarts of milk. That's the one we deliver to the families. And the thing is all packed and nice, so we put in all these small bottles of chocolate and strawberry milk. You know, the ice for keep 'em cold, yeah.

We used to go up there (chuckles) and these two girls and a boy, preschool, they got to know us every time. They live over there, only themselves, so they lonesome. So, they welcome when somebody come. So we started giving them milk. So every time we go up there, they waiting for us. (Laughs)

Then, oh, must have been about thirty, forty years later, we went to Las Vegas with Lahainaluna graduates. We go up there with a group every year. Annual class reunion. The mother of those children was connected to our class reunion. So, she came. And we were in the casino, my wife and I. Then I saw this lady, I know the mother, see, because she lived in Lahaina. But the daughter, the one who used to be living up there at that time when they were children, I didn't see her for years. So I told my wife, "Oh, that's the small girl I used to give the milk to. I wonder if she going remember me?"

Oh! When she saw me, she screamed. "Oh, the milk man!" (Chuckles) Oh, made my day, you know what I mean? So, long ago, we made a real good impression on them. You know, they going remember. I felt that we really made them happy. Oh, a really nice reunion.

MO: Did you ever see them anymore?

JH: Oh, yeah. After that, they came to visit. The mother living in Lahaina, so she came to visit.

MO: So tell me some more about your sports thing, you know, what you guys did. Like how you got from the camp. You said you went by truck.

JH: Yeah, plantation.

MO: Yeah. What was that like?

JH: Oh, to us was a big occasion because we hardly got out from the camp. Every place we go we used to walk. From the camp, we used to go walk up the mountain. So we go pick guavas, oranges, bananas, all in the valley. Used to grow wild, all those things. So we walk couple of miles. Then we go from Pu'ukoli'i down to the beach, was another couple of miles. All the places we go, we used to walk.

So when we played sports, we go to the other camps to participate. Plantation used to furnish all the transportation. Even when we formed our football team, I remember we used to—just started 105-pound league. We used to come down Lahaina. Then we used to go to Ha'ikū, Pā'ia, you know, where they had football teams. We used to go on the weekends. Plantation used to supply us with the shoulder pad and head gear (chuckles) and then uniform. And then they supply the transportation. They sponsored the team. Then basketball, same thing. Yeah, we were really kept occupied. So to me, I never felt neglected or disgusted. So busy playing and going to school and all that.

So I never had any feeling of moving out from here because I got plenty friends. The only thing, when we started high school, well, was kind of hard for us because transportation-wise, we used to come in the bus and soon as *pau* school, we gotta go home with the bus. If not, we cannot go home. So certain extracurricular stuff we cannot participate because you gotta catch the bus and go home. That's the only thing that was kind of hard. Even when I wanted to play sports up there [Lahainaluna]—I joined the basketball team. During the basketball season, one of my older brothers was living in Lahaina. He got married and was living in Lahaina. So (chuckles) basketball season, I had to stay at his place, sleep over there, so that I can go practice after school. So, that was the only thing.

Like track, the coach told me, "Well, you train at home all right. You can run around and just come out to the meet." That was the only inconvenience. Then they were trying to influence me to—they had a boarding department up there. So the coach and the principal came to talk to me for stay at the dorm over there (chuckles) so that I can play football. I had to refuse because Pu'ukoli'i at that time, when I was junior, had a few car owners that used to take their cars to school because they had children. It was more convenient than pay for the bus. So when I was junior, one of the families with a car came to talk to me because the driver of the car graduated so they were looking for one driver. So (chuckles) they came to see me during the summer. "I'll help you get license. How about you go drive the car to school?" You know, so I can take the rest of the children in the car to school. [I told them] okay.

So he helped me get my license so I couldn't tell, "Oh, I gotta play football now so I cannot drive." I told [the coach], "No, I cannot. I want to, but I cannot because I got obligations." (Chuckles)

The plantation was really helpful. They used to do the house repair. And every summer they used to come grade the road. They really keep the camp clean. You know, pick up the rubbish. But plantation used to really take care the camp and the houses. We used to pay real minimal rent. Fifteen dollars a month. Water was one dollar a month. You raise your own vegetables and all that. Even if you have a big family, at least you can get by.

MO: What kind of vegetables? Do you remember?

JH: Oh, yeah. All kinds: lettuce, carrots, beans, string beans. Whatever you need. Green onions. Even at Pu'ukoli'i School, we had our garden. We used to work in there certain afternoons, raise carrots, and then go out sell the vegetables.

MO: So the money was for the school?

JH: Yeah.

MO: Tell me about when you went up to the mountains, in the valleys, to pick these fruits.

JH: Well, weekends we go up. Maybe guava season we go up there, and go pick the guavas for bring 'em home, and they used to make guava jelly. When orange season, we go get the orange.

They used to get a reservoir up there. They used to have fish in the reservoir, they call that *koi*. But not those colorful *koi*, just the regular *koi*. We used to go up there and catch the *koi*, bring 'em home and keep in our own pond. Even like Pu'ukoli'i, they used to get a big reservoir over there. Just store the water for irrigation. And they used to keep fish in there. All kind fish. Every once in a while, they drained all the water so the reservoir had no water. You can see the fish. (Chuckles) Before school start, we all used to go over there, go catch fish. By the time school starts, everybody all muddy.

(Laughter)

JH: So when we go back to school, oh, we used to get scolding from the teacher. We used to fight in the mud. I remember, we used to throw mud at each other. And one guy, somebody threw the mud at his face and the thing went into his eyes. So we had to take him to the dispensary. (Chuckles)

MO: What was the name of the reservoir where you got the *koi* from?

JH: Well, it was up the mountain.

MO: So no name?

JH: No name, yeah. So we used to walk from Pu'ukoli'i all the way till Kahana to go fishing.

MO: Why Kahana and not anywhere else?

JH: Well, get different spots where it's good for diving. You gotta go where it's good for diving, eh.

Then sometimes we used to catch the train. You know, they used to get a train that hauled all this sugarcane in the field from Pu‘ukoli‘i. They harvest the field and they take the cane down to the main rail, the one that takes the cane to the mill in Lahaina. So some occasions, when they used to get a good boxing arena in Lahaina, we used to catch the train from Pu‘ukoli‘i down to the mill. Pu‘ukoli‘i was a big camp so when come to any kind sports, Pu‘ukoli‘i had. They had a good boxing team. We had plenty good boxers that became state champions. They used to go Honolulu and box. They used to get a good boxing team.

MO: What kind of fish did you guys catch?

JH: Oh, down the ocean, all kind [of] fish. You know, shoreline fish, but we were just spear diving. Not like now where you have the lung and everything. You just spear, make your own spear. Not deep-sea fish, all shoreline fishing. But now hard to find those fish because of all these ocean activities.

MO: Do you remember the names of the fish?

JH: Well, they had all kinds but. . . . We just catch eels, *hinālea* and. . . .

MO: Where did you get the materials to make your spear?

JH: Oh, they used to get blacksmith shop, because the plantation used to have a stable where they keep their horses and mules. So they had the guys who handled those things. Just a rod, and you make the point, just simple *da kine* with rubber band. You just stretch 'em with a rubber band. Most of the things we had, we had to make our own. Even the toys. We used to make things with canned goods, empty cans. We used to use that for make train or whatever. We used to cut the top of the can and—you know the flat one?

MO: Mm-hmm [yes].

JH: We made a hole and put a string. We used to fight each other. You know, who can cut the other guy's string. And then we used to make our own guns with rubber bands, made notches and stretched the rubber. We used to put acorns and then shoot the acorn. Then we used to make groups and play each other. You shoot the guy and then he *make*. (Chuckles) Then nighttime, we used to get together. You know, hide-and-seek and all that. One group go hide and the other group go look for them. Once I remember, one group hide and the other group was looking for them, you know, was walking down the street. All night they couldn't find the guys. Then later on they find out they all went home, sleep. (Chuckles)

In the Pu‘ukoli‘i Camp, we used to make a border that split the community. One end we used to call 'em "Pigpen Avenue." From the reservoir, they get this waterway that takes the water to the fields. Where the water ran, everybody used to build a pigpen. So they wash down the pen and the [runoff went] into the waterway. So that place we used to call Pigpen Avenue from that certain road. [On the other side,] we had a tailor, restaurants, stores, everything. We used to call 'em "Broadway." (Chuckles) Every weekend we used to get together. We used to go down the park, play football or baseball. We used to play from morning time. If you quit, you lose. So you cannot quit. (Chuckles) So you gotta take turns, go eat lunch and come back. From Honokōwai, every weekend, they used to come walk up here to Pu‘ukoli‘i to the football field. They come to play football. Every time they come out, they play football. Before they go home, they end up fighting. (Laughs) But next week, they still come again.

MO: Why do they fight?

JH: Well, you know, it's small stuff. But it's not—nobody get hurt. They so competitive, you know what I mean?

MO: Where was the park? In the camp?

JH: Yeah, in the camp. They used to get a big park just below the community, an open space. Just alongside that ditch where the water flow, used to get a big park. Used to get another one in the camp with a basketball court, volleyball court, and they had the field.

[When] we went to Japanese school, every year we used to get play day. Our team wore a red cap, the other team wore a white cap. And we compete with each other, three-legged race and all those games. Whole day up here, we used to play. Then when the war started, the plantation made that field into a victory garden. You know, so everybody can buy vegetables. So we lost the field.

MO: How old were you when the war started?

JH: I was in high school. [Nineteen] forty-one so I just started high school. I got out in '44, so just about before the war ended. I lost one of my brothers in the war.

MO: What was he doing?

JH: Well, he finished the war, then was sent back to the United States. He was stationed in Washington state. They were ready to come home, but looks like he had a girlfriend in Germany. We didn't know about it, but one of my other brothers knew, my older brother. He used to correspond. We found out he had a girlfriend. (Chuckles) So he found out that if he came back to Hawai'i and he reenlisted, they were not going to send him back to Europe. They were going to send him to Asia. He wanted to go back Europe [and serve with the] occupation force. So my parents were waiting for him to come home, but he left the group and he reenlisted to come back to Europe. So while he was there, he got into an accident maybe. He died.

MO: Too bad.

JH: Yeah.

MO: So when you got out of high school [in 1944], you said you went to work for Pioneer Mill little bit. So that was just the field work that you were doing then?

JH: The only opening we have was out in the field. So yeah, I took the job then. As I said, after that, couple years later . . .

MO: That's when you went to Honokōwai?

JH: Yeah, went to the dairy. Then I worked over there from 1946, '47 to 1953. Then my track coach and basketball coach in Lahainaluna, he was head timekeeper for Pioneer Mill office. So he needed somebody over there. Somebody *wen* transfer, yeah. So he came to see me at the dairy. "James, come work for me." So I went to the office in 1953. [Nineteen] eighty-eight, I retired. So thirty-five years. So while I was there I participated in the credit union. You know, Pioneer Mill [Employees], we formed a Pioneer Mill Credit Union. I was an officer over there until they opened up the subdivision for us. I had to

make a loan. So, being an officer there, I couldn't get a loan there. So I dropped out and I got a loan from them. Pioneer [Mill] Credit Union.

MO: So when you got married, you were still living at Pu‘ukoli‘i?

JH: Oh, yeah.

MO: Yeah. Where was your wife from?

JH: She's from Pu‘ukoli‘i, too.

MO: And what about your brothers, what did they end up doing?

JH: Well, we all ended up working for the plantation. But our children are all out of here. I got one grandson living up the Mainland; my second daughter is living up at Washington state. She work for Matson in Portland, Oregon. She live in Washington, but she work in Portland, Oregon. She's in sales over there. She has one son. He's an architect, too. (Chuckles) He's working in LA [Los Angeles] as an architect. So her family, they all did all right.

MO: Your grandchildren, none of them wanted to work for plantation? Or I mean your children?

JH: Well, I had only three daughters. They went to [Lahainaluna] High School and after school they didn't want to work [for the plantation]. So one working for Verizon, Hawaiian Telephone, in Wailuku. My nephew, nieces, most of them are in Honolulu. Plenty of them are teachers. They teach at [places like] McKinley [High School]. I have lot of nephews and nieces from my brothers. (Chuckles)

MO: I bet. You guys have reunions?

JH: Yeah. Well, like on Maui, here, Fred and me and my other brother, we are here. And my sister-in-law, my oldest brother's wife in the family, lives Kahului. And then all of Fred's family living, one on the Mainland, and couple living here. So every Thanksgiving and New Year's, my daughter that work for Verizon, she has a big place in Makawao. They have a big two-acre lot, supposed to be residential-ag. They don't have children so they spoil all my grandchildren, while they growing up. Long time ago when my older brothers all still living, every New Year's we used to get together, the whole clan. Then after that, after my parents died, we used to take turns. One year we go to one brother's place, the next year the next one. But past few years, though, we all getting old. And the family getting too big for accommodating in our houses. So my daughter has big place up there and big yard for the kids all run around. So the last few years, every Thanksgiving and New Year's, we get together over there. So every year they looking forward, all the kids. And Thanksgiving, well, she supply all the food. Then New Year's, we assign everybody what to bring so that you not all same kind food, yeah. Then we get together. We go over there and we spend overnight.

MO: Sounds good fun.

JH: Oh, yeah. They all look forward. (Chuckles) We go over there from lunch, eat lunch, then look football, during New Year's get all the ball games. And play cards. They play billiards because my son-in-law get a big warehouse over there. So the kids running around in the yard, and eat lunch, then play, then eat dinner, then we go home. The husband, my son-in-law, they run that Kitada's Kau Kau Korner of Makawao. That's a forty-, fifty-year-

old business already. The parents used to operate it, but the parents passed away. So now my son-in-law and his sister running the place.

MO: In where?

JH: Makawao.

MO: Oh, Makawao.

JH: Yeah. Kitada's Kau Kau Korner. If you upcountry side, you ask him about Kitada. All would know because that place been operating for a good fifty years.

MO: Before, you told me about New Year's at the camp. Can you tell me again about that?

JH: Well, at that time, that was in the [19]40s, I guess. Every New Year's, every family, they cook all the food and get everything all ready. Then all the young people, they start one end of the houses, go there, "Happy New Year," eat some food, drink beer. Then they move on [to another home]. But get all different groups, eh. (Chuckles) So, everybody waiting, if they don't come, they're really disappointed.

We used to get New Year's Eve dance. Then next day get all these parties. So, that was an annual *da kine*, with everybody looking forward to that. We go, then we take some beer, we go to three houses, *pau*. (Laughs) But those were the days. And that's why even when somebody get married that's one community affair already. You know, the whole camp. And overnight, they cook all outside. They don't cook in the house. They cook all outside. They make fire outside and cook everything outside. It's one of those things, of course, like New Year's we get together. We get together then pound the *mochi*. So we used to get about four, five families get together, pound the *mochi*, and then the ladies make all the *mochi*. We used to go over there, watch them. They used to make all kind stuff with the *mochi*. You can make 'em with a *daikon*, white radish, they scrape 'em. You can make with the black beans.

MO: They don't make the radish one anymore. I've never seen, yeah. Do you remember the names of some of the Japanese dishes that they used to make for New Year's?

JH: Oh, yeah, well most of them they still [make]. My wife guys they learn, so they make. But the young kids they not used to. My brother, Albert, he has a Japan wife, so she make Japanese food. But nowadays kids, they not used to. Only the older bunch like us know what that is. They make the red rice.

MO: What else do they make?

JH: Well, they make those—they make in a cloth. They cut big pieces. They don't make 'em in small pieces. Put raw eggs, and *aburage*, little potatoes, you know. But all chunks. It's real tasty.

MO: Is that like *nishime*?

JH: Yeah. Something like *nishime*. But *nishime* is all sliced up, and that most of the locals eat. But this certain kind food, they make only on New Year's. So my wife, too, every New Year's, they make this soup, noodle soup. But they don't use the regular *saimin* kind noodles. They used brown noodles. And they put the *mochi* and they put vegetables in there. They don't sell those vegetables most of the time, just New Year's.

- MO: So you don't know what it's called?
- JH: (Chuckles) My mind not that sharp, you know. (Laughs) Later on when I think about it, it comes out. (It is called *ozoni*.)
- MO: But you gotta write it down so you remember because later on you gonna forget.
- JH: So my wife learned quite a bit of cooking from my mother.
- MO: Did she write down the recipes for your daughters?
- JH: No, no. Well, now my granddaughter helps her cook. She doesn't have recipe. She just cook, you know, just by the feel. No more teaspoon or whatever, you know. She just cook 'em and tastes 'em. My wife, she's a really good cook. They can just use all the leftovers and make something and it tastes good. When we got married, we used to stay with our parents for a while. So she learned quite a bit from my mother. While we were growing up, she [mother] used to cook this soup. She call 'em *kare* soup. We grow up, come find out that's curry soup. (Laughs) But she used to have her own way to cook 'em.
- MO: I never had something like that.
- JH: Oh, yeah. Those are the things, you know that . . .
- MO: You guys made custard for New Year's, too? You know the custard, they have like a chestnut or something on the bottom. We eat it for good luck. My aunty comes from Hokkaido. So every New Year's she makes all kinds, too.
- JH: Yeah. Hokkaido is way north and Fukuoka way down south. So, every *da kine*, little bit different. They get their own specialties.
- MO: Somebody should go around to people like your wife and everybody and write down all of these things so that people can remember and where it came from.
- JH: My wife's mother used to make certain things for the reverend. He used to come to the Methodist church, make service for the older group. So my mother-in-law used to make for him certain dumplings. So after my mother-in-law passed away, the reverend asked my wife if she learned how to make that. (Chuckles) When she said no, oh, he was so disappointed.
- MO: She lost that.
- JH: Yeah, really certain food, you come from a certain place, but not everybody knows how to make it. Because maybe it's from a family recipe.
- MO: So where was your wife's parents from?
- JH: Fukuoka, too.
- MO: Oh, okay. Did you ever go visit Fukuoka?
- JH: No. I went to Japan but I never did visit. We went on a tour, Tokyo, Osaka. That tour was a twenty-three day tour, way back in the [19]70s. The Orient tour. Every place, only two nights. We started from Japan, go Taipei and Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala

Lumpur, Philippines. (Chuckles) Just go, go, go. Now we think about it, for that package we paid only thousand-something [dollars] apiece. (Laughs) And that time, Japan, the yen was 350 yen for one dollar. (Laughs) But that was a good experience.

We used to get the Pioneer Mill Credit Union. All the members used to get together. In the [19]70s made the first tour. We went from San Francisco all the way down the West Coast until Vegas, on the bus. From then on, every two years, we used to make another tour. So we travel to the Orient, then we went to Canada twice. We went to Tennessee, where they had the World's Fair. We went to Tennessee. Then from Tennessee we caught the bus all the way to Georgia, all the way down to Florida. Disney World wasn't completed that time, yet. Then catch the bus, go through Mississippi, Louisiana, and go all the way to New Orleans. Then from New Orleans, we flew to Vegas.

Then the following year we went to East Coast. Flew all the way to Philadelphia. Then from Philadelphia, we went to Atlantic City, then New York, and then to Niagara Falls, went to see the Canada side of Niagara Falls. Then went to Canada.

MO: So many places.

JH: Yeah. We were lucky. We were still working yet, my wife and I. My wife used to work for the hotels. Most of the guys [on the trips] were retirees. We were the younger ones still working and we used to go with them.

I lost my two brothers within six months. That year we went to San Francisco, Las Vegas, West Coast that's the year Fred and his wife, my wife and myself, and one other couple went on the tour. When we came back they said two years from now they're going to the Orient. So we all signed up. Then my brother, he got sick. [We were told] he had yellow jaundice. "By the time you guys come back he going be all right." But when we came back, oh he was in the hospital, Honolulu. Then things got worse and worse. Pneumonia and he passed away.

MO: Did you ever find out what he had?

JH: Well from the pneumonia and then he got—well, anyway he had . . .

MO: Hepatitis or something?

JH: Yeah. So he was still young, yet. He was still working, just about sixty-one. Then six months later, my oldest brother, he was retired already, he died. My brother was talking about when he retires, he's going take all the sons and go up the Mainland. He used to help out refereeing football and all those games. So they had that association. So every year, they used to go up to the Rose Bowl, but before he retired, he passed away.

So I told my wife, "Hey, we better not wait till we retire. So ever since that time, every other year, we made it a point to take a vacation."

MO: Because you guys grew up in Pu'ukoli'i with the Filipinos there, did you learn Filipino words?

JH: Nothing. Not too much. Because they had Filipino Camp, German Camp. But they used to get segregation. Japanese Camp, Filipino Camp, you know.

MO: But did you play together?

JH: Oh, yeah. We went to school together. So we know the kids, but they don't talk Filipino. They talk English. So as far as that goes, no problem. Segregated, but we never used to get in racial fights or anything like that.

MO: One of the questions they wanted me to ask you was, what do you think of the conditions here on West Maui today as compared to when you were growing up here in West Maui? And then, how do you think about the future of West Maui?

JH: You know, when we were growing up, we were the majority because all these Japanese families used to get seven, eight, nine, ten kids. So the school was nothing but Japanese kids, plus Filipinos, but majority was Japanese. But now we minority already. More Filipinos, more Tongans, and now even the Whites coming in. But most of the Caucasians, more retirees. Not families, but they have some. But the Filipinos, once they get settled, they call the family [from the Philippines]. They fill out the papers [stating] that they going be responsible for them [i.e., family members]. So they used to live two, three families in one home. But I give them credit because no take long, they buy their own place. I give them credit, the Filipinos.

This other, you don't see that too much. They still renting, the Tongans.

Like now, especially, that's why get plenty homeless. But not because they're lazy, but [because] they cannot afford the rent and all that. Had an article about this one group. They own property over there down by the cannery, across the stream over there. That open lot, all the trees growing. They had to tell them to vacate, about one dozen guys. But they not vagrants. They working two, three jobs but it's all low-paying jobs and only part-time. They cannot afford to rent. Not like other guys that sleep in the park and just drinking. They're citizens, but the rental, even the cheapest one, you gotta pay \$700 a month. You cannot.

So they say progress, progress. But to me, I figure, when I was growing up, everything we needed, we had. Like now, West Maui, no more hospital, we have to go to Wailuku side. When we were growing up, we had our own [Pioneer Mill] Hospital. It was a real hospital with regular doctors. I was hospitalized over there with ear infection. And they gave birth. And they had nurses quarters. We used to get our own hospital in the community. Whatever we needed, we had. We didn't have cars but those things no matter to us that much. When we had to go to school, they supply us the bus. So now with all these cars, more problems.

As far as I'm concerned, I feel that growing up, compared to the children now, we had a better atmosphere. Like now, even the children, they *pau* college and everything, but they cannot afford to get their own place. But like us, at least we ended up getting our own place. I tell my wife, "Well, you know, we never get rich, but all throughout our life, we had place to stay, enough for eat, we send our kids to school." The main thing, we ended up with our own place because of the [Pioneer Mill] Company. All the other guys, they no work in the plantation, they cannot buy their own place. But plantation open up and sell 'em at base rate. Cheapest possible. So we were able to get our own place. The houses we get, it's not a shack. The plantation home before was one-by-twelve home. Of course, they maintain them. [But] the houses we get now, we get inside bathroom. When we used to live in the camp . . .

MO: They were . . .

JH: Outside. The water run on the ground and not flush toilet. We just get one outhouse. A wooden shed with hole. But that didn't matter to us. But when you get your own house, the [inside] bathroom to us, oh, that's luxury.

MO: How many bedrooms is your house?

JH: One.

MO: The one that you have now.

JH: Oh, three bedrooms.

MO: Three bedrooms

JH: Three bedrooms. I was fortunate when they started building. The first one they built started right behind the main office over there, Pana'ewa. So we had to put in all our names for a drawing. So when they built those houses over there, they pulled the numbers and then the couple got a lot over there. Oh, I was real disappointed because I just missed. Oh, really sad. But turned out really good because that place, the contractor was outsider. And the houses weren't tile, you know, wood. Then they opened up the Kelawea Mauka. It's right behind the mill. All the black soot used to fly all around there. Then when they opened up over there, I was top of the list because I missed the [first] list. So I went out there. They started ground breaking, landscaping. Then I pick a place. I feel, oh, real good. So I was the first one to move in over there.

When I think about all those things, you know, I told my wife, "Well, that's the main thing when you retire, you got to get your own place so that you don't have to pay rent. And you got to get a good medical plan." (Laughs) So up till now, cannot beat the medical we had through the plantation. More places, they used to pay bare minimum. The union used to help from our pension plan. They had plenty money so they used to help pay. For the service we get, the best medical we get over there with Kaiser, we pay only when we visit. And medication, we used to pay two dollars supply for one month. Now it comes up to five dollars. But still that is cheap. And then everything is free. When you get hospitalized, no more limit. But now, the union, plantation closing, they talking about come 2004—right now, we still under [Kaiser]. We don't pay Kaiser, we pay Pioneer Mill. Then Pioneer Mill pay Kaiser.

MO: Oh.

JH: So we not paying the Kaiser rate. We pay through the company. And the company pay Kaiser. But they talking about 2004, no more Pioneer Mill now, they going re-negotiate. Every so many years they renegotiate with Kaiser. But most likely, they cannot take the burden.

MO: How come Kaiser never opened up someplace out here?

JH: You mean hospital?

MO: Like a clinic, yeah.

JH: Well, funny. I don't know how come.

MO: What do you see for the future of West Maui?

JH: Well, West Maui Taxpayers Association, they pushing for—they working on this air ambulance. In case the road close, get one ambulance take 'em over to Wailuku or to Honolulu. They want to work on that immediately. But West Maui Taxpayers Association, we go to the meeting, they want to build one facility. But they cannot wait for the state because they don't know when they can afford to build. So I think they contacting Mainland, private [company to determine] if they interested in building one over here. Because Pioneer Mill, Amfac, promise they going give 'em so many acres of land if they gonna build, you know, [near] the civic center, on the other side. So they promised them so many acres.

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 38-22-1-03; SIDE ONE

MO: What's happening with this bypass road? What do you think of that?

JH: Oh, that I don't know. *Chee*, when I was still working at the office for the plantation, they had that plan already for that bypass. But nothing really came out of it. But actually now I would think the bypass is not the problem. It's the *pali* road. You know, the road going to Wailuku. I think that's the major problem. The bypass is only concerned with Lahaina. But the road going to Wailuku, you know, the *pali* road?

MO: The *pali* road.

JH: That's the major problem because that's the one [connecting Lahaina to Wailuku]. The Maui Memorial [Medical Center is located in Wailuku]. No more over here for acute [care]. They don't have the facilities [in Lahaina]. But the bypass, actually they need 'em for all the congestion in Lahaina. But get nothing to do with the road going to Wailuku. Because that concern was more when all the hotels came up. We had only single-lane road, not four-lane like now. Because I remember, my wife used to work Kā'anapali before they built these four lanes. She had to call me for come to pick her up. Oh, used to take me over an hour just to reach to Kā'anapali.

MO: Wow.

JH: Most of the time only one way. Oh, logjam from my place—this is in the [19]70s. From Lahainaluna I come down, just to get to Pizza Hut used to take me forty-five minutes. Then they built that four-lane so came a little bit better. But any place you look, they get those problems. So Honolulu, you see morning time they show all the traffic [on television], you see all those cars, you think, well, you no can grumble.

And Nahienaena School over there, the elementary school, Lahainaluna High School, and all those residential [commuters], all coming down that one road. No other road. So they're talking about building over here, this vacancy going up back. But I don't think that would help that much. That's why, with some other guys, I started pushing this councilman over here. You know where the cannery is, they get a road going up. They get business section over there. Now the cannery they own all the property over there. So they built that road and all the street lights and everything. So it's all open over there. So I brought 'em up to [our councilwoman], "You know, we should have opened up Dickenson [Street] here." If you open up this road, see, it started already.

- MO: Yeah, it just started.
- JH: You go up alongside the stream and then you reach up there, Ikena [Avenue]. Go to Ikena. Then if the guys living up there want to come down to the cannery or they want to work Kā'anapali or Kapalua, they don't have to come down Lahainaluna Road. They can take that road and go.
- MO: Yeah, if something ever happens on Lahainaluna Road, all those people are trapped in there.
- JH: Yeah. You know, just this past week, Pioneer Mill factory had a fire. That was in the afternoon. They closed down the road. Nobody can go up or come down because no alternate road to come out from there. Not one.
- MO: No alternative.
- JH: No one road. So the school kids, the bus couldn't come down. And nobody could go up. The guys had to work, couldn't come down.
- MO: Yeah, I think your idea is right.
- JH: Yeah.
- MO: Go up the cannery road. What's that road called now? I forgot.
- JH: Keawe [Street].
- MO: Keawe. Yeah.
- JH: Yeah. We used to get Keawe Camp over there. So they named that place Keawe. So just continue the road, go up alongside the stream. Before they built the stream, they had a gulch alongside the houses over there. So every time rain, used to come down and used to flood below the road. Used to go down till where the harbor is.
- MO: Māla.
- JH: Māla Camp. Also the stores over there. That's why they built that stream. So still get that gulch. So [the engineers] said, to get to Ikena, they gotta fill up that gulch. Going be big job. So I said, "Only one gulch. You mean to say you guys no can do something?"
- MO: Put a bridge.
- JH: Yeah, "You can do nothing? You guys talking about building that bypass, and you gotta go through that gulch because that's the road they come to, Ikena. With all the rocks around there, how come no just dump 'em in there? And then fill 'em up."
- MO: They just put a bridge?
- JH: You can put a bridge or you can fill 'em up because they don't need the gulch now because they get a stream. Lahainaluna Road, they cannot even repair the road because so much traffic. And only two lanes. They cannot pave 'em because they gotta close down the road. If they close down the road, all the guys stop going up and down. So to me, I think that's first priority. If they build that over there, all the school kids coming from Honolua,

Honokōwai, they don't have to come through Lahainaluna Road over here. They just turn up over there. So you miss all the congestion. But you make Dickenson, they still got to come through over here, come through the pass, and then go up. So you no going eliminate any traffic. But the other way, from Keawe to this side, that's much less traffic.

MO: You're right.

What were all the names of the different camps that were in Lahaina to West Maui?

JH: Well, you start all the way from over the other side, used to get Honokōhau. It's part of Honolua but we used to call 'em Honokōhau. It's further north. And then you come this side, you get Kahana. And then you come to Honokōwai. Then you come to Homestead. Then you in the Keawe Camp. And then down the main street, over here, they had Pu'unoa. Then after Keawe you come up Lahainaluna Road. You get Kuhua Camp. We call "Mill Camp."

MO: Mill Camp?

JH: Yeah. And then the new Paunau. The plantation opened up behind the office there. And then you go further up, above Mill Camp, you get Kelawea. Used to get a plantation camp, Kelawea. Then above that is real estate. That's all Kelawea Mauka. That's all new. Used to be all sugarcane but [the plantation] opened up [the land for housing]. First they made [houses] for Pioneer Mill workers. Then they included the hotel workers.

MO: So the Honokōhau Honolua Camp, was that for pineapple or . . .

JH: Yeah.

MO: Oh, pineapple.

JH: Yeah. Pineapple. Before they used to be Baldwin Packers [Ltd.]. But that's Maui Pine[apple Company] now.

MO: And Kahana Camp, was pineapple or . . .

JH: No, sugar.

MO: Sugarcane. And Honokōwai was sugar?

JH: Yeah sugar, but had the dairy.

MO: Oh, so the dairy . . .

JH: They had small Honokōwai Camp. But they had some [camps] not connected with the plantation. They get some businesses over there. But that whole area we call Honokōwai.

MO: And then Homestead was where?

JH: On state land where the civic center is, coming toward Lahaina.

MO: Oh, okay.

JH: That area has nothing to do with plantation.

MO: So Pu‘ukoli‘i was the only one out there? Pu‘ukoli‘i Camp was between Honokōwai and Homestead then?

JH: No, Pu‘ukoli‘i is going up.

MO: Yeah.

JH: Yeah, used to get a road go up couple of miles. Now alongside the right, they get all those homes.

MO: Right. But there weren’t any other camps around Pu‘ukoli‘i area?

JH: No. But they used to get one small one. You know where the West Maui Airport is?

MO: Mm-hmm [yes].

JH: Used to get one small camp, Māhinahina.

MO: Sugar plantation people?

JH: Sugar plantation camp. The plantation built them so somebody can live over there to take care certain things pertaining to the plantation. Even at Pu‘ukoli‘i. They build ‘em for take care. That’s the area they get palm forestation.

MO: And Keawe Camp was for?

JH: All plantation.

MO: Sugar?

JH: Yeah, sugar. And then they had a big herbicide plant over there. You know, plantation used to spray, for control the weeds.

MO: I see.

JH: Usually, it’s just pertaining to some kind facility they get.

MO: Right, right. So, Pu‘unoa Camp was to take care of the wharf?

JH: No, that was more a residential area. So the owners over there, they work for plantation, but they owned their place. From the time they live over there, they owned their place already. I don’t know how they acquired that land, the property, but that place has always been theirs. But the residents, most of them, they used to work plantation, or the merchants in Lahaina town. But nothing to do with the plantation. They all private-owned. Like the rest, all the homes, were all plantation-owned: Māhinahina, Keawe Camp. But like Honolua was all Baldwin Packers.

MO: And Mill Camp was?

JH: Plantation, too.

MO: Plantation. For sugar.

JH: Kelawea. And then further on this side, Crater Village.

MO: Oh, okay.

JH: You know Homestead? The road? You go straight up. There's a mound over there. You can see from the bottom, get a mound. Used to get a small camp over there, too, plantation [i.e., Crater Village]. And they had the pump, the place I told you, we used to deliver milk to the kids over there. And there was a cinder pit over there. The whole mountain was cinder. So every time we want the cinders, we used to go up there.

MO: Red or black?

JH: Black. Black cinders. You know, for the yard planting, like that.

MO: Mm-hmm. So Crater Village.

JH: Crater Village and Kelawea. And Paunau, but [it was developed] later on. Then Waine'e Camp.

MO: Waine'e, oh, yeah.

JH: We call 'em "Lahaina Pump" because they used to get pump over there, too. But actually it's [called] Waine'e.

MO: Okay.

JH: Waine'e, Kuhua, Kelawea, Keawe, Honolua [Camps] all used to get their own sports [teams]. But Waine'e and Kuhua were small camps. Not like Pu'ukoli'i. So for certain sports, like football, they cannot get enough kids. But basketball, volleyball, they used to. So Lahaina used to get one team. Pu'ukoli'i, we used to get our own. And used to get plenty kids from Honolua.

MO: What about further down from . . .

JH: Olowalu?

MO: But before Olowalu, was there camps at like Kaua'ula and all those places?

JH: Oh, yeah. Kaua'ula. But those, you know, maybe only couple of houses. Something like Crater Village, get that pump.

MO: Yeah.

JH: Something like that, you know. Up from Pu'ukoli'i, up the hill, used to get couple families. More for take care of the power station. And then even Honokōwai, when you come over toward the road going up to Pu'ukoli'i, they have a train station over there. You drive inside there, used to get one small camp over there, Pump Camp. There used to be a big pump over there. So that place had maybe eight houses, eight families over there. They all used to work in that big power plant. They needed plenty workers.

MO: And the Kaua'ula Camp, so that was only two or three families?

JH: Oh, yeah.

MO: And what did they take care of?

JH: The pump.

MO: The pump ...

JH: Just get like the one up in Crater [Village].

MO: Okay.

JH: And up from Pu‘ukoli‘i, up the hill.

MO: I remember the pump up there. Yeah. Oh, and there was a shrine that somebody built. One of the Japanese people that lived up there by the pump. They built a little shrine. I saw it.

JH: Oh, yeah?

MO: Yeah. Couple weeks ago.

JH: Waine‘e Camp?

MO: No, it’s at Kaua‘ula.

JH: Oh, Kaua‘ula.

MO: The pump house up there. I guess it’s the powerhouse or something. It’s the big structure there.

JH: Yeah, yeah. Because plenty of the fields, when no more mountain water [for irrigation], they got to pump the underground water. And then they mix ‘em with the mountain water. So they used to have pumps all over the place. Just for backup.

MO: Yeah. So the Ke‘eaumoku *kahu* took me up there. So he showed me the pump house, the powerhouse, and the ditch, and the little shrine that somebody built.

JH: Yeah. Olowalu supposed to get plenty of those artifacts. You know the writing on the mountains, like that.

MO: Oh, petroglyphs?

JH: Petroglyphs, yeah.

MO: Yeah, you know, I never did see that. I want to go see it.

What about those areas where Kaua‘ula Stream is? Right past there. That whole area over there.

JH: No more.

MO: No more.

JH: As far I remember, I don’t remember anybody residing over there.

MO: Yeah. Used to be the Magoon property. And they have an electric thing now, a tower.

JH: I don't remember anybody living around there. There used to be some Hawaiian families living way up toward the mountain side. You know, because many of them, they owned [their property]. Still living by Olowalu section. Like Kaua'ula. They get families living up there. That's why you get this big controversy over there. They [outside developers] tried to develop and they tried to dig wells and all that. Because plenty of them, they get the water rights. So even guys living Olowalu, plenty of them, they get water rights.

MO: Well, you know one story you forgot to tell was the one about the bathhouse.

JH: (Chuckles) We used to get the community bathhouse. They had oil burners for make the hot water. And they were big corrugated buildings. They had three, something like a swimming pool, but not a swimming pool. But something structured like that. About ten, fifteen guys can just immerse in there.

MO: Cement. Made out of cement?

JH: Yeah, made of cement. One for the women and one for the men. And another one was supposed to be for the Filipinos. But not too many Filipinos [were living] in Japanese camp. And then right outside was the structure for the boiler, oil burner for make the hot water.

We used to go over there for a while. Then afterwards, we built our own bathhouse in the yard with firewood. But we used to go over there.

The structure was in the middle of the community. There used to be a theater over there. Then they had a community restaurant, the plantation restaurant, two barbershops and a candy shop. The theater opening was on the south side. In the back were the steps. When the show *pau*, you can come out from the back, too.

So if you're sitting down over here, the bathtub over here. And the kids get together over there *talking story*. Then they watch the guys come take a bath. (Chuckles) They watch for the ladies come take a bath. So, like daily routine, yeah. They get to know who took a bath at a certain time (chuckles) and all that. So, you know, at that age, they all rascal. So they start making holes between the curtain.

MO: Peep holes?

JH: Peek holes, yeah. So when you go take a bath, everybody come, the old and the young. You know, everybody different. They like the water different temperature, eh. Like the old guys, they want 'em real hot. But they cannot just go in the tub. They stay outside with a bucket [of water] and wash [their bodies]. Then they go inside, just for sit down. Not to bathe in there. Just to relax in the water. So certain men, when certain persons come, you know you no can go in the tub because they going make 'em so hot (chuckles) you cannot stand.

And there was the place for you sit down for bathe. There was a couple of showers. You can either bathe under the shower or bathe outside. Then when you're through, before you go, maybe you want to take cold shower. There's an adjoining wooden door. Get top opening and bottom opening. But you know, guys, they find ways to climb on the top and they go try to peep. They want to watch. "Come on, come on. My turn, my turn." One

time, this guy, he was watching and somebody hit his back. So he tell 'em, "I no *pau*, yet." He look. That's the father who was behind him.

MO: How old were the guys that were peeping?

JH: Some younger ones, but more in the twenties and teens.

MO: So they were watching all the women?

JH: Uh-huh [yes].

MO: And then did the women figure out what was happening?

JH: Oh, yeah. So next time you look, you see that they plugged up [the peep holes]. One lady, kind of rough lady, she see somebody's eye over there. So she come over there, she opened the door, she tell 'em, "You want to see, see. No need look into the hole."

(Laughter)

Catch everybody. Yeah, used to get good fun. And then one incident, this guy, he was a newcomer. He was my neighbor, one Japanese man. He had local girl for wife. He came over here, he start working for the plantation. He was fair type, you know. And then had one local man, just like him, look all over him, fair, white complexion. But this guy, this newcomer, he was in the shower facing the wall, taking shower. And then this other guy came and he thought he was the local boy he knew. So he went over there from the bathroom and hit the penis like that. (Chuckles) The guy turned around. He's not the friend. (Chuckles) And this guy was an old Japanese man. Not old, but you know, a little elderly. I wasn't there, but I heard.

MO: (Chuckles) Oh, rascal stuff. Must have been interesting, though. Because it's a community.

JH: Yeah, yeah.

MO: Everybody know everybody.

JH: Small camp but plenty children.

So after the war, Second World War—get plenty of our veterans [returning from] the war. While they were in the army, they learned how to gamble. So when they came back, oh, weekends, they get together. Go to the—we used to call 'em the canteen, you know, the restaurant. That time already, they gave up the restaurant. Only they had a bakery over there. So when they had the big space over there, every weekend we used to get together over there. And then we used to go play mah-jongg and cards. They used to hang out and *talk story*, drink beer. There used to be cockfighting, too. So when they get cockfighting and the chicken that lose *make*, they bring the chicken to the restaurant over there. Cook the chicken. But chicken is tough so they used the green papaya [as tenderizer]. The whole day we used to spend over there. And then get the drinkers, so get Primo. Primo beer, local beer, used to be kind of popular. The distributor always would come. They used to buy so much beer. (Chuckles) So every weekend, we used to go over there to play cards or *talk story*. Guys used to come from East Maui. They know about it so they make friends. Every week. Pu'ukoli'i used to be—every day get something going on.

- MO: So, how did the war—since you guys were a large Japanese community at Pu‘ukoli‘i Camp—how did the war affect you folks?
- JH: All the Japanese[-language] school teachers and those who were connected with Japan, you know they had the Japanese newspaper, they were all taken to the [internment] camp.
- MO: Where was the camp located?
- JH: On the Mainland.
- MO: Oh, to the Mainland.
- JH: So they had to close down the Japanese[-language] school. The FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] come around, because had plenty Japanese residents. They came and checked. But never get too much incidents. But had some, they took 'em away. We were Boy Scouts at that time, so we used to go man all the places where they had the phones. You know the store and wherever they had the phone. During the night, we used to go man the phone in case get emergency.
- MO: And then what about blackouts and rations?
- JH: Oh, yeah. We had blackout.
- MO: So you guys have to turn off the lights?
- JH: Either that, or you put black curtains on the windows. We used to get camp police at that time. Plantation call 'em camp police. So when somebody ready to give birth, they used to call him, take 'em to the hospital. Emergency.
- MO: So you had blackouts and then rations. Did you guys have the canned rations or something?
- JH: Well, we used to get gasoline rationing.
- (Telephone rings. Taping stops, then resumes.)
- JH: Biggest change is in Lahaina town. Altogether different from the time we were growing up, all the merchants and all that. But [JH's friend], well, he worked for Pioneer Mill for a while. But his family was more Downtown.
- MO: Right.
- JH: Merchant, yeah. Fishermen and fish market and all that. So he was more familiar with what's happening Downtown. So when we were growing up, like Samuel folks [i.e., the Downtown Lahaina residents], they were just like rivals with the plantation guys. The merchant side. So they used to get West Maui Community Association, and the plantation camp founded the group called West Maui Athletic Association. So we were rivals. We used to get our own league and then we play off for championship for West Maui.
- MO: But you guys all stayed friends?
- JH: Oh, yeah. We grew up going school together. They used to try to get the good players from the camp to play for their baseball teams. When we started high school from camp, we

were the outsiders because all the guys come school from the Lahaina town. We were different. (Chuckles) Until we get to know them, because till then, we don't associate with them. Because we grew up separate. So we never come friends till we start going to high school.

MO: Did you guys date in high school? Did you have dates and stuff like that? Girlfriends and stuff?

JH: Well, more we stick to who we know in the camp. Because even guys working plantation in Waine'e, while we going grammar school, we don't get to associate with them, only the ones we compete with in athletics. Aside from that no connection until we started going high school.

MO: So in high school, did you guys have girlfriends and stuff?

JH: Well, I more used to get together with the boarders [at Lahainaluna] because I used to more play sports. Of course I did all right in school, but I would be like a real outsider. So my freshman year, I couldn't get adjusted so I didn't do that good. Then came sophomore year, I was class officer, sophomore, junior, and senior years. When I decided to play sports and all that, at least guys used to get to know me. And I used to hang out with the boarders.

So, as I said, since I had to live in Pu'ukoli'i, it was hard to get involved in anything because you cannot stay back after school.

MO: What kind of office did you hold?

JH: I think I was vice-president. I came secretary senior year. I was in—what do you call that, for the whole school?

MO: The student body president?

JH: Student body secretary.

MO: Oh, student body secretary.

JH: Well, I couldn't handle president because I couldn't find the time. So I became an officer because they voted for me. But I didn't get a chance to get involved in all *da kine* stuff.

I was more connected with the Pu'ukoli'i. So even after I came to high school, we formed the first PTA [Parent-Teacher Association] of this school.

END OF INTERVIEW

# **PIONEER MILL COMPANY:**

## **A Maui Sugar Plantation Legacy**

**Center for Oral History  
Social Science Research Institute  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa**

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