

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Sam S. Kadotani

"From Kā'anapali we moved into Lahaina town, and then my dad started the fish market business. The fish market business was pretty good at that time, but because of age he couldn't do anymore. In the meantime, I graduated from Lahainaluna High School in 1941 and I started to help in the fish market. During the war . . . we did continue the fish market for a while. My dad wanted to offer me the fish market, but I refused because the job was too hard. And I guess the main reason was that I used to play ball a lot and I said to myself, heck with this business. So they gave the market to my oldest sister and then they ran the fish market."

Sam Kadotani was born in 1923 in Kā'anapali, West Maui. Kuichi and Haru Kadotani, immigrants from Hiroshima, Japan, raised ten children. The youngest child, Sam and his siblings grew up at Kā'anapali Landing, where sugar and supplies were loaded and unloaded. Kuichi Kadotani was employed by Matson Navigation Company as a tugboat operator.

Kadotani attended King Kamehameha III School, then moved on to Lahainaluna High School. His father, meanwhile, left Matson and started a fish market in Lahaina. Upon his graduation from Lahainaluna in 1941, Kadotani helped in the family business.

In 1946, Kadotani began working for Pioneer Mill Company in the main office. He later transferred to the Pioneer Mill Hospital.

Kadotani also worked for Maui Medical Group and the Boy Scouts of America. Today, he lives in Lahaina and is very active in civic and community affairs.

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Sam S. Kadotani (SK)

Lahaina, Maui

February 6, 2003

BY: Maria Orr (MO)

MO: It's about 2:30 and I'm with Mr. Sam Kadotani and this is Maria Orr. And this is at his home.

To start off with, just tell me about where you were born and raised, and who your parents were, where they came from, and we'll start off like that.

SK: Okay, I was born in . . .

MO: Your name? Yeah.

SK: Oh, I'm Sam Kadotani and born Kā'anapali Landing. My birthday?

MO: Mm-hmm [yes].

SK: Okay. Born in 1923. And my father's name is Kuichi Kadotani. My mother's name is Haru Kadotani. And as I say, we were born in Kā'anapali Landing with a family of ten, and I am the baby of the family.

My father, he was a tugboat operator at Kā'anapali where the Matson Navigation Company used to come in with their ships. And my dad's job was to operate the tugboat, to haul the Pioneer Mill sugar to the Matson ship.

My mother was trying to raise the ten children with the income of what my dad was earning which wasn't enough, so she started to raise pigs. And she even was making homemade *sake*. (Chuckles) And we were helping to sell the *sake*. And she was a very, very good—this instrument called *shamisen*. She used to play the *shamisen* and she used to go and entertain during parties to supplement the income.

From Kā'anapali we moved into Lahaina town, and then my dad started the fish market business. The fish market business was pretty good at that time, but because of age he couldn't do anymore. In the meantime, I graduated from Lahainaluna High School in 1941 and I started to help in the fish market.

During the war—the war broke out in December 7, [19]41. And so we did continue the fish market for a while. My dad wanted to offer me the fish market, but I refused because the job was too hard. And I guess the main reason was that I used to play ball a lot and I said to myself, heck with this business. So they gave the market to my oldest sister and then they ran the fish market.

Then I worked for Pioneer Mill in the main office from 1946. I went in the [military] service after the war was over. I was rejected [during the war] because I lost my finger when I was eleven years old. That was my trigger finger and I didn't pass the exam to go in the service. So I started to work at Pioneer Mill Company. And then later on, I was in the main office and the office manager needed somebody to work down at the Pioneer Mill Hospital, so I was transferred. And then they had to close the hospital because of some problems they had, so the doctors took over the clinic, because they closed the hospital side, but they did run the dispensary, which was operated by the doctors. And I did work for them, but I always wanted to go back to Pioneer Mill. So I did go back to Pioneer Mill. And then the Maui Medical Group was established, and the doctors all went to Maui Medical Group. I was offered a job as a clinic manager and I went there. But because of the problems they had [between] Maui Medical Group and Pioneer Mill, they had to break their contract, as far as the medical portion of the contract.

While working out there, I left Maui Medical Group and I was hired by the Boy Scouts as full-time. And I injured my back, and so I went surgery. And then I was laid off.

In the meantime when the Maui Medical Group broke their contract with Pioneer Mill for their medical health problem, Pioneer Mill went ahead, hired a private doctor to run their medical problem. The doctor that was hired heard about me, so he hired me to run the clinic for him. But things didn't work out. His practice with the Pioneer Mill wasn't too good. So the union [International Longshoreman's and Warehousemen's Union] told Pioneer Mill that if this was going to continue, they going on strike. So the Pioneer Mill approached Kaiser [Permanente] in Honolulu. That's when Kaiser took over [Pioneer Mill's medical contract] and then so Kaiser hired me as a clinic manager. So I worked until I was sixty-two with Kaiser, and then I took an early retirement. And so that's what it was.

MO: What was your mother's maiden name? Your mother.

SK: Haru Matsuoka.

MO: Do you know where your parents were from?

SK: Hiroshima.

MO: Hiroshima?

SK: Yeah.

MO: So both of 'em were from Hiroshima, yeah?

SK: Mm-hmm [yes].

MO: And they came over straight to Maui to work for Pioneer Mill?

SK: To work with sugar, yeah, Pioneer Mill Company.

MO: Can you tell me a little bit about your parents? You remember what they were like or anything?

SK: Well, they hardly spoke English. If they do, then it was real half Hawaiian, you know, like, "Me no sabe," or you know, "Mahea go," (chuckles) you know? But other than that it was all Japanese.

MO: So they spoke to you in Japanese?

SK: Right, yeah.

MO: You guys grew up bilingual?

SK: They spoke very little English though, mostly Japanese.

MO: And what was it like being the youngest of ten children?

SK: Well, when we had dinner, round table, the food goes around and I was the last, so hardly any, right?

(Laughter)

But we had to help raise the pigs and whatnot. They were fed with *kiawe* beans, and we used to go out and gather *kiawe* beans and whatnot.

And as far as education, my older brothers and sisters went to Honokōwai School, but when we moved back to Lahaina—then I was five, six years old, I attended grammar school here, [King] Kam[ehameha] III School.

MO: You moved from there to Lahainaluna?

SK: Yeah.

MO: Okay.

SK: The grammar school had from kindergarten to eighth grade, then we go to Lahainaluna as a freshman. But now they have only up to fifth grade, right? Sixth, seventh, eighth, we have intermediate.

MO: So do you remember very much about Kā'anapali? You said you grew up by the landing. Do you remember very much about that whole area?

SK: Well, as far as I can remember, the sugar was bagged at Pioneer Mill and they would bring it down with a train and was unloaded in the warehouse down at Kā'anapali, where Sheraton [Maui] is today.

(Visitor arrives. Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

The sugar bags were loaded on the barge, and my dad's job was to tow that barge to the navigation ships.

MO: To the ship, okay. And so until you moved to Lahaina, did you have any kind of chores that you had to do?

SK: Well, as I said, we had to go and gather *kiawe* beans for the hogs. I was real young so I think that's about all I can remember that our job was.

MO: So you walked down to the area where is now Kā'anapali Beach [Hotel]?

SK: Yeah, in fact we were born—you know where Royal Lahaina [Hotel] is, yeah?

MO: Yeah.

SK: Yeah, there were only six homes there, you know, so we were in one of them. Where Royal Lahaina is now, but just next door. And they had a huge oil tank for the ships, and [there] was a crane for load and unload the freights and the tugboats. And of course, there was a cemetery there. There was a Japanese cemetery and then the Hawaiian cemetery on Black Rock hill.

MO: Where was the Japanese cemetery located?

SK: It's right below the Black Rock, where the Sheraton [Maui] Hotel is.

MO: Okay.

SK: Maybe it was right underneath your bed now.

(Laughter)

But those days, there was a huge pavilion right where the hotel is. That was the Pioneer Mill supervisors' clubhouse. So all activities, like parties and whatnot, they used to have it there at the Black Rock supervisors' clubhouse. But it wasn't a house, it was just a pavilion, you know.

MO: Did you go swimming there?

SK: Oh yeah, we went swimming a lot. Those days fishing was really good.

MO: What kind of fish did you catch?

SK: Oh, 'āweoweo. Get a lot of squid there, too.

MO: So what did you do with the squid? How did you guys cook it or eat it?

SK: Boiled.

MO: And then the 'āweoweo?

SK: Oh, fried.

MO: What kind of other foods did you eat?

SK: We had a lot of canned foods because (chuckles) those Matson ships, when the plantation knew that the ships were coming in, they unload their cargo. And the crane operator, purposely, he would drop them and break the whole thing. And all the employees go over there and put in their [*kaukau bag*].

And there was a supervisor by the name of Mr. Brown. And his name was Brown, so they call him—it was well known those days were Brown gang. So when the ship come in they used to ask each other, "Hey, you going down the wharf with the Brown gang?"

Say, "Yeah, we all going down." And then everybody bring extra big *kaukau bag*.

(Laughter)

- MO: That's how you supplemented. Corned beef and whatnot, huh? Yeah? Is that what it was? Corned beef . . .
- SK: Yeah, corned beef, and pork and beans, [canned] sausages, and whatnot.
- MO: So did you have any gardens or anything like that in Kā'anapali?
- SK: Yeah, we did. I think each family, we did take advantage of the nice soil they had. We raised all kind—corn, lettuce, and tomatoes.
- MO: Anything else you remember? Corn, lettuce, tomatoes, what else?
- SK: Beans.
- MO: Cabbage?
- SK: Yeah, mm-hmm.
- MO: Any fruits?
- SK: Fruits were growing wild, like bananas and oranges.
- MO: Mm-hmm.
- SK: Because there was a railroad, all the canes were brought in by train. And there was a train track that goes all the way up to Honolua where the pineapple fields [were], you know. Those days, Baldwin Packers used to hold once a year a big *lū'au* for the employees, and they do invite Lahaina people. And everybody used to go on the train (chuckles). Go all the way out there to take part in the *lū'au*.
- MO: So what was that like? Can you describe the *lū'au*?
- SK: Well actually they had entertainment. Of course, Hawaiians used to perform. And I remember one game—well, actually two games they had, where they would grease up the pig and they let it go and everybody try to get. And then they had the totem pole, was all greased up, and they had some huge prize on the top and people used to try and reach that. And as far as the food, oh gosh, they had everything, *poi* and *lomi* salmon and regular Hawaiian food.
- MO: So you guys grew up eating Hawaiian food, too?
- SK: Oh yeah, yeah, mostly.
- MO: Did your mom cook any special Japanese food?
- SK: Corned beef cabbage (laughs).
- MO: Oh (laughs) corned beef and cabbage.
- SK: Because meat was pretty hard [to get] those days. More canned goods, and whatever we raised in the garden, you know. And of course, those days, when I was born, there was no electricity there. So everything was kerosene—kerosene stove, kerosene lamp. And then toilet facility, you know, we used to get our toilet tissue from the newspaper. We used to tear.

MO: So the toilet was outhouse type?

SK: Outhouse, yeah. Even the bath too, we used to get huge cement block. Fill up with one side men, one side women. And then there was actually no privacy, right?

MO: So your mom didn't cook Japanese food?

SK: She did.

MO: Do you remember any of those dishes, what they were called or anything? And where did she get the ingredients?

SK: The ingredients from the garden.

MO: Okay.

SK: There was one [dish] they call *nishime*. But today when you talk about *nishime*, they have pork and they have the meat, too, chicken. We did raise some chicken, though. And then so the *nishime* was composed of more vegetables, and then you use chicken. And we used to slaughter our own chicken (laughs). And fish, of course. We had, I would say, maybe five days in the week that we eat fish, three meals a day. (Laughs) Dried fish.

MO: So did you eat *poi* a lot or did you eat mostly rice?

SK: Mostly rice.

MO: Where did you get the rice from?

SK: Well, those days it was from Lahaina. They used to have their store employees go out and take orders. The Pioneer Mill [Company] store used to be called Lahaina Store, that was the name. And they did have employees go out in different camps and then they take order, "Well, what do you want today?"

"Oh, get me ten-pound rice and," blah-blah-blah and then they would deliver that, too. You know, they would go out. And then those items that you purchased were deducted from my dad's payroll.

MO: So while you're still living in Kā'anapali . . .

SK: Kā'anapali.

MO: . . . what did you do for recreation?

SK: Well, because I was still young, I would say just fishing, that's about all.

MO: You had like fishing pole or something like that?

SK: Yeah.

MO: Where did you get—like the bamboo pole? No?

SK: *Kiawe*.

MO: *Kiawe* pole? Cool.

SK: Yeah, everything makeshift.

MO: And what did you use for line?

SK: Thread. (Chuckles) Like every Christmastime, we cannot afford to buy Christmas tree. We used to bring home the *kiawe* tree.

MO: Really?

SK: And use the paper, you know, the color paper? We used to cut 'em up, and make streamers and things. When no more, just make do, yeah?

MO: So your Christmas tree was *kiawe*?

SK: Yeah.

MO: Oh, interesting. And then, so your fishing pole was *kiawe* and you used thread for the line.

SK: Yeah.

MO: And then what about the hook? What kind of hook did you use?

SK: Paper clip.

MO: Paper clip? (SK chuckles.) Did you actually . . .

SK: You had to improvise all these things. That's the only way.

MO: Did you have the weights?

SK: Yeah, we did. We used to tie rocks as the weight.

MO: Okay. And did you actually catch fish?

SK: Yeah, sometimes.

MO: Did you use bait, too? Bait. You dig for worms?

SK: Leftover meals. Chicken. (Chuckles) Of course, we used to go diving, too, and then get seaweed.

MO: Mm-hmm. And what do you do with the seaweed?

SK: Oh, we eat, that was part of the food, too.

MO: Did you have any interaction with the people from Pu‘ukoli‘i, the camp up there? When you were down by the water?

SK: I think I was a little too small to know them, you know.

MO: Okay, so now you six years old and you moved to Lahaina, what was that like?

SK: Well, the home that we moved to is right next to the original Puamana, you know, right down here. That's where the Fardens, you remember Irmgard Aluli, all that family?

MO: Mm-hmm [yes].

SK: Yeah, Irmgard is a Farden. We were right next door to them. And they had huge two-story building, I still remember, because the youngest, his name was Buddy Farden. He was one year older than me and I used to go play with him. And then from there I went to Kam III School. That's when we got into more modern things.

MO: What did the Farden's family, the parents, do?

SK: Old Man Farden worked for Pioneer Mill in the sugar . . .

MO: Oh, he was working?

SK: Yeah, yeah. Emma Sharpe, she was, I think, the real famous one. She was my second-grade teacher, I remember.

MO: And what did Mr. Farden do at Pioneer Mill Company?

SK: He was a irrigation superintendent, I think, at that time. And those days, they used to ride all horses, you know, those superintendents. Those days, hardly any car.

MO: So he rode his horse home and everything?

SK: Yeah, yeah.

MO: Where did they keep the horse, then?

SK: In the backyard.

MO: Oh, okay. Interesting. So did you ever get to ride the horse?

SK: No.

MO: Okay. So what was it like going to Kam III School? You said Mrs. Sharpe was your second-grade teacher. You remember other teachers?

SK: Oh, yeah, I remember a lot of them, you know. We had Mrs. Alameida, I remember. I can only remember if we had something bad or something good with the teacher, okay? That's how you remember them. Like Mrs. Alameida, she used to tell me, "Come here, Sammy," she close the door, "*Lomi lomi*." (Laughs)

MO: She wanted you to *lomi lomi* her or . . . ?

SK: Yeah (laughs). Of course the other students are all in the room, too. I mean, you know, you don't do that, just she and I, you know.

MO: Yeah, yeah.

SK: That was seventh grade, I think. And we used to have Mr. Harold Hirashima, and, boy, he used to throw the blackboard eraser. And if he see anyone of us not behaving, wham, he

would throw the eraser. Those days you could do that, nobody going sue you, huh? Yeah, but not today, you know. And I remember they used to feed us, what, cod-liver oil, those days, with the spoon. Everybody had to drink cod-liver oil.

MO: Did they tell you why?

SK: No, I can't remember why they did that. They said, "This morning, all right, cod-liver oil time."

(Laughter)

MO: I remember we had to have it every day too, but I don't know why.

SK: You, too?

MO: Yeah. My dad gave it to us. Not at school.

SK: Yeah. And then, of course, we celebrated May Day program. And those days, ho, the whole town came out when you have school functions.

MO: You said that Mrs. Alameida wanted you to *lomi lomi* her when you were in the seventh grade. How do you learn how to do *lomi lomi*?

SK: All you know is when people tell you, just move your finger, and just go ahead where it's bothering her. I don't know whether it was doing her good. Maybe it was just the idea that somebody else is touching you, you know, you feel good, you know. But other than that. . . .

MO: Was it a lot of students at that school?

SK: Oh yeah. I would say, about twenty to twenty-five students per teacher.

MO: So what was it like then, what kind of classes, and, you know, did you go some place after school?

SK: No. I think our after-school activities were really limited. Not like today, they have all different kind field trips like that, they go today. But those days, we didn't have such things, you know. It was strictly school and that's it.

MO: And then you come home.

SK: Eight [A.M.] to two [P.M.], or whatever and *pau* school, go home, everybody.

MO: You walked to school?

SK: Yeah. And then, of course, we went to our Japanese-language school, after school.

MO: Oh, okay, right. And how long did you go to Japanese-language school?

SK: You mean the time or . . .

MO: No, all from kindergarten to eighth grade?

SK: No, Japanese school we started from fifth grade, I think it was. I think it was fourth or fifth grade. And I went through twelfth grade, but I didn't learn anything, to tell you the truth. We went there just to kill time, that's all. (Laughs) Because we had to go. The parents, they tell, "You better go Japanese school."

MO: And then, let's see, you graduated the same year that the war [World War II] started, yeah.

SK: Yeah, high school.

MO: But let me get back to your elementary school. So you didn't have any kind of sports or anything, you just went from school to Japanese-language school?

SK: During school period we had basketball and softball. We played marbles a lot. And we played yo-yo a lot. And even yo-yo, we used to make our own, you know, with the spool. You know the spool thread?

MO: Mm-hmm [yes].

SK: We used to cut the thing and then make our own yo-yo. And we had school competition in basketball. We had weight leagues, eighty-five pound league, and things like that.

MO: And then so for high school you went to Lahainaluna?

SK: Lahainaluna, yeah.

MO: Yeah. Well, in Kam III did they have like a graduation, eighth grade?

SK: Oh yeah. We had that eighth grade graduation. Oh, it was a big thing . . .

MO: What was it like?

SK: That was a big thing. Everybody necktie and take picture.

MO: So did your parents have parties just for you?

SK: Uh, no. No, parties, can't afford.

MO: And then Lahainaluna now, what was that like?

SK: Well, of course, I had license by then, so I used to drive the car and I had student passengers, also. But it wasn't my car, it was somebody else's car. I drove four years to high school. We had our regular activities as freshmen. We had all the sports from football to baseball, basketball. We didn't have swimming because there was no swimming pool. We had a little bit of tennis and volleyball, but basketball and football was the major sports. But today, gosh, from soccer to tennis, and all, we have real major sports now.

MO: So what kind of sports did you play?

SK: I played more baseball. I don't know what made me take part, but I went in boxing and I got knocked out in the first time I went, so I quit.

(Laughter)

Yeah. Because of my size, sports was very limited for me.

MO: Did your brothers play?

SK: No, no. My two brothers didn't go high school.

MO: Oh, okay. So out of the ten children, seven were girls?

SK: Yeah.

MO: And what kind of subjects did you learn in school?

SK: What kind of subjects?

MO: Subjects, yeah, what kind of things were you more interested in high school? What was your favorite subject?

SK: Maybe biology. I think because you work with something, you know, with insects and things like that, frogs and whatnot. But other than that, math, English, I had no interest in. I took a little typing but I had a terrible time because I lost my finger, you know, but I learned. I learned typing.

MO: Tell me about how you lost your finger?

SK: Well, this was in the Boy Scouts. This happened when I was eleven years old. At one of our Boy Scouts meetings, we had this event called water boiling. You work with another person—it's a team event. One person shoves the wood to give you a railroad tie (makes a pounding sound) cut into blocks. And they give one tie, they give you a hatchet, only two matches. You have a two-and-a-half-size can, fruit can, mixed with soap water. And the object is to boil the water. It's a soap water, okay. Whoever boils over first is the winner, that's all by time.

We were having our All-Maui Camporee coming along, so we had to practice. So one evening when we went to our scout house, which was about, ah, I would say, maybe thirty, forty yards away from the hospital, from the clinic, into the cane field was our scout house. It's an old church, Hawaiian church, and we use that as our scout house. And we used to meet once a week, every Friday night we had a Scout meeting.

Anyway, that one night when we were practicing the water boiling event, my job was to chop the wood. My partner, after I chopped the wood, would take the one that's chopped, and with a pocket knife, he used to shave that, to make the thing so he can burn [i.e., kindling].

And we had a little post into the ground with a wire hanging, and the can would be here. And then you build your fire. And to increase the flame, we used to fan.

And then what happened was, that night the third person was there. He was watching us. He got so excited he picked up the hatchet. As he picked up the hatchet, I went for the other wood. He came down, wham! Chopped right off, complete off. And my patrol leader, he looked for the other portion. He found it and he said, "Come here!" We went underneath the faucet, he washed the finger, and put it back. And we went on a bicycle, we went down to the clinic, to the dispensary, and then the doctor sewed it right around. And he said, "Well, hopefully it can take." But then within one week the thing just rot.

MO: Ohhh.

SK: So he said, "I don't think we can save it." So he just took it off.

MO: That was traumatic for you.

SK: I know.

MO: Did you scream and holler?

SK: No, it was just numb. Just, wham, one time, yeah.

MO: Do you remember the kid who did that?

SK: You want to know? (MO laughs.) He turned out to be a surgeon.

MO: Oh, you're kidding me!

SK: Yeah my classmate, he lives in Modesto. He comes home. He comes back to Lahaina every year.

MO: He give you free medical?

(Laughter)

You his first patient.

SK: He became a doctor. Real nice guy. And we having our All-Maui Camporee next month. And they want to bring back the old days, you know, all the events: knot tying, fire by flint-and-steel, fire by friction, water boiling. And I said, "You want to start water boiling again?"

(Laughter)

MO: Chop fingers.

SK: Yeah, and they want to do signaling, but not just with one flag. They want to do two flags again, bring back the old days of scouting you know, so.

MO: How long or how many years were you in scouting?

SK: I'm still in it, in scouting.

MO: Wow, okay.

SK: Sixty-seven years in scouting. You know why? Because, I tell you, when I was eleven years old—you see, those days, you cannot join until you're twelve, okay. I used to go with a lot of my friends. They was in scouting. And he [scoutmaster] really liked me. He said, "Sammy, come, even though you eleven, come to the meeting."

"Okay."

And he took me to camp, which is not allowed because of the liability. You got to be twelve. So I did, from eleven years old, I attended every meeting.

MO: And did your brothers join?

SK: No. And I do owe a lot to scouting because all my years as scoutmaster and [Explorer], post advisor, I'm not boasting, but Lahaina was the strongest in scouting on Maui county. We had over 500 kids, you know. And I always try to talk to this guy by the name of Jared Ing. He was a probation officer for Lahaina. And I always consult with him, "Hey Jared, how our boys doing," you know, "Are they problems with—."

He said, "Sammy, no." He said that he noticed the Boy Scouts in Lahaina, they're really, really nice, you know. Of course they do lot of *kolohe* stuff, but I mean not the kind going steal and whatnot.

MO: Do drugs or whatever.

SK: Yeah. But I enjoy boys if they are *kolohe*, I like that when they *kolohe*. That's real true boys. But I was like that, too. I was terrible, I know.

MO: Well, what kind of terrible things did you do?

SK: Oh, I not going tell you about it.

(Laughter)

That's not for publication.

MO: Oh, okay. When did you meet your wife? What's your wife's name?

SK: Hatsumi.

MO: And was she from Lahaina?

SK: Oh yeah. They were the only tailor shop in Lahaina. Right in town, Lahaina town, you know where the Baldwin House is?

MO: Mm-hmm.

SK: Okay, right next to the Baldwin House, there is a park there, it's called Campbell Park.

MO: Campbell Park.

SK: Right, yeah. And we had all of our sports events there. We had basketball and, gosh, everything was there. All camps, we had camps tournaments, ooh, that place would get crowded. And I used to coach the small kids in basketball, too. And then my father-in-law, he had a tailor shop over there, was right below the basketball court. And they used to come and see the games because their two boys were playing also. There was a girl sitting next to them, you know.

(Laughter)

And so they got to like me a lot, you know. So they invited me over, things happened (laughs). Fine.

MO: How old were you when you got married?

SK: Twenty-six.

MO: Twenty-six, okay. And your wife was how old? How old was she when . . .

SK: She's three years younger. Today she's seventy-seven and I'm going to be eighty.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MO: So you guys had how many children?

SK: Two.

MO: Two. Boy and girl?

SK: No, just two boys.

MO: Two boys.

SK: She had a miscarriage and I still think it was my girl.

MO: Ahhh.

SK: I really, really wanted a girl, you know, but then that's it. We can only get two. But she gave me two wonderful boys.

MO: What are they doing now?

SK: Raymond, the oldest . . .

MO: Oh, Raymond in—oh, I see.

SK: Raymond has two kids, Kaylen and Leah. Leah is going to graduate this year. Oh, you wouldn't believe—while we on the subject of the kids—but I'm not boasting, but that girl Leah is unreal. She made 4.7 in school.

MO: Wow.

SK: She going graduate this year. She applied at USF [University of San Francisco], full scholarship.

MO: Cool.

SK: She applied at Tulane [University], full scholarship.

MO: And which one is she going to?

SK: I want her to go to Tulane because she's going pre-law. Okay. I still think that when you go to a [prestigious] school like that, when you apply for job, you say, "I'm Tulane grad." I think you get little more. Because I think about Boy Scouts. I do the Eagle Scout review. When the

boy, he's an applicant for the Eagle Scout yeah, I go and review them. I always tell them, "When you apply for a job, on your application, you put down 'Eagle Scout.'" There is a difference, you know, when an employer sees that. If they were close, they're going to pick the one with the Eagle Scout.

MO: Right.

SK: This is what I always stress to the kids, you know, you got to make Eagle Scout while going high school, but you have to do it when you are junior. If you don't do it and when you go into senior, scouting is *pau* for you because that's when they look for girls already when they senior in school. I always tell them, "While you're junior, got to make your Eagle Scout."

MO: And then you been doing so much stuff in the community since you retired.

SK: Oh, I tell you, because you know why? I don't want to say no, but that's what's wrong with me. I always say, when, not I cannot, when. (MO laughs.) Like the other day I had a call from the [school], say, "Sammy, you think you can up and help us in the book fair?" Because she knows that we do—I did organize this thing called PGA, Proud Grandparents' Association.

(Laughter)

Lahaina is really a nice place to bring up kids, too. And our families are so close, you know, very nice. But you know, you get problems, but I mean just minor miscommunication or something, yeah.

MO: Somebody was saying there used to be this competition between the merchant kids and the plantation camp kids (chuckles).

SK: Well, it was, we had a bad incident [during] the sugar strike, you know. In fact, I think Lahaina was split right in half, union and non-union. You see, like me, when I got married I was working in the office.

MO: You weren't union?

SK: I never did invite some of my good friends, the union members. I don't know how they were going to behave at the wedding party.

MO: Oh.

SK: Just things like that, you know. Bad.

MO: So how much of what's here in Lahaina today was here when you were growing up? You know, like, okay, I know the Baldwin House was probably here, Pioneer Mill, and . . .

SK: Pioneer Inn, yeah. All the churches were here when I was growing up. The Catholic, the Jōdō Mission, the Hongwanji. Mormons just about coming in, yeah. But Holy Innocent, Waiola Church, they were all here. And school, we had Kam III. We didn't have [Lahaina] Intermediate, that came afterwards.

MO: And then, the Front Street did look pretty much the way it looks today? No?

SK: Front Street today, I would say it's completely changed because we don't have vegetable stores, we don't have grocery stores, other than—what do you call that big chain stores they have all over?

MO: Oh, like Foodland and Safeway?

SK: Yeah, well, we never did get Foodland or Safeway, but I am thinking about—see, now we don't even have a barbershop, Front Street.

MO: Used to have barbershop?

SK: Yeah, we used to have three barbershops. We used to have two pool halls before, you know.

MO: So what caused all the changes then? Was it the influence of tourism or . . .

SK: Yeah. Because when the tourist started to come in, then say, for instance, the owner of this property, somebody wants to buy, they sell. Say if it was a vegetable store. Where they a new owner, they would change it to maybe [art] gallery. Then somebody else comes in and offer them huge money to buy the property, they sell 'em 'cause they don't see that kind of money, right? So in the meantime the whole Front Street has been sold to somebody else and it becomes a tourist trap. They get nothing but galleries, and clothing stores, jewelry stores, restaurants, bars, everything geared to the tourist.

MO: So the locals don't come down anymore?

SK: Mm, hardly.

MO: Just like Waikīkī.

SK: Because there is nothing for them to come to walk through town. They go shopping, they go to Foodland, they go Safeway, that end of the town, not in Front Street. This is why when my wife, her leg was better, I used to tell her, I said—once a month I take her Front Street—"Hey, let's go walking." You know, you go act like tourists and you go see all the stores. But other people, they don't come down at all. Probably the only time they come into town is when they have like maybe Halloween parade, things like that. But other than that, they don't come down.

MO: So we'll talk a little bit about the changes in West Maui and how you feel about the changes. And then go into how you see the future of West Maui.

SK: Okay. When we were living in the other house that was right in town, it was a back street, but tourists passed to go to the Catholic churches. And then they see me, maybe I am doing yardwork and we talk and they ask me, "Do you like these big changes over here?"

I said, "Yeah." Because I said my son is in the business where he need the tourists. My younger boy, Owen, was an executive chef at Kā'anapali Beach Hotel. So that's his living. As long as the tourists come in, the hotel is making good. And I said, "For my two sons' sake, yeah, I like the changes, and get more jobs." Of course you get the bad things coming, too, but if I want to be selfish I would say, yes, I like this change. People have two cars and they get a lot of jobs, and their kids go to college.

MO: And what do you think of that [proposed] bypass road?

SK: I'm really for it because, to be selfish, right now it's right here, okay, the highway.

MO: I can hear it (chuckles).

SK: Yeah, right. If the bypass is way *mauka* see, we would eliminate [hearing] all the sirens and whatnot. I am still on the Kā'anapali Advisory Board, but when we did the study to bring back Pu'ukoli'i Village, it really was geared [toward building] the bypass, you know. And when they said the bypass is not going to come through, then everything fold up. Even our big convention center, it was [planned] together with the bypass.

Maybe we don't yell loud enough. The people over the other side [of Maui], they get more of the money than we do. They even talking about [building a] road up to Kula from Kīhei. We have been asking for [a bypass] highway for years now, you know, but they always take care of the other side. The other side people maybe they yell more than we do, you know. So we always behind. And yet, even now, the big issue is we pay more taxes than the people over the other side, [because of] the hotels and whatnot, you know.

MO: So how come the hotels can't get together and help fund the bypass?

SK: I don't know. Like, I was asked to go attend the emergency thing about our—when we get fire, we get big accident on the highway, choke. No cars can go over the other side already. So even when I attended the first meeting on that, oh, they just talk, talk, talk. Oh, they come up with all kind, they just file the thing away, nothing happened. Somehow, I don't know why.

MO: They wait for something really tragic happens . . .

SK: Right.

MO: That's too bad. Same thing with the Lahainaluna Road, there's no alternate exit.

SK: Going up [to Lahainaluna School]? But you know what, though, when Owen come home from dinner every night we always talk about the world situation, okay. And I kind of remember when Lahaina was yelling about getting another road going up to Lahainaluna. I remember Owen saying this, "But you know, Dad, you try and think good, it's only when the school, the beginning of the school, 7:45 [A.M.] to 8:30 [A.M.], that's it. After school, say, school is over 2:00 [P.M.], 1:45 [P.M.] to 2:15 [P.M.], that's traffic. Other than that, you know." That's true, you know, other than that. . .

MO: What if they had like they had the fire one day, I guess at the mill, they blocked off, and nobody could get to work, or nobody could get home, or nobody could get someplace?

SK: But there is another road that you can turn over, but all depend where they block too. But I'm not trying to put cold water on the thing, eventually we're going to need, really need. In fact, I don't know if you know this, but I am all Linda Lingle, you know, all Linda Lingle. In fact, I just wrote to her one letter, too. I'm that close with her. Because when she ran for mayor, I really helped her here. When she was mayor, I did ask the managing director, I tell, "Hey, come over. I want you go up Lahainaluna." Okay, take that road, go up. From the road going up to the Kahoma Stream, that's big space, you know. You can [build] another road, easy. He did come over and he made a survey. He tell me, "Hey, Sammy, there is quite a few private homes here to block."

I said, "Buy 'em out, give 'em a good offer. 'Hey, we move your house [for] free. If you don't want to move your house, we'll build you one house.' Find a good spot for them to move down, that's the only way, give them a good offer." That's why you know this deal of the bypass that, the Ikena Road, they already knock down about seven or eight homes, and the state gave them a good offer. That's the only way they are going to grab that, you know. Hey, on top of that, they spent to move their house, give them to build, and they gave them extra money. That's the only way can move, you know, but you got to make it attractive for them to move.

MO: What about shooting up Keawe Street and connecting it with Ikena [Avenue] as an alternate to Lahainaluna [Road]?

SK: Yeah, can do. They can, yeah. Right now, they talking about Dickenson Street, the one that going up yeah, go straight up. That and Lahainaluna Road should take care enough, you know.

MO: Yeah. But isn't it easier to go through Keawe?

SK: Keawe?

MO: Yeah, 'cause they already got the road halfway up anyway.

SK: Yeah, I don't know, those things are all, I guess, the engineers, yeah. But if they have to deal with private property, I still think that they should give them a good, good offer. Make them happy.

MO: Yeah. So what do you see as the future, like in about twenty-five years for Lahaina, or for West Maui, anyway? Do you see any major changes?

SK: I'm just hoping that the bypass come sooner than that. I don't know how, but so that we don't get blocked out, trapped between here and Wailuku [in the event of a major accident].

MO: Right. Do a road.

SK: Yeah, I don't know how. Go through 'Iao Valley (laughs). I don't know, but they . . .

MO: I guess, can't you still go around the north way?

SK: Okay, okay, let me tell you this. The first meeting I went, I thought they were going talk [about] immediate things, you know, what are we going to do. But no, they talk about, eh, five years from now. I tell bullshit, what if something happen tomorrow? We're going to be blocked again. Somebody mentioned about going Kahakuloa way, okay, going the other [i.e., north] way, but they said that is going to be really, really a problem. And I think the guy from the state, he spoke up. And he said, because we doing some road in Hāna, they had to cut the mountain . . .

MO: Right, near Ke'anae, yeah.

SK: They said Hawaiians raised their hand, "You can't do that."

MO: Well, they did, though. They cut part of it down.

SK: So that's what they are afraid of going to Kahakuloa, but I tell you Kahakuloa is beautiful. Oh, I tell you. I don't mind going Sundays, you know go *holoholo* that way, I tell you. And the road is kind of fixed quite a bit now, you know, just when you reach Kahakuloa, and then there's a bad turn, I think, the roads are narrow. But going towards Wailuku way, it's not bad, you know.

MO: Mm-hmm. I did it once.

SK: Yeah?

MO: Years and years and years ago.

SK: But the scenery is unreal, it's so nice, I tell you. I wish they would improve that. I remember, oh, this was about four or five years ago, when Lahaina Credit Union had their annual meeting. They had a meeting, and the food was supposed to come, the caterers, from Wailuku. We had a terrible fire or something, the road was closed. So they had to go Kahakuloa way, but they made it, though.

(Laughter)

MO: If there's a will. . . . (Chuckles)

SK: We cannot have that though, in ten years. We got to get something done. I don't know how, but, they talk about tramways and whatnot.

MO: If they are going to do the bypass, is the bypass going to go in front of Launiupoko, in the back of Olowalu and . . .

SK: No.

MO: . . . Ukumehame?

SK: Ukumehame, no. The road is supposed to start by Puamana.

MO: Oh.

SK: Puamana way. And there is something going on. You know when you came through today, did you see some activities going on?

MO: They were supposed to stop work but they're not.

SK: It's a mystery that we don't know what's going on, you know. Well, it's supposed to start Puamana, and then go straight up, and then catch Ikena and go all the way till Honokōwai.

MO: Mm-hmm. Well I talked to the surveyor the last time he was here, and he said, well, at that time they were supposed to stop work because they got a stop work order. What they were doing, they were making the Ko'iko'i Road, they're paving it, and they had to, in order to do the five-acre . . .

SK: Subdivision?

MO: . . . ag lot . . .

SK: Oh, ag lot.

MO: . . . they had to crush all those rocks that are, you know, all those big rock piles there.

SK: Oh, yeah.

MO: So they have been trying to crush all those rocks and then use it, I guess, to pave the road and stuff.

SK: Oh.

MO: But that is supposed to [eventually] hook into the bypass.

SK: The bypass.

MO: Yeah, but then so if you do a bypass, then you cutting right across Kaua'ula and, you know, that's all *kuleāna* [lands]. . . .

SK: Yeah. I know, because when I was on the advisory board, they took us—there was eight of us—they took us all the way up *mauka* and we went all the way on top. And then they pointed here, here, this is where the bypass going. And they have eight bridges to build, you know. Oh, but when you go up there it's beautiful, oh, I'm telling you.

MO: And there are a lot of sites because the Hawaiians, they had villages and then they had, in the valleys where you had all of the *lo'i* and everything, the farming villages, and things like that. Well, in every one of those of valleys, you still have all these *lo'i*, you know, the terraces for the taro. Plus you have also *heiau* in some of them, too.

SK: Ah, hard, yeah.

MO: Yeah. And then in Kaua'ula you still see—you look down the mountain—and see this line that goes like that. It's an '*auwai*. It's called Pi'ilani 'Auwai. It was built in the 1500s.

SK: See that's all handmade right?

MO: Yeah.

SK: You don't want to destroy things like that, too. So where do you start from there, yeah?

MO: I don't know. Right now you can go like Lāna'i, or even coming along the highway, and you just look up in all the West Maui mountains, it is just so beautiful. If they talking to me about a bypass road, I picture the freeway, Honolulu freeway. Do you know how awful that looks? (SK laughs.) And then, you got the cruise ships coming in now.

SK: Yeah, yeah, right.

MO: . . . beautiful, Lahaina is. Imagine the freeway, freeway back there, how ugly that's going to look?

SK: That's why when—what's a big one that they used to come every Friday or something. *Norwegian*, what?

MO: Oh yeah, the . . .

SK: *Norwegian Star* or something? And they stop coming Lahaina, then they went Kahului Harbor. How you think the tourists feel, they dock in the harbor, what you looking at? The [mooring?] balls . . .

MO: Mostly industrial . . .

SK: Yeah right. No more coconut trees, but Lahaina is special, really special.

MO: What other things can you remember when you were growing up that are no longer here? No longer in Lahaina?

SK: Pioneer Mill or . . . ?

MO: Just anything.

SK: What's gone?

MO: Yeah.

SK: Well, you take Pioneer Mill, we don't have the cattle anymore, we don't have the garden, we don't have dairy, we lost all those things, yeah?

MO: Mm-hmm [yes].

SK: And we lost the sugar, of course. We don't have the local touch of Front Street, all gone. It's all a tourist trap now. I remember when we were going to Kam III School, once a month we used to have the Maui County band used to come on Sundays, in the afternoon, you know, we had band concert right on the school lawn. We lost all those things. Of course, the big one is Māla Wharf. Yeah, we lost Māla Wharf.

MO: What were they using Māla Wharf for?

SK: Māla Wharf was the—that's where the ships, like from Lāna'i, they used to come to the Māla Wharf. There's a boat called *Nai'a* and then . . .

END OF SIDE TWO

SIDE ONE

MO: So the ships from Lāna'i island navigation, they came and what did they bring?

SK: *Nai'a*?

MO: Yeah.

SK: The one from Lāna'i was passengers.

MO: Oh, passengers.

SK: Yeah.

MO: Oh, okay.

SK: Yeah. But the inter-island ships were freights, they used to bring freights. And then that was a cattle ship that they used to take 'em over to the Big Island. And then we had the big navy ships used to anchor, all the battleships, used to anchor outside. They used to dock at the—I mean, they used to bring the sailors up at Māla Wharf.

MO: I see. Okay. Tell me about the war and effects of World War II in Lahaina and with you personally, you know, if anything.

SK: Okay, December 6th, Saturday night, we had a church, Junior YBA [Young Buddhists Association], we had a party, social, you know, with the teenagers. And so, Sunday, we went to the church to clean up. Then I had a call, because I was the scoutmaster, I had a call from the scout executive. He said, "Hey, Sammy, go round up all the scouts."

I said, "What?"

He said, "Oh, Pearl Harbor been attacked."

So, me, I went home to change into my Boy Scout uniform. And my dad had a fish market, so I drove the fish truck all around to try to gather all the Boy Scouts and we met at the old prison. And our job was [to be] messenger boys on the bicycle. Big deal (laughs). But we just stood by, just in case they needed us. And then that was it.

All the homes were blacked out. The windows, you had to put black paper on. And then they tell you how long you can leave your lights on. And the gasoline were all rationed, too.

MO: Where did they get the black paper and who gave it to them? To black out . . .

SK: Yeah, I can't remember who distributed that. Whether we had to go to the county or police station or . . . But I know it was black paper, though. I don't think everybody could have gone and buy those things, yeah?

MO: Right.

SK: Somebody must have distributed that. And even on the car, you know headlight, I remember we used to put black paper, [leaving] only a small little [slit] opening, you know, just to—you put your light on—just to let the other car know that, hey, I'm coming if you see my light on. And then I remember that when they had surrounded some fish, I had to go and get the fish. I had the police escort me. I remember those things during the war, yeah, what I went through.

And there was no activities and no sports events because we couldn't play at night. Everything was just (SK hits table) closed up. No night events. And then, plantation-wise, everybody was asked to have a victory garden. You know, you plant whatever. And, what you call that hole you got to dig?

MO: For the bomb shelter.

SK: Bomb shelter, yeah. Each camp had two or three.

MO: What did the bomb shelter look like? Was just a hole or . . .

- SK: Yeah just a big *puka*, that's all, and then you cover it up. It's not open, you cover up and there's a place where you can go down.
- MO: Interesting. So did people treat the Japanese community differently?
- SK: Not that I know of. In Lahaina, no. No, everybody was just one family like, yeah, one big '*ohana*', no matter what nationality.
- MO: Did you still go to your Japanese-language school?
- SK: No, they had to stop that. No Japanese school. But other than that, well, one big move was that because the hospital was right on the—you know where Longhi's is?
- MO: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- SK: Right next to the Longhi's on the other end, that was where the hospital was. They closed that hospital because it was right on the ocean side. The hospital moved up to Lahainaluna School. They converted the school into a hospital. That was a big move, big change.
- MO: So they shut the school down?
- SK: Yeah.
- MO: So how long did this go on? How long did they close the school?
- SK: Maybe one year, I think.
- MO: Really?
- SK: Yeah. I think it was one year, though.
- MO: What would you like to see change here? You know, you mentioned that you want to see the bypass, but do you want to see anything change back to the old way? Anything at all?
- SK: I would like to see Māla Wharf rebuilt, really. That will be, to me, that they can really use that again. Of course, as far as agriculture, I don't know. That's another thing, yeah. They tried coffee, they tried macadamia nut, nothing materialized on that. There is a lot of water up there, which [near] Lahainaluna School they do have right now. They raising shrimps, escargot like that. Maybe that's another, industry agriculture [that] can be done. And the bypass and convention center.
- MO: How big would the convention center be?
- SK: Well, my friend was the chairman of that. And when he told me that they were thinking of 6,000 capacity, I said, "You crazy or what? While you at it, go for 10,000. You are going to feel sorry, 6,000. We get all the resort here in the thing, people will come." Do you know that with our swimming pool now, we have colleges coming in all the way to do their training here. They all stay at Maui Islander. Because I go down the church, I see, eh, a big group walking, you know, "Hey, where you guys going?"
- He say, "Oh, we going go to the pool to practice swimming."
- MO: Is it a big pool?

SK: Yeah, oh, yeah, it's a very . . .

MO: Olympic?

SK: . . . nice. Regular Olympic size. Only thing we don't have is a diving board. Other than that, it's a huge pool.

MO: So they have like water polo and stuff like that over there?

SK: They do want to start because it's going to become one of the major sports in school, I think.

MO: 'Cause I know like my friend's son in Punahoa they have water polo, he got scholarships.

SK: Hey, if you not in training, you not in condition, you don't go water polo, I'm telling you. That's a mean event, you know that. Gosh, in the water you got to stay alive (laughs).

MO: Yeah.

SK: But you know what my dream is someday, that we have a huge shell just like Waikīkī Shell because you know why? Lahaina is a very ideal place to have things like that, weather-wise. When we're at one of our board meetings, you know at Kā'anapali, I brought it up, you know. Because, who the guy that came from Honolulu?

He said, "Okay, you list down ten of the things that you would like to see." I listed down a shell, a huge shell. And as we reviewed that list, somebody told me, "You know, Sammy, you get a shell up there the people down here are going to all complain."

I said, "What about?"

"The noise!"

I said, "Bullshit!" You got a West Maui mountain view, you can't beat that. And there's land up there, oh, acres and acres. And so what did they build above the ball field? Homeless shelter for the people. But I really like to see a shell, though, yeah, just because I love music.

MO: Yeah. You know, speaking of your weather here, because you have this wonderful weather, I'm surprised they don't have more of a movie industry setup here.

SK: Yeah.

MO: You know.

SK: That's true.

MO: It could be something that the children can strive for in school, learn. When you think of all the incredible things that go for making a movie now and all of the different technologies that are being used, you know like the Steven Spielberg and George Lucas kind of technologies, kids are interested in computers, kids are interested in writing, kids are interested in every facet of that. You know, instead of having service jobs, only looking forward to service jobs at the resorts. That would be . . .

SK: Oh, yeah.

- MO: It's a relatively clean industry, you know, so you can maybe talk to your people, 'cause Lahaina is perfect because it's the scenic stuff here . . .
- SK: That's true, you know.
- MO: . . . and the weather.
- SK: Here, yeah. Right in Lahaina.
- MO: Yeah.
- SK: You take like, they had like this big movie, *Devil At Four O'Clock*, we had that, yeah. And another one, what was the other one? Frank Sinatra and, gosh, there wasn't a day when they couldn't shoot. Every day was a perfect day, the ocean and everything, gosh. I tell you, you can't beat Lahaina. I always tell, you cannot beat Lahaina. This is why, when we travel, we always take that direct flight either from San Fran[cisco] or from LA, direct to Kahului. And you get full load of people. I always ask them, "Where you going?"
- Said, "Oh, we're going Kā'anapali."
- I said, "Wow! That's where I come from."
- She said, "Oh, is that right?"
- I said, "Yeah."
- And the last flight, the one we took, United, was big, 777, full, just packed, that flight. All come to Maui, gosh. Something magic about Maui, you know. I still say that we can offer more to a tourist on Maui. You get the golf, you get the sky, you get the ocean, gosh, horseback riding. There is so much Maui can offer, really.
- I always tell my church members, though—especially when we got all heated up about bringing back Pu'ukoli'i Village—I always tell them, "Hey you guys got to live long, you know, if you want to see Pu'ukoli'i again," but never materialized. That was the biggest flop, boy, gosh.
- MO: You wanted to bring back the [plantation] camp?
- SK: Original camp, yeah, original camp.
- MO: And then what, have it as like a tourist attraction?
- SK: No, no. They going live. And they not going to build those fancy homes. They want to build like the old plantation homes like . . .
- MO: Plantation homes.
- SK: Yeah.
- MO: That would be a place for like the people who can't afford, you know, bigger houses. I mean they would probably have given anything to live in something like that.

SK: Oh, yeah. Because at one time when Pu‘ukoli‘i was the mostly used, they were over how many thousand people up there living?

MO: Yeah.

SK: The biggest camp in the state. They had from movie theater to, oh, how many churches they had?

MO: At least three.

SK: And recreation center, and school. Oh, was a big camp, gosh.

This guy call me from Mainland, “Hey, Sammy, you know everything about Lahaina,” you know. “Can you tell me about Pu‘ukoli‘i village?”

I tell them, “I never live up there, the only thing I know is that I used to go sell fish, you know, ring the bell. And the only thing I know about there is the Pigpen Avenue.”

He tell me, “That’s the kind I want to know.”

I said, “That’s the only road I know, Pigpen Avenue.” (Laughs) And then you know what he did, he send me the whole map of Pu‘ukoli‘i.

MO: Somebody made the map.

SK: . . . all the names of the people that went to that reunion, they signed where they lived (laughs).

MO: Yeah.

SK: And I gave that to Lahaina Restoration [Society] so, you know. I said, “Restore that.” (Laughs)

MO: Yeah, that’s kind of neat. Yeah, he explained why it was called Pigpen Avenue, because of the trough, the water trough, of the toilet going all the way down there (laughs).

SK: Yeah, oh, those people were closely knitted. Oh, the Pu‘ukoli‘i people, I’m telling you.

MO: So when you went to sell fish, how old were you, when you sell fish up there?

SK: Well I had my driver’s license, so fifteen. Yeah, I used to go all the camps.

MO: What were the names of the camps?

SK: Honolua, Māhinahina, Pu‘ukoli‘i, Keawe Camp, Honokōwai. . . . When I came home from school, my mother had already the fish all ready to . . .

MO: Fillet?

SK: Yeah, all fillet and the bones special, you know. Ring the bell (chuckles), sell the fish.

MO: So you just sold it out of the back of the truck. . . ?

SK: Yeah, back of the truck.

MO: What kind of truck was it?

SK: Was a pickup truck with a cover in the back.

MO: With a cover, okay.

SK: Yeah.

MO: So then you had to go get ice and stuff, put your fish (SK laughs). Oh, interesting.

SK: Hard work.

MO: Yeah, I bet.

SK: Gosh, I tell you, boy, but you get to know all the people.

MO: Yeah.

SK: So, even today, when I see old ladies from Honolua, when they see me at church or funerals, they tell, "Oh, Kadotani, you remember me?"

I said, "Sure, I remember you, I used to go sell fish, eh?"

She tell me, "Yeah." (Laughs) They're really nice.

MO: In Lahaina, what were some of the camps here?

SK: We have Kuhua Camp.

MO: Kuhua?

SK: K-U-H-U-A.

MO: Uh-huh.

SK: And Keawe Camp.

MO: Uh-huh.

SK: We had Māla Village, Kelawea. Kelawea was right above Kuhua Camp.

MO: Oh okay.

SK: That's when you go up Lahainaluna Road—have you gone up that road?

MO: Not all the way up.

SK: Oh, that's the last camp, yeah. But now when they took over some of the cane area, they build subdivision. Like there's a big one, it's called. . . Ah, what is it now? (To his wife:) Ma, what is that camp called back of the Pioneer Mill office on Lahainaluna Road?

SK's wife: Paunau.

SK: Paunau, yeah. See, there's another one, it's Paunau. See like even here, we had all different names too, you know. Now it's Kaua'ula, Puamana. This place used to be all called Mākila Camp, you know way back, Mākila, yeah. Of course, Ukumehame was still there, Olowalu there.

MO: You know, you know where Kaua'ula Stream is, and there's Pāhoa and Polonui, the land over there, they're going to do that subdivision they wanted to do, the affordable subdivision over there. Was there a camp around that area? Was there Kaua'ula camp?

SK: No.

MO: No.

SK: This here was the last, right here, Puamana . . .

MO: Puamana was the last camp?

SK: . . . was the last. There were no homes beyond that already, no more.

MO: Oh, okay.

SK: Except, Olowalu, of course. They had a few homes.

MO: But there were people living up by the pumps and stuff.

SK: Way up *mauka*, they had, because they have to have maybe one home that was the ditchman home, and his job was make sure there's water there.

MO: Okay, so all the different ditches had a ditchman house?

SK: Yeah, right, yeah. Olowalu, of course, they had that store, then above the store, there were homes. But further in, were private.

END OF INTERVIEW

PIONEER MILL COMPANY:

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**Center for Oral History
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