

Manoa History Project

Interview by Evelyn Trapido

Mary Jane Ahia Davison

July 31, 1981

Others Present: Bea Krauss, Margaret Young, Miriam Woolsey, Peggy Robb, Louise Vicars, Charles Bouslog, Okamura

BK I'm just giving an introduction of how she happens to be here today and ask to see our Manoa map which Agnes Conrad had told her about (which makes me think we'd better get Agness Conrad one of these maps). So she called and came up here, walked all the way up that hill, and we spent a delightful couple of hours, and she found her land, and I thought immediately about having her come to talk to us. This is Mary Jane Ahia Davison, of 431 Nahua Street, Apartment #401.

ET If you don't mind, your birthdate?

MJ August 29, 1905.

ET Have you any brothers and sisters living now?

MJ One sister, Wilhelmina Wassman, Mrs. Rudolf C., Jr. She just moved to Maunawili, Kailua, 1231 Lola Place. And one brother, originally named Fayerweather, living at 1206 Johnson Street, Pennsylvania. Because of the numerous nicknames he was called all his life, he legally changed his name to Frank before he joined the Seabees to enter World War II.

ET Any deceased?

MJ Yes. Harriet Kekulani Burgess, Marie Amelia Davison, Rosalie Compton Davison, and Richmond Benoni Davison. We are English, so-called New England-American and Hawaiian. I'm 3/16 Hawaiian.

ET Where were you born?

MJ In Kapahulu, Oahu.

ET Where else have you lived?

MJ In 1930, I went to Maui with the Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. Oh, I got washed out in the tidal wave at Spreckelsville, in 1949, moved to Puunene, to Kahului, and then back to Honolulu. My mother's adopted name was Kawahahee. I think Kawahahee is the name of those who owned what was originally the Hana Plantation. She was so-called American and 1/4 Hawaiian.

ET Was she your real mother, who was adopted by somebody else?

MJ Yes. My father was Harry Fayerweather Davison. He was 1/8 Hawaiian and the rest English and American.

ET I think we should go back to your great grandmother.

MJ My great grandmother was Mary K. Beckley. My great great grandmother was Captain George Beckley's wife, the High Chieftess Ahia. They were married in 1812, and Mary K. was the fourth of their six children. Abraham Henry Fayerweather had to obtain the King's consent before he could marry Mary K. Beckley. Her aunt, Maria Beckley, promised to intercede, providing she be given a child. The first child was a boy, and Mr. Fayerweather would not give up his son. The second was a girl. She became Mrs. Julia Afong, and her father would not give up his first daughter.

So when the third was arriving (that would be my grandmother), Maria Beckley was not to be denied.

She waits in Honolulu. When the baby is born, she grabs it up, wraps it in a feather cape, and takes it to the Big Island. Abraham Fayerweather was not at home at that time. (He was the

first "traveling" auditor and was on one of his between-islands trips.)

My grandmother was raised in the household of Maria Beckley until, I think, Maria Beckley died. Grandmother then returned to Oahu to her parents. During the time she was on the Big Island, she spoke only Hawaiian. When she needed transportation, she was carried on the back of the natives and treated as somebody very, very special. That's the story I was always told.

ET When did your grandmother come back to her own family? How old was she then?

MJ My grandmother was very young, because both her mother and father died in 1850. So, let's see. She was born in 1842, and her mother and father both died in 1850. So she was less than eight years old when she returned to her family. The father had selected a Mr. Reynolds to be the guardian of his three orphan girls. Their mother had died first. The court ruled Mr. Reynolds incompetent, and Dr. Judd then took over the custodianship of the children. Later, I think the Chamberlains took my grandmother. Hawaiians took Julia, the older one. I don't know who took Hannah, the younger girl. (The boy had died.) So then, my grandmother was raised by the Chamberlains. She became a teacher at Punahou.

ET I read that she was a teacher at Mililani School, and I haven't been able to find anything more about that.

MJ Somehow, she was connected with Punahou, too. She had a great love for Punahou.

MY I know she helped with the Hawaiian program, for the 75th

anniversary, in 1915. She and her daughter, Emma Taylor, did most of the Hawaiian part of the program.

ET Would anyone else like to ask questions about...

CB At what age was the little girl allowed to walk on her own feet?

MJ Well, that I didn't hear. Just know that if she wanted to go any place, she didn't have to walk. Evidently didn't ride a horse, but they carried her on their backs.

BK Wasn't that quite usual among the Alii?

MJ I assume so, yes, because of her high birth.

BK You lived in Manoa during what years?

MJ We came to live in Manoa about 1922, and then, of course, in 1930 I went to Maui.

BK You lived those intervening eight years in Manoa?

MJ No, not all of them. Marie and I went down to Fernhurst. I stayed there, when it was down on King and Alapai Streets.

BK Now, when you speak about Marie, whom are you speaking of?

MJ My sister Marie Davison. She died 13 years ago.

ET Mrs. Montano had how many children?

MJ Four. This is a picture of the first three. Emma, Rose, and my father. I don't have Mary Jane's mother, Margaret or Marie Brown. This picture is Emma Taylor. This one is Rose, and here are my father and mother.

ET Each of the Montano children played a role in Hawaiian life. It would be interesting to hear what their backgrounds were.

MJ Emma Taylor was quite a civic-minded person. I was interested in the thesis written by a girl at the University named Ching or Chang, who wrote on the Beckley family. From the viewpoint of inter-racial marriages, she traced the achievement of the

individual children and their several blood mixtures. She found, first, the William Beckley line married Hawaiians and were very Hawaiian. The second group studied was my grandmother's elder sister, Mrs. Julia Afong. All 16 children married Westerners. No Hawaiians. These children were prominent and successful in the community. In my grandmother's family, Emma married Albert Pierce Taylor, who came to Hawaii with the Annexation Commission. Margaret or Marie married Edgar Brown. He was with the Post Office. My mother was the only part-Hawaiian. The author of the thesis pointed out that although my grandmother associated with the white population, she, alone, in this study, worked conscientiously for the betterment of the Hawaiians.

ET I think it's interesting that Emma Taylor was one of the Hawaiian sources for legends.

MJ She got them from her mother. Grandmother was considered an authority in her day, and it was my grandmother who selected Padraic Colum to come here and write up the Hawaiian legends, because she felt his poetry of Irish mythology blended more with the Hawaiian; so the Hawaiian Historical Committee selected Padraic Colum.

MY Wasn't partly the reason that Emma did so much of this was because her husband at that time was a writer and also later Archivist for the Territory? He had the feeling for it that gave her the inspiration, I think, working together?

MJ I'm quite sure he had an appreciation of trying to save some of this history, and so the papers were full, in the 20's, of my grandmother's writings.

BK I'd like to get your reactions in the part-Hawaiian and maybe reflecting other Hawaiians about Padraic Colum's work, because I have heard Hawaiians being very critical of it.

MJ I, of course, was very pleased, but I didn't know enough to be critical, or maybe I was learning these myths for the first time because I hadn't grown up with them. I did not see any reason to be critical.

BK I must say that I thought they were very beautiful, probably because of the Irish influence with the Hawaiian, but in later years, now I have been led to believe that they felt he didn't get the spirit, with the Irish coming through rather than Hawaiian, and I wondered if you had heard anything.

MJ No. I have not, and my copy unfortunately went out with the tidal wave. I don't have a copy any more.

MY I had understood that your sister Marie was born when the family was at Waioli.

MJ My sister Marie was born when the family lived up at the old house at Waioli.

X At what age did they move away from there to Kapahulu?

MJ I was the first one born there. Where they moved to in-between, I don't know, because there were Rosalie, Wilhelmina, and a still-born boy older than I. I don't know where they were born.

ET Did they speak much of the time they lived at Waioli? You know how they happened to live at Waioli?

MJ No, I don't. Only that they did, and that the house was moved from that location to near the park. I'm not sure whether it is on the first location it was moved to. Marie, who was seven years older than I, could remember when the present park was the

front yard, and when white peacocks wandered around the yard. I only know the house was moved, but why it was moved, I don't know. It's still there.

PR So you don't know whom the land belonged to at that time?

MJ No, I don't. I had been of the impression Grandmother owned a great deal of land. Evidently, it was not correct.

PR Do you have a relationship to the Carlos Long family?

MJ No, not that I know of.

PR We keep hearing references to the deed belonging to the King. So that it's difficult to _____?. Suppose to be King Kamehameha III's house.

MJ That is possible. When Captain Beckley and the High Chieftess Ahia went back to sailing, the five eldest children were raised by Queen Keopuolani and Queen Kaahumanu, with Kauikeaoui, as sisters and brothers. He later became Kamehameha III. The Beckley children were given land, fish ponds, etc.

BK I wonder if that land in Waioli wasn't that Akaka land. Was it Akaka or Aka? It may have belonged to one of your relatives.

MJ Do you mean Metcalf? Emma Metcalf married Fred Beckley, bringing her into the family.

BK But we did find this Akaka.

MJ I will have to check my notes again.

BK So that would have been a relative to the family.

LV Mrs. Montano leased that land there for a dairy, across from Waioli.

MJ Now, I did see, in researching at the Archives, that the land Ike Sutton owns now somehow had been Montano land. Whether it was leased or not, I don't know, but it went from Montano to

Castle to Sutton. The Archives' records show Grandmother owned only six acres. That was not as big a parcel as I had thought.

MW But the other thing that I mentioned--I'm still going back to Waioli. Miriam's mother spoke about this stone at Waioli. It was the Montano family who moved the stone to the right place, and then the Longs came in and they took the stone with them, but you have no memory of that?

MJ I have no memory of that. I remember years ago when we lived with Aunty Emma, that she went with someone else into a cane field looking for a stone. What stone that was, I don't remember, unfortunately. Maybe my sister Marie could have told you because she spent a good deal of time on Lanai talking to Aunty Emma. But I wouldn't be bothered those days.

MW I think my brother mentioned once when the Long family moved out of Waioli, they took the stone with them to Kalihi Kai. That's where they moved to. (I don't know what gave me the impression that the Japanese have a crematorium down in that area.) For some reason, I felt that it went along and eventually became a church or graveyard or something to deal with a church, but Grandmother _____.

MW I remember a big stone up there because the Jones family lived up there. _____ Jones. She passed away. Madge married Schonenburg. Shonenburg, and Toots _____ Paul Jones was with the Identification Bureau, and he passed away not too long ago. His sister is still here. She lived in Hauula.

? We're going to go camping in a couple of weeks down at CYO, and I usually run over there and say hello to her. Maybe I'll offhand ask her if she remembers, because it was quite a large

stone. We played up and around the stone, making mud pies and putting them up there to bake.

MJ Would that have been one of the birth stones?

MW No. It was just a great big stone. Maybe it rolled down from Ualakaa. That stone was there for years when the Long family moved it with them.

MJ Grandmother said that when Kamehameha III asked the Chiefs to give one-third of their land, the Backleys gave Kalihi Valley to the sea.

BK Does anybody know where that Long house was in Kalihi Kai? Could it be located and then if there was a Japanese crematorium, could the stone be located, unless there's some industrial development there?

MW Didn't Ella Long say it was somewhere near Palama Settlement, the old Palama Settlement?

BK Is that considered Kalihi Kai? I thought Kalihi Kai was more Makai of that.

ET I don't know, but it seems to me Ella talked about Palama Settlement.

MW Well, the old Palama Settlement is where the Community College is now. It was on King Street.

MY King, and then it ran back.

MW Then they cut in Dillingham Boulevard, because I remember going there when we were kids.

BK To the old Palama Settlement?

MW Old Palama Settlement. It may have a Japanese Hotel. It's still there.

MY The John Ii family owned the mauka section by Ferdinand, houses

up there where the _____?_____ was originally part of
the _____?_____.

X Well, the Iis apparently had several pieces of land, and I think
looked up _____ the Montanos bought land from
Irene _____.

ET You were telling me about the ranch. You went to visit the
Montano Ranch.

MJ I don't remember the ranch itself, but I understand there had
been a ranch. When I was a child, I'd go up to Grandmother's
and play with Mary Jane. Well, we wandered around Manoa, which
was just lantana. Off to Beckwith Street, and Dr. Baldwin was
up there, but mostly it was lantana. We wandered around and got
scratched and kind of thing. By that time, Mr. Montano had
given up the ranch. He was ill and confined to his room. I do
not know where the ranch was located.

BK By the ranch, you mean up the valley away from their Manoa home
where he was raising cattle?

MJ Yes.

BK I believe that's the house that you were in, showing the Montano
family on the porch.

MJ You can see the mountain here in this picture. The house was up
close to it, not where Waioli is now, but closer to the
mountain. That is what Marie used to say.

BK But in more or less the range of Waioli.

MJ Yes, about more in the area where the Salvation Army Home used
to be. It was closer to the mountain.

BK Yes, this is the same, but the picture is taken much closer with
the family. This is the one we have, and this is the same

house.

LV Is that the existing house that was moved down?

MJ Yes.

ET We have a house that John Topolinski told us about. Claire got it from the Archives. I think it's a different shape. It's in our files.

MJ If it is one down at the Archives, this is it.

ET I don't think it's the same house.

MJ You don't think so?

ET No.

MJ Yes, I know this to be the same one. It's still there.

Grandmother divided her Manoa property with her three daughters. Aunty Emma got the upper portion, Aunty Maggie was to inherit the old house, and Aunty Rose was given the other portion. Each went through from the East Manoa Road to the Lower Road. Later, Aunty Emma converted her garage into a two bedroom for my sister Harriet. Aunty Rose's property was sold, and a home for Mary Jane was built on the upper corner of Grandmother's portion.

MY Whose was the big house that faced Gore Way?

X Was that J. L. Young?

MW Yes. Lord Young.

MY His son was my contemporary.

MJ There were two boys.

X Gordon and ____?____.

MY But at the time that they lived there, at the time your grandmother was living there, along about this time when I was living on Kamehameha Avenue as a child, maybe 1909, 1910, four

or five years old, she had cows down there also because I remember seeing a calf born there. I was out walking with the maid. My mother wasn't quite sure I was young enough for all that education, but I had it anyway.

BK Where the young calf was, that was Montano land originally?

MJ Originally, yes. As was the park.

BK Yes, I remember, as Margaret does, the cattle when they had a dairy up there.

ET The house that remains, would that be where Marie Brown lived?

MJ Yes. She and Mary Jane lived with Grandmother.

ET Can you tell us anything more about Marie Brown?

MJ She was supposed to be very beautiful. She became a teacher and the principal of Manoa School. Then she went to Jefferson School as principal and later transferred to a larger school in Waikiki. Lunalilo.

MW Mrs. Ward and my grandmother were very close friends. So the lyrics for "Old Plantation" were written by my grandmother for Mrs. Ward. "Beautiful Kahana", Grandmother wrote for Mary E. Foster, Mrs. Ward's sister. The association between the Davisons, the Montanos, and the Wards goes back to childhood. In later years, Aunty Maggie would go over to Molokai with Lucy and Kulamanu. Their association continued.

ET You called her Aunty Maggie.

MJ We called her Aunty Maggie, yes.

BK You never went to Manoa School?

MJ No.

BK Which school did you go from, say, kindergarten or preschool, or whatever?

- MJ I went to Liliuokalani School. First I went to Kaahumanu, and then Liliuokalani with Wilhelmina, for it was closer. When the Queen came for the dedication of the school, she recognized my sister Wilhelmina and asked her to come up on the stage to be with her.
- MY That was about 1912 or 1913. I went to the dedication. Sybil Johnson was in her class, and her mother was principal there.
- MJ Then from Liliuokalani, I went to Central Grammar, graduated eighth grade from Central Grammar, and then I went to McKinley, and that was my formal education.
- BK Were you at a school age when you were living in Manoa? But you were in high school by then so you wouldn't have gone to Manoa.
- MJ Yes. I was then a sophomore in high school when we went back to Manoa, about sixteen years old.
- BK What did you do for recreation at that time, in Manoa?
- MJ I think we hiked. Then, of course, I got to the age when I was permitted to socialize, and there were beautiful teas and showers for the girls getting married, my older sisters' friends. Lovely teas at Waioli where everything was so beautifully done. Both Aunty Emma and Aunty Maggie had cottages at Kawela Bay. We spent most weekends there, stopping at Haleiwa to dance, driving on to Kawela Bay to spend the night, returning Sunday night. We hiked and swam.
- BK Would that be especially up the valley here?
- MJ Yes, and roundabout. I don't think we went very far.
- BK Did you go up to Manoa Falls?
- MJ No, I don't believe so, but Marie knew the falls and testified in court regarding water rights.

- BK More or less in the central part?
- MJ Yes. Just wandering around. When we first came to Manoa, we rented a place up on Ferdinand. It was a large place, with Japanese cement lanterns on the terrace. Mauka to us were the Coburns. He was with a bank.
- MY It's a block makai of where...it used to be Adolph Street, but it is now Aleo. Okay, it's a block makai, and the Coburns' place is on the mauka side.
- MJ Then we went down the street that came right down to Aunt Emma's gate. On the left-hand side of that road was the first "all-electric" house. Dr. Benner's house. On the other side of the street was Robert Mist's place. So Aunt Emma's house was just in the middle of the block.
- BK Did you have peers (about the same age with you) in the neighborhood, girls of your own age?
- MJ No.
- BK So your friends were away from Manoa?
- MJ Yes. Just with Mary Jane. But I do recall one night with Eileen Waterman. It was the second night of festivities for the opening of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Three young bachelors working at Lewers & Cooke, Marie, Eileen, and myself had cocktails at the Charles Coopers', then dinner at the Watermans' before dancing at the Royal. I remember the beautiful blue and gold service plates used, but I don't recall what we ate, but dinner was beautifully served. Marie wore a red Chinese brocade holoku and Grandmother's black lace mantilla. I wore a pink brocade holoku, and Princess Kalaniana'ole offered me a similar mantilla of hers and two gold bracelets which were a gift from

Queen Victoria upon the celebration of her Jubilee.

MY Tell me something about Rose Davison, because I can remember Rose Davison, of her lifetime, and that was another association with the Ward sisters.

MJ Yes. You might now have seen a young picture of her.

X She was an early Humane Society officer.

MJ Yes. This is Rose Davison as a young girl. This is another in her uniform and still another in her buggy holding the whip she wielded when she saw anybody abusing an animal.

MY Not only animals, because the Humane Society was chartered, and I think the charter still says also for the protection of children, and that was one of her interests.

MJ After teaching a few years in the Manoa Valley School, she entered the office of the Board of Education as the first woman School Agent and later became the first woman assistant secretary of the Board under Alatan T. Atkinson. During that period, she represented Hawaii at the Pan American Exposition held in Buffalo, New York, in April 1901. She was the first Humane Officer and held that position until her death. She held a police commission also. Bidden to a Palace Ball, she preferred to drive a fine team of horses. I was told, although her uniforms were stark, her lingerie in contrast was of the finest linens and silk, embroidered and lacy.

MW Lucy Ward was also a Humane Society officer.

MJ Yes, and she took over after Aunty Rose died in 1913.

BK I remember Lucy Ward riding on her horse, too, as a Humane Officer.

MJ During the early parades, as a pa'u princess, Aunty Rose always

wore a purple robe, representing Kauai.

MY She used to ride down Kamehameha Avenue and stopped to talk to my parents. I got to pat the horse.

ET Would this be the usual method of transportation for a working woman?

MY Well, the streetcars were going on Kamehameha Avenue and down Manoa Hill and as far up Dahu Avenue as the Montague Cookes', but she was going out beyond the taro patch and the garden areas and that sort of place, and she went on down above Moiliili, too, and covered various places and always in these little back roads. There weren't any automobiles at that time, at least, very few.

BK I believe part of riding the horse was the advantage it gave to the two wardens, or whatever you called them, because they were higher enough up to have the advantage, being women. This was very unusual to have women Humane Officers, and this gave them an advantage of being on a horse, and they were both excellent horsemen.

MY The person who often accompanied them was not an officer, but Mabel Phillips, who lived for a great many years. She died not too long ago, but she also rode her horse in Manoa. As a friend, she worked in an office, but she was not an official of the Humane Society, whereas, Lucy Ward and Rose were, but she would come by and say "Hi" to the family, my parents.

BK Probably as company, don't you think? Lucy Ward was also the truant officer when we were in school.

MY I think it came through the Humane Society, rather than the Department of Public Instruction, because I know she used to

come to visit Mrs. Brown and get after the children from down at Metcalf. We had the Salvation Army boys and girls up on the hillside. They weren't too much of a problem. It was mostly down the road from the children who came to Manoa School.

BK I guess I got started on this house that you lived in between '20 and '30. Which house was this then?

MJ It was a large piece of land, not too deep, but next to Coburns'. The four of us, Marie, Rosalie, Wilhelmina, and myself. After Rosalie died, we went down and stayed with Aunty Emma. So we rented for less than a year.

BK Oh, up Manoa.

MJ Up on Ferdinand. Then we moved to Aunty Emma, and I imagine we were there six or seven years.

BK And there was one of Montanos' homes on this spot?

MJ Yes. Right next door to Grandmother's house was Aunty Emma's, and we lived there.

BK Do you remember some of the gracious customs they had, "calling days"? Would you tell us a little about that? Do you remember what day that was, from Manoa?

MJ No, I don't know which day had been Manoa's. At that late date, I don't think they had a special day any more.

BK It might have been earlier. I remember back in the '20s, and everybody had a silver plate on the front hallway, and people would leave their calling cards.

MJ I remember that, yes, but I don't remember a special calling day.

BK That must have been dropped. Do you remember what type of social life? Did the family have dinners? Very elegant

dinners?

MJ Yes, dinners where the gentlemen came in navy-blue double-breasted coats and white flannel trousers, and the ladies came in long dresses; and you had a cocktail. Then you went downstairs to the dining room. The property was sloped and so the dining room was downstairs. During those dinners, finger bowls were used.

BK Did you have servants?

MJ Yes.

BK And they would prepare the meal and serve?

MJ That is right. I recall a luncheon Aunty Emma hosted. It was the week of the arrivals of the yachts in the first trans-pacific races. Among the guests were Jane Addams, President of National Women's League For Peace and Freedom, our relative Myra Pitman, President of the National League of Women Voters, and Mrs. Wallace Farrington. I was helping in the kitchen. Everything went well until it came to the finger bowls. The maid became confused because she took them in before she cleared the table, so she put the tray on the floor.

BK Do you remember, for instance, what was served that day or some other luncheon? Because I think this is charming, what those lunches and dinners in those old days were--so interesting.

MJ I know chicken was served. The family recipe was to brown the chicken with bacon, then season it with nutmeg, and then cook it in a creamed gravy. But what stands out in my mind is a fruit salad. Two pineapples were cut lengthwise, the centers hollowed out, the two pinned together, leaving the leaves extended at both ends. Mixed fruit filled the center. Maraschino cherries

were placed at the tip of each leaf and around the top of the pineapple.

BK That may have been the beginning of the "pineapple boat".

MJ I would think that it was. Aunty Emma was visited by members of the University, business, and political leaders. One evening, she entertained a group which included Prince Kuhio, Sir Peter Buck (curator of the Bishop Museum), and a few others. The discussion that evening was on where the first Hawaiians came from. I recall they compared bone structure of the Hawaiian face, the high cheekbones, the nose bridge between the eyes, the possible routes, similar mythology. I also remember incidents involving Uncle Albert. When serving on the Advertiser, he preferred the waterfront beat. He would go out on the pilot launch and meet ships off Diamond Head. He notified the Prince of Serbia that his country was at war in 1914. The Prince was traveling incognito, but Uncle Albert knew he was aboard, and told him of the cable news. On another occasion, the editor of the National Geographic, Gilbert Grosvenor, arrived. He was on our lanai one afternoon and mentioned an invitation to a cocktail party at the Dillinghams. He thought they must be nouveau rich and would not go. Aunty Emma assured him they were not and said she would take him to meet the Dillinghams, which she did.

BK You remember the linen table cloth and linen--large linen napkins, all embroidered with their initials, and then you would always serve soup first, salad, and then entree', and then dessert, and always the finger bowls, and you always put a little flower in it.

MJ Yes, I do remember. Every now and then I still do somewhat the same.

BK Would you have children's parties? What happened on children's birthdays?

MJ I come from the poor part of the family, and I don't think we had much of a celebration, although we certainly had gifts and something special. Then, when I got to Manoa, we were kind of sophisticated and not having parties except for the young children who came later. There would always be a party, with the favors, and everybody bringing presents. I remember the younger children's parties, rather than my own.

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(SIDE 3)

MJ A large Thanksgiving party at my grandmother's house. That was a family gathering time. Christmas, I guess, maybe the children wanted to be at home with their new toys, but Thanksgiving was always a whole family affair.

BK Was that more important in your family than Christmas?

MJ It was more family oriented. Yet, I remember vividly one Christmas when I was a young child. Our home in Kapahulu was beautiful. It was a large area, extending to the back street. Going to breakfast this Christmas morning, I was surprised to see a big Christmas tree inside the greenhouse, which was an extension of the dining room. It was trimmed with tinsel, ornaments, and candles. In this greenhouse grew hanging baskets of maiden hair, orchids, and many other household plants. The windows were covered with icinglass (mica) to produce a soft stained glass effect which created a lovely atmosphere in the

dining room. Although, when I was young, we had servants, we were raised to help with the chores. My mother said girls had to learn to do things, even if only to teach somebody else how to do the work for them. We helped water the plants. One week, we might set the table, another, take care of the lamps, etc.

X What street was it on?

X It was Mocheo. We would go up to 6th Avenue and branch off to Maunaloa when going to school. We could go straight up to 6th Avenue to get a streetcar. We could go up Kapahulu Road to the pumping station to the street car line, or, we could go in the other direction on Kapahulu to Waikiki. It seemed to be the same distance, about 1 1/2 miles. I have not been that way for over sixty years, and I don't think I remember the place. I'm sure it's all broken up and changed.

ET There's a Burger King right up at the corner.

MJ Is that so. Winam Avenue was up above us. Grandmother owned a good deal of land in Kapahulu. It ran along Kapahulu Road to the pumping station. That land was sold and became rice fields which went back to the duck ponds.

CB Do you remember any beekeeping activities in that area?

MJ Oh, we had bees, too. Yes, I do remember bees. One day, my brother, my sister Wilhelmina, and I decided we would get some honey. So we went down and smoked our hives which were in part of our yard. We had a huge kitchen with wide open windows. We got the honey into the kitchen, but the bees followed us.

X We had beehives in the back of our house in Manoa.

ET Could I ask? Do you think of yourself as Hawaiian, as haole, or didn't it ever occur to you _____?

MJ I was and still go as part-Hawaiian, but we were not permitted to associate with Hawaiians, and we were not permitted to learn to speak Hawaiian, but only good English. My older sisters Harriet and Marie could understand a little Hawaiian. Recently, I heard a grandniece say "auwe, auwe". I was surprised because we never used terms like that, and, also that I recognized the word.

ET Who were your friends then?

MJ When I went to school, Louise Egholm of Egholm Jewelry. She was haole. The only part-Hawaiian we associated with were cousins, like the Beckleys and Maertens. There were lots of them. Aunty Emma would entertain people like the Chillingsworths and Robinsons, part-Hawaiians of that caliber. She formed and was Premiere of the Sons and Daughters of the Hawaiian Warriors. So she was very busy with civic and community affairs through that channel.

ET Do you think Marie Brown when she---well, maybe you can tell us when she taught in Manoa School, did she bring Hawaiian history or legends into the teaching at all? Did you have a May Day?

MW We had a May Day at that time. Danced the maypole. Didn't you?

MJ Yes, but not a Hawaiian May Day.

MW May Day didn't come in until '28, '29.

MJ That was Don Blanding.

MW She didn't because she was the principal. Florence Deverill was the one who taught us geography, and that was in a printed book, so we learned about the Islands and the distances between, and topography and all that, and we also had what we call social studies, but we called it civics at that time, and we went to

the legislature to learn how our government was run, and then we had the current events that we read from papers, but as far as the spoken Hawaiian, there was no spoken Hawaiian.

ET And you were discouraged from learning Hawaiian?

MW Yes, because we were sent to school to speak English, and when we were in school, we used to speak nothing but English. I remember one morning, girls in the tatting class would congregate, and the room was high, so we would wait on the steps there, and I walked up to some of the girls, and I said, "Ohayo gozaimasu. Ikaga desuka?", and Mrs. Brown went, "English only." Well, we just scattered, and we went under the room and hid. So no one really knew who said it in Japanese.

CB Miss Davison, you spoke of the first all-electric house. Do you know when that was?

MJ That would have been about '23.

MY Later than that.

BK Late '20s or early '30s.

MY Just after we were married, in 1928; just after that.

BK It was such an exciting thing, an all-electric house.

ET There was a combination of gas and electric before that?

MJ In those days, not many electric stoves or gas stoves.

MY All wood stoves.

MW We had electricity for lights.

MY But you didn't have electric stove.

CB How early did you have electricity for lights?

MW Well, I was born in 1911. We had electricity at that time.

CB The Castle home, built after 1899, started out with electricity from the very beginning, so by 1900, it was occupied, with

electricity.

MJ Now, the first lights, it seems, were on Maui. But the lights came to the Palace first, didn't they? Then HC&S Company had the mill lighted there and that was in Spreckelsville, but the lights were first at the Palace. Is that right?

BK I heard that but I don't know if it's ever been verified. When I was in the kitchen, I sort of heard some things about duties of the children, each child. Did you have kerosene lamps?

MJ Oh, yes. The beautiful shades. The lamps were all hand painted, and these shades that came over were very breakable. Very beautiful.

ET In other words, you didn't depend on electricity for light, but you used kerosene?

MJ Kerosene first when I was young. Then we had electricity later, but my first recollection of Kapahulu was of kerosene.

X They had gas lights, too, didn't they?

MJ Yes. In Auntie Emma's house in Manoa, were gas fixtures on the wall for quite a while. It had been gas first.

ET Could I ask Mr. Okamura? Did you have electricity in your house as long as you remember?

O No, I had lamps, kerosene lamps.

ET Was it because you were off in a different part of the valley that didn't have electricity coming up there?

O Yes, we were farther in the valley. The water system came in 1923.

X What did you do? Water tanks?

O Yes. Raindrops on the roof. We gathered that.

X Collected it in a tank or cistern?

O In a tank--wooden barrel.

BK Oh yes, those old wooden barrels. Now, you were going to McKinley when you were living up Manoa. You caught a streetcar?

MJ Yes.

BK Where did you have to walk? Oh, you were at Aunt Emma's then.

MJ I wonder now how we got to McKiney.

BK You must have taken a streetcar, switched.

MJ We would have had to change. Maybe we went down to Pawaa Junction, and then down Beretania Street.

MY You changed at Punahou and Wilder Avenue, and then you went to Pawaa Juncture, which is where Times Market is now on King Street, and then took the King Street car.

MJ You see, I went to the old school on Beretania, but I graduated from the new school, on King Street. I was the first class to graduate from the new school, on King Street, next to the Wards'. But first, for three years, I went on Beretania. In our class were Hiram Fong, Chin Ho, someone who became a postmaster, and another a doctor. I was in the famous class.

MY We transferred on Punahou and Wilder, and the streetcar went on Wilder as far as Pensacola, down Pensacola, and then along the river.

MJ Then we had to walk down two blocks. I can't remember now how I did that.

X _____ Victoria Street.

MJ I don't remember doing that, but I must have.

BK Do you remember how much you paid for the streetcar?

MJ Wasn't it five cents?

BK You didn't have tokens?

MJ I don't think so, no.

MW Tokens came in when they had the trolley cars and the box where you put your tokens in.

MJ We had a conductor.

ET Are there any pictures of that trolley?

MY What did your father do?

MJ My father was a dress designer.

MY I can remember the wedding dresses.

MJ Yes. Oh, he was outstanding. If anybody had a dress by Harry Davison, that was really something.

MY He made my graduation dress, baccalaureate dress, and my dance dress.

ET Where did he learn that?

MJ I don't know. I don't know where he learned, but I do know that at the 1915 San Francisco Fair, he took first place.

ET Because he was born here, wasn't he?

MJ He was born here.

EK He had a shop?

MJ He had a shop. First, I can remember, in the Young Hotel. Then he moved to the Pantheon Building when that was first built, and later on, Champion Lane off Fort Street.

MW I think his first shop was on Hotel Street.

MJ Is that so?

MW What is that building we went to? It's right around the Kawanamoku Building? Yes. It was in that area because I remember going there in 1929. That's when I finished Punahou.

MY It was along there where Dr. Hutchins had his office by the _____ office.

MJ Oh, up on Alakea Street.

MY No, it was on Beretania, between Miller and Punchbowl, near the old Pacific Club.

BK What year did your father die?

MJ July 4, 1949. He was seventy-nine years old.

BK You said your mother raised you by herself?

MJ Yes. Remember, my parents were divorced.

BK Did you keep in touch with your father?

MJ Yes. Whenever I wanted a new dress, I would go down to him and make it under his supervision. I remember the dresses after I started in business. One was a blue and white, 25 cents a yard gingham, and it was the smartest looking dress. The other cost very little more than that, but oh, so good-looking. Today, when I pay \$75 for something which looks like nothing, I miss my father.

BK Did your father ever design or make any dresses for you girls?

MJ Yes, especially for my older sisters. I was the fifth girl and by that time, it was pretty "old hat". So, I would go through his style magazines like Harper's Bazaar and others like that. We picked out a sleeve from one style, a skirt from another, and so forth, and created an original. Often, to make the dress distinctive, handwork was added using gossamer silk or wool.

ET Well, at least you had learned how to do it. Sometimes, in a family when there is an expert, he never gets around to teaching his children.

MJ Well, unfortunately, I didn't have his talent. He used to scold and say, "I'm not always going to be around to do this." So I'd wait quietly until he calmed down, then say, "Daddy, if you have

time." So he would fit the dress, make the adjustments, and I would get a good-looking dress. He had the forms; the big table; the warm iron to press all the seams. My childhood impression was, the worst thing that could happen to you was to wear a dress that looked home-made. So I was not about to make one on my own.

BK But you did make your graduation dress?

MJ Under his supervision, and he made sure that the inside looked just as beautiful as the outside. I can remember a story he told about some woman bringing in a beautiful satin gown to be re-made. Those days, you had material that was wonderful and could be done over to something new. It was an evening gown which had a train on which weights were added. In taking it apart, he found he had used silver dollars for some of the weights. He did not do any work for less than \$75 in those days.

BK That would be about a \$300 dress today.

MJ Yes, of course. The material was good; you could make it over again.

O I agree with her, coming in the same car, I asked her many questions, and we got the answers. I heard of her name a long time ago, and I thought Mary Jane Wax was Davison, you see, but now I'm meeting the real Davison.

MW So Mary Jane Wax was Mary Jane Brown.

O Yes, Brown.

MW Her mother was a Davison.

O Yes, and why the Maries, so many Maries around.

MW She had a daughter named Marie?

MJ No. Marie Brown only had one child, Mary Jane.

ET She was also Margaret and she was Margarita?

MJ Yes.

ET She changed her name every year?

BK On her own?

MJ That I don't know. As far as I know, her name was Marie.

MY I think she shows in the Punahou record as Margaret Marie. I'm not sure. I'd have to look it up, again.

BK What church did you belong to?

MJ Christian Science.

BK Your mother, too?

MJ Yes. I think they were Episcopalian prior to my mother becoming a Christian Scientist. That's how I was raised.

BK All your family? All the children?

MJ All the children went to Sunday School, yes. I guess I'm the only one who has stayed with it.

CB Do you know what led to her changing from Episcopalian to Christian Science?

MJ I would think, probably, I'm not sure, she was divorced. She'd had to face many things, and I don't know how she became friendly with a Mrs. Lilly--Robert Lilly lived up here in Manoa, who was a Christian Scientist and a practitioner. So there was a very close association with Mrs. Lilly, but what led her to it, I'm not quite sure.

MY Anyone at that time for being a divorcee.

BK The Episcopalian Church was very orthodox here, you know, and they frowned upon divorce. That, of course, has disappeared today, but I remember as a child that...

MJ People were not supposed to remarry.

BK I know.

MJ That I'm not certain of. Of course, Bishop Resterick was very much a family associate. I guess he was sort of friendly with most of the white people of that day, but I know that there was that association. I know that my father was very opposed to Christian Science at that time. I was three-years old when I started Sunday School. Abraham Fornander, an immigrant Swede who married a Hawaiian with royal blood and became a top newspaper personality, was very outspoken and harshly criticized the Calvinistic teaching of the first missionaries. He seemed to think the teaching of that day should have better equipped the Hawaiians to compete in the present world, rather than teaching them the Bible.

ET All he mentions, and, Westervelt later mentions, that the congregation is Hawaiian, but then the Chinese began going to the Hawaiian Church, too.

MJ Yes, so you see, the early training of the Hawaiians, according to this book, was limited.

MY He later became an official in the school.

MJ Yes. I think he became an official in the government. I think he'd worked on three newspapers, and I'm only halfway through the book.

BK Edith McKenzie is still looking for chants. We have many legends, but now if we could get songs, that would be fine.

MY What is there in Taylor's book "Under Hawaiian Skies"?

MJ About music?

ET About Manoa. I think you xeroxed that.

- BK Yes. I xeroxed parts from "Under ..."
- ET You know what I must have given away? I had xeroxed copies of those handwritten legends of Mrs. Montano.
- BK You have xeroxed copies?
- ET Have you seen them?
- MJ I don't know that I have.
- BK We can xerox copies for you.
- MJ I have in here a couple of songs written for my older sisters. They have English translations. Grandmother wrote for all of us.
- ET Did you say that you do not have a picture of Marie Brown?
- MJ No. Now, my sister, Wilhelmina Wassman, has a picture. It is a picture of Aunty Maggie, with my sister's daughter, Patricia, taken at a Hawaiian Civic Club Ball sometime in the fifties. Patricia represented Aunty Maggie as one of the persons who attended the Palace ball. As I can't find anything else of Aunty Maggie's, I'll see if I can't have that for my book.
- ET Because we're doing Manoa School.
- MY Do you think that the Board of Education has a picture? She was a principal for so many years.
- ET They say that everything then from the Board of Education is in the Archives. They have not found it yet. Oh, they do have a file on Marie Brown in the Archives, but no pictures, and not much information.
- BK I think we'll have to stop now. I was wondering if anybody has looked at the album enough to know if we want some of the pictures. If not, maybe someone could.
- ET The two pictures of the house would be nice.

BK Yes. I like that one in the woods. Do you have a negative?

MJ No.

BK Do you know where they are?

MJ I got that one from John Topolinski, but I can make more copies. I got this one off "Under Hawaiian Skies", for instance, so I just got a negative, and then gave prints to my sister.