

Oral History of Rosieta (Rosie) Acopan Ramiro

Today is June 3rd, 2021 and it is 2:20 in the afternoon. We are at 3273 on Keahi Street in the back of Manoa Valley. We are here to record the oral history of Rosieta or Rosie Ramiro (RR) for Malama Manoa. My name is Harry Spiegelberg (HS) and I am on the Board of Directors of Malama Manoa and my kuleana is conducting oral histories of interesting people that I meet. We will now hear the voice of Rosie and let's get started.

(HS) My first question is when did your family first arrive in the islands, where did they come from and where did they first live.

(RR) My mother, who is 12 years my father's junior, was actually born in Hawaii using a mid-wife. She was born in Waipahu, raised in Waipahu until the early 1920s. Then she and her family came to Manoa and became vegetable farmers in the early 1920s. Her name is Nobuko Yamamoto. My father came via the SS Grant to Hawaii when he was 18 years old. This was in 1926. He initially went to the Hutchinson Plantation in Naalehu on the Big Island. He left this plantation to work at the Papaalooa Plantation on the Hamakua Coast. In total, he worked on these plantations for a little under three years for \$1.00 a day. He then found out by word of mouth that he could be paid better (\$1.50 a day) if he moved to Oahu, so he moved to Manoa in 1929 to work for a farmer by the name of Charlie Iwai. He worked for him for less than two years and when Charlie retired, he sold the sub lease of his property to my dad because he felt he was industrious and was very serious about running the farm. That is how it all started. My mothers' parents, my Bachan and my Jichan (who I never met because he had passed away before I was born) were neighboring farmers and that is how my parents met. So, in 1929 my father was 21 years old and my mom was just nine years old. He waited until she was about 20 years old to court her and then they were married when she was 21 Years of age when which didn't require parental consent. She went against my grandmothers wishes because he was of Filipino descent. Bachan was trying to matchmake my mom with a Japanese man, but love prevailed. My parents were married about a month and a half after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

(HS) In 1929 it was getting into the throws of the Great Depression. Did the Depression affect his family at all?

(RR) Being from the Philippines they were a poor farming family. But I don't think that the Depression really affected them. He did leave because he wanted a better life. I think he said they had about two acres of farm land and there were five children in his family. Of those that survived he was the middle child. He just wanted a better life, but was also escaping heartbreak. He opened up to me one day and said" you know the real reason I came to Hawaii was that I had a Chinese girlfriend in the Philippines". Many of the Chinese families are very wealthy and affluent. They were very much in love and when the gals' parents heard about their relationship and the romance that was brewing, they invited my dad to their home. The grandmother of the girl said, "Let me see your hands. So, you are a farmer". And she spat in his calloused hands. And said, "You are a nothing", asking him to leave, and forbid him from seeing her granddaughter again". So that was his inspiration to be somewhere else and make a better life for himself.

(HS) That is a sad story.

(RR) Yes that is a sad story, but that is how we change adversity into something good.

(HS) You were talking about his farming in the back of Manoa. Can you tell us what crops he grew?

(RR) Initially when he worked for Charlie Iwai, they grew only bananas. They were sold both locally and also sold to wholesalers who shipped them to the mainland.

(HS) Were they known as Apple bananas or were they the bigger ones?

(RR) Well there were some Apple bananas on the farm, but most of the trees were Chinese bananas.

(HS) Yes those are similar to the Apple bananas. Those are the ones I buy at the farmers market at Manoa Marketplace.

(RR) The Chinese bananas are not as tasty, but the trees are shorter and easier to manage and harvest. For baking, the Chinese bananas are wonderful. They then started to diversify and grew Ti leaves. The Ti leaves can be used by the lau lau makers or by florists to create their floral arrangements. Hula halau would also come up and buy them to make their hula skirts. They would buy the long ones that were unblemished. In addition, they grew Chinese Taro and my mother grew Gardenias. There were hundreds of bushes and they needed to be harvested like three times a day. I imagine that the sunlight makes the buds open very quickly. My father crafted these huge baskets made out of bamboo and we would go from bush to bush collecting the flowers. They would bundle the flowers and sell them mostly to florists. The soil on the farm was very fertile. They also grew various types of flowers including torch Ginger, Heliconia, Indianhead Ginger, Shell Ginger, Kahili Ginger, and a large assortment of yellow and white Ginger with wonderful scents.

(HS) Did you yourself live on the farm?

(RR) Oh yes, the whole family lived on the farm. If you went to the farm, you wouldn't think you were in Hawaii, but instead on a Barrio in the Philippines, like a little town in the Philippines. Our house was made up of mismatched wood nailed together with and corrugated iron roof that created music when it rained. This housed my mom and dad and the eight children and a duplex unit sheltered my paternal uncle, his five sons and one daughter. And then also close by was the Japanese side of the family with my uncle Kazumi with his three daughters. We all went to school together. Also, my father had about 3 – 5 additional workers, some with family others were single. We had a ready-made football team and we had a lot of fun.

(HS) Do you remember how many acres of land there were?

(RR) He subleased 27.1 acres so when he bought the sublease, he became the largest independent Filipino farmer in Manoa. I think there was only one other farm that was larger and that was forty acres in size. I don't know who owned that property. My dad was not the first Filipino farmer in Manoa, but he was the first independent Filipino farmer in the area. I say that because the neighboring farms, the Shiraishi's and the Young farm and other farms hired Filipino workers, but they were not independent workers, they worked for these people. My father, however, worked for Mr. Iwai for a couple of years and then actually worked the land for himself.

(HS) Another question I have on my list most likely does not apply to you. Did your family have any domestic help? You didn't need it because you had a huge family. When the members of your family became old enough to do manual labor, they were put to work.

(RR) That is absolutely correct! That is why farming families are so large so you don't have to pay anyone to work for you. My mother pretty much did all of the cooking for us. She didn't want the girls in the kitchen. Normally you would think that she would want some assistance and teach the daughters some of the kitchen skills, but for the most part that didn't happen. That is why when I got married, I didn't know how to cook except for rice.

(HS) You would use the old style by putting your finger in the pot to measure how much water to add.

(RR) Yes, you would measure the water up to the second knuckle on your hand. Today you push the button on the rice cooker. That was the only responsibility my sister Sharon and I had, cook rice and clean the house and help with the laundry, but no cooking. We burnt the rice quite often (laughter). I give my five brothers lots of credit because they cleared a lot of the land, which meant chopping down trees. Summers were spent weeding, hoeing, fertilizing and harvesting; it was just an ongoing process.

(HS) You mentioned that you and your siblings went to school. Where did you go to elementary school?

(RR) We all went to Manoa Elementary School on Manoa Road. This was the new school.

(HS) The old school was where the Manoa Fire station is today?

(RR) We went to the "new school". My older siblings went to the old school near Safeway. My mother also went to the old school. She had a sixth-grade education. She was so sad that her family could not afford to send her on to intermediate and high school. She was tasked with caring for her youngest sister who was born extremely premature. In fact, the midwife who came made out both a Birth Certificate and a Death Certificate because she did not think that the baby would live through the night. My Mom created a makeshift incubator by filling bottles with hot water and placing them around the baby and she survived. But she didn't walk until she was two years old so my mother carried her on her back while doing her work and other responsibilities.

(HS) Do you remember what the birth weight of the baby was?

(RR) I think the baby was under two pounds. She could fit in a small bowl.

(HS) I ask that because I was born three months premature and back in 1942 that was a big deal and a lot of them didn't survive. I had a twin sister and the doctors looked at her and said they gave her a 50/50 chance of survival. They looked at me and said that I would not survive. Three days later she was gone and 79 years later here I sit.

(RR) God has a plan!

(HS) I get emotional talking about it. Why was I the lucky one to survive and have a wonderful life. She is up in Oahu Cemetery in Nuuanu and we visit her often.

(RR) My parents are across the street on the Craigsides area.

(HS) You spoke a bit about your siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles, but so we really nail that down, how many brothers did you have?

(RR) I have five brothers and two sisters.

(HS) So there are seven and with you it makes eight. A very big family.

And did you have an aunt and uncle living nearby?

(RR) My father's brother's family lived next door. Actually, it was like all one structure, but it was like a duplex. So, he was there with his wife, five boys and an adopted daughter. There were six cousins on that side. Then on the Japanese side we had my uncle, my aunt and my Bachan or grandmother and three girls or cousins. By the time I was born my Jichan or maternal grandfather had passed away. We had six on that side of the family plus the workmen. It was always very crowded with a lot of people around.

(HS) I am a foodie person and want to know about your diet. Did your mom mostly cook Filipino food?

(RR) My father was really bright and when they got married, he taught her how to cook the Filipino food he grew up with. Then he stopped cooking and she took over all of the cooking. She was a wonderful cook and also a wonderful baker because in her youth she used to work for military families being the nanny and cook. She baked from scratch; apple pie, cream puffs, and other delicacies. She was an amazing baker and cook.

(HS) Being Japanese, did she also cook Japanese dishes for the family?

(RR) Yes, we had American food, Filipino food and Japanese food. I didn't know what was what, but just knew that it all tasted good. And we had to eat in shifts. The younger ones including me as I am number seven out of eight ate first. There was Lawrence, Sharon, John and me with my father eating first. And my mother, Japanese style, always served my dad first. And then there would be the next shift. You know how normal American families talk about their day, well we just had to eat because there were others waiting for their turn. We were not very good conversationalists because we didn't have that practice around the dinner table.

(HS) What car or vehicle did your family first own?

(RR) I know my father had a flat bed truck to do deliveries. I don't know what other cars we had. I think my brother James had a Valiant. I believe it was a second-hand car. When we went to Elementary School my dad would drop us off and maybe we would catch a ride home with my cousins, the Yamamoto's because they always had station wagons. Once we were at Stevenson my brothers were already driving with small cars; they would drop us off and pick us up at the end of the day. When they were at Roosevelt, they would also help us out with transportation.

(HS) Are you a Rough Rider?

(RR) I am a Rough Rider!

(HS) Unfortunately I am a Buff n Blue. I went from Manoa Elementary School and then to Stevenson Intermediate School for one year. I got my lunch money taken away quite a bit, but it wasn't too bad because I had a lot of bla la friends who I knew from Manoa School and they would keep an eye on the haole boy.

(RR) We were fortunate in that respect, my sister Sharon and I, because we had the five older brothers and five male cousins around the same ages and we were protected and nobody messed with us.

(HS) Paint us a picture of your early childhood.

(RR) It is strange, but I don't remember my childhood when I was really young. A lot of people can remember way back when, but all I can remember is that we only had a small amount of room for the ten of us. My oldest brother while I was in elementary school, was in the Army in New Jersey and then Alaska. I remember always sharing a bed with two people on each side of me Criss Crossed. My brothers would be in the living room on the floor or on the couch spread out. Then there was a small twin sized bed. We only had two and a half bed rooms and the living room to sleep in; there wasn't a lot of privacy as I remember. There was a community outhouse, with two flush toilets and we didn't have electricity in the early years as it came later on. After that we had black and white tv, no color tv. We had no running water so my dad piped in water from the river, so if it stormed, we had brown water, but my mom would try to save water in the refrigerator when it was a better quality. The bath water had to be heated in a huge copper drum that my dad got. He mounted it on concrete blocks and we made a fire to heat up the water for bathing.

(HS) My goodness!

(RR) It was a hard life, but we didn't know, we thought this was normal. We had kerosene lamps because we didn't have electricity. However, the farm, was a good place for kids to grow up in. And then there was school and you found out how poor you were. You saw what the other kids wore and what they had on their feet and their awesome backpacks. That was a rude awakening.

(HS) When did your family leave the farm?

(RR) Paradise Park wanted to evict us in 1997 with only thirty days' notice. My father was told to not harvest, just leave. And so, he tried to reason with Mr. Wong, but there was no budging him. Other people in the valley got wind of this and we got help from some of the politicians including Kekoa Kaapu, Jean King and Neil Abercrombie. So, they helped us with that situation. As it turned out, we would have left the farm anyway because no one in the family wanted to take it over and farm the acreage. So, they said, this is the deal, you will stay on a month-to-month lease and when your dad passes away you can stay on the property for an additional five years. My father, unfortunately, suffered a stroke in 1993 and this is when everyone slowly transitioned to different places and moved off of the property. My father had to be hospitalized as a result of the stroke. He suffered more strokes after and this was a terrible turn of events because he was well into his eighties, very energetic, getting up at the crack of dawn, moving about not being able to sit still. For him to suffer from multiple strokes and be bed ridden was a very sad thing to see. He passed away in 1998.

(HS) He had a good long life.

(RR) Yes, as he farmed for over 60 plus years.

(HS) Your family farm undoubtedly is one of the areas in the back of the valley that I hiked in as a kid.

(RR) You can go through the farm and follow the Nanaiuapo Stream and it would take you to our falls. And we also had a fresh water spring on the property which was nice. As kids we would imagine that we were the only ones who knew about this secret spring because the water was so pristine and cold, just

so clean hidden in a bamboo forest. Later on I saw a topography map and there was our secret spring on the map and it was really no secret after at all.

(HS) When you were growing up, what were some of the special foods that you remember and enjoyed?

(RR) I think my Auntie Sue, my mother's sister, made Chicken Nishime that was really wonderful.

(HS) I love Nishime!

(RR) The Japanese New Year's Eve was really special. We actually would pound Mochi. In Japan they use a wooden thing that they put the Mochi rice in, but here, my Jichan as I understand, got two large rocks from the river and carved them into the shape of a bowl. I think my Yamamoto side of the family has one and I don't know who has the other. We would pound Mochi before New Year's. It was just a fun experience as everyone would gather. The men would do the pounding and then the women would be seated along a long table. My mother would portion off the large mound of mochi and then we would pinch it and mold it into the smaller mochi patties. We enjoyed Mochi as a special dish. On the Filipino side we would have Adobo, Lumpia and Pork Guisantes. The Pansit noodles were really special to eat. My aunt Mary also made some Filipino desserts like tinupig and banana baduya. The Japanese relatives would have Ozoni, a traditional New Year's soup with Mochi and a green vegetable called mizuna. My mother used to grow mizuna seasonally to sell. I never developed a taste for it. But others in my family find this special New year's Mochi soup a delicacy.

(HS) You were lucky to grow up with that dual ethnicity.

(RR) Yes, I think so.

(HS) What about today. What are some of your favorite foods today?

(RR) My doctor shouldn't hear me say this, but I love pasta. He would say I eat too much starch. I also love my Japanese foods like sushi, sashimi, tofu, kimpira and hekka. I feasted on Chazuke at my bachan's house with a variety of tsukemono.

(HS) Regarding your education, you said you started out at Manoa School and then went to Stevenson Intermediate. At that time was it two or three years?

(RR) It was three years, seventh, eighth and ninth grades. After that I transferred to Roosevelt High School. Then I went to the University of Hawaii, Manoa and got my bachelors degree in Sociology. I felt sort of forced to go to college because none of my siblings went to a university. My dad really wanted someone in the family to graduate from a four-year college. Two of my siblings did graduate from the Hawaii Technical Institute downtown. After that I got married and had my kids.

(HS) How many children do you have?

(RR) I have a son and a daughter. I also have seven grand kids including step grand kids. I was really floundering as to what to do and what to do for work. After I graduated in Sociology I worked at several different places. I worked with finding people jobs at an employment agency. I also was with Child & Family Service and Catholic Charities, and worked for a home for runaway boys, and on 21st Avenue they had a home for pregnant teen age girls and also at Straub Clinic & Hospital. Working with youth was very rewarding to me so I found I wanted to continue to work with adolescents in the school setting. After working for ten years, I wanted to go back to school to become a school counselor. I went back to

school and got a master's degree in Education, Counseling and Guidance. This again was at the University of Hawaii, Manoa.

(HS) That is wonderful Rosie. You touched many people who needed someone special in their lives to help guide them and you were there.

(RR) I picked Middle School because when I was at Stevenson in what was then Intermediate School, things were really rough for me. When I left Elementary School in Manoa I left behind my three best friends. Judy Bonar went on to Punahou, Debbie Rayson who lived on Loulu Street also went to Punahou and Kathy Nakata went to Mid Pac. It was like starting over for me so this is the age group I wanted to work with because I wish I had someone to talk with back then.

(HS) Did you stay close to those three girls?

(RR) No because back then there were no cell phones or e-mail and such. But I did run into Kathy at a bus stop when I was attending UH Manoa. We had a nice chat. I don't think Judy and Debbie are in this State anymore. I tried to look for them on Facebook, but couldn't find them. But that was the best thing I did going back to school and getting that degree and working with the kids. I think I had an advantage coming from the background I came from because at Washington Middle School there are a lot of Micronesian students, and a lot of other minorities. I think they can relate to me. Kids are not afraid to approach me about anything – grades, home life, friends, LGBTQ issues, harassment or abuse.

(HS) Tell me what your husband does for a living?

(RR) My husband is a retired salesman. He worked at a corporation for nearly 30 years and is enjoying his retirement.

(HS) What do your son and daughter do?

(RR) My son works for The Bus. He is in the department that steam sanitizes the vehicles. He loves his job and co-workers. It is not too technical, but it pays really well and the medical coverage for the family is excellent. He has been there for over 25 years. He did not go onto college.

My daughter has her BA in Psychology and she went on to become a supervisor at Steadfast Housing where they find housing for special needs adults. She started off in the position having contact with clients and then she went on to a supervisory position where she monitors the people who have contact with these needy adults. In the beginning I was afraid for her because of the type of clientele she deals with. She is a tiny person at only a hundred pounds. Recently she has cut back her hours to two days a week because she has her realtors license and does property management as well. She handles enough properties so that she is able to cut back on her commitment at her original job. She is happy and has more time to spend with the twins. She has twin girls who are nine and a half. I have been helping out with them because of the distance learning due to the Corona Virus. We purchased our house together. They live upstairs and my husband and I live with one of our grandsons' and our cat Boots downstairs.

(HS) So it is sort of like me with my daughter living downstairs.

(RR) It is great as we love having them around. During the summer the girls have little workbooks that they work on – 10 pages daily. I help them a bit, but they are both very smart and they are in the gifted program so they know what to do. That gives grandma a chance to help them work on some artwork. I

bought them easels and they do canvas paintings, water color and acrylic. I am also a crafty person so I have them do a lot of different crafts. My next project is painting stones.

(HS) You lead me into my next question, what are the hobbies that keep you busy?

(RR) Oh my gosh I have so many hobbies! I am busier now than when I was working. I am now retired for about four years ago and love the freedom I have to do these different hobbies I love to do. I am a Barber Shopper singing with the Sweet Adelines and have been with them for about 17 years. I am in a quartet.

(HS) I used to sing with the Honolulu Choral.

(RR) Yes, they sound wonderful. I sing lead in the Friends quartet. Finally, we are able to rehearse again starting last week. We rehearse in the tenor's patio and distance ourselves. I also do ping pong at Lanakila Senior Center on Mondays for two hours so I get that exercise. We play on the lanai with our masks on for now. It is difficult to breathe this way. I also do a great deal of sewing for donations. I have made over 1,500 face masks for Lanakila Clinic. For Kuakini Medical Center I have made scrub caps for the nurses, doctors, and technicians. Right now, I am making lap blankets for people in wheel chairs and wheel chair bags for them to put their goodies in. I love sewing. I was forced to sew at age ten because I had hand me down clothes from my sister who is seven years older than me. They went from the oldest sister to Sharon who is one year older than me. By the time I received these clothes they were pretty ratty. So, I said to myself I needed to learn to sew so I don't have to wear these old rags. My mother was really smart. She taught me to sew on a Singer and of course I would read the directions on the pattern.

(HS) Was the sewing machine operated with a pedal?

(RR) Oh yes. I remember the first project she taught me to sew. It was a sleeveless red top with white rick rack. I think I did the facings upside down and sewed with white thread instead of red but she said it is so beautiful. That was so kind of her to say which encouraged me to do more sewing.

(HS) I remember a family story that ties into sewing. My family was next door to the house I now live in where we are today. There was a Japanese family that lived in a two-story house up near where Paradise Park is now. This family's house was burning down so he either ran or drove up to the house and the one thing this woman wanted to be saved was her sewing machine that was on the second floor. He somehow went up there and saved this woman's treasured sewing machine. Every school year my mom would buy material and make a new aloha shirt for my brother and me and a new dress for my sister.

(RR) Initially my mom did not use a sewing machine. She sewed by hand. She used to sew kimono by hand. She also did crocheting. She was such a patient woman. She crocheted bed spreads. Where do you find the time to do these things with eight kids? My father also was quite handy. As I said earlier, he made those baskets out of bamboo. He also whittled. I think I still own one or two shakushi rice scoops that he carved at home.

(HS) I am amazed at the large number of hobbies you enjoy. You are quite the lady! You have told me a great deal about the things you have done throughout your life. What can you point to as your greatest personal accomplishment?

(RR) Oh my. Well, I guess academically I was fortunate enough to have earned my National Board Certification in 2010. Back then it was very meaningful personally and monetarily -getting certified meant a \$5,000 bonus from the DOE and also another five-thousand-dollar bonus annually because we were a school in restructuring. It took me three years to achieve this goal as I didn't make it on the first try. A fellow counselor and I went through the process together and it felt so good to be among the first dozen school counselors in our state to earn this distinction.

(HS) What things do you miss the most in Manoa Valley that are now longer here?

(RR) By the way Brian Taniguchi was my classmate at Roosevelt.

(HS) Did you read his oral history?

(RR) I did. We went to the Japanese language school in Manoa and he mentioned the shop next door on East Manoa Road.

(HS) There were two stores across the street from each other. One was Toyos and the other was Yanos.

(RR) They sold mochi crunch for a nickel a bag. I miss that so much. They had push up ice cream with characters in them. They had button candies. I miss those things. What else do I miss? I miss the weather. It is not cool in Pearl City.

(HS) It isn't as cool as it used to be years ago because in general the weather has changed. Thank goodness for air conditioning.

(RR) I can't do air conditioning because my grandson has allergies so we try to open the windows.

(HS) What would you like to see preserved or improved in the valley?

(RR) I think the powers that be are trying to keep things the same like what they did to preserve the view on Waahila Ridge and the trees in Manoa Marketplace. If we can maintain the greenery in the Valley that would be wonderful.

(HS) It kills me when I see people chopping down trees.

(RR) Because it makes a mess. Wee, hello! I also hope that they fix the stream so it won't overflow every time. Our house on Lowery Avenue is in the flood zone. It has flooded in my lifetime three times with mud coming into the house downstairs.

(HS) Tell me again where that house on Lowrey Avenue is located.

(RR) We still have that home as my youngest brother lives there. It is across the street from Saint Pius X Church. If you go mauka from the door on the meeting hall building you'll see a long lane. There is a two-story house in the back next to the park. That is the family home. The stream is right there and as I understand the natural course of the stream is down our lane. So, every time it storms it reverts back to its natural course and causes flooding.

(HS) Malama Manoa has a group of members who go three times a year to clean out the stream. That helps, but that is not enough. Well, we have covered a great deal of territory. Is there anything else with a parting shot that you would like to add to your oral history?

(RR) Just that my dad is my hero. He had no education whatsoever. He was taught how to sign his name, but he had such intelligence. His mathematical ability was uncanny. When customers would say I want so much of this and so much of that, what is that going to cost me? My dad just calculated the amount in his head. And this is a person with no formal education. He was intelligent, charismatic, and I idolized him. Maybe that is one of the reasons my mom didn't want us to cook because she wanted us to study, study, study. They bought Encyclopedias. I read dictionaries all the time. We didn't subscribe to periodicals like National Geographic and others, so my reading materials were those encyclopedias and the dictionary. They did what they could. They were such good people.

(HS) I remember the day when a salesman arrived at the front door and he was selling encyclopedias. I think the one he sold was called Encyclopedia Britannica. We had that on a shelf and I used that a great deal doing homework and doing research.

(RR) My parents taught us by example. Sometimes I feel like I have them sitting on my shoulder before I do something. My dad always said if you don't have the cash to pay for it, you don't need it and you don't buy it. So, every time I go shopping and see something I like and I say well I can afford it, but do you need it. They were so good and so honest. So, when my mom and I were in the Lowrey Avenue house, my dad had already passed away, we went to Safeway to buy some groceries. After getting home she would check the receipt and once she said hey one of these steaks isn't paid for. We walked back to Safeway. Who does that? These are the examples I have to live by.

(HS) That is an inspiring tale!

(RR) My dad was the same way. He was such a kind hearted man. He donated bananas to Shriners Hospital for Children, he donated to Kuakini Home and we often had people come onto the property to steal bananas for their cooking. The dogs would always alarm us and my mom would ask him if she should call the police and he would say no, if they are here doing this it means they are hungry and they need it.

(HS) Your father is to be so admired. That is wonderful.

(HS) Thank you so very much Rosie for being with me and telling your life story. It was my lucky day when I open the Manoa Heritage Center newsletter and on the inside page was this article "Manoa Memories of Rosie Acopan Ramiro" with pictures of your mom and dad and you and your seven siblings. I read your story and said to myself, I have been doing oral histories for Malama Manoa for about four years now and I said to myself I surely must record that one.

Rosie, you come from a very blessed mom and dad. The difficult times and conditions you experienced growing up were so hard, but you all went on to live very admired lives. Thank you ever so much for sharing your life with us.