

Elaine Shigemoto & (occasionally) _____
2678 Pamoia Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Interviewers: (Chief) Evelyn Trapido; B. Krauss, Miriam Reed,
Peg Robb, C. Bouslog

MR I remember the old lane going down here and then some houses
down there, and then where Safeway is now, used to have a camp,
Matsumoto man with a dray, you know, the big horse. I think he
was a mason. He used to go out cut the stones and build stone
walls. Lived down there. In front was the Yuens, the Chinese
people, Yuen and Ah Wai.

ET Today is November 30, 1984, and we are interviewing Elaine
Shigemoto. What is your present address?

ES 2678 Pamoia Road. 988-4074. I was born March 23, 1920, in
Manoa. *

ET Do you have any sisters or brothers?

ES I had a sister and three brothers, two of them deceased.

ET How many children?

ES I have three sons, one deceased, too.

ET Do you speak Japanese? ←

ES Oh, yes, I do.

ET Any other language besides English?

ES No.

ET Have you always lived in Manoa, or have you lived in other ←
places?

ES Just Manoa.

ET When did your parents come to—did your parents immigrate, or your grandparents?

ES My parents came from Japan.

ET What was the year?

ES I have to figure it out. About 1899, before 1900. Father came real early. He was about 18 years of age. My mother was a picture bride, and came here after Father, about 1915, 1916, I think. Her name was Tatsume Kiyota. My father's name was Mikita Uyemura.

ET How far did you go in school?

ES Ninth grade.

ET Did you have any work experience outside of home?

ES Yes, as a seamstress. I worked at the Del Monte Cannery three summers.

ET You went to sewing school, you said.

ES Yes.

ET What was the name of the sewing school? ←

ES Kimata Sewing School, about two or three years.

ET What are your hobbies?

ES Sewing, reading, both English and Japanese books and magazines.

ET Did you attend any organized religious groups?

ES Yes. Tenrikyo. As a young girl, I attended Sunday School at the Manoa Hongwanji Buddhist Church.

ET Any organizations?

ES We used to join the Manoa Community Association. My grandchildren go to school there now, so I take them to Japanese school to help out my son who lives with us.

ET Are you babysitting?

ES Yes. After school, I take care of two granddaughters.

ET Mr. Shigemoto, your birthdate? NO

S May 10, 1917.

ET You were born in Manoa?

S No. Makiki Heights, well, that's close enough. I have six brothers and three sisters.

ET Do you speak any language other than English?

S Little bit Japanese.

ET Have you lived anywhere other than Makiki and Manoa?

S Palolo Valley.

ET What was your mother's maiden name?

S Tome Kawakami.

ET Your father's name?

S Zentaro Shigemoto.

ET Do you know when your mother came to Hawaii?

ES August 15, 1915.

S 1915. She knows more than I.

ET When did your father come to Hawaii?

ES Around 1900.

ET Was your mother a picture bride?

S Yes.

ET How far did you go in school?

S High school. 12th grade.

ET What has been your work experience?

S I'm a craftsman--carpenter supervisor for Mid-Pacific Institute's Building and Yard Maintenance.

ES He does a lot of woodwork.

EB I'd like to inject that he is still called on by Mid-Pacific to

do things.

ET Okay, that's the general outline that we need. Why don't we take turn asking questions.

BK Some people have come in since you talked about this. You remember that I told you about Tony, who is Mr. Shigemoto's brother, who while I rode his taxi, told me these fascinating things. Tony agreed to give me a private interview, which I recorded and you heard last time, but when he talked of this to his brother, his brother challenged some of the things he said, and so he suggested that the other Shigemotos come in, and I think we are very, very fortunate to have them here. We'll take turns asking questions. You know, it isn't a very pleasing experience for them, but we want a history of the Japanese here. So I'd like to ask first Mrs. Shigemoto something and then Mr. Shigemoto. What I want to ask is what school...

ES We went to Manoa School.

BK Beginning with first grade?

ES Yes, but I think he came in from second grade.

BK You came from Palolo?

S Palolo.

BK Were you there in school at the same time?

ES I knew his sister well. We were classmates. I knew him when I grew older, when I graduated Japanese school and we used to have this alumni Do Sokai, we used to call it. It was the Manoa Japanese School Alumni Club.

BK Then you met him then.

ES I knew that he was her brother. We started to date in 1943. We got married December, 1944.

BK If you don't mind, how much difference in age is there?

ES Three years.

BK So you would have been in school together?

ES Yes.

BK Who was the principal when you folks were in school?

ES Mrs. Mitchell. Was that Miss Mitchell?

BK Miss Mitchell, for both of you. Manoa School went to eighth grade then?

S Sixth.

BK Sixth grade?

ES Yes.

BK And then you had to go to another school.

ES Yes, Washington Intermediate.

BK Was she principal the whole time you were there?

ES Quite sure.

BK I think you're right. Who were some of your teachers?

ES Let's see. Mrs. Noble, Mrs. Akana, Mrs. Brodie. She was my fifth grade teacher. Sixth grade was Miss Mitchell, and our cafeteria manager was Mrs. Livesay. She later became Mrs. Midkiff. Was it Miss Midkiff first?

S Right. She was Miss Midkiff first and then Mrs. Livesay. Some of the other teachers were Mrs. Nary, Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Felix, Mrs. Wong, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Harding Jones.

ES And then Mrs. Livesay. Oh, we used to peep at her. She was very lovey-dovey with her husband. You know, we were kids--young kids. We used to peep, you know. When she comes in, she would give a big hug to her husband. You know, we were so curious.

BK Did you have the same teachers that your wife
remember Mrs. Noble and all those, you don't

ES Mrs. Brown was there.

BK Brown. She was a principal, earlier than Miss
ask just one more thing about school. Did you have short recess
and long recess, what we used to call short recess in the middle
of the morning, and a long recess for lunch time?

S Yes. We did have short and long recesses.

BK Did you eat at the cafeteria or did you bring your own?

ES We used to bring our own, but we had lunch at school, too.

BK Sometimes as a treat to yourself?

ES That's right. We used to have a juice time period, too--short
recess.

BK That, I think, is what we call a short recess.

ES They used to give us cod liver oil. I remember your sister had
to take it.

BK Okay, now, Faith, you want to ask some questions?

F Where did you live when you were going to school there?

ES The house was in a lane where Kahuloa Drive is now, a little
house built in by the taro patch along the side of the Manoa
river. The cement pond was there.

BK Where across East Manoa Road where that cement pond was?

ES Yes, right alongside. They had this little house. We used to
live there, and then after the taro patches were gone, we lived
farther up on Manoa Road where the old Manoa School is. We lived
next door to the Chuns. We had this vegetable and flower
gardens over there. Fujise Store was close by, right over here
by the school, the new Manoa School.

*where she
lived
↓*

ET Where was the Manoa School when you were going?

ES Next door to the Japanese School on East Manoa Road.

ET Where the fire station is now?

ES Yes.

PR So where was the taro patch that your father had worked at?

ES Above Lowrey Avenue going up toward the valley. About there.

CB May I ask you when the taro patches went away?

ES I was asking my sister, and we were saying that I think it was before the '30s. 1930s, I think, or '35.

PR I remember they were there in 1931, '32.

ES Maybe after that, then, because I know my father grew the flowers just before the war. It was in the early '30s.

BK Did your father grow his flowers on old taro land?

ES That's right.

PR Where the school is now?

ES Yes.

ET Where did you live, Mr. Shigemoto?

S There were taro patches, too, by the Mitsunaga Dairy, but the taro patches must have been earlier than '20s, I think.

ET Is this Noelani School area?

PR Was the whole "war" housing area taro patches at one time--you know, where Manoa Housing was during the war?

S Yes. Taro patches were there. There were just a dry area.

BK Was it dry-land taro then?

S No, it wasn't.

ET Did your father work with the dairy?

S My father was a gardener and yard man.

BK Tell us about your mother.

S My mother used to do laundry at home. Also, at their homes.

ES I don't remember. I know your sisters used to work in people's houses as maids, cleaning houses and cook, and all that, and my mother used to take in laundry. She washed at home. She used to boil it to get it white, and she used to lay it out on the green grass to bleach.

S My brothers and I picked it up and delivered them back.

ES Yes. He used to do the picking up, and the father, too. Uncle Tony, too.

BK Yes, Tony said he's done some, but I think this is so typical of the Japanese families in that period; mother took in laundry, and the children would pick it up and would deliver it, and the father was in yardwork.

ET Did your mother have a washing machine or did it by hand?

ES Later on they had a washing machine, but then, they had to scrub it.

CB Did they make their own soap?

ES No, I don't think so.

S We hung it out in the sun so people have a nice white shirt. They wonder why it gets so white. They liked my mother's laundry work.

ES She was a good laundress, very good, because Dr. Devereux--now I remember, Dr. Devereaux and Mr. Sherman--they all used to bring their laundry to her. When she folds up the laundry, it was real nice, just like it came out from the store. When I fold, it just came out limpy. I don't know how they did it. They were really good at it. She and Mrs. Izumoto. She was our neighbor. She used to do laundry, too. After I got married, I

washed with her, but we had a washing machine then, so it wasn't so bad.

S There's another thing I want to tell you. The lower side of Manoa _____ grew up in upper Manoa farmers.

FR Yes, I'm glad you said that because it was through Frank...yes, because somebody told me the other day that her father lived way up in the valley when she was born, and he did nothing but raise maidenhair ferns and never did yardwork.

ES WE lived up there once, too, right next door to them. Masaru raised flowers next door to her house. Sasaki. I think I remember them, but not too well. They used to live up here. Uyeno family.

MR Always different kinds of flowers.

ES Yes, my father had all those lei-making flowers: gingers, gardenias, and tuberose. We had to wake up early in the morning to pick up the gingers. It was raining like this, and we had to wear those raincoat—they called it kapa. When we reached for the ginger, the water just comes down and just chilled us up. After school, we used to pick gardenias, and we had to bundle them up with ti leaves so the flowers don't bloom, and my father and my brother used to deliver them. This was just before the war started. In war time, too, we used to bring them down to the lei sellers.

ET Downtown, then?

ES Mostly downtown, and airport, too. My brother used to deliver them to the airport.

S We used to raise orchids. My mother, besides doing laundry, raised orchids.

ES Joaquim vandas.

BK Vandas, Joaquim.

ET Could you tell us about the Japanese language school? Did you go to Japanese language school?

ES Yes, I did.

ET Did all the Japanese children go?

ES Most of them did go.

ET How many years did you go?

ES I went to eighth grade Manoa, and then I went down to Tachikawa Girl's High School. That's up in Makiki. Oh, Rycroft Street. I went there four years.

ET Did any children who were not Japanese also go?

ES Those days, I don't think so. Now we see a few non-Japanese and part-Japanese attend.

ET What were some of your experiences during World War II?

ES I was going to first-aid classes at Manoa School. They had this first-aid classes. The war broke out and then we were still going during blackouts. We had our first masks, too. We had to carry them around.

ET By this time, what happened? The Japanese language school was closed?

ES Yes, it was closed.

ET Wasn't there something about their land? They were going to take it away?

ES Yes, it was taken away, but they got it back. The principal was interned.

ET To the detention camp.

ES He had to go. My father was questioned, too, because he went to

Japan in 1939. He came back. He knew this Army man up in Manoa. He was a captain in the Army, or something. He knew Dad, so...Jiro, that's right, Jiro. So he talked to them, and my father didn't have to go because my father just went to visit. He wasn't a school teacher or something. He was just a plain farmer, so I guess he got away.

ET In Manoa School, were there any subjects that are not being taught to the children today? Do they have any special subjects that are different?

S The thing is, they were strict about teaching. You got spanked when you _____.

ET The teacher would spank you?

S Oh, yes. I got hit on the head _____.

ET No parents came to school to protest?

ES They never did. I don't remember any of us protesting.

MR When we got spanked, we really got spanked. Mrs. Brown was principal when I was there, and because I fought with the boys in the Salvation Army Home, I was spanked twice.

S It wasn't a ruler. It was that kind that they had names on it, a paddle hanging on the wall.

ET What about May Day pageants? Did they have those in your days? Or any kind of pageants?

ES I remember the Thanksgiving programs that we used to have, and Christmas programs, too.

ET Was there any emphasis on Hawaiian language or legends?

ES We heard lots of stories. And geography of Hawaii was taught.

S We all speak pidgin English.

ET One of the things that intrigues us is where Kaahumanu had her

home when she lived in Manoa. Was this a subject that you ever heard about when you were children?

ES No. But we know the Kahahawai case, the Massie case.

MR I could think of a hundred questions. I was just thinking about Manoa School. Was a Paloloⁱ still there when you went, a Hawaiian woman who cleaned the school?

ES I don't remember.

MR She may have passed away at that time. Did you remember Julianne? Her grandmother was Walanika that used to do all the singing.

ES Mrs. Noble used to teach us all the singing.

MR This is the Hawaiian group. She lived right on the corner of East Manoa where the river comes around. There's a house right on the corner, across from Okumura's service station, because right across here was a Lum family. There was a Chinese girl there, Ah Sim. She was in my class, and then Clara Lum of the Lum Yip Kee family. She was in my class, and then we both went to Punahou after graduation. Up on East Manoa Road--it was called Manoa Road at that time--there was another girl in my class called Asayo. I can't remember her last name. Just when the road divides, this goes up to the Chinese Cemetery, this goes up to Woodlawn. They lived right here.

ES Where the _____? _____ families are?

MR Across the street from them, and they raised vegetables, also.

ES Fukunaga family?

MR I don't know the last name. I remember the first name Asayo. Asayo was a Sakamoto.

S They were with the dairy there.

ES Sakamoto Dairy. There was a dairy on East Manoa Road.

MR She lived right across.

S Before you reached the graveyard.

MR Just when you start up to Manoa Road up to the Chinese Cemetery, and they cut this road here. Their house was right across.

ES I remember her first name, but can't think of her last name.

MR There was a family that lived next door to the Japanese School--Takeo, and I met him at Ala Moana Park last year.

ES Takeo Iwai, no?

MR No. Iwai family was up here.

S Way up.

ES Oh, yes. This is way up. There was a Fukunaga family and the _____ family, and then _____.

MR Because right in front, there was a knoll there and they had a barber shop. There was a barber shop right alongside the monkeypod tree. Yano.

ES Yano Store. Oh yes, by Toyo Superette.

MR The Chun you mentioned, was that Ah Song Chun? His picture was in the paper where they bought the People's Market at Kekaulike Street.

ES No, the Chuns I know was by the new Manoa School.

MR Oh, the Wongs and the Changs up here. That's where they had the water buffalo.

ES Yes, that's right, the water buffalo.

MR Then my cousin living at Kaloyu lived on East Manoa Road. At that time it was known as Manoa Road. She was just before you get to K_____ Chow. The Chow family still lives there. And then Kahawai and East Manoa. The Chow family is still there.

- ES There was one on Kahaloa and East Manoa. Kahaloa. There was a Chinese family here. Chow family.
- MR Before, all this was "Bishop".
- ES Yes, where you go into taro patches.
- MR One girl was called Ah Foon.
- ES I don't know many Chinese people. We lived among the Japanese, that's why. My father used to pull the taro with contract workers. He and about three more families used to work for, what was his name, was it Mr. Lum?
- MR Lum, yes. Lum of Honolulu Poi Shop.
- ES Yes, that's right, and...
- MR No, Wong Nin.
- ES Oh, that's Wong Nin, and then Mr. Richard Wong.
- MR Richard's father, Wong Nin.
- ES No, he didn't work for him. He worked for another poi factory. He was Oahu Poi Factory, wasn't he? Mr. Wong Nin, Richard Wong's father.
- MR His poi factory was down in Kakaako. It was Hustace Street first. Then he went to Hotel Street in back of the car barn, and then Fernhurst was on King Street, and the poi factory was right in back.
- ES That's the Honolulu Poi Factory?
- MR Honolulu Poi Factory. They had two. "Oahu" and "Honolulu".
- ES Oahu was Richard Wong's father, I think. My father used to work for Honolulu Poi Factory.
- MR Lum Yip Kee, he was one of the founders of Liberty Bank. His family still lives on Lowrey. It's got a white stone wall in front of it; you can see their home.

ES Anyway, my father would pull the taro, and the Chinese workers would cut the planters and the taro separately. Then my father used to bag the taro, and they had to carry the taro on their backs in bags to the roadside. The poi factory would come and get the taro, and then they make the poi with that. You know the leaves that they cut off, my father and mother would sell them to the piggeries. They used to come and get them. They bunch it up and we used to carry those when we were kids because that was lighter. The taro was just heavy--big bags. My father and mother used to do that, then bag it, and then carry it out.

PR They couldn't do this all year round, could they?

MR Yes. They used to do it all year round.

ES They would plant them so we had them all year round.

DK Actually, one of the auwais is still in business.

S It is coming right by my home, by my old home.

PR What happened when it rained hard?

S When it rained, it was not as bad as now because in the old days, the river overflowed over the cement block. They had a cement wall there, just like a dam; and they made a _____ alongside there, so when they had a big rain, a storm, it overflowed and ran back to the river.

PR Where was the cement block exactly?

S It used to be by the Manoa School _____.

MR Kahaloa.

S Yes, and the Chinese people, one of them lived there.

MR The Chows.

S Right across there, and we used to go over there, and that's where the river block is like that, goes down like that, because

when it overflows, it makes a pond there. We called it "cement pond".

ES Did you know that there was a drowning there, in our time?

MR We used to play in the taro patch here, and then jump from the top down.

ES To the pool?

MR In the pond there, so it was deep.

ES My brother almost drowned there, too.

MR There were lots of bulrushes along there. So we would cut the bulrushes and tie it up and make a raft.

MR That cement. It was always covered with moss.

ES Yes, green moss. We used to live right near in that house over there. There was no street, just a little dirt road. Now it's Kahaloa Drive. My parents used to live there. I used to be afraid of the cows and bull alongside where they had them grazing.

MR There was a Hawaiian family that lived alongside the river, just above Kuahu, Kihei, and Hana lived there.

ES I remember the Hawaiian families that used to live there.

MR There was also a Hawaiian family up here next...

ES Behind the Okimuras.

MR Okimura lived up here?

ES Yes, by the cemetery. The Kamemoto family and the Okimura family. They own all the property around there. And then they had a Hawaiian family living inside of it.

MR And also up here, I remember, Losey lived right up here, and in front was the family that raised the gardenias, and then the tuberose was next door, and then come _____ with all of his

maidenhair. Across the street where the Kimuras were, they raised gardenias.

ES They were on Manoa Road.

MR And the other one was Woodlawn at that time. Did you remember that big red house up on the side of the hill? They had this long-needled pine in front, and there were palm trees that went up on the side of the hill not too far from here.

ES By the Salvation Army?

ES Oh, the Cooks.

MR No, not the Cooks. Farther out there. No, it's down along here, and the Losey family bought that house and lived there. Is it William Losey?

ES I remember Mr. Wilson living above our home. Mr. Wilson, he was a principal in Kaimuki.

MR Was Miss Cathcart one of the teachers when you were there? Abel Cathcart? It was before your time? He did a lot of gardening in school. Then from Manoa, he went to Kuhio on Waiialae Avenue, and he was the one who terraced the front of the school and planted all that canna.

ES Oh, yes. Cannas at Kuhio School was nice.

MR Ten years difference makes a lot.

ES Maybe Asayo is one of the girls. Fusako is my age. They were rascal boys. My younger brothers were friends of the Sakamotos, too.

S The older one...

ES _____ Then they had this Kurihara family. They had a dairy.

MR We used to get our milk from them. There was a...the tamarind

trees are still there. It's where Huapala and Kahawai, on the corner.

ES That was the...

S By the river?

MR Because we had those little lard cans.

ES You should get Mr. Yamami up here.

BK Is he still alive?

ES Yes, he lives in Manoa, I heard. He's much older than us. Do you know Tom Matsumoto and Jack Matsumoto?

MR Oh, yes.

ES They just passed away not too long ago. They were good friends of my family. Their parents came from the same Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan.

MR Shi-san had...

ES Yes, the nursing home.

MR I don't remember her English name because we all had Japanese names.

ES Mrs. Nancy Nelson is her name.

MR Every time I see her, she saw me and, Oh, Naha. They call me by my Hawaiian name.

ES Her two brothers are gone now. My mother was cousins with her father Genjiro Matsumoto.

MR Brown Way Circle, and then comes out to Hillside.

MY When did you move to Pamoia Road? What year?

ES 1944. Takeshi's family moved to Pamoia Road 1940.

MY My husband and I moved to Pamoia Road in 1928. My husband...my name is Young. We lived on 2601 Pamoia Road, right as you come down that steep hill, turn.

ES Turn to your right?

MY Right on the corner, 2601. That was before St. Francis School was built, and the people we knew lived across the street farther down was Mr. Daido. Daido and his family did our yard work.

ES We're two doors away.

MY How many of the Daido family are there?

ES There's only one son living with the mother now. Mother is invalid now. The father passed away a couple of years ago.

MY We lived there from 1928 to 1932.

ES You lived right across him?

MY No, right where you come down the steep hill.

ES On the right?

MY On the right, the white house, small house. 2601 is the number. Right on top of the hill, there's a little apartment house. It has three apartments. That belonged to my mother-in-law, my husband's mother. She bought that, and then she died in 1926. Then we owned it until about 1942. The little white house just below it.

S Does the following house have a big brown house there?

MY Yes, I'm trying to figure the man who lived on the mauka side, across from--just before you get to Dagers (?) on the right-hand side. A German man, a German man who lived there, Dukhoff. Mr. Dukhoff lived there when we moved there, and then you see the dead end at the end of the road where St. Francis is now.

ES That's right, and they had this lovely house. The owners used to stay there, next to the Daidos. They have a big home now.

- MY I haven't been there for a long time now.
- ES It's changed now. There are a lot of new homes. The old houses were torn down and rebuilt.
- MY We left in 1932, so...
- CB Do you remember any out-door movies in the place where Manoa Market Place is now?
- ES Yes, that's the Seinenkai, they called that, the Young Men's Association. They had this little club house there. They had movies over there and all those, what you call, Shibais. The performing groups from Japan would come and then they put up shows. They put on movies, too.
- CB So these were essentially from Japan. Was it every weekend or just occasionally?
- ES Just occasionally, but we used to have movies about once a month.
- CB Beatrice has been pursuing this subject now for a long time. Would you tell us more about it? As a child, did you creep in under the tent or what?
- ES No, my mother would buy the mats or divided seatings on the ground. She would try to get the best part of shows. They had to buy the seatings on the ground when they had the showing like the Kabuki kind stuff that comes.
- MR This was a live show, the Kabuki?
- ES Yes, Kabuki, like samurai and obake shows, and actresses and actors came from Japan to perform. Obake show means devil or ghost shows. They called those shows shibai then.
- MY Those shows were down where the school is now.
- ES Yes, they had it over there, too, and then the same week. There

were two Japanese schools later on--the other Japanese school was Heiwa Gakuen.

MY YMBA? Sounds like YMBA.

ES Yes, that's right. Young Men's Association. Seinenkai, they called that. They used to put up tents so the people can't peek in.

CB What did it cost if you paid?

ES They gave donations.

CB Those were the shows. What about the movies?

ES The movies were donations, too, whatever you could afford to give. That would be, you just bring your mats, and we would go early to get good seatings, and my father and mother would come later on.

CB Were these always Japanese movies?

ES Yes, Japanese movies, and because they were silent movies, we used to have this person that would narrate in Japanese, and he would take the woman's part, take the man's part. They called them benshi.

CB Was there music?

ES Yes, they had music on phonographs. Later on they had talkie movies.

CB Do you remember Chinese funerals in the valley?

ES Oh, yes. We used to stand around and look. They would give those red paper--wrapped nickels.

MY Li see--nickel in it.

ES Yes.

MY We'd go right down to Lum Hee Store and spend it.

ES They say you should spend the money when you get it. Not good

to keep that. And they have these mourners. Even the Hawaiian ones, we used to hear the mourners, too. It's across from the Japanese school. They had this Hawaiian burial--cemetery. We used to watch them, too. We used to be afraid, but we still liked to go and see.

MY Oh Quat (?) is still there.

ES In Manoa?

MY The first one right alongside the road.

ES They have all these plumeria flowers growing, and we'd be afraid to pick them. When we go to these movies, we had to pass the cemetery to go home. I wouldn't be the last one to walk. I would let my father walk in back of us. We used to walk to the shows.

CB Did you go swimming around there as a child?

S Quite often.

BK Tell me about all the different swimming pools.

ES The ones we know are Cement Pond, Mountain Pond, Ogino Pond, and Small Pond.

S Yes. Well, you see, they were below Pamoia Road, straight down. There's a _____ ditch, river, and a mountain alongside. We called it "Mountain Pond", and it's one of the nicest pools at that time, and not very deep. It has a mountain, so it has ledges. We'd jump off the ledges. We were so brave those days. Now I look at it from the top of that, down there are all those rocks, and the depth is only about maybe six feet, and it's quite high, but we were young, and jump in and we'd hit right down to the ground and all leaves and pebbles, but once you get in there and then you jump in all that.

ES It gets all dirty.

S It comes out so we don't care. That was fun.

MY Did you go to other ponds?

S Oh, they had a lot of ponds all over the river going up.

ES They had one by the piggery—Ogino.

S Ogino.

DK Where McDonald's is now?

S Now the Univerity Fruit Fly Experiment stands here.

ES They had this piggery over there. One of the boys was in a tin raft boat and he had this fit and he drowned. I remember that one, too.

S There was another one below there, a nice pond, not very big, _____ valley like this. When we were young, we used to catch fish, and then we took them right out _____.

ES We used to catch bullfrogs. Did you go, too, for the bullfrogs?

MR I used to catch it right out of Mr. Wong's pond.

ES Oh, where he kept it? My brother and I, night time, we went to the taro patches to catch the frogs. On one occasion, instead of hooking a frog, he hooked me right here on my forehead. I had to go home, and my father scolded and gave my brothers a good bawling out. Used to have good-eating frogs then. Now we can't find them. Not here in Manoa Valley.

MR What did you do?

ES He used to cook the legs. It was good.

ET Did you fry them?

ES No, my brother cooked them over the fires. He used to shoot the doves and minah birds.

MR Cook that?

ES Yes, only the doves, and then we used to cook the crayfishes which was called opais, and mountain gori, they called that, something like a trout. When they had the big floods, they used to come down the stream. We used to catch them, too.

MR We had OOpu, and the other fish was catfish.

ES Catfish. Namaz they called that in Japanese.

MR It just happened where they did come from, probably over the hill! Just came down when we had floods.

S The thing is, I was talking about the taro patches. You know the taro. When we go out down the ponds to swim, riverside, we want something to eat, so we go and take the taro right nearby, pull out some of the taro, roast it right on the fire. There were so much of it.

ES Lots of people used to go after it. They'd pull it, the little taros that's left behind. They used to cook it in a big pot outside, wash it, and cover with newspaper to steam it.

MR We call it ha-ha, the small taro.

ES My mother used to collect them and cook it and give to all the neighbors.

BK Tell me about bathtaking and what you have for a bath.

ES Oh, outside. Used to have outside bath, too. We call it furo. We had wooden tub. We had to have a copper on the bottom. You have to have rafters to step on in the wooden tub. That thing will float, but when it goes down, you sit on it. You have to wash yourself outside and then soak yourself in the tub. We have to have all the firewood to get the water hot. My husband used to get the firewood.

MR Keawe wood?

ES Keawe and koa, guava. There were plenty of guava trees.

MR How large was the tub?

S Three feet wide and two feet. Some were made wider and deeper.

ES You cannot stretch out. You just sit.

MR Did one person, one after the other?

S Yes.

BK How deep? When you sat down _____.

ES The water came up to our throat. Yes, I used to love the furo.

S You wash yourself outside. The water drained out into the cesspool.

ES When I was living near the taro patches, we had to use an outhouse. No more water.

S Oh, yes, rain water, not pipe water. They had a tank out there.

ES We had tanks, too.

BK Did each person have his own tank?

ES Sure.

BK So you had an iron roof.

ES Yes.

S They would spread sheet of cloth to pick up all the debris.

BK Debris, yes.

ES Nowadays, you can't do that.

S The water was so nice. Living up in the valley, like this place here.

MR Not in the lower part _____,

ES Narrow plank bridges were made along the river. Then over the river bridge, we had to go on this kind of a bridge, and it's long, and we had to walk through, and it got scary, especially

when there was a flood. My father and mother would carry the taro over the plank of the bridge _____ would carry the taro up the road. My father used to drink on holidays or weekends. When he gets drunk, he would just stare at the plank. He would just stare at it and he would just shoot out straight. He never did fall down from that plank. It kind of sways, too. We used to be afraid of it, especially when there was a big flood, and the water churning underneath you.

CB Can you remember any especially big floods? Big storms?

ES Yes, it would wash over the bridge. There were some, too, when we were young, but the Palolo one I remember. We used to have lots of floods.

S The lower land, my area where Famao Road is. _____ but in the old days, the taro patches would hold the water _____. Everything goes in the patches...

ES So it wasn't too bad.

S Now everything goes to the river.

ES You know that road by that market, by Long's Drugs. There's a little bridge, that bridge that goes up Woodlawn Drive. That one overflows sometimes and gets clogged. Then Noelani School and our place would be just like a lake. About two times or three times, we had it, and our house is built with a basement, so we got flooded waist deep. We built a high garage. When we called the City and County, they wouldn't do anything about the bridge. They should have made it a little bit higher. So Noelani gets the flood, too, and it overflows.

ET When you were talking about Manoa School, you said there was an alumni association called Do So Kai.

ES Yes, that's from our Japanese school.

MR Oh, from Japanese school alumni association.

ES Yes.

ET Do they still meet?

ES No, we don't. I don't think there is anything like that now. We used to meet once a month for meetings in the afternoon. We used to play at the Japanese school baseball, and we used to have picnics, hikings. Now they have a Hahanokai, the mothers' club, that helps out the school.

ET Coming back to the live shows that you used to see, you mention Kabuki, and the benshi were the narrators.

ES They had the benshi for the silent movies only.

ET Were there any other types of entertainment that would have a name to it?

ES Oh, the school had programs put out. They used to have Engeikai. The children would put up shows and dances. They had speech festivals, also.

ET For the Japanese language school?

ES Yes. They would hang white paper strips and write down the donations.

BK Oh, they actually told how much you donated?

ES Yes. Nowadays, they don't do that anymore.

ET I was going to do this when you were talking, but I think it would be wonderful if you could put the locations of the places that you've been talking about.

ES You know the old Manoa School across the street where they had the Seinenkai, right around there.

S Across the street, there's a tamarind tree.

MR This is the street where the Manoa Church is on.

ES Right across on that side was the Yamami Dairy.

S Right on the corner.

BK Did someone take his name down, because we must get him to talk to us.

ES Ichiro Yamami.

* Note

MY And then the Charlie Fraziers who bought the old stone Cooper house, too.

ET The Cooper house. That's along here somewhere.

ES Do you know the Mitsunaga Dairy?

ET No.

ES She still lives in Manoa.

MR Up on Alani Drive with...

ES Mrs. Tamamoto?

MR She's all gray now. I see her on the bus once in a while.

ES That's Mrs. Tamamoto.

ET A very hunched old lady, but she works in the garden. She must be 90 years old.

ES She lives right there on the corner.

MR That's right. You live up the street here and come down. She lives right on this corner.

ES Where do you live now?

ET I live on Alani Drive.

ES She used to pull taro, too, with my mother folks. She was a widow a long time. She goes to senior citizen club at the Manoa Recreation Center. They meet on Mondays. She told me to join their group, but they are too old for me.

ET That's one way to get some oldtimers, I guess. On Mondays?

* Note

ES I think it was on a Monday morning.

MR Because Mrs. Kawaguchi, Matsue?, Matsu we call her, she always spoke about going over there to play cards.

ES Yes, they do.

MR And they lived on Puahala. She had two nice-looking girls. Jean worked for the drug store--Kawaguchi, and then the other girl worked in my department in Home Insurance--Jane Kawaguchi.

PR You called obake.

BK So it could mean devil or...

ES Yes, devil or ghost.

ET You said something before the tape was on at the beginning, I think, about a... Was there a tofu factory near the cemetery?

ES Near Okamura Store, yes. Sawai Tofu Factory.

MR There was a stream right through it. That's where he used to cool off the tofu.

ES His young son used to deliver the tofu. Do you remember? He had his corduroy pants on all the time.

BK It's still there. I saw it, but that's across the road.

MR There was a stream from the Manoa Stream that went right alongside of the Manoa Cemetery where the mango trees are. Auwai ran down there right in back of Toyo's in back of, and then that tofu factory--then it went on down, and it cut back into Chuns--Ah Song Chun's family lived _____ side.

S Oh, yes, Ah Mong, yes.

MR They have the pork factory down at Kekaulike Street. Ah Song was in my class, too, and Ah Wai, Ah Kong, and all of them from the Lum Hu Store.

S There's a road there. They made a small bridge on it, wooden

bridge. When you walk over, the river doesn't come up too high. It's always low because it goes into patches.

MR So the stream comes on and it curves around this way. This land here is all filled in. Originally, it was lower because of the taro patches. The water was cut from the main stream onto these taro patches. On this other side, it came down Manoa, and they had cut the stream, and that was on the other side of Manoa where they have those townhouses now. There was a stream in there. That stream ran all the way to the _____ because the water came down, and they cut it way up here by our place. They cut the water there. They just dammed up the stream and cut it to wherever they wanted the water to go. They had the other Auwai that was a flume, back of the Chows, and went into Lum Yee Kee and Wong Nin, and then it goes down to Manoa Stream again because down on the other side, we had the pigs.

BK _____ the stream somewhere McDonald's is because your brother said, "You know where McDonald's is now, the stream is right behind it." He said right behind that was a camp.

S How many piggery we had up here?

ES Only that I remember, Ogino piggery, and the other one was in Magoon Camp--Nishida piggery.

BK Let's put that piggery in, too.

MR _____ Manoa Road. I think he's a Chun, the attorney. He's connected with the family, just about where Mrs. Midkiff lives.

S This is the river that comes down.

ES Peacock.

BK Do you remember the peacocks and how they used to scream right

down beyond Pamoia Road there? Didn't you hear?

S They used to fly.

MR Kido. Kido lives down there.

ES He used to run a taxi.

MY He used to pick up the okolehao from Mary Ann Perry, bring up to my father's. They called it liquor. They didn't call it okolehao.

MR They made okolehau. My father used to go and pick his up right on Oahu Avenue, just outside of our property. We had a Manuel Gonsalves, and we thought this Mary Ann Perry was at one time married to this Gonsalves because he used to make the okolehao right here on Oahu Avenue across from where the bus stops, at Kaipu.

MY He didn't make it all though. According to this, it was delivered by a Japanese man from other places.

CB From across the island. Kaneohe.

MR From the country.

ES My father used to make his own sake, too.

MR We used to make okolehao right after they cooked taro.

BK We will transcribe this into typewriting, and then we'll let you read it, and if we made any mistakes or can add to it, and sometimes we don't get the word, then you can fill those in. After we do that, we want to ask you some more specific questions, after you go through it, because you've given us so much. We didn't have enough on what we wanted on the life of the Japanese...

CB Did you ever go hiking in the hills?

ES Yes. Manoa Falls.

CB Did you ever go above Manoa Falls?

ES I have some pictures of that. Right up by the Falls, it's so beautiful.

S I went on the other side of the valley, right up to the top of the mountain, and down the other side is Palolo Valley. I didn't go up, but I went to the Falls.

BK _____ falls or did you come along a dirt road?

S Dirt road.

ES We passed the Shingle's house.

S We know a family there.

MR Tanabe.

S No, the one with the bamboo.

ES Yamamoto family?

S No, the one that was in our Japanese School.

ES Shiraishi family?

PR A part of Paradise Park now?

ES Someplace around there. Wahalua?

MR Waalua.

ES Yes. That's where they had all that bamboo. Dr. Kutsunai. He lives on Woodlawn Drive.

BK What's this other family?

ES Terayama. They worked for the HSPA.

BK All those cottages there were _____. They lived in _____.

ES There was another family, Yazawa. There was a Shigeta, too, I think. You know Hiromi Shigeta.