

## INTERVIEW

WITH MRS. FARRANT TURNER (HELEN)  
999 Wilder Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
ON FEBRUARY 28, 1986 (9:25 A.M.)

ATTENDING: BEATRICE KRAUSS, CHARLOTTA HOSKINS, MIRIAM REED,  
FAYE MIDKIFF, PEGGY ROBB, MARGARET YOUNG, ANALIESE TATIBOUET,  
CHARLES BOUSLOG: WHO ARE REFERRED TO BY THEIR INITIALS

HT: I was a senior in college and my older sister, a teacher, wrote that she had been offered a job here in a private school, and only if I would go with her would she take the job. That was at Hanahauoli, that had begun in 1919. So I wrote back and I said, "Yes, I had no plans." I was graduating in June, I knew I could get a job easily; it was easy to get a job in those days. And so we came, in 1920. In San Francisco all the people were down at the ship saying aloha and goodbye, and flowers and gifts were exchanged and we didn't know a soul--I just felt awful. Everyone was saying goodbye to everyone else and we didn't know a soul! But we didn't take long to learn on the ship, the Wilhelmina. My sister had booked a room for two, but we found it was for three. We had a shelf sort of hanging over one side which another woman was supposed to have.

Everybody was coming over here to teach school in those days. I had no plans. I had just decided that after my sister was established I would go home. Well, I fell in love with Hawaii. The directors of Hanahauoli School were very nice to us. They gave us a house in Kahala for a while, and they entertained us at parties, and I met my future husband

almost immediately, at a party--Saturday. And he had friends who had an outrigger canoe, and he had a surfboard, and so I learned to surf and went out in the canoe almost every weekend. I just loved it. Harry Steiner lived on the beach next to the Moana Hotel, and that's where the canoe was kept, at Gus Balentyne's. I guess you all know Gus Balentyne in the old days; he was born and raised here. And I think that Harry Steiner . . . his father was born and raised here, his brothers were born and raised here. I just loved Hawaii!

Well, after we got married in 1921 we were on the plantation for one year, Waialua Plantation, and then in 1922 he resigned. He had a job offer at Lewers & Cooke. We wanted to buy an older home, and we looked up Dowsett Tract, and up Manoa, and every lot that was for sale was over \$3,000. We didn't have any money at all. Three thousand dollars was like \$50,000 compared to today? Well, we got hold of Mr. VanVolkenberg, who told us about Woodlawn. There was a place called Woodlawn Dairy Company, and they had acre lots up there for \$875. We didn't have \$875 either, but we could borrow it. So we borrowed and bought this property, and after paying for it (it was paid for in less than a year), then we could build. So we made plans to build. . . it was a beautiful, beautiful, wide open valley. There were only two houses at Woodlawn at the time. On Woodlawn Drive the Morgans lived, and the Percys, who worked for Dillingham. They were the older houses. We built one of the first houses on Alani Drive, which is right in the center of the valley. We had a view

right down the valley. The house is still there, it looks very nice. The woman who owns it now plants a lot of white poinsettia, and they're all blooming around Christmas time. If you go along Alani Drive (the lower Alani Drive), you can see these flowers blooming all over the place. She has a lovely garden--much prettier than I had. I worked, worked, worked just to establish a nice garden, but she has a much better one. We had a little stream that went back of our property, and that was a rushing torrent most of the time, and there were many, many, many, about five or six waterfalls up the valley. They were just beautiful waterfalls. We had our dining room built in such a way that we could look out at the waterfalls and see them from the window. We built our house with three bedrooms and two baths for around a little over \$5,000. Imagine that today! I wonder how much it would be sold for today, if it were sold. We had to come up through the Chinese cemetery. The Chinese cemetery was the first thing that went up in Manoa Valley, and Woodlawn was above the Chinese cemetery. There used to be funerals up there, music, and then they left food on the graves so the spirits could have it.

Later on, a man by the name of Marshall, I think, put in some other roads. You could come up East Manoa Road and then turn left as you entered Woodlawn. As you go along Woodlawn Drive, Alani Drive turns to the left, and also to the right, for it goes up the hill and down the hill, both. Well, we enjoyed putting in a garden. Mrs. Lowrey gave me lots and

lots of ginger. I planted the stream with ginger. Its roots were established and good so they didn't get washed out when the rains came. It rained up there a great deal of the time. And we had guava all around us. I made guava jelly until I thought I would turn into a guava. And I used to give it away to everybody. I don't make it anymore, I don't even eat it. Well, across the valley, where Kaipō Street is now, there was nothing but rice and taro growing. And you could see the water buffalo pegged out in the field. Chinese men, I guess Chinese or Japanese, I don't know, used to work the fields. The rice was just beautiful, it was so green and lush and lovely, and the workers established through the rice fields some ropes. They put cans on the rope. It was an intertwining thing all over the field, so that one child could sit at a place and pull the rope, and the cans would make noises and wiggle and scare away the rice birds. At Kalakaua and King Street, just as you turn the corner from King Street, there used to be rice growing where they're houses now. The women threshed their own rice. They put it down on straw mats and beat the rice heads with whips, I guess, they got the rice off and then they gathered it up.

Now across the valley where the Cookes lived--they have a big home over there--from the Cooke house to the triangle where East Manoa and Manoa Road come together there was nothing but a pasture. There was nothing beyond there, it was all growing rice fields and taro, and in this pasture were Guernsey cows, for a dairy. Cows were in the field where now

are lots of houses. The Waioli Tea Room was built round that time, by Mr. Wilcox, and it was a beautiful place. They had a lovely store. They baked jams and jellies, baked cakes and cookies and bread, and you could go in and buy anything you wanted. They would ship it for you. Mr. Wilcox's idea was to have the local people learn how to cook "western." Well, I don't think that worked out. Waioli Tea Room serves meals to tourists, and that's all I think it's here for, isn't it? Well, Mr. Bartlett, who lived in Woodlawn, was an artist. He painted a lot of pictures that went into Waioli Tea Room, but they're all painted over now. It's just blank wall, blank spaces where there used to be beautiful views. And I think it was awful, I don't know who did it . . .

X : Those murals were gorgeous. They took up all the wall spaces, in what they called the Kauai Room.

HT: Well, did I mention that we had water buffalo staked out in these fields too? They used to plow with water buffalo, do their hard work with animals. You never see a water buffalo any more. I don't know if you see one inter-island now, but not here.

We built our house in 1923. We had bought the lot in '22, and it was paid for by '23. If we had paid for the lot we could mortgage it and build a house. I had lots of fun putting in the garden because I had to compete with Mr. Walsh's cows, who kept coming up all the time. Well, we had to put in a hill, a little terrace, and the cows would make one beeline for the terrace and tear it apart and we would

have to fix it again. But we had many Japanese in the valley who raised vegetables and flowers, and you could get them to work for you for \$2.50 a day, in those days.

Well, Kaaipo Street was put in. It goes across the valley, where only taro and rice used to grow. We had two friends that built in there and you'd go into their yard and sink in the mud. They had rice and taro there; there was nothing but mud. It's not that way anymore, I'm sure. Lowrey Avenue, yes, and Kaaipo Street too. We had friends that lived on Kaaipo Street and another one on Lowrey Avenue. And in the old days the only way to get across the valley was to go on East Manoa Road, I think to the Japanese school. One went through the College Hill tract to get into the valley. But there was nothing to take you across the valley except walking on rice or walking on taro. Well, gradually Woodlawn became more popular and E.E. Black built or bought up there. We had neighbors who built houses around us. We just loved Woodlawn, didn't mind the rain at all. Sometimes for our laundry we'd object to it as we tried to get our laundry dry. When you have a baby you have to have lots of diapers, so that was hard work too. In those days we didn't have dryers with our washing machines. We had washing machines and then you hung the clothes up on the line. Marshall, who made our road, was slow in putting it in; I think it took him three years to finish it. We got stuck in the mud many times coming home. We couldn't get through and we had to leave our car below and walk home. I don't know who was at fault. It was lots of

rain and lots of mud. Eventually we got the roads fixed. I haven't been up there this year.

It's a white house set up on a terrace back from the road quite a long way . . . I can't remember what the number is. Well, you turn off on Woodlawn Drive on Alani Drive to the left. We were in the middle of the valley and looked right down to the ocean and could see everything. It's a white house with a green roof; it probably has a lot of flowers growing around it. White poinsettias around Christmas time, the small ones, you know, the small poinsettias.

X : The one that was bought by Mrs. Smith, who was interested in Christian Science?

HT: Yes.

ET: She willed her house to her Japanese housekeeper. Her Japanese housekeeper must be close to eighty, but she must be out in the garden all the time . . . full of flowers, yes, it's lovely.

HT: Well, I've lived in Hawaii for 66 years. I was 22 when I graduated, so that makes me 88. I've loved Hawaii and I don't ever want to live anywhere else. I think it's just gorgeous, but I just can't get over when we came up to the Lyons Arboretum today, I just couldn't get over the houses that are built everywhere. There's not any empty lot left. I think every single lot is taken.

BK: We don't seem to have asked for your full name, including your maiden name.

HT: My name was VanInwegen. When I fell in love with Hawaii and wanted to stay here--I had a ticket to go home, but I turned in my ticket and got a job at the Hawaii Sugar Planters' Experiment Station on Keauomoku Street. And we lived in the Rothwell house. . . I think it's Poki Street now, it was just across from the Pleasanton Hotel. Well, when we rented the Rothwell house, we had no hot water except by putting a quarter in the meter, and we were always running out of quarters. We had to go over to the Pleasanton Hotel to ask them to change the money for us to get quarters to put in the meter. And then it was a very nice hotel, family hotel. That's where Fernhurst is now. They took in the whole block at one time, and now there are apartments built on Fernhurst property. I don't know whether it's Fernhurst property or whether they bought the lots singly, but it used to be one solid block all the way around up to Dominis Street. I was born in Chicago, Illinois on June 13, 1897.

BK: Thank you. Now I had jotted down these questions but you told us when you bought your lot and when you built and the address on that. Now, would you give your husband's name? I know it but some of the others don't.

HT: Well, he was Farrant Lewis Turner. He was born on Hawaii. He would be two years older than I, he was born in 1895 . . . July 16, 1895. He was at Lewers & Cooke for years. He was called out during the Massie case, he was in the National Guard and was called out when young Jamieson was murdered too, the National Guard was called out. I tried



to watch the new [Massie] movie the other night, I watched it for about a half an hour and it was terrible, I turned it off. Well, my next door neighbor Harry Hewitt, Judge Hewitt, who was Attorney General at that time, I asked him if he were going to watch it. He said I tried to get rid of the Massie case for 50 years, and I don't want to hear anything about it.

BK: Then you spoke about when you first got married, that Farrant was working on a plantation . . . what plantation was that?

HT: We were at Waialua plantation for one year. They built a house for us, a little house, a two-bedroom house, and on cane land so I could plant a garden there too.

BK: Now, then, you came into town and that's when you bought the place at Woodlawn.

HT: Well, we didn't buy it right away. Farrant's mother lived on Punahou Street, right next to Dr. Shephard, and that's where all the palm trees are, on the corner there. Next door is the house which she lived in. She went to visit her sister on Maui and told us we could have the house for a year. So we lived in it for a year, and in the meantime paid for our lot and started building.

BK: Now you lived in the house mauka of the Shephard house?

HT: Yes, mauka, at 1822 Punahou Street.

BK: It's now an apartment house.

HT: And then she moved back to town after we moved out and she stayed there for years. She taught music, piano, and she gave many lessons right there at the house. Next door to us were

the Hurds, and next door to them were the Kings, and I think you know Miss King, she's at Pohai Nani . . . Helen King Dodie, they lived in the next house. We knew all the people around.

BK: Judge Breckens lived in the corner.

HT: Yes. And the Curtises had a house there too.

BK: What was your mother-in-law's maiden name?

HT: Curtis. Her sister was a Baldwin on Maui, and she went to visit her. That was Erdman Baldwin. They lived at Hamapuapoko, which is a beautiful area, I don't know where the area is now . . .

BK: The town has been eliminated . . .

HT: They tore it all apart.

BK: The whole residential and business areas of Hamapuapoko no longer exist.

HT: It used to be near the high school, you know.

BK: I know, that's where I went to high school.

HT: Maui High School, that's where you went?

BK: In between going . . . we lived on Maui for ten years. May I ask one more question? From what college did you graduate?

HT: I went to the University of Illinois in Champagne, Urbana.

BK: Evelyn, would you like to ask something?

ET: I'd like to know a little more about the street paving. You said Marshall took three years. Did he have any considerations for the first residents, and try to bring the pavement to where you were living?

HT: No, no, he didn't.

ET: And did they finish most of it in those years in the '20s, then start putting in the rest of the houses later?

HT: Yes.

ET: Because I've seen maps with all of Woodlawn sketched out, and it seems that there were a lot more streets than there were houses, for a while.

HT: Well, they're some streets that people have put in themselves. They wanted to get to the back door of their house or something, so they put in a street.

ET: You know, I've seen that stream that you were talking about. The woman who lives there now has orchids all over the bank. She would be glad to have you visit it if you ever wanted to.

HT: You mean the Japanese woman?

ET: Oh, she would be happy to.

HT: Well, I went up there to see her one day, and I felt she should invite me in. I told her I used to own the house, but she never invited me in. She invited me into the garden.

AT: I have a map of Woodlawn in 1923.

HT: Well, that's when we bought our lot, or we built our house in 1923.

MY: May I add about the roads, I was married in 1928 and Fred and I went up with Mr. VanVolkenberg and looked at lots up there before we bought elsewhere, and at that time it was very incomplete. Mr. VanVolkenberg worked for the Dillinghams and O, R and L Railroad Company, so it was all Dillingham

promotion, although I believe at one time Mr. Veskie, who is a real estate promoter, had something to do with that area.

AT: Percy Pond, and then the Percy who lived there, Percy Benson, an employee of Dillingham too, so the first people who really were promoting it were connected with Dillingham because the Dillingham family owned the Woodlawn Dairy . . . actually. The name of their home where Central Union is, that was Woodlawn, wasn't it? They carried the name with the dairy up in the valley. Oh, he sold a lot of property all over the island. The Vorgersons that lived up there . . . he was retired, and he built his house out on Woodlawn Drive too. And the Percys built on Woodlawn Drive.

BK: When was Straub's house built? Dr. Straub. Was this while you were living there?

HT: I think he built a bedroom so that he could go up there and sleep and get away from the telephone. He had a big piece of property, he was at the top of Woodlawn Drive, on Paty Drive.

X : His property is between two streets. . .

ET: Was that while you were living up there?

HT: Yes, from 1923-1931. My husband had terrible trouble with allergies. He took Dr. Larsen's tests for everything that grew around us because he sneezed, had a running nose constantly. He didn't respond to any tests. The doctor said it was probably the weather. So we moved to Punchbowl in '31 and he was fine.

MY: But Dr. Straub, as I remember it, I may be wrong, but I think the room became a house and a residence after he married Gertrude Ivers. Her father was the principal of Honolulu High School, later McKinley High School. She had been married to Richard Ivers, who was president of C. Brewer and Company. When she married Dr. Straub, that's when it became a house.

HT: I remember the Straub Clinic on Beretania Street. I used to go there to take Bert for problems. Straub was a pediatrician at that time. Bert was born in '26, March 26.

ET: Before you moved from Woodlawn, do you remember some of the other people who built there?

HT: My next door neighbor was Emerson.

BK: Oh yes, they lived with Ed McGowan, Ed McGowan too.

HT: Yes.

BK: Did Mark Young live up there while you were there?

HT: Not while I was there. On the lot next door to us, on the right, nobody ever built while we were there, but the one beyond that, people by the name of Rush got it.

ET: Was that Ben Rush?

HT: I don't know.

ET: Department of Public Works.

BK: How about you, Analiese?

AT: No. . . you know, Woodlawn rained more than the rest of Manoa Valley. That's what I remember.

HT: It rained up there but it was beautiful.

BK: Dr. Carter, an entomologist at PRI, says people say to him, "Why do you live in Woodlawn and try to raise kids, it's so terribly wet." He says, "My kids have less colds than you people further down the valley."

ET: But some people have terrible allergies. I couldn't have bought our house if it hadn't been that the family that lived there before had allergies and they were anxious to get rid of it.

HT: Well, I don't know, my husband was allergic to the weather, apparently, because on Punchbowl, the minute we moved, he was fine. He had no troubles after that. He used to go to the office with a dozen handkerchiefs because he sneezed so much, you know, and after we moved to Punchbowl he was fine. I still live on Punchbowl. I live next door to the house we used to live in. That's an apartment now. That's where Mr. Davis used to live, Henry Davis. It's an apartment now, 999 Wilder. He and Chamberlain built the road up his hill. Mr. Chamberlain lived in the first house, Mr. Davis lived in the second house. It was beautiful up there in those days, but now it's mostly apartments. I moved in 20 years ago, I can't believe that I've lived there 20 years. The only high rise building we could see was the Dillingham Building, Ala Moana. And now it's just a mass of high rises.

BK: The dairy was still there in '31?

HT: Well, there was no dairy as such. There was no dairy. I never saw a cow up there like I did in the Montague Cooke gardens.

BK: But you said that cows came in, bothered your garden. Was that private, somebody's private . . .

HT: That was a Pat Walsh. I don't know whether he looked after cows or boarded them around to eat the grass somewhere or what he did with them. I knew the Walshes very well. Mrs. Walsh and I had nothing but trouble with him and his cows.

BK: Was that cow still bothering you in '31 when you left?

HT: Well, now, I think it was finished by that time. We had finally gotten our terrace established.

CB: Do you remember any big storms while you lived up there?

HT: No, not any. . . well, we had lots of rain but not a storm like they had on Kauai a few years ago.

CB: Well, there was a huge flood in early 1923, that may have been just before you moved in.

HT: Maybe it was, but that stream carried the water off. You see, we were up above the road, and the stream was behind the house, and the stream could carry off an awful lot of water. Sometimes it was just a trickle, but when it was raining, when we had storms, it would be a rushing stream.

CB: Did any Hawaiians live up there?

HT: I didn't know any. I'm trying to think of somebody who lived just above. . . I can't think of his name. . . oh, he had one child who climbed up above the waterfall and fell and was killed, and he had a daughter who became a doctor.

BK: Did this child fall while you were living up here?

HT: Yes, while we were living there. We used to climb up there too, and one day we took a friend with us, and she got so

scared, we tied her to a tree. We wanted to go to the top of the hill, so we tied her to this tree so she couldn't fall, and then we went on up to the top of the hill and then came down and picked her up and took her home.

BK: What age were you at that time?

HT: I was about 23 or 24.

BK: How old was she?

HT: She was three or four years older, but she was absolutely driven with fear. You know, here was the waterfall going gushing down there, it was rather steep but it wasn't slippery.

BK: But a lot of people have been killed on that waterfall.

HT: I know it. We had no trouble at all.

MY: Weren't there signs in those days, kapu, that you weren't to go beyond the mark?

HT: Well, we got in above the signs, apparently. Probably at the bottom you'd see the signs, but we were above the signs.

ET: Well, let's take a break and have some coffee or tea, and there's some coffee cake.

AT: Do you know Mrs. Turner, she had a son and a daughter, she lived at Foster Tower?

HT: Oh yes, that's Ruth Turner, Roy Turner's widow. He was in T.V. or radio or something like that. I knew her too.



Second Half

HT: Gertrude, Gertrude Turner.

MY: I was trying to think of the first name but . . . Gertrude Turner lived there across from Punahou, got on a street car and came up Manoa regularly, to Kamehameha Avenue, and she gave Louise Drew and Al Elijah music lessons. You mean Gertrude Turner came up there regularly?

HT: She lived across in the street in a house near the Punahou grounds.

MY: No, but the house that the McNeill's lived in, you know the one I'm talking about on the Punahou campus, Mr. McNeill was head of the science department.

HT: They moved it somewhere else?

MY: No, but the original floor plan was used for the two prototype houses in Manoa--one on Oahu Avenue and one Louise Drew lived in on Kamehameha Avenue, 2105 Kamehameha Avenue where Mary Allen S\_\_\_\_\_ lives. And those floor plans are what Punahou used for these two houses they built as samples so they could sell them in the Oahu College tract. They had one on Oahu Avenue, it's just three doors down from Armstrong, at 2371. And the other one is 2105 Kamehameha Avenue. Those floor plans were exactly like the one I talked to you about across from where the Turners lived on Punahou Street. But it was a sales gimmick.

HT: Yes, that was a model home.

MY: Model home, that was exactly it, way back then.  
What year was that?

HT: Probably, I should imagine somewhere about 1903, 1905, 1907, along there.

MY: We moved to Glenn Avenue on 1908, and the Drews rented across the street from us there. You know the TV ad, the white cottage that has a house with a railing, Bank of Hawaii ad, and the man says, "My father, my grandfather lived here, and we all banked at the Bank of Hawaii . . . ," well, the lumber for that house, the one on the corner of Kamehameha Avenue and Beckwith Street, was built from lumber from my grandfather's house, which was on Pensacola Street and torn down in 1910 so Kamakila Campbell could build her big house there. The big house behind there was built by Kamakila. I went out to Bishop Museum and saw Reynolds Burklin, he had some pictures for me from the Hedeman collection, and the Hedeman family had rented it from my grandfather, and you've got the same railing that you get in this TV ad., where the Hedemans were living on Pensacola Street.

AT: That was before my time.

MY: Yes, the Robert Horners lived there--Kamakila's house--Robert Horner, Carol Horner.

AT: Yes. Now I know, and then there's one house and then Kawananakoa . . .

MY: down below where the school is now . . .

AT: Yes.

MY: Oh, the cows that Carol used to talk about. They came from Australia and rented the house on the corner when the Elijahs

moved out in 1918, and they had these two little girls and later had the boys raising cows at Kunioliuli. One of the sons still has . . .

AT: You know, cows on a big lot when we drove round the island, there was a McCandless place, and my father said, "That's the most valuable cow in Honolulu on the island." And he kept the cow there so it would be used for tax for grazing land.

BK: Margaret, do you have any more . . . questions?

MY: No, I think . . . except that you all should know that Farrant Turner, Helen's husband, was decorated for his World War II service with the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) . . . commended battalion. He was our war hero and he took our boys from here to war.

[The 100th was made up of the Americans of Japanese ancestry (AJA's) from the two National Guard regiments, the 298th from Oahu and the 299th from the other islands. Some of these men were drafted in 1940 and 1941 before the draft was discontinued in 1942. In May 1942 the army decided to remove all the AJA's from these two regiments and make up a Hawaiian Provisional Battalion, which it was called when we left the islands on the S.S. Maui on June 5, 1942. There were too many for a battalion and not enough for a regiment. When we arrived on Oakland it was named 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) and treated like a regiment. I said goodbye to my husband when we docked. I did not know where the men were going to train. Neither did my husband. On the train across the continent when he found out, he wrote to me to tell me and

his letter was confiscated. Of course I did not hear from him and he did not hear from me as I had no idea where they were going. I wrote to my mother in Illinois and told her our son and I were at the Clift Hotel in San Francisco. Finally Farrant called my mother to learn I was still in San Francisco. He called me and I made arrangements to go to Wisconsin, where I learned he was.

The 100th Battalion was a curiosity for all the reporters from papers and magazines all over the U.S.A. Much was written about them and they developed into such fine soldiers, that another group was planned in 1943. That was the 442nd Regiment.

The 100th went into battle at Salerno, Italy, in September 1943.] (The foregoing by letter from Mrs. Turner.)

HT: Do you remember after the first World War they built an awful lot of houses on East Manoa Road?

MY: It was World War II! That was war housing built on Magoon property.

HT: Oh. Those are all gone now. There are new houses there, nice-looking houses. I know the man that worked for us, Harada was his name.

ET: Some of that land is still Bishop Estate land, where the cemetery is, Bishop Estate land.

HT: But that's just the road to the cemetery.

ET: But we interviewed Kenji Okumura, who lives on the ewa side of East Manoa Road. He's living on land his father bought, I think it was about in the '20s.

HT: I know we had a woman working for us, Mrs. Nakamura, who lived on that road, and Harada did our yard work. He lived in a dairy house.

PR: The name Beaumont Woods, when was that developed, that part of Woodlawn?

HT: Well, ours was the first place, as I said early back.

PR: Was Beaumont Woods set up while you were there?

HT: Well, there were quite a few houses when we were there . . . There was a man, an architect, whose wife put up the money. He built a lot clear, clean on beyond us, where the road goes around. I'm trying to think of his name. He was an architect, and they built on Harrison property on Kaalawai . . . you remember the Harrison property down on the waterfront just before you get to Black Point.

ET: Fred Harrison's property.

HT: There was a big house there and they built, and she put up the money for him to build a lot of houses up Woodlawn. And he built them and sold them.

PR: Well, there was Guggenheim involved with Woodlawn Terrace Place, who hired this architect. Seckel? Oh, I'm sorry, I was thinking of something else. Harry Seckel was very wealthy. He sold lots and put up houses, but he covered up some little valleys. Houses began to slide down, and he escaped to France because they were going to sue him all over, so he's never put his foot on Hawaii again. He skipped out in a hurry . . .

ET: There's Melemele Place, which was developed by Alfred Price. He bought. . . I believe he or someone else bought the tract of land that still had been in the Dillingham family. The Dillingham family originally had Woodland Dairy, of course, but they kept that little tract of land . . . well, not so little . . . acres, acres of land, and Alfred Price designed most of the houses for Melemele Place.

BK: Ozzy Bushnell lives up there.

ET: Yes, in one of those houses.

HT: We were friends of the architect. I remember that we became her friend when they were divorced. And then she moved back to New York and I guess he moved back to New York too. I'm trying to think. Her first name was Mary. I can't remember his name, but he bought an apartment on the Ala Wai that he lived in for a while and then he sold that and moved away.

BK: Your boy, he was still too young to go to school?

HT: Well, he was . . . when we moved to Punchbowl he was, let's see, that was in 19 . . . 1931, he was six years old then. He went to Hanahaole for one year and then he went to Punahou and graduated from Punahou. He still lives here.

BK: Still on Punchbowl. He went to West Point and had a distinguished army career too.

HT: And Curtis Turner has come back. He lives on the island of Hawaii on Kona now. He's with his third wife. They came over to Hawaii once, to Oahu once where I met her. She's very nice, I liked her.

BK: When you were at . . . in Woodlawn, did you have any social life up among the neighbors?

HT: Yes, we had a social life with the neighbors. They had children about the same age. They were the Emersons, and oh, there was somebody else by there by the name of Cleland that had children. They were on the Alani Drive that turns right when you get off Woodlawn Drive.

BK: Where did you go shopping for groceries . . . ?

HT: I had Yee Hop call me every day and ask me what I would like to have, and they delivered it and charged it. C.Q. Yee Hop. I wonder if they still do that?

BK: As far as I know, nobody delivers any more.

HT: It used to be Mac's Market. They still have charge accounts!

MY: Yes. And the Food Pantry, and I'm the only one that charges.

BK: Did you have an automobile when you lived in Woodlawn?

HT: Yes, we did, and my husband took it to work every day. So I was stranded.

BK: The Woodlawn bus wasn't running yet?

HT: You could take a bus to Manoa Road, to the end of where Kaipō Street is. Then you'd have to walk a good mile from there.

ET: Mrs. Turner, do you have any recollection of Manoa School?

HT: Well, I remember Manoa School on East Manoa Road. The Japanese school or the haole school?

ET: Well, either one.

HT: Yes, I remember most of them. And there was a shopping center in there then, but it wasn't developed as it is now.

CB: Did you call that area the "Village"?

HT: I don't remember what we called it.

CB: When did that term appear?

HT: First time I ever heard of . . .

BK: Oh, we all used it. That goes back as far as I can remember.

HT: Oh, oh. Well, they haven't put any high rise apartments in Manoa yet, have they?

BK: No, heaven forbid.

HT: I remember when the apartments were built on Lanihuli Drive.

BK: Well, thank you very much, Mrs. Turner.

HT: I was very glad to come and meet you all.

BK: We hadn't had any oral histories from anybody who had lived in Woodlawn before, it certainly brought back lots . . . wonderful old memories, and at present especially interesting to Evelyn, because that's where she lives now.

HT: Well yes, and I lived there after 1920. Of course we were gone in some of the war years, my husband commanded the "Japanese-American outfit," and we were sent to Wisconsin, we were in Wisconsin for eight months, and then we went to Hattisburg, Mississippi for seven months, and then they went overseas, but that's the only time I left the islands. I was ordered away by the Army.

BK: Who took care of your house? Well, we sold it, but our furniture . . . we left with different friends. And they all had to go, and they would write us and say, "What are we going to do about your furniture, we're being sent to the mainland too, what do we do?" And I'd write back, "And if you can find anybody who will take it, store it for us, fine, but if not



you'll have to sell it." Our furniture was sold. And we came back here after the war, and we had six chairs in the dining room, that's all we had. Everything else had been sold. And the prices were very poor then.

BK: Where did you move to when you came back from the war?

HT: I think we lived in Punchbowl a while. We bought a house on Maunaihi Street and our neighbor was Mrs. Reed, who had a great big yard. Do you know Mrs. Reed? Well, she was in her garden all the time and she was a very nice person. And when they put Nehoa Street in, it used to be Prospect Street, so they asked her to rename this little road that came in to our street. She named in Maunaihi, which is "sacred land," and she gave a luau to all the neighbors and invited all the neighbors to come to her luau. She was a lovely person, just a lovely person. And when she died, I think her two daughters had died, her niece inherited the property. And I took . . . well, she was finally able to get financing and put an apartment on it. All apartments up there now.

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An interview with Helen VanInwegen Turner, Mrs. Farrant Turner, of 999 Wilder Avenue, 96822, on the 28th of February 1986.

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