

COMMENT: Much here on taro, poi, poi manufacture, new developments in machinery in period 1900-1912. how he got into the Navy in 1917, life on the Woolsey property in Manoa. About 25% Manoa. 11 pp.

PAGE

- 1 TARO "up Manoa" "taro patches" (time perhaps 1900-)  
(But had to take it to Waikiki for pounding)
- 1 WATER 1900(?) no water at Woolsey Manoa land; then only at Cooper's  
2 Castle Home, Montague Cooke.
- 2-3 POI 1909 how Standard Oil got them to get a corn grinder for  
manufacturing the poi, to be run by a gasoline engine,  
thus sales by Standard Oil.
- # 3 TARO Now problems about lack of water supply. Needed "domestic  
POI water" + Struggles with Board of Health. Chinese furnished money  
for a pipe line to the big tank.  
4 boilers going 24 hours a day!
- Taro patch had mullet, aholehole, papio from the ocean.
- 4 POI 10 tons in 24 hours. Firehorses to carry. Taro came from  
all over.  
second gasoline engine installed
- 7 AUTO 1st ride in auto 1917
- 8 MANOA HOUSE lumber described; wooden windows, open with long stisk, wind  
blow it shut (no air then)  
hot water from factory
- 9 NEIGHBORS Angie Nina Long, Carlos Long, Manuwela, Woolseys.
- 10 ANIMALS cow, goat, sheep, chicken, dog, cat, horses, mules, jackass, burro.
- 10 POI Burro loaded to carry poi to Waikiki, where burro munched  
algeroba beans  
bags 80 to 90 lbs.

INTERVIEW OF MY BROTHER, GEORGE WOOLSEY, MARCH 7, 1980 AT HOME  
OF MIRIAM W. REED, 2959 OAHU AVENUE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822  
PHONE: 988-2953. THIS IS MY BROTHER GEORGE AND HE WILL TELL US  
WHATEVER HE WANTS TO.

M: DO YOU WANT TO TELL US YOUR NAME?

GW: I'M GEORGE WILLIAM WOOLSEY.

M: YOUR HAWAIIAN NAME.

GW: MANUHAIKALANI

M: WHEN WERE YOU BORN, 1898, -DEC-30.

GW: 1898, DEC. 30

M: WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

GW: I WAS BORN IN HONOLULU, IN KAPICLANI MATERNITY HOME ON BERETANIA  
STREET, WHERE THAT BIG BANYAN TREE, WHERE THE MORMON TABERNACLE,  
JUST ACROSS THE RIVER.

M: WHERE THE FOODLAND IS?

GW: CLOSE TO MAKIKI.

MYCUNG: WHERE THE SHELL STATION IS NOW?

L V: ISN'T THAT WHERE THE DOMINIS HOME IS?

M Y: IT WAS GIVEN BY PRINCE KUHIO'S FAMILY I THINK.

L V: IT HAD THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PARQUÉ FLOORS.

M Y: NOT THAT ONE, THEY MOVED OVER LATER, IN 1917 or 1918, just  
WHERE KALAKAUA COMES INTO BERETANIA, THEN MOVED IN 1927  
TO WHERE THEY ARE NOW, PUNAHOU & BINGHAM.

GW: LALA GREEN WAS THE MATRON AT THE TIME.

M: AT THAT TIME WHERE DID MAMA AND THE FAMILY LIVE? ?

GW: WE LIVED UP MANOA PART OF THE TIME, WHERE WE CAME TO WORK,  
WE HAD TARG PATCHES. BUT WE HAD TO MANUFACTURE OUR POI AT

WAIKIKI, BECAUSE WE DID NOT HAVE DOMESTIC WATER UP HERE.

IT COME AS FAER AS DR. COOPER'S, UP CASTLE HOME, MONTAGUE

COOKE, AND THAT'S ALL, PAU. NO WATER UP HERE, ALL THE WATER WAS SUBURBAN. MY FATHER BUILT TANK, ON BLACK SAND AND ROCKS.

M: IT WAS A LARGE REDWOOD TANK.

GW: WE DIDN'T HAVE A QUARRY AT THE TIME. THE FIRST QUARRY WAS PUT UP AT 10TH AVE. MY FATHER PUT UP THE MAIN CRUSHER, FOR FRANK COOKE. LOTS OF RAIN AND WIND IN HONOLULU, AND MY FATHER WORKED ON THE CLAUDINE, LIKELIKE, MAUNALOA, AS ENGINEER AND ALL ROUND MAN. SO HE WAS AT HIS MOTHER'S HOUSE, 10TH & WAIALAE, ABOUT THREE & HALF ACRES OF LAND. HE WAS WATCHING THESE PEOPLE, WITH HORSES & MULE, AND CHINESE (TO PUT UP CRUSHER). HE TOLD THEM LOOK YOU'LL NEVER GET THIS THING UP THERE, THE ONLY WAY TO GET THIS UP, IS MY WAY. WE GET A WINDLASS. WE GET A BIG TREE, AND MAKE A WINDLASS, AND DRIVE THE HORSES AROUND AND MAKE A PULLEY AND PULL THIS THING UP, AND GET THIS ALL IN PLACE. HE GOT TO BE THE MANAGER. MY DAD WAS A FUNNY MAN, HE ALWAYS HAD HIS WAY, AND HE DON'T TAKE VERY MUCH FROM ANYBODY ELSE.

M: OKAY, CAN WE COME BACK TO MANOA AND THE POI FACTORY.

GW: OKAY THE MANCA POI FACTORY, NOW IN 1911 WE HAD THE CHOLERA. IN 1909 STANDARD OIL CAME IN, AND STANDARD OIL ASKED MY FATHER INSTEAD OF POUNDING THE POI, WE COULD GET A CORN GRINDER FROM JOHN M. SMITH OR MONTGOMERY WARD. OKAY, IF YOU CAN GET THAT, BUT WHAT'S GONNA DRIVE THAT (CORN GRINDER)(S.O.) WELL, WE GOT GASOLINE ENGINES, WELL, WE NEVER HEARD ABOUT GASOLINE ENGINES IN THE ISLANDS AT THAT TIME. WELL, IF WE GET THE WHOLE THING WE HAVE TO USE YOUR FUEL. (S.O.) WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE WANT.

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GW: (S.O.) THEY HAD THE GASOLINE, KEROSENE, STAR OIL, AND ZEROLENE FOR LUBRICATION, AND FEW OTHER PRODUCTS. SO THEY GOT THE ENGINE IN, 5 HP HORIZONTAL ENGINE AND THE CORN GRINDER WITH ITS PLAXT AND WORM. IT HAD TWO WORMS FOR CORN, BUT TARO IS GUMMY, SO THEY HAD TO TAKE ONE OUT. THEY TOOK THE MACHINE TO HCNOLULU IRON WORKS, TO GOUGE OUT THE WORM. OKAY, BUT THE BOARD OF HEALTH SAID YOU DO NOT HAVE DOMESTIC WATER. WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GET DOMESTIC WATER? WE HAVE TO PIPE THE WATER IN. WELL, WHO IS GOING TO PIPE THE WATER AND WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM, THE GOVERNMENT? HE SAID OKAY, THEN YOU WON'T HAVE POI, FINISH. WELL EVERYBODY STARTED SQUABBLING ABOUT POI, WE HAD TARO FROM PALOLO, MANOA, PAUOA, KUNAWAI, KALIHI, MOANALUA, WAIPAHU, EWA, AND ALL CLEAR TO HALEIWA. BOARD OF HEALTH WOULD NOT ALLOW YOU TO POUND, YOU CAN EAT THE TARO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT. THE CHINESE START SQUABBLING, THEY COULD DO NOTHING. THEY GOT THE MONEY TO PIPE THE LINE. INCH AND A HALF PIPE TO COME IN TO THE BIG TANK. BD OF HEALTH SAID THE TANK IS NO GOOD, THE WATER HAD TO COME RIGHT IN THE FACTORY, MAYBE ENOUGH, MAYBE NOT ENOUGH. WE HAD THE CHINESE JOIN IN WITH MY FATHER. WE HAD FOUR BOILERS TO COOK TARO, AND WE COOKED AROUND THE CLOCK, 24 HOURS A DAY. AND ALL THE WASTE RUN INTO THE BIG TARO PATCH, AND THIS PLACE STUNK PRETTY BAD. THE BD OF HEALTH BROUGHT LIME UNTIL IT WAS OKAY. FINALLY THE GOVT PUT A STORM DRAIN HALF WAY. WHEN IT RAINS WATER COMES FROM HERE, HERE, HERE, WITH ONE OUTLET. WHEN THEY PUT THE STORM DRAIN TO THE RIVER, ALL THE WASTE RUN INTO THE BIG PATCH, AND THE OVER FLOW RUN INTO THE RIVER. AT ONE TIME, OUR BIG TARO PATCH HAD MULLET THAT COME FROM THE OCEAN. MULLET, AHOLEHOLE, PAPIO, THEY COME UP THE RIVER LIKE SALMON. THERE WAS ONE OUTLET AT KEWALO, ONE AT POKEHAU

4:

GW: ALONGSIDE MOANA HOTEL, THIRD OUTLET AT KAPIOLANI PARK,  
MAGEE ISLAND. JUST BEYOND THE FIRST ARMY SETTLED, AND  
SOME OF THEM WENT TO WAAHILA, AND FOUND KUKUI NUTS, SO THEY ATE  
IT AND SAID IT TASTED JUST LIKE ENGLISH WALNUT, AND THEY WERE  
PLENTY SICK, WHEN THE HAWAIIANS FOUND OUT WHAT MADE THEM SICK,  
THE HAWAIIAN HAD A REMEDY FOR IT. THE YOUNG SHOOTS OF THE GUAVA.  
YOU CHEW IT TO STOP THE DIARRHOEA.

THE CHINESE CAME UP TO MANOA, AND STANDARD OIL PUT ANOTHER ENGINE  
A 16 HP IN. MY FATHER PUT IN A SHAFT WITH TWO MILLS IN THE MIDDLE  
AND THE SMALL MILL AND ENGINE, WE PUT OUT TEN TONS OF POI IN  
TWENTY FOUR HOURS. THERE WAS NO AUTOMOBILE, THEY USE FIRE ENGINE  
HORSES AND DRAY, AND THEY CARRIED FIFTEEN TO EIGHTEEN BARRELS OF POI.  
MY: DID YOU USE MANOA TARO, OR TARO FROM OTHER VALLEYS.

GW: WHERE PEOPLE HAD TARO THAT WAS MATURED. IT TAKES FOURTEEN  
MONTHS FOR TARO TO MATURE. WE USED MATURE TARO FROM WHEREVER IT  
IS, REGARDLESS OF WHERE ITS FROM, AS LONG AS THEY CAN GET IT HERE,  
WE WOULD GRIND. MY FATHER GOT A PERCENTAGE FOR THE GRIND. WE  
BOUGHT OUR POI TO FINANCE OUR CUSTOMERS. WE BOUGHT WHOLESALE AND  
RETAIL TO CUSTOMERS. THEY BRING IN THE TARO, WE BUY FROM THEM.

MR: WHERE WAS THE MASHINERY-LOCATED?

GW: RIGHT IN BACK HERE. MY BROTHER BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE  
FACTORY. HE COULD NOT BREAK THE FOUNDATION. WELL DURING THOSE  
DAYS, WE HAD NO CRUSHER. IT WAS BEFORE FRANK COOKE BROUGHT IN A  
CRUSHER. SO WE WENT TO THE RIVER. MY DAD HAD A SCREEN AND WE  
SHOVELED ALL THE GRAVEL IN THE SCREEN AND SHIFT IT. THE SAME AS  
WHEN THE U.S. MADE LONG HAUL, THEY USED THE GRAVEL FROM THE RIVER.

MR: WHERE DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL?

GW: AS A YOUNG BOY, AS FAR AS I KNOW, I WENT TO KAAHUMANU SCHOOL,  
ABOUT SIX YEARS OLD.

5:

GW: I REMEMBER THEY TOLD ME THERE HAD TROUBLE IN UNITED STATES: EARTHQUAKE, FIRE, AND ALL THAT STUFF. I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT. I JUST HEARD IT.

AFTER KAAHUMANU, MY FATHER SENT ME TO MY GRANDMA'S TO STAY, AT TENTH AND WAIALAE AVENUE. SO, I WENT TO ALIOLANI SCHOOL. THEN WHEN WE CAME HOME TO MANOA, MY FATHER SAID "YOU GO TO ST. LOUIS SCHOOL. SO, I WENT TO ST. LOUIS SCHOOL. IN 1912, MY FATHER DIED. ST. LOUIS WAS DOWN BY THE RIVER. YES, BY THE RIVER AND THERE WAS AN ALLIGATOR, THAT I PLAYED WITH. MY FATHER BOUGHT ME A BICYCLE AND I HAD TO GO ALL THE WAY DOWN THERE, I SAID NO. HE SAID "HOW ABOUT A HORSE?" GEORGE: WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO PUT THE HORSE AFTER YOU GET THERE? SO HE SAID, "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?" I SAID, I'LL RUN TO SCHOOL. I TOOK THE TRAIL BY CASTLE'S HOME, UALAKAA, AND MEET THE ROAD ON TOP OF TANTALUS, GO ACROSS AND MEET THE RIVER AT KAPENA, THEN WAIKAHALUU. THERE I TAKE A BATH. LANG AKANA LIVED AT KUKUI & COLLEGE WALK. MY CHANGE OF CLOTHES WAS THERE, AND RIGHT ACROSS BROTHER HENRY'S AT SOUTH GATE; COTTAGE OF ST. FRANCIS.

THE ALLIGATOR WOULD WAIT FOR ME. I TOOK HIM WHATEVER I COULD GET, SOME MEAT. FRANK ANDRADE HAD LOTS OF CATTLE, WOULD SLAUGHTER AND I TOOK THE WASTE. IT SMELLED A LITTLE BIT, BUT I HUNG ONTO THE BAG, AND RUN WITH IT. IF WE HAD PLASTIC BAGS THEN, IT WOULD BE ALRIGHT. THAT MADE A RUNNER OUT OF ME.

THEN IN 1914, I HEARD KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOL WAS TEACHING MY MOTHER TONGUE. SO, I WANTED TO LEARN MY MOTHER TONGUE. MR. HORN WAS PRESIDENT, MR. WEBSTER WAS ASSISTANT, MR. BARTLEY WAS CASHIER AND EVERYTHING ELSE. CAPT. BOOTH AND CAPT. LYMAN WERE WORKING FOR THE U. S. GOVERNMENT. (R.O.T.C.)