

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Kozo Orimoto (KO)
Etsuko Orimoto (EO)

April 14, 2004

By: James Tanabe (JT)
Yoshie Tanabe (YT)

JT: Okay, today is Wednesday, April 14, 2004. We are interviewing Kozo Orimoto, a survivor of the Honouliuli Internment Camp during World War II.

Okay, Mr. Orimoto, Kozo Orimoto, this is being interviewed at his home in Kapalama, Honolulu. Mr. Orimoto, what year were you born?

KO: January 22, 1923.

JT: Chotto matte ne. And where did your parents come from? What are your father and mother's names?

KO: My father comes from Hiroshima. My father's name is Gunzo Orimoto.

JT: Is your mother also from, Hiroshima?

KO: Yes.

JT: About what year did your father come to Hawaii? Do you remember? I mean do you know? About?

KO: About. . . I don't know. My older sister was five years older than me, so must be before that year.

JT: So your parents got married just before your sister was born?

KO: I guess so. I don't know.

JT: Somewhere in the 1915 or so.

KO: Maybe. I think so.

JT: Early 1900 probably your father came here. Yeah, okay. And do you know whether he worked in the plantation or. . .

KO: No, he didn't work in the plantation. He was working in the Kakaako rice mill.

JT: Oh, rice mill?

KO: There used to be a rice mill in Kakaako.

JT: Processing "kome," rice.

KO: Yes.

JT: Oh, yeah. So Hawaii was growing rice.

KO: They used to plant rice all over in Oahu.

JT: Yeah? Okay, and did he do that for a long time?

KO: Gee, that I don't know, but he went back to Japan. The reason why he went back to Japan is his father was sick so he had to go back because his father was farming and no one else was able to take over the farm.

JT: Oh. . .was he the only child?

KO: No, he had two brothers.

JT: Oh.

KO: But the oldest brother was working at Fujii Shoten. He was a salesman at Fujii Shoten.

JT: In Hawaii?

KO: In Hawaii.

JT: Oh, so your uncle was here, too?

KO: Yes.

JT: Oh.

KO: My uncle didn't have children, so he and his wife were working outside. They making money. So, my father was the younger brother. My uncle told my father to go home and take care of their father and take care of the farm. Their father gave him everything they had in Japan.

JT: Oh.

KO: My father decided to go back to Japan.

JT: I see. And did your father remain in Japan? Never came back here?

KO: No, never.

KO: Yes.

JT: Oh. That was when you were how old?

KO: I was about year and a half.

JT: Oh, so you mean only your father went?

KO: No, the whole family.

JT: Oh, your whole family. All you guys went?

JT: Oh, okay, and. . .

KO: And 16 years later I returned to Hawaii.

JT: Ooh.

KO: I was 17 years old.

JT: About 16 years there, yeah.

KO: So we used to have a hard time.

JT: You remember the farm? In Japan?

KO: Yeah.

JT: You worked in the farm, too?

KO: I helped on the farm. I was helping but I was very young then. We had to hire somebody to harvest.

JT: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

KO: I have two sisters and with me, four brothers. Altogether six.

JT: Oh, okay. And you're number what?

KO: Third child.

JT: Third child?

KO: I have two sisters above me.

JT: Uhh. . .

KO: I have three younger brothers.

JT: So the older ones, did they take care of the farm after your father died?

KO: You mean sisters?

JT: Yeah.

KO: No, the eldest sister was living here with uncle.

JT: Oh, she didn't go?

KO: No, she didn't leave with us. So she graduated Washington Intermediate School.

JT: Uh huh.

KO: Then she went back to Japan.

JT: Oh, she did go to Japan?

KO: After she graduated from Japanese high school she returned to Hawaii. .

JT: And who else came back besides you?

KO: Only my sister and I because my younger brothers were born in Japan

JT: Oh, yeah, okay. Everybody under you was born in Japan.

KO: Right, right

JT: That's right. You were only year and a half so the rest were born in Japan. So of all the children, only you came back to America?

KO: Yes.

JT: Okay, and your sister here.

KO: When I returned to Hawaii my sister was already married.

JT: Who's the other one above you? Another sister?

KO: I have another sister. She was in Japan, married and she passed away.

JT: So you came back to Hawaii at what age?

KO: I was 17.

JT: Seventeen? Oh, so you lived 16 years in Japan.

KO: Yeah, right.

JT: So when you came back here you were a "Japan Bobora?"

KO: Right, right.

JT: How was your experience when you came back here?

KO: Oh, I had a hard time. I had to work. to survive. My brother-in-law got me a carpenter helper job.

JT: Oh, yeah?

KO: So I started working as a carpenter helper. I didn't know anything about carpentry. I didn't know anything about the rules. I had a hard time, really hard time. Hard time.

JT: Yeah, because everything is in English.

KO: Right, right. Even the saw was opposite way. Right? Japan saw you to to pull toward you.

JT: Oh, yeah. But Japan saw is good. It cuts real clean.

KO: Yeah.

JT: And did you go to school?

KO: No, I couldn't. I was living in Pearl City, so if I were in Honolulu I could have gone to night school.

JT: Uuh, yeah.

KO: I even thought I had a hard time because working daytime and attending night school I don't think I could have done it.

JT: Go work and supporting yourself to work overtime.

KO: Besides that, I was sending money to Japan.

JT: Ooh, wow! “Era katta ne? That was tough. So you had no chance to go to school, English school and all that?”

KO: No.

JT: So, let’s see, you were born what year now?

KO: 1923.

JT: 1923, so when you were 17 that was 1940.

KO: Yeah.

JT: Just before the war you returned to Hawaii.

KO: That’s right, that’s why the FBI got me, I think.

JT: Yeah, you were fresh from Japan.

KO: Yeah.

JT: That may have made a difference, yeah? If you had lived here number of years before that maybe would have been different.

KO: But to me, while I was working, they didn’t tell me because when you worked outside you have to have a whatcha call that. . .

JT: ID?

KO: Some kind of ID, yeah. You must go to the Navy Intelligence office and you have to apply for it. You have to fill in all that paperwork.

JT: Even to work at Pearl Harbor?

KO: No.

JT: Anywhere?

KO: Anywhere, anywhere outside.

JT: Oh.

KO: Because of martial law.

JT: But even before December 7?

KO: No, after that. That's when they got me. I showed them my application. The guy asked me if the FBI was going to come see me. I said that's strange.

JT: Let's go back to December 7 when Japan attacked Hawaii. Where were you?

KO: I was in Pearl City.

JT: What did you see?

KO: Oh, the planes were flying low and bombing.

JT: Did you see the Japan insignia on the airplane?

KO: Yeah, I saw it.

JT: When you saw that what did you think?

KO: I thought they were practicing. Nobody believed that the war had begun. And after 10:00 o'clock the Boy Scouts came around. They said this is dangerous so you must evacuate.

JT: Ooh.

KO: So we packed our "futon" and everything in my brother-in-law's car. They had a car. We evacuated. His parents were living in a plantation camp, so we went to his parents' place. I think we stayed two or three days. I went down, to help CD.

YT: Civil Defense?

KO: Yeah, Civilian Defense. Then we slept at the courthouse in Pearl City and helped people move from the Pearl City peninsula for two days.

JT: So your house was located where in Pearl City?

KO: Near Lehua Avenue which goes down Pearl City peninsula.

JT: Peninsula?

KO: By Oahu Railroad track.

JT: Ooh. . . okay, "mada" not way out in the peninsula?

KO: No, not in the peninsula. Just before the peninsula.

YT: This was your brother-in-law's house?

KO: Yes.

YT: Did he own the house?

KO: Yes.

JT: So what did you think when you learned that it was real war? Do you remember what went through your mind at that time?

KO: Gee, I was confused.

JT: What do you recall?

KO: Gee, I don't remember.

YT: Your parents were still living in Japan? Your father died, yeah?

KO: My father and my mother died, too.

YT: Ooh.

KO: My mother was gone, too.

YT: Only your sisters and your brothers.

KO: But then my auntie was living close by.

YT: In Japan?

KO: Yes. The one that was living here went back to Japan and was living close by.

JT: So here is Japan with many airplanes attacking the U. S. in Honolulu, and you've lived in Japan for a long time, went to school there, you must've talked a lot about war at that time when you were in Japan.

KO: Well, we used to. Besides there was war going on between China.

JT: Yeah, yeah. So Japan was already in a wartime situation.

KO: That's the reason why I came back early, too. My sister persuaded me.

JT: You were going to be drafted in Japan?

KO: Right. So just like my sister pulled me.

JT: Yeah, yeah, that happened to lot of “kibei.” And you came back just in time. Maybe two other ships after you. And so did you have a funny feeling with Japan attacking the U.S.?

KO: Yeah, funny feeling.

JT: Why. . .

KO: Kind of hard to say but at that time I didn’t know.

YT: You were still a teenager?

KO: I was probably 18-19.

YT: And you helped at the Community Center two days?

KO: Yeah,

YT: And what happened on the third day?

KO: I went back to work.

YT: As a carpenter?

KO: Yes. You see, we were building a house on Ewa Peninsula for the papaya farmers. Though we went back to work, we could not work because we were afraid of the soldiers running around.

YT: “Haole” soldiers?

KO: Yes.

YT: But these soldiers were Caucasian soldiers? ”Haole” soldiers that were running around.?

KO: They never came to see us.

YT: Oh, oh, but were they “Haole” soldiers or Japanese, “Nisei”? What were they?

KO: What do you mean?

YT: No, no. You said you were scared, yeah, scary to be working over there, doing carpenter work. Why was it so scary? What were these soldiers, saying things, doing things?

KO: No, they didn’t say anything, but I saw them but they didn’t come close to us. I saw them running around.

YT: They didn't come close to you?

KO: I saw them running around.

JT: So you had a sense of war going on. But when you realized that Japan and America now at war, did you feel this is a bad situation?

KO: Yeah, really bad.

JT: "Taihen na koto."

KO: Yeah.

YT: Were you scared for yourself?

KO: Oh, yeah.

YT: Because you were Japanese?

KO: Oh, yeah.

JT: When did you first get any kind of a . . .you kept working as a carpenter?

KO: Yeah, as a carpenter.

JT: Yeah, and building houses and things like that?

KO: Yes.

JT: And so you were supporting yourself with that and sending money back to Japan. Even then but you couldn't send any more money back to Japan at that time.

KO: No, not anymore.

JT: That stopped.

KO: Yeah, that stopped already.

JT: And when was the first time that you started, that you got investigated?

KO: After I applied for an ID and six months later, I think. The FBI came to my house and checked my room, Of course, I wasn't there. I was working.

JT: Ooh.

KO: At the time I was living with my sister and had one room where the FBI checked everything, and told my sister to tell me to report to the FBI office, so next day I went down.

JT: Uh huh.

KO: I went over there. They talked to me about couple of hours.

JT: Yeah?

KO: After that they said, "You can go home."

JT: What kind of questions did they ask you?

KO: All kinds of silly questions.

JT: Silly questions?

KO: Yeah.

YT: For instance.

KO: For instance, "Would you step on 'Tenno Heika no' picture?"

YT: Okay, all right.

KO: I said I would not. Why should I? I said even "Daitooryo" no picture I would not step on it. That's silly.

YT: What else did they ask you?

KO: Ooh, if you were in Japan and they drafted you, would you go in the Army and fight with the Americans? I said, "I have to if I were in the Japanese Army."

JT: Uh huh.

YT: Then you answered it as honestly as you could.

JT: Did they ask you the opposite: "If you get drafted by the U. S. will you fight?"

KO: Yeah, I told them "same thing."

YT: I want to know. These people who were asking these questions, were they all "haole"?

KO: "Haole," yes.

YT: All “haole”?

KO: “Haole,” yes.

YT: Any Japanese were there? “Nisei,” somebody.

KO: I think I had an interpreter the first time I went.

YT: Oh, you had an interpreter? Japanese? You said first time. They called you more than one time?

KO: I went second time, close to one year later. I thought they forgot already.

JT: Oh, they left you alone for one year?

KO: Yes.

JT: And then again?

KO: Yes. And I went. Same kind of questions. We talked about it. They said you can go home. I went home. And third time--that was couple of months later, I think. Two or three months later, I think.

JT: Uuh. This time shorter time.

KO: Third time, while I was working, two FBI and one policeman came after they went to my sister’s house first.. So from the job site, in my dirty clothes, they took me to Immigration.

YT: Immigration?

KO: Stayed there about three months, oh no, three weeks , I think.

YT: Three weeks?

KO: Yes.

YT: Were there other Japanese there?

KO: Yes.

YT: “Takusan”?

KO: Yes, about 15-30 people.

JT: Did you know any of them?

KO: Yes.

JT: At that time you knew some of them?

KO: Yes.

JT: Were they “Kibei,” “Nisei”?

KO: They were all “Kibei,” “Nisei,” and some “Issei.”

JT: All these were “Kibei,” “Nisei”?

KO: Some old folks, yes.

YT: Were your family allowed to come and visit you during those three weeks?

YT: Not those three weeks at Immigration.

KO: No, no, no.

YT: No family was allowed, even the other people, older people, nobody was allowed?

JT: This was at Immigration Station?

YT: Looks like you were in jail.

KO: That’s right. We stayed in the barracks, and the MP was stationed outside the barbed wire fence.

JT: Yeah? Oh.

YT: Did they question you everyday?

KO: No, no, no.

YT: Just stay over there?

KO: Stay over there and waiting for your turn for hearing.

JT: Hearing, okay.

YT: So they just feed you, just like animals. “Kedamono no yooni.” They just feed you.

KO: Well, we went inside the mess hall.

YT: Mess hall?

KO: Yes, mess hall. MP's mess hall.

YT: You had enough to eat?

KO: Yes, enough to eat.

YT: "Nihon" . . .

KO: No, no. no.

YT: Potato?

KO: Not used to that kind of food.

YT: Bread and potato, huh?

KO: Yes.

JT: Now, at that time, your English wasn't too fluent, huh? It's better now.

KO: Yes, I guess so.

JT: So, more at that time, you sounded like a Japanese citizen, yeah, I think?

KO: I guess so.

JT: And did you have your hearing?

KO: Yes, I had hearing.

JT: And what kind of hearing was that?

KO: Ooh, let's see, what kind of hearing.

YT: Did they ask you again? They put the picture on the floor and. . .

KO: No, no, no.

YT: This was different?

KO: Different, different. That was with a civilian, I think, the hearing.

JT: Were there any Japanese in the hearing?

- KO: I don't think so, I don't know remember.
- JT: All "haole"? And they asked you who do you want to win the war?
- KO: No, they didn't ask that.
- JT: They didn't ask you that? What did they ask you?
- KO: Gee, I forgot what they asked me.
- YT: You sure you didn't answer correct because they put you in Honouliuli?
- KO: And after they "pau" they sent me to Honouliuli, and one year later I had to move.
- YT: Oh, again?
- KO: Yes. Then "I tell 'em off." They asked me, "You wanna go out?" I said, "Sure, I want to go out." "You go out and you join the Army and you go and fight the Japanese?" "You guys draft me I will, but until then I will remain here one year. I haven't done anything wrong. I went to work everyday. I even purchased a bond every week. What are you guys going do? Let's clear that first before you send me home."
- YT: So, what did they say?
- KO: The guy was shaking his head.
- JT: He shook his head like your question deserved no answer?
- KO: Yeah, funny kind of question.
- YT: That's right. You think that's what sent you to Tule Lake?
- KO: I think so.
- JT: Because you told 'em that they did something wrong.
- KO: Yes.
- JT: They can't handle that.
- YT: Were there other people like you?
- KO: I guess so.
- YT: I mean you were not the only one who was sent to Tule Lake, huh?

KO: Oh, yeah.

JT: How many people?

KO: About 60, about 70 people, I think.

YT: “Issho ni”?

KO: Yes, same time, in the same boat.

JT: Was Urata “sensei” one of them?

KO: Yeah, right, he was with us.

JT: Because he answered similar to you, similar kind answer. He said, “Well, you guys brought me in here, now you take care of me the rest of the war.” So he went to Tule Lake. Any kind of answer that, like your answer, you know, they couldn’t trust you.

YT: How was your treatment at Honouliuli?

KO: Treatment was all right.

YT: Only the mosquitoes were bad?

KO: The mosquitoes were really bad. That’s the word They sprayed DDT at night which made it a little better, but. . .

JT: Wasn’t too bad?

YT: Did anybody get sick over there? Did they have medical care?

KO: I guess so, sick, yes. Even myself, you know the Army food and I had kidney trouble.

YT: Aigh.

KO: Ooh, night time I had backache. I couldn’t sleep. So I went to the dispensary and there was one Japanese doctor inside. Same internee.

YT: Ooh.

KO: Dr. Uchida. Check my “shishi” and said, “anata jinzoo ga warui.” Then they sent me to Army hospital. They took my X-ray, and they said “nothing wrong.”

JT: Cleared up?

KO: Yes. Nothing was wrong so I wasn’t given any medicine.

JT: Ooh?

KO: So doctor said try not to eat too much fat stuff. So I went in the kitchen as a cook's helper. I didn't know anything about cooking, but I went in as a helper.

JT: Yeah.

KO: I opened the canned tuna and mixed the tuna, and I used to eat that.

JT: You could do that, huh?

KO: Yes.

YT: Otherwise "niku bakkari."

KO: Yeah, everyday meat.

JT: Yeah, how can they tell you stay away from fat when they only feeding red meat.

YT: "Sakana ga nai kara no?"

JT: After a while didn't you get other kind of food? Didn't they bring in? No? All the same thing all the time you were in Honouliuli? No change?

KO: When some internees, accompanied by MPs, used to go outside the camp for clean up, this man told me to take cactus juice. So I asked them to bring it back for me. Then after lunch I used to go in the kitchen and grate the cactus and take it everyday. .

JT: Ooh.

YT: "Naotta"?

KO: After taking cactus juice for six months, I went to the hospital and asked the doctor for an exam, and he found no trace of kidney problem.. YT: And no pain?

JT: From the cactus juice. I think so.

YT: Clear.

JT: What kind of barrack did you stay in at Honouliuli?

KO: When I first went, there were no rooms, so they pitched tents outside.

JT: Tent?

KO: Yes, I was staying in the tent for a while. After 50 people were sent to the mainland, Santa Fe, we were moved into the barracks.

JT: How many people in the barrack?

KO: Aah, eight people.

JT: Eight?

KO: Because the bed was stacked with 1 x 8 with the 2 x 4 up and down.

JT: Yeah. Two? Do you remember who was with you in that barrack?

KO: First I knew the name was. . .

JT: You want to. . .so who was bunking with you in the Honouliuli barrack?

KO: Kuba or Kubo, Kubo, and also Mr. Kanaya, and myself, and Horita.

JT: Two more other people.

YT: That's okay if he cannot remember. "Ano" when you were in Honouliuli, "toshiyori no hito mo otta"? Old people? And they did okay?

KO: Yeah, was all right.

YT: The food was bad, different from "miso shiru and tofu" and whatever. They were okay?

KO: Yeah.

YT: And the family could come visit?

KO: Yeah, they used to have visiting every other week, I think.

YT: Every other week?

KO: They used to come on the Oahu Railway bus. I don't know, I guess they chartered Oahu Railway bus, I think.

YT: Oh, bus.

KO: Yeah, of course, they had to pay for it.

YT: Yeah.

KO: My sister visited twice.

YT: How long were you in there? One year? Two years?

KO: Year and half, I think.

YT: Year and a half and you only had two times visit?

KO: I can ask anytime.

YT: Yeah?

KO: But, you know. . .

YT: Hard, no?

KO: Yeah, my sister had kids, too, you know.

YT: Yeah. “Kodomo konakatta”?

KO: Eh? She brought one time.

JT: Did the visitors hide things and bring to their people?

KO: I don't think so.

JT: We heard some of them did that.

KO: Oh, yeah?

JT: Yeah.

KO: I guess they didn't bother to check the body, I think.

JT: But visiting is good, but hard to end the visit.

KO: Yeah, young couple like that. A guy name Kaneshiro. He got married one week before he was interned. They came night time and picked him up.

YT: “Namae nan data”?

KO: Kaneshiro.

YT: Kaneshi. . .

KO: Shonen Kaneshiro.

JT: Do you remember a sergeant by the name of Sergeant Loveless?

KO: Sergeant Loveless? Yeah, I think so.

JT: Do you remember anything about him?

KO: No.

JT: Some of the internees talked about Sergeant Loveless, that they loved him very much because he helped them.

KO: I guess he was nice guy.

JT: In fact, he was so nice to them that one time he got scolding by the commander. That much he was very understanding to the internees.

KO: There was one guy, local guy, when we used to go out sometime from the camp, of course MP came with us, he came along. He didn't even bring the gun. He had only the pistol case, that's it. Because he was a local boy, huh?

JT: Hawaii?

KO: Yeah, Hawaii. I forget his name.

JT: Did he bring any good things for you guys, food or anything?

KO: No, no.

JT: He couldn't do that.

YT: You folks went out of the camp? And he would go with you, accompany you? When you went out from camp what were you allowed to do? Could you go to the store and buy. . .

KO: No, no, no. Cannot go outside the fort. Around there, we clean up.

YT: Only around the area, clean up?

KO: Yeah, yeah.

JT: Did you get paid for that?

KO: I don't think so. Maybe \$3.00 a month.

JT: I thought was \$15 or something a month, \$16, I think.

KO: That was ah. . .

- YT: That was on the mainland.
- KO: Mainland.
- JT: Yeah, but I thought at Honouliuli. . .
- KO: Concentration. . .Honouliuli they give us, I think, \$3.00 a month..
- JT: \$3.00 a month! So you can buy things.
- KO: So you can buy things, and then they had PX open like that, selling candy, toothpaste and, you know, but they supply us every month . . .
- Int: Toothpaste like that they used to buy you, right?
- KO: Right.
- JT: You don't have to buy that. You had to buy cigarettes, candy, maybe.
- KO: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- JT: Could your family bring money to you? They cannot give you money?
- KO: I mean, I guess can but where you going to spend the money?
- JT: Yeah, yeah.
- KO: Back mainland like that, yeah, you can order from outside, Sears Roebuck or Spiegle, clothing like that.
- YT: Catalogue?
- KO: Catalogue, but not here.
- JT: What else do you remember about Honouliuli besides the mosquitoes and the food?
- YT: Hot, huh?
- KO: Yeah, hot. Always take one shot.
- YT: Were there any arguments in camp?
- KO: No, not that I know of.
- YT: Really? Everybody was. . .was it a quiet camp?

KO: Yeah, uh huh.

JT: What about. . .you have any suspicions about the other internees, like maybe this guy is an “inu” or something?

KO: No, not that I know of.

YT: Weren’t you one of the youngest there?

KO: Yeah, I guess I was one of the youngest there.

YT: Yeah.

KO: Get some more younger guys than me, you know.

YT: Oh, there were?

KO: Yeah.

YT: Not too many though.

KO: Well . . .

YT: No more, huh, younger ones “yutara,” my goodness.

JT: What was the age limit? Could they bring somebody in there at 15 years of age?

KO: Yeah, I think this guy, young boy I think, 15 or 16.

JT: Oh, yeah?

YT: No parents or what?

KO: I don’t know. I don’t think so.

YT: Really? “Kawaisoo ni.” What was the oldest? Do you remember what. . .80-year-old “mo otta”?

KO: Maybe, yeah, yeah.

YT: “Honto”? You mean “shira” kind.

KO: Yeah, yeah.

JT: You mean “Nisei”?

YT: “Issei”?

JT: I know, but I’m talking about “Nisei,” Kibei.”

YT: I’m talking about everybody.

KO: Well, like “Nisei,” you know, Sanji Abe, Senator Kido, also Thomas Sakakihara.

YT: They were old?

KO: They wasn’t that time, they weren’t old, you know, for “Nisei.” Why they gotta go inside there. They get nothing to do with the war. They were Territorial senators.

YT: Did anybody die in camp? Honouliuli?

KO: Not that I know of.

YT: Not that you know of? Nobody died?

JT: So how did you spend your time, all the time in camp?

KO: Ooh, you know, they bring the coral from the ocean and put in the camp, yeah. So we dig that coral, then we go find the shell, then we go find---what kind of shell you call that—“tsubu” kind shell, you know, pick ‘em up and they make it flat and they make necklace, shell necklace.

JT: Oh, yeah? How did you make it? Did you have to make a hole in it?

KO: No, but you make it flat with the stone and then you “suru” ‘em and make it really flat then you put ‘em all together.

YT: “Soo shite doo shita no, are de”?

KO: I don’t know. I think. . .

YT: You have one?

JT: You have one?

KO: I think after I got married.

JT: How about that!

KO: Some people they were making tray.

YT: Tray? You mean carved?

KO: With the monkeypod tree.

YT: Monkeypod?

KO: Yeah, they apply and then they used to make the tray.

YT: Carved?

KO: Yeah, flat kind tray. Some people used to make a leaf, you know. . .

YT: Before the toothpaste came in the aluminum kind. . .

KO: No, the plastic kind, they used the tooth brush handle to make rings.

JT: Ooh. And were there others who wrote poems and drew pictures?

KO: I don't know that part.

JT: Artist, no artist?

KO: Had some place, too, like Urata like that he used to play guitar everytime.

YT: Aah.

JT: Ooh. You played?

KO: No, I don't play.

YT: Harmonica 'wa'? Harmonica "atta no"?

KO: I don't know.

JY: And did you grow vegetables?

KO: No.

JT: I heard there was a "yasai butai."

KO: Yeah, some people, yeah, yeah.

JT: You saw them?

KO: Yeah, yeah.

JT: Because they didn't have Japanese vegetables so they grew the. . .one of them they grew was the radish.

KO: Yeah, yeah.

JT: It grows fast, so they grew the radish.

KO: Yeah, yeah, how many times they grow radish.

YT: "Aka daikon"?

KO: Yeah, "aka daikon." They used to bring 'em in the messhall.

JT: Yeah, and you can eat the leaves, too, yeah? "Tsukemono."

KO: You know from the \$3.00 we used to chip in quarter or something and we used to buy that "miso." To make "miso" soup.

JT: Ooh. Yeah?

YT: Who used to go and buy the "miso" for you?

KO: Well, just gotta ask the MPs in the office.

YT: Yeah?

KO: They buy.

YT: They would buy?

JT: Ooh. "Miso, shoyu," I think, yeah. Okay, so Honouliuli is gonna be closed up now and then what did they do with you?

KO: Whacha mean?

JT: They gave you hearing, huh?

KO: Yeah.

JT: Did they let you go and you join the Army and so forth? But you gave 'em the wrong answer.

KO: Yeah. I said, "I do, but before I go, I go out, everything make clear." I told 'em.

JT: What did you want them to do?

- KO: I told them after I was held here for one year, done nothing, whatcha like me do?
- JT: Did you want them to clear your name that you didn't do anything?
- KO: Anything, anything. I know, I know they cannot do anything, but I just wanted to tell 'em off.
- JT: Ooh, yeah.
- YT: So soon after that, they told you you were going to ship out to. . .
- KO: Yeah.
- YT: You and 60 other people?
- JT: Did you expect that you were going to. . .
- KO: After martial law expired they cannot keep us.
- YT: Aah.
- KO: You see. Since we cannot stay in internment camp so either release us or send us to the mainland.
- YT: That's kind of strange. What's the difference? Mainland is United States, too, and you're a citizen.
- KO: Yeah, right.
- YT: But they can put you some place on the mainland but not in Honouliuli.
- JT: Yeah, and the excuse is that the technical reason was they were here in Honouliuli because of martial law.
- KO: Yeah, yeah.
- YT: Mainland did not have martial law?
- JT: Mainland didn't have martial law, but they had internment camps.
- KO: Right.
- JT: It was martial law for them.
- KO: Right. Same thing being over here.

JT: So it is. . .

KO: With the barbed wires.

Int: Yeah.

KO: The guard outside.

JT: It's an ironical situation, sure.

YT: Did they tell you that they were going to send you to Honouliuli if you didn't behave yourself? No, that's not right.

JT: Tule Lake.

YT: Aah, Tule Lake, rather.

JT: So, did you expect to go to Tule Lake after you gave 'em that answer?

KO: Uuh, no, I never. . .

JT: You thought you might be released?

KO: Yeah.

JT: Aah, so you were little surprised, huh?

YT: Wow, you didn't expect to be sent.

JT: So you were an unhappy camper.

YT: All the way through.

KO: Well, of course, I was single, so any place I go doesn't make a difference to me.

YT: So you were ready.

KO: Uh huh.

YT: How many single people like you? Were there quite a few who were single? Most of them were married?

KO: Oh, yeah, uh huh.

JT: So now, Tule Lake, how did you go there? By ship?

KO: Ship.

JT: How was the ship?

KO: Oh, it was crowded. They put us way in front, way on the bottom. Yeah, the boat rocked up and down and you can feel 'em.

YT: Did you get sick?

KO: I never got seasick.

JT: Oh, yeah. Oh, you were good on the water.

KO: Yeah. I never got seasick in so many days. . .

JT: Took a long time, didn't it? Going from here to San Francisco.

KO: No, we went via Seattle.

JT: Oh, Seattle?

KO: With the convoy, Navy convoy.

JT: Oh, but you had to zigzag, huh?

KO: Yeah, uh huh.

JT: How many days?

KO: About three weeks, I guess, maybe two weeks.

YT: And you were saying every two days what?

KO: Sent us to clean up the bathroom.

YT: Whose bathroom?

KO: Everybody's. Everybody over there. Bathroom, plus shower, so I was volunteer there. I was volunteer and from inside lock the door, no let anybody come inside, lock the door, clean up, then we take shower.

YT: Haa.

KO: Take our time take shower.

JT: Take your sweet time.

KO: Yeah.

YT: Were you allowed to take a bath everyday?

KO: No.

YT: Honouliuli “wa”? You took a bath everyday?

KO: Oh, Honouliuli yeah, anytime you can take a bath, anytime, day or night, anytime.

YT: But on the ship you couldn't?

KO: No, no.

YT: “Nihon-jin dakara” you have to have a bath, yeah?

JT: And so you arrived in Seattle, huh?

KO: Uh huh. Cold, cold. Didn't see anybody over there.

JT: Seattle--Bremerton Company.

KO: So, Army they give us before we ship out they give us underwear, overcoat.

YT: Did they fit you, the clothes?

KO: Yeah.

YT: They fit? Wasn't the “haole” kind, and so big?

JT: Underwear--you mean long underwear, huh?

KO: Yeah, the long john.

JT: Long john, yeah.

YT: Long john.

JT: And Seattle, from there where did you go?

KO: Go straight to Tule Lake.

JT: Tule Lake.

YT: By train?

KO: Yeah, train.

YT: Slow train, huh?

JT: Tule Lake is in California, huh?

KO: Yeah. California, borderline between Oregon and California.

JT: And Tule Lake, when you arrived there, what did you see?

KO: Well, they put us in what they call "Plus 99," on the side of the--way on the side--the corner, along the stockade or some place over there. And another place had barbed wire outside. They put us inside there because we cannot go inside the Lake camp because the camp all fill up.

JT: Ooh.

KO: They had to look for a vacant room. Some rooms had one person inside.

JT: So you all split up?

KO: Yeah. So we split up.

YT: Oh, my.

KO: Not even together, you know. All everybody separated.

JT: They didn't care.

KO: Yeah. Everybody separated. But I was lucky. There was one place where a family had trouble in the internment camp. The family moved out, and only the old man was in the big room, so they needed four of us to go inside there.

JT: From Honouliuli?

KO: So four of us, I didn't think four guys can stay together.

JT: Yeah. You remember who they were?

KO: Yeah, this guy Matsuura. He was Wisteria Japanese section chef. He died already couple of years ago, and this guy Morinobu and myself,

JT: Ooh. So at the new place, you have a picture of that Tule Lake house.

KO: Yeah, yeah.

JT: We'll take the picture a little later. So how was life at Tule Lake?

KO: Well, it was all right. Was better than Honouliuli, much much better than Honouliuli.

YT: Why?

KO: Because lot of families came.

YT: But they were mainland, huh, "Kotonks"?

KO: Yeah, yeah.

YT: And they were good to you? They were nice to you?

KO: Yeah, same Japanese. They were nice.

JT: So by that time Tule Lake had organized the activities. Did they have sports and everything?

KO: Yeah, they had. We played sports.

JT: Yeah. And school for the children?

KO: Yeah.

JT: Yeah, yeah.

KO: Kindergarten to high school over there.

JT: "She" meaning this lady here. Here we are. That's Etsuko, right? And she was in Tule Lake. Did you see her there?

KO: No.

JT: Okay. So you didn't meet there.

KO: No. LA.

JT: Etsuko, you got your high school diploma at Tule Lake?

EO: No, no, no.

JT: No? Oh.

EO: I think I attended high school about one year, and then we decided we might get deported so I thought I better go for Japanese language instead of completing high school.

YT: Where? In Tule Lake?

EO: Tule Lake.

YT: Oh, they had Japanese school?

EO: Yes.

JT: Oh, okay. All right. . .

YT: Why did you think that you might be deported? Did they say anything?

EO: No, there were many disloyals in Tule Lake, and we had no idea what was going to happen to us. .

JT: Uh huh.

EO: We were considered disloyal.

YT: Why?

EO: Because we experienced discrimination on the outside, we could not swear whether we were going to be loyal to the United states or loyal to Japan.

YT: And how did you answer?

EO: Disloyal.

YT: Really? You were one of the “No-Nos”?

EO: Yes.

JT: Oh, yeah.

EO: In fact, I even renounced my citizenship, but I was still underage that’s why it didn’t go through.

JT: Oh.

YT: What about your parents? How did they answer?

EO: They were confused.

YT: You had your parents there with you?

EO: Yeah, they were out there.

YT: And how did they handle it?

EO: They were willing to be deported to Japan.

YT: That's why you were concerned.

JT: Okay, so Tule Lake was known for a place for the resistance.

KO: Yeah, yeah, more over there, yeah.

JT: Okay, so because of that, well, maybe you can't compare with other camps, but were they harsh because of a lot of resistance there? In what way was it harsh?

KO: Well. . .

JT: . . .and made the life. . .

EO: Well, demonstrations and things like that, huh? Because if you're disloyal they put you in the stockade.

JT: But, otherwise, you could . . .you had your routine, and how different was the routine there compared to Honouliuli?

KO: The place is big, really big because 18,000 Japanese.

JT: Uh huh. You got to see more people?

KO: Yes.

JT: You had chance to see more people, meet people?

KO: Oh, yeah, yeah. In fact, I met one guy when I was coming back, same time coming back, one guy went to Los Angeles and where I got off. Then when I went over there I said, "Oh, you are dentist." Of course, he was married and he had kids.

JT: Oh.

KO: Lot of business over there, yeah.

JT: So you remember when you went to Tule Lake?

EO: December 1942.

JT: Uh huh. So December, the war ended in August '45, that's eight more months, you were there all that time? And what kind of activities did you engage in? Did you play baseball, things like that?

KO: No, no.

JT: What did you do?

KO: Yeah, I was working over there, food warehouse.

JT: Food warehouse?

KO: Uh huh. Dry food warehouse, I was working over there.

JT: But you were a carpenter, yeah?

KO: Yeah.

JT: Did you ever use your carpentry?

KO: No, no. I was working food warehouse. Big place, every night 10,000 guys all line up.

JT: Oh. In other words they had ingredients for Japanese food?

KO: Yeah. Japanese, they had everything, even Aji-no-moto. Had Aji-no moto, shredded kind shrimp.

JT: Uh huh.

KO: The kind stuff they had.

JT: So what was your job in that warehouse?

KO: Well, everyday we would check the food list to deliver to the mess Halls. Each mess hall had about 300 people. We had to deliver every day.

JT: Every day? Ooh.

KO: Our warehouse contained dry goods. We used to send out rice and flour.

JT: Rice, flour, sugar.

KO: Yeah. The people came to pick them up, so we get all that mess hall per month. The items were lined up on the floor to be picked up.

JT: Did all the mess halls have the same menu?

KO: Yeah, I guess so.

JT: Everyday? I mean did they have different menu everyday, spaghetti today and . . .

KO: No, I guess they had same menu.

JT: You mean you ate the same food everyday?

KO: No, no, no, not everyday.

JT: Yeah, yeah.

KO: Everyday different menu.

JT: Yeah.

YT: Was the food better at Tule Lake than Honouliuli?

KO: Oooh. . .

JT: What kind of Japanese style cooking was there? Did they have tofu and things like that?

KO: Yeah, tofu.

JT: But did they have Japanese-style cooking?

KO: Oh, yes, all Japanese cooking. All the internees did the cooking.

JT: Yeah?

KO: Even in Honouliuli professional chefs were cooking. Like vegetable chef, all kinds of chefs.

YT: But sometimes. . .did you always have the ingredients you needed, shoyu and all that?

KO: Yeah, like shoyu like that was on the table.

JT: What about vegetables?

KO: Vegetables, we had though. Over there, too, the internees went out to plant the vegetables. We had all kinds of vegetables, yeah.

JT: Yeah? Oh, good. So you ate healthy food then?

KO: Yeah, well, what they had was all right.

JT: Oh, so that was the . . . kept you busy there in the food warehouse.

KO: Yeah, uh huh. Really nothing to do so I might as well go work. How much did I get paid? Sixteen dollars a month.

JT: \$16 a month.

KO: Yeah.

JT: If you were working as a carpenter you would have gotten \$19 a month.

KO: Yeah, I think so, but. . .

YT: When the war ended you were at Tule Lake?

KO: Right.

YT: What happened on that day? Did people cheer or did people. . .

KO: Sad, really was sad, yeah.

YT: Sad? Why were they sad?

KO: Because Japan lost. Some people didn't believe it.

YT: Really, no, they couldn't believe.

JT: All the Hawaii guys that came back, did they return to Hawaii?

KO: Most. . . lot of people stayed back.

JT: They did? How come?

KO: Well, maybe they looked for jobs. I don't know.

JT: What about single people?

KO: I stayed around 2-3 months, then I came back.

YT: When the war ended, what did they do to you? Did they let you out? How did they get rid of you? How did they. . .

KO: They let you leave any place you wanted to go.

- JT: So you were free?
- KO: Yeah. They let you leave but you have to find out where to go and what you have to do, especially those with family.
- YT: Family, yeah.
- KO: The families had no place to go because they needed to lease a place, and were taking care of the fruits. After they were interned no one to care for the crops. They had no place to go back to.
- EO: No furniture, no mattress, no car, no nothing. Just the clothes on their back.
- YT: Kind of scary to go back to California anyway, right, I mean to where you were before anyway, because the people over there might not. . .
- EO: They were not happy. They didn't want us back.
- JT: How much money did they give you? Did they give you any money?
- KO: Nothing.
- JT: I heard everybody got \$25.00.
- KO: I don't know.
- YT: You didn't get \$25.00? You folks didn't get \$25.00?
- KO: No, no. no.
- JT: You got cheated. First time I heard that. That's what I heard. They gave everybody \$25.00. That's what I heard.
- KO: I never heard that.
- JT: Now, those people who got it, I guess they assumed that everybody else got that much, too. That's not true. Now, we know.
- YT: You didn't have any place to go? Did they let you stay in camp until you could find a place?
- KO: Yeah.
- YT: How long did they let you stay in camp, I wonder.

- KO: The following year Tule Lake was to close in March, March I think.
- YT: 1946? I wonder if there weren't anybody left when they closed.
- KO: Well, everybody left.
- YT: I know. But I wonder there were some people who had to be forced out.
- KO: Yeah, I guess so.
- YT: You folks left?
- EO: Well, we had relatives in Hawaii, so they helped us to relocate.
- YT: Where? Over here in Hawaii?
- EO: Otherwise, we wouldn't have any place to go.
- YT: So you came to Hawaii?
- EO: That's why we came to Hawaii.
- YT: Aah.
- JT: So you stayed there for two or three months. What did you do?
- KO: Oh, just look around. What can I do?
- JT: Look around?
- KO: But it was so cold. I left in December, but it was so cold. What could I do? Carpenter job.
- YT: When the war ended it was cold, huh?
- JT: In Tule Lake in the wintertime, did it get real cold?
- EO: Oh, yeah, we had snow.
- KO: It was snowing, you know.
- YT: Icicle?
- KO: Icicle falling down like that.
- YT: Yeah, that's near Oregon border. That's pretty far north. And inland so it's colder.

KO: Lucky thing, I was young.

YT: So now you've come back to Hawaii, what did you do?

KO: Back to carpenter.

JT: Back to carpenter? Okay.

KO: After working about one year, my boss said he was going to quit the contractor business, so he asked us if we wanted to take over.

JT: Oh?

KO: Well, we can try, so me and couple of other guys bought him out to try the contractor business. It wasn't too good so one guy dropped out and another guy and I stayed on. But I was called for draft duty and couldn't get deferment so we decided to quit the business.

JT: I had nothing to do.

YT: Since you got in you were drafted?

KO: I was drafted and had to go for basic training. I was in the service for 22 months, but since the war that was over they reduced my service to 12 months and was transferred to reserve status.

JT: Oh?

KO: So, after basic, I asked to be stationed in Japan. They said cannot because your time is too short. Because basic training took about three months, not enough time. They would send me over there and I would need to get out.

JT: But couldn't you volunteer for more time?

KO: They said, "If you volunteer for three more years then we can send you." I said, "No thank you." I did not like Army life.

YT: So, your company was still waiting for you? Your partner was still waiting for you?

KO: No, we decided to quit before I joined the Army.

JT: He bought you out?

KO: No, nobody bought me out. They split everything--machine and everything.

JT: Oh, I see.

KO: And after I went in the Army I sold all the power tools.

JT: Ooh. . .

KO: Those days they didn't have too many power tools. Right after the war, that's why. Lotta guys never had.

YT: Power tools?

KO: Yeah. Refrigerator and washing machine were hard to get. Easy to sell that's why.

JT: Yeah. So in the Army what did you do?

KO: They put me in as a construction engineer. I was a carpenter. Construction engineer was hard work, you know. So I went out with them one day, and next morning the First Sergeant called me and said, "From today on I'm going put you in the carpentry shop." I said, "Oh, thank you." From then on the carpentry shop was so much easier. I stayed in the carpenter shop all by myself.

JT: By yourself?

KO: A Spanish guy was taking charge of the carpenter shop. He didn't know anything about carpentry, but just because he had one more stripe than me, he was in charge. I was PFC at that time. So he was taking charge. Not enough work. Sometime in the office they would throw things.

JT: So basically the carpenter shop is to maintain the equipment?

KO: What you mean?

JT: What was your job in the carpenter shop?

KO: They would bring things in for me to fix.

YT: Like he said when the door got stuck he had to go fix the door.

KO: I would fix the drawers.

JT: Yeah, a lotta maintenance.

KO: Yeah, and they gave me a Jeep with a driver.

JT: Trouble call.

KO: Yeah, trouble call, things like that.

JT: Okay. So that was nice job.

KO: Yeah, one “haole,” young lieutenant, was in charge. Nice guy, really nice guy.

JT: You must’ve liked him.

KO: Yeah. Sometimes I wanted to come home weekdays. If I asked him he would issue a six-day pass.

JT: Yeah? Oh.

KO: He used to give me three days pass.

JT: Yeah. Oh, the famous Army three-day pass.

KO: Yeah. I had an easy life.

JT: And so 12 months you got out?

KO: This lieutenant asked me to stay back another three years.

JT: Yeah.

KO: “Well, if you’re gonna stay three years with me, I don’t mind.” I said, “but I don’t know where you might be transferred. And maybe the next time a lousy guy might come.” So I said, “I no like.”

JT: Yeah, yeah. That’s the Army for you, you know. You don’t know when they gonna leave. Oh, so there was no deal there, huh?

KO: Yeah.

JT: So when you got out. . .

KO: So I got out December. . .I was going with her anyway that time.

JT: Oh, okay.

YT: Oh, oh.

KO: And so I got out December and that’s when we got married.

YT: I see.

JT: Yeah, so you were in the same camp at the same time?

KO: No, no, no, I didn't. . .

JT: You were not there at the same time?

EO: I didn't get there until April of '42. And he came out in December of '45.

JT: So you were there at the same time for a little while then.

EO: No, but it's such a big camp, yeah?

JT: I know. You didn't know each other, but you were there, then you came here and met.

KO: She was going to school.

YT: Oh.

JT: Just because you couldn't stay on the mainland you came here and that's how you met. How interesting, and so after the Army were you in the Reserve?

KO: Yeah, actually I didn't get a full discharge.

JT: Just separated.

KO: Yeah, so after I got out I had to go report to the Reserve at Fort DeRussy. I was living in Pearl City, and I didn't have a car. Every Monday night they used to have training, so I had to go to Fort DeRussy. They told me, "If you go join the National Guard then you can transfer." At the time there was a National Guard unit in Waipahu so I said okay. If I join the Reserve I must remain for five years. If I join the National Guard it will be three years so I said, "I will take the National Guard."

JT: Yeah.

KO: But, the Korean War started.

YT: Ooh.

KO: After three years the enlistment was frozen so I could not be discharged..

JT: Uuh.

KO: So I had to stay one more year. By then I was married. We took over her parents' dry cleaning shop. I was living in town, and I used to go to Pearl City every Monday night for training.

JT: Oh, every Monday night training, yeah, yeah.

KO: And plus summer camp I used to go two weeks every summer. She was working hard. She really worked hard.

JT: But you didn't have to go combat?

KO: Yeah, then the Korean War began. I was on standby and could not get discharged. And after one more year I was discharged.

JT: Uh, uh.

KO: So I served five years in the Army.

JT: So back to civilian life, carpenter?

KO: So we ran the dry cleaning business for 15 years.

JT: Dry cleaning?

KO: Yeah.

JT: So no carpenter?

KO: No. After I got out of the Army I never went back to carpentry. After I got married I took over the dry cleaning business for 15 years. Then, the wash 'n wear garments began coming out and business dropped.

JT: Oooh.

KO: I started going out to pick up and deliver clothing, but the business slacked so we decided to quit. We sold the place. Then I was thinking that at the same time this guy, Morris Matsumoto, used to manage a wholesaling company. He needed a driver, so he came to see me. I had no experience about driver-salesman job. He assured me that he'll train me because it's not hard. Well, maybe I can find something else while I'm working, so I started.

JT: Headache job? Deliver but try to sell more, too.

KO: Yeah. You have to service and sell to the super markets.

JT: Deliver but try to sell more, too.

KO: Yeah.

JT: So how long did you do that?

KO: Five years. After five years I told Matsumoto my older boy attending Iolani and Columbia University. I needed more money. So I decided to quit. I will go back to work as a carpenter. Carpenters make more money.

JT: Better money?

KO: Yeah, yeah. So I told Mr. Matsumoto I needed to earn more money.

JT: Who did you work for?

KO: I worked for David Nakano. He was taking all the inside jobs. So I never worked outside form job. I did all the inside jobs.

JT: Yeah? You like that.

YT: Your oldest son graduated from Columbia?

KO: Yeah, yeah.

YT: What did he do?

KO: He's at Kaiser, M.D.

YT: "Doko? Dono Kaiser?"

KO: Moanalua.

YT: "Honto?" Oh, yeah, how wonderful.

KO: And the No. 2. . .

YT: Yeah. . .

KO: He wanted to go Iolani, but I told him the older brother went to mainland college. But when you go college, you name any college you want and I send you, even if I have to sell our house I will send you, I told him.

YT: Yeah.

KO: So he understood.

YT: Yeah.

KO: So he graduated with honors.

YT: Wow! "Yokatta no"? "Soshite kara"?

KO: Then he went to University of Pacific, and earned a degree in pharmacy.

YT: Wow! That's great.

KO: Then he returned and got a job at Queen's.

JT: Oh, he's a doctor of pharmacy—pharmacologist.

KO: Yeah. So he's taking charge of four pharmacies at Queens.

YT: Wow! So you have two boys. Any more?

KO: That's all I have.

YT: Wonderful. Oh, "unshin," huh?

JT: We're gonna swap.

KO: I made 82.

YT: "Yokatta," good for you.

(NOTE: The following conversation took place while viewing photographs.)

JT: Okay, that's a shot of Tule Lake, panoramic shot of Tule Lake camp. Barracks are in the background, interior of the picture. Okay, that's a shot at Tule Lake with Akira Tabuchi. You on the right, and he's on the left. Okay?

YT: Look at the snow.

JT: And this other one.

YT: Fukuda.

JT: Tadao Fukuda.

KO: Yeah, he died.

JT: Okay, that's him on the left. That's also at Tule Lake, and it looks cold there, cold. Okay, thank you. Okay, that's a shot of Tule Lake. Who are they?

EO: Tule Sunday School.

JT: Sunday School? Oh, couple of hundred kids there. Okay, thank you.

JT: That's a shot of you in uniform.

KO: Right after basic.

JT: Right after basic training?

KO: Uh huh.

JT: You were lean and mean there. You had Kozo and you after release from Tule Lake Relocation Center, draftee. That's after basic training at Schofield.

KO: Yeah.

JT: Okay. I see that. I'm gonna zoom in on that patch. That's Pacific, United States Army, Pacific (USARPAC).

KO: USARPAC.

JT: USARPAC patch. Okay, and then the other pictures you are on a bicycle there, and that looks like some place on the island.

KO: Big Island.

JT: Big Island, okay.

KO: Kilauea.

JT: That's you on the bike there?

KO: Nope.

JT: No? How about this one? That's okay.

KO: The guy on the right from Maui, Miyamoto.

JT: Okay.

KO: Keep the light on the uniform. I'm in the tee shirt.

JT: Oh, you're in a tee shirt. Okay. There you are again on a bike. And that's another one over there by the tree, huh?

KO: Tree root.

JT: Okay.

KO: Friday night go pick 'em up. Let me stay with you.

JT: Okay, leave that. This is a family picture, and it's Mom and Pop and the two youngsters. The older one is who?

EO: Steven.

JT: Steven?

EO: Uh huh.

JT: And the younger one?

EO: Emerick.

JT: Emerick? Okay, Steven and Emerick.

EO: Uh huh.

JT: Steven is 51?

EO: Yeah.

JT: And Emerick is about 48? I guessed it. Okay, thank you.

JT: Okay, that's at Schofield. You got PFC stripes there.

KO: Yeah, I think so.

JT: And here's another picture of you and a buddy.

KO: Uh huh.

JT: Another picture of you there. Okay, now flip the picture over. Okay, and that picture of you. . .

KO: My graduation from basic training.

JT: And I'm going to zoom in to the USARPAC patch.

KO: Yes.

JT: Okay. Thank you, thank you.

KO: "Pau"?

JT: Not “pau” yet. Okay, take the picture down. Okay, this is Chris on the left, of course, and Trina. Chris is the son of Steven.

KO: Right.

JT: And Trina is daughter of Emerick. Down here is another guy, and that’s Steven’s son.

KO: Right.

JT: Okay. And what’s his name?

EO: Adam.

JT: Who? Evan?

EO: Adam, A-d-a-m.

JT: Oh. Okay, now, Kozo-san, what kind of people--pretend you’re talking to your grandchildren--what would you like them to be?

KO: But, to be honest, do it right everything what you do.

JT: What did you learn from your own life that you want to pass on to your grandchildren?

KO: I don’t know anything, but anything what you do think twice and be honest.

JT: That’s it. Thank you. Thank you, Kozo Orimoto-san for your time and your interview. I appreciate everything you told us.

KO: Thank you very much.

JT: Good luck the rest of the way. And there she is, too, a charming Mrs. Orimoto. Thank you.

YT: Now, when all this is put together. . .

JT: Just ran out of tape.