

H. These, I sketched from imagination. That's where we were first detained--Kilauea Military Camp in Hawaii.

T. On the Big Island?

H. Yeah. I used to live in Hilo, you see.

T. Did you have any formal training in art?

H. Well, I took up a correspondence course on commercial art, so I got the basics of sketching. But I didn't make much, but at least I made use of it while interned...That's Los Angeles...No! San Francisco...Angel Island. That's where we went. June 1, 1942. That's almost 40 years ago. We went through this, over to Oakland and then we were put on a train and went down to San Antonio, Texas. I think it was about five days and four nights riding. Long ride...

T. Did the train have regular seats?

H. Yeah, they had regular seats. I have a sketch. Here (pointing to the water-colored sketch). It was an old train. These sketches, you know, I made a rough sketch and then after I settled down at the camp and then more. Partly from imagination, I put in the details.

Went through Reno, Nevada and Junction, Nevada. Cross the Rocky Mountains and went on the other side. Then from there to the desert and way over to Salt Lake City. And then right across Oklahoma, I think. Anyway, we passed through six or seven states before we reached Texas.

T. Was that the first time you were on the Mainland?

H. Oh yes. First time. It was a nice trip, we had. Free trip.

T. If you want to call it that.

H. You know, when you look back from now, it was very interesting. Of course, that time wasn't too fun..Yeah, mining town (pointing to sketch). One time I was stopped at a place, I think around this place (unnamed mining town sketch). I was sketching, you know, and there was some guards outside the train. I don't know (why)--protect or guard us. And he looked at me sketching and said "Hey, whatcha doing there?" "Oh, I'm just sketching." "No, you not supposed to do that!" "Oh, okay." So I just put 'em away. But I made rough sketches. That's how I got these (referring to the photo album filled with his sketches).

Yeah, that's Salt Lake. You know, we were going through the desert then we saw a mirage. You know way over in the horizon. You can see that mirage, just like lake, you know. And then when we came to this place here (Salt Lake), I saw the waves going. We thought they were mirage. (Laughs) The real thing. It was an interesting experience.

Went through Colorado. I don't know whether it was really Colorado Canyon (title of sketch), but it was a deep gorge the train went through. That's Pueblo...Salida...

T. You must have made a lot of sketches.

H. I made quite a bit of sketches. You know, I made sketches like this. These are rough sketches. From these, I made you know (pen and ink). I worked up on these (water colors). There's quite a bit of sketches.

T. How did you get the coloring for this?

H. Oh, that's just water color. 'Cuz in the beginning, we didn't have any water coloring, but you know, I used to sketch for the soldiers and, in exchange, they got some water colors for me. That's how I got to work it out.

These are some slides that university students made up. I made prints out of them. It's the same thing. (They)Just took the main ones and they made slides. This is TV (points to color photo). Channel 2 came over to interview me, so it's on the TV.

T. That's Houston?

H. Yeah, they have a large Army or military installation there and they had one portion, you know, fenced out with these tents, temporary tents. Over there, they had, when we went there, they had some German people.

H. Also all the Japanese from Alaska. Alaskan people. So we joined together. But the Italian and German people were left over there and the Alaskan people went with us to New Mexico--to Lordsburg.

You know the funny is those Alaskan people. They were all scattered among different--like Eskimos and other nationalities--so they hardly spoke Japanese. So some of them were old people, and they're about 50-60 years old, and they forgot Japanese. So when we spoke in Japanese, you know, they talked back in English. The Hawaiian Japanese people say "Oh, these guys 'namaiki' you know." Fresh guys! We talk in Japanese and they want to talk back in English. Fact is, they forgot Japanese, see. But then, after they were with us for a while, they start talking alright. Some of them Eskimo.

You know this Alaska story? You see the movies--Alaska monogatari? Frank Yasuda--he went to Alaska and then he helped save some of the Alaskan people. He worked very hard, man!

That man was inside here and couple years ago, they showed the picture about him. Then I realized that I met him over there in the camp. Frank Yasuda. He came...he went to Alaska as a young man and then he was among... living among the Eskimos. And the Eskimo one time, you know, they didn't have any food to eat. They were people, I think, hunting for whales. And those vultures went over there and cleaned up the whales. And they couldn't have any livelihood and they were starving. So this Yasuda, you know, went by himself to search for other place and finally he got a place where they could settle and he led them, all of them, to the Indian Bank. They have a very interesting movie story.

T. A few years ago?

H. Yeah, a few years ago.

T. I was in Japan then.

H. Oh, Japan was nice. Then, this Frank Yasuda. And then I remember his name. And then I recall him. He's old man already, in his 60s or something. Seventies, yeah.

T. How long were you folks at San Antonio?

H. We were over there only 10 days, about 10 days. And then they shipped us back to New Mexico. Go back and forth, wasting all that time. And then this is Lordsburg interment camp. This is just a photo copy I made. My original, I don't know what happened. Somebody borrowed and never returned.

There were three compounds with capacity of thousand people in each compound, so 3,000. But they didn't fill it up. Only two compounds they filled. So the Hawaiian people and the Alaskan people were all together in there. And the mainland people, they came in there.

T. Were they separated? You know, the Hawaiian people and...

H. No, not exactly. They were put together. We were the first ones to go in. The Hawaiian people--and then later on the Hawaiian and Alaskan. And then these mainland people start coming in. One time, you know, we had a strike. This commander over there, he didn't know how to treat us. He was kind of high-powered man, and he forced us to work in the guard's compound. And we not supposed to work over there. And the mainland people, some of mainland guys came over and they said "We under POW's regulation." POWs--they not supposed to work, be forced to work if they didn't want to.

But then, the commander, you know, forced us to work so we struck. Then they put us in different compound, locked that barracks and everything. We had double-lock confinement. So we were confined for about one month, then we got this Spanish consulate. They were representing Japanese. He came over and talked over things. And he said, well, until he finds out the true facts, just go and work. So we worked.

H. Later on they found that we was, it wasn't right. So they changed the commander. From then on, it's alright.

T. Lot of experiences, huh?

H. Yeah, one time I went out with them, you know, one group, 'cause I could talk English and Japanese. So I went about 30 people--have to work in the compound, guard's compound.

There were couple of guards guarding us. That place, summer time's real hot, see. Over 100 degrees. And, you know, the people were having a real hard time. So I approached the guard and I wanted to talk to him. When I advanced, he pulls back, see. "Say, I want to talk to you." "No, you stay back"

Point the gun at me. Well, I said, "You know these people actually didn't do anything wrong. We're interned because the military was afraid we might do something bad. Actually, we didn't do anything. These people are ministers and Japanese school teachers and prominent Japanese leaders in the the Japanese community. So, they not used to this kind of work... and especially in this heat. Ans some of them are old, see. So will you be...don't be too hard to them." "Well, I don't know about that," he said. "You know my twin brother was killed in Pearl Harbor, see. Japanese attack." So I says "Well, I'm sorry to hear that, but really, I, we don't like war. We don't, so you know, let's not be too harsh with each other." And I start talking and then he soften up. So next time, you know, rest time came, he says "Oh, you folks go in the shade." He brought us into in the shade.

So, later on, you know, the soldiers started to understand us. So, they were friendly, but then, you know, once in a while, they changed the guards and then we had some trouble. But as time went along, why, they got used to it so it wasn't too bad. [And there were some prisoners of war from Shigeo. You know that Battle of Midway? Some of them were drifting in the lifeboat after they sank the ships. They were picked up almost half-dead and there were others who were picked up on submarines or some other nations. There about 30 of these POWs, regular POWs, and they were over there for few months.

And those POWs, they didn't care whether they die or not. See, they felt it was disgrace to be a prisoner of war. So, they won't listen to what the guards says. And one time when there was a Japanese celebration, they got one of the sheets and made round, red circle in it...Japanese flag. Then they tacked it onto the wall of the barracks. Then, the guard came came around and said "Hey, you better take the thing off." Then the Japanese POWs came out with baseball bat. You know, they allowed playing baseball. So, if they came out, the soldiers got scared and they ran off. But later on, the officers came out and talked to them.

T. Did they finally take off the flag?

H. Yeah, then took off the flag. Anyway, we had an organization of internees within that. We had a governor and mayors and barrack captains. I was one of the barrack captains. So they talked with the commander and they settled it. Later on, they were shipped off to someplace else.

T. Did they have quite a few of them?

H. Yeah, they had, at our place had about 30, I think.

T. Thirty POWs?

H. Yeah, I got some sketches. Anyway, we used to have...later on we used to have classes. All kinds of classes, and I conducted basic drawing and I had about 30 people. I attended Japanese art classes. When a minister, used to be minister at Wahiawa, Rev. Akahoshi, he was a good artist. He won some awards. I got into his Japanese painting. Later on, I was over in Los Angeles, 14 years, and I had another good teacher, and I studied under him. I learned how to paint on silk.--Water colors.

When I came back here, humph! When you are by yourself, you've got no

H. incentives. I made two. Give to my relative--my daughters.

T. Do you make a sketch first?

H. These are actually copies. From Japanese block printing. You start by drawing outlines with sumi, calligraphy ink, and you make it very light and gradually, you make it darker. It is something like oil painting--the affect. But you put it on silk. Then you put on the lines, you know, for the misty effect. Very interesting. It takes about a month.

This side one is from a picture. Kegon-no-take (falls) from Nikko. I was there in August, but everything was green. If you go in Autumn, you can see the momiji (autumn foliage). That's nice.

I was born in Japan. I came here when I was four years old. It's like I was second generation. Only thing was I was born there. I went Japan for the first time when I was 60 years old. I was born in Kumamoto and I met my older sister over there.

My father came first--Hilo, you know Kamana. He thought he'll make a fortune and go home. Things didn't work out right, so he decided to call the family.

But the trouble is that we had four children and my mother. But he couldn't send enough money for everybody. Only two of them came. The oldest brother and myself, I was the youngest. So, the two in between got left behind.

T. The two that were left behind were two sister?

H. One sister and one brother. I was lucky I was the youngest. So I came. If I hadn't been, I would have would have been left behind. My sister got married to a drunkard and she has six children. She was widowed. During the war times, four of them died from malnutrition and sickness. Only two were left behind. And even the one boy left behind had tuberculosis. He was in a sanitarium during the war...after the war. They used to write letters to us, but I was interned, too. So after I came back to Hawaii, I had nothing.

We used to send some old clothing. They really suffered. But when I went over there and met my sister, she was in Fukuoka. She was living in a tanko--you know, the coal mining town? In a barracks. There used to be big tanko, but they mechanized and also they didn't sell much coal, so it was way down to...they had about 10,000 people. When I went over there, there was only about 1,000. So there were lots of barracks, but most of all rotten and stricken place.

T. When was this you went back?

H. That was '72. And I met my sister and her son. Her son was married, but didn't have any children. And then, the niece was married and was living in next barracks. They had three children. So they were living close together. But anyway, I thought they would be really poor. So, I was planning to give some money to them.

When I went inside, the barrack was a war barrack, old barrack. But, I went inside, I see they had two televisions, hi-fi set, they have refrigerator, and washing machine--everything. They were richer than me. They were doing alright.

I had some sembetsu people gave me--dollar bills. They wanted to see some American money, so I showed them that. They were interested, so I gave them all that money.

Anyway, I was lucky I met her. She passed away couple years ago. My brother was in Tokyo, but he passed away before I was there.

T. You said you came over when you were four years old. When was this?

H. 1912. I was born in 1907. So actually, I would have become five, but I wasn't quite five yet. I came in July. October is my birthday, so since this month is my birthday month, I'll be 47 (laughs)...74.

I got three daughters. My first wife died when we were in the mainland. So this is my second wife. I remarried and had three girls. And the girls havenine grandchildren--eight of them boys. Only one daughter. They made me all boys. They're doing alright.

H. I see them once in a while. One of them lives in Pearl City. I was living with them. When she died, I came back 1973. And I have the oldest one still in mainland--California. They got five boys. And 'nother one, youngest one, in Maui. That one got two boys. That one in Pearl City have boy and girl. So I was living with them until I got married to my wife here four years ago.

I was grandpa, but when I came here, the old folks--the old man is 73 years old and the old lady is...No! 92 years old (old man) and the old lady is 90. So I feel like a young man. (laughs) I got a second life.

These are wild flowers that I picked up at Lordsburg, N.M. I used to take them and painted it with water color. Then I pressed it. I just laminated this leaflet.

T. Did you use any chemicals or anything? Just pressed it between books or something?

H. Yeah, Just press it...Books. And then I put glue on it and paste it on. But then they were coming off. I loaned these to the university ethnic group. And they were going to laminate it with the machine, but when you make it with the machine, they press hard. And it might crumble, so they're afraid to do it. So, I did it myself. I got this lamination from library supply. This way you just press it on. I used to help out with in California--Gardena Church. I gave up my library there. I had a collection, library in the house.

You know, when you start accumulating these things, you find a lot of them. If you don't think that they don't have so many different kinds... it's very interesting.

T. Lordsburg...Wasn't that more like desert?

H. Desert, yeah middle of the desert. They have a town called Lordsburg about three, four miles away. They built this compound, internment camp, in the middle of the desert. They have a place, so they called it Lordsburg. When we first went over there, we came on train, and they ordered us to get down the train. So way up in the hills, some stockades, you know, fences of the barracks. Every once in while, a whirlwind come around and that thing mess up with all that yellow dirt--dust flying up.

We look at that and say "What kind of place is this? How we gonna stay in that hell hole?" Yeah, it was terrible in the beginning. When we first went over there, it was half-finished, see. They had everything--the ground was all dug up and they just barely finished some of the barracks.

So when we went there, we had to clean up the barracks and take away, you know, sweep up the dust. But as soon as we sweep up the dust, whirlwind comes in, blows things, and we have to shut the door and it was the same thing. Oh, it was hell. They didn't have the latrine finished yet. They had only one bowl for 250 people. And they hardly had any water system. They had a mess hall and some people volunteer to make some food there. So, in the beginning, it was real hard.

T. How did they get the water there?

H. Oh, they dug a well, so they had water. But in the beginning, they didn't have it finished.

T. I remember I was stationed out in El Paso. It was '67 or '68, or something like that. It was the first time I experienced a sandstorm. The sky turned pink...It was a weird feeling.

H. Sure. You know, they used to have that big storm on in a while. So, we plug up the barracks, but still the sand seeps in. We got to wet the handkerchief or towel and put it around the nostril. And you still get suffocated. Boy, it was terrible.

But that thing settled down and the ground got nice. Then it was alright. Especially in autumn, spring and winter was alright. That place

H. snowed little bit; we saw some snow but it just melted. But wintertime they had frost on the road, on the trees, and on the ground. But we had the GI clothing dyed green.

T. I guess Army or something, huh?

H. Yeah; Army. GI stuff--the early ones. So they supplied them. Then we used to go walking around the fence for exercise. Later on some of them start, you know, they interested in golf. They made a small golf course. They wouldn't tear things up. So later, it wasn't too bad--only in the beginning.

One thing good over there. We had lot of time, see. Then after about year and a half over there, we were sent to Santa Fe, the capital. The slope of the mountains overlooking the shops. They had an old internment camp from the First World War for the Germans.

And I got some portraits of people in there. I made two copies and I gave one to them. So, they sent them to their families. This is Mr. Koike, school teacher; this is Kagawa, he's manager of S. Hata store in Hilo.

The other day, they had a Japanese program about the Naniwa-bushi man who came over 50 years ago. And he came back. They had a documentary about him. About they had a theatre where he performed. In downtown section, they showing pornographic picture.

T. I guess it was the old Asahi theatre. I remember talking to Mr. Kosaka and he said the old Roosevelt theatre used to be called the Asahi theatre.

H. So, he came to search for the theatre. And he went to Hilo and met with Mr. Kagawa over there. Had picture about him.

So, we are good friends. Everytime I go Hilo, I see him. But the wife died lately. He had son but the son died first. And now, the yomesan is there, but he's quite old. He's eighty something. At that time, he was--age of that man?--about 59. And Koike, and this Nakamura Hotel--Yuichi. You know, he's doing this tour guide, you know? Tour agency. He's the boss of that Nakamura Hotel.

T. He's still young.

H. He was working in the canteen.

T. Looks like he's maybe in his early twenties or...

H. He was 44 that time. So, he's about in his 80s now. Some of them--most of them are dead already. Sugi Kawabayashi, Oahu, Kahuku Japanese school teacher, principal. And this is Kashiwa. You know the attorney Kashiwa? His father. And after the war, he became bishop of Hongwanji. And this is Fujitani. Bishop Fujitani now--his father. He was 55 in camp. Passed away two, three years ago. And he was Tenrikyo in Hilo--Odachi. He died in camp. I used to take care of him. Children, he had four children, and one of them, I gave away. You know, she didn't have any papa or mama. So when they died--when the mama died, she asked me to take care of them. One of them, I gave away in marriage. So, they call me Grandpa and Grandma. Five kids now.

T. What did he die of?

H. He had, you know, uric poisoning and high blood pressure. He was sick for about one year. And we used to take turns to nurse him.

T. There weren't any doctors?

H. There were doctors. There were quite a bit. There was one good doctor from El Paso--Dr. Furugochi. He was a good doctor. And he saved, but later on there wasn't any hope. He died about a year later in the hospital.

T. Higashi Maehara?

H. He used to dabble in haiku.

T. Is he still living?

H. No--he passed away. He used to be a photographer in Hilo, but he

H. moved over to Honolulu. Actually, his name was Yokoyama, I think. The wife is still living in Hilo. This is Kawasaki^{was} a lawyer from Hilo. This is Kawabe from Alaska. They say he's a rich man; owns almost half the towns. Say what? Legend. He used to be a newspaper reporter, Adachi Tokuji. Maybe Hawaii Times. I think he's not living. Kuniyuki, he just passed away lately. He used to be the president of the chamber of commerce one time--Japanese Chamber of Commerce. He lived down..what you call... very beautiful home. First time I came back to Honolulu, they were having internee exhibition at the chamber of commerce. And I call him up and then met him. Then he invited me to dinner and all kinds of stuff. He was together with us, you see.

T. You folk were interned all at the same time or...

H. No, they had first ship, second ship, third ship, you know. I was on the the third one. They had about 10, I think. So, of course, the most went in the beginning--about the third and fourth. Later on, only a few came. So the first group were together in some other camp. The second group, a different camp. We were in the Lordburg group...Takezono.

T. Oh, that's the reverend?

H. Yeah, reverend. He just retired I think. Let's see, rascal man. (laughs). You know him, huh? Shigenaga, Shigco. He's quite prominent. He goes into everything. One time, he went and met Ten-no-heka. He was talking about it. He used to own restuant. Dennis. Before the war, I think. And he's quite active in...Of course, he didn't have moustache, ordinarily. He was carpenter--shipbuilding, boat carpenter. These are mainland people. Konkoukyo minister. This guy's judo go-dan. But he gave real good sermons, but later on, he start to...I don't know what. One time, he had a big fight with kendo teacher. (laughs). Argument over something I forget. So all people laughing at him. This Abe, he used to be governor within the internment camp. Then later on, he went back to Japan on an exchange ship. He was in politics in Japan. Abe, Shinryo. But he was in Los Angeles.

I seen quite a bit of...some Alaskan people, some Hawaii, Honolulu, like that. Those people are dead already. So, I decided to keep a record of my life. So, I been working on my autobiography, here. I got about 500 pages. And almost finished till...I'm working right now during the war time when I was reperiled (?) at Jerome Relocation Center. And from just about that ime. So, I got just about 500 pages already. I was planning to go all my whole life, but found out I got too much details inside there.

T. That's the kind of stuff that's gonna be forgotten, and I think it's important to record all those.

H. Yeah. And this Ethnic Studies students, they copied some of my manuscript. I don't know how much they copied. But anyway, I plan to see if I can publish this. But even if I can't, I have three children, see. So, I want to make some copies and leave it to them. And perhaps, I can have one extra copy to give someplace. Anyway, this one, I was thinking about leaving to the Bishop Museum. They got the Japanese...

T. With Gaylord Kubota over there.

H. Yeah, in the meantime, some people are making good use of this. I'm glad that I kept these.

T. There's a lot of work that went in here.

H. Well, I enjoyed it. We had a lot of time, so every chance I had, I caught somebody. Had them sit down about 10 minutes and then made one sketch and made another one. Two copies. Gave one to them and I kept one of them. This is Miwa. Prominent businessman over here. That's Miwa Shokai. I met the son lately. He went back to Japan and he said he died. But the son was here when we had the internee exhibition, and I talked to him. I think he just came temporarily. There were some people that, you know, they were prominent in those days. They were prominent, so that's the reason why they were taken.

T. In terms of education, you went to schools out here?

H. I graduated Hilo Jr. High School, and I couldn't go ahead, so I quit at Jr. high school. But later on, I took test at adult education and I got high school certificate. Cause I didn't actually attend the classes, but I used to like to study. I used to take alot of all kinds of correspondence courses like art and other stuff. So, I guess I learned things, I think. So, when I took the first test, it was supposed to be pass at 11 point something. I had 14 something. Was pretty good. So, I didn't have to go to class. So, they had second examination. At that time, they had GI test where many high school graduates took the test. In that test, they had five subjects. I had 99 percent on four of them and only one I didn't pass. So, I was pretty good. Anyway, I like to study. Any chance I had, I studied all kind of stuff. I don't know how many correspondence courses and night schools I went through. Anyway, I didn't have formal education, but at least, I got that high school certificate. So, I was able to get my job at Los Angeles Traffic Court. Municipal Court.

T. That was before the internment?

H. After.

T. What were you doing before the internment?

H. Before the internment, I was salesman for Hilo Electric Light Company Appliance for about 11 years. Then I was taken. Then after I came back, I didn't have any work. But in that camp, I studied appliance repairs--correspondence. Appliance repairs and TV, television and electronics, and went night school on electricity. So, I gained quite a bit of knowledge. Of course, it's not practical, but after I came back, since I didn't have any work, I decided to go into appliance repair. Washing machine and refrigerators. I did pretty good for two years. And then this Moses Company in Hilo--used to be a pretty good firm--they asked me to go in as salesman. So I salesman for one year and the sales manager quit. So, I was managing the appliance department for about 10 years. But appliance business wasn't too good, so decided to move to Los Angeles. So, my family moved there. Two years, I had a hard time. But, after two years, I had this civil service test. And they call me at the traffic, municipal court actually. So I got in there. Worked in there 11 years. So, you know, for that I have little pension now and with social security. And I started this small rubber stamp business. I making stamps for Hopaco Stationery. And of course, I have some outside orders, so I'm managing somehow pretty good. I am enjoying my life.

T. How did you get interested in art?

H. Well, I like to draw, you see. So, after I went out of Jr. high school, I was looking for something to study. That's why I took up correspondence course--commercial art. I took one course and then still I wasn't too good, so I took another course. Actually two courses. But in Hilo, you hardly got any opportunity to make any living, especially just correspondence course. You need a good training, so I didn't do anything from there. But I had the basics, so that helped me, you know, enjoy myself with these stuffs.

T. You have any other hobbies?

H. Well, I took up judo. That's the reason why I got interned. I had yo-dan, you know, fourth-class? Black belt. And I used to teach. That's why I got pulled. The FBI, the military didn't like my martial arts. And of course, I took, besides the commercial, I took oil painting, you know, night school, and I took Japanese art. All kinds here and there.

H. They wanted...He (Joosing) wanted to write about this Japanese internees in Hawaii, but he couldn't find anything, so, he wrote to me. I gave an outline of what I experienced through the wartime. So, I wrote about ten pages and then he put it inside this book. And when it was on sale, he paid my way to Hilo. And they had special autograph party and so had this ad inside there. And this is what I wrote at the time. From that, he made up this one--about four or five pages.

It's interesting. He used to be vice president in C. Brwer, but it's too bad he became alcoholic. He's trying to write more books. In fact, he wrote quite a few Hawaiian books. Collaboration with some other people.

So, this gives you a brief outline of my experience during the wartime. So, if you take and return to me. Gives you my version.

T. On Dec. 7, then, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked, what were you doing?

H. I was salesman for Hilo Electric Light at that time. But they didn't arrest me at that time. I wasn't on the list, I think. Then, I was taken on Feb. 6, two months later, '42. My brother-in-law was detective at Hilo Police Station and he was drafted to arrest people. The military took over. He came to get me. But anyway, I was lucky he came to get me. Because some people, soldiers came around with bayonet. Some of them were handcuffed. They got little rough, but I was lucky.

T. Were you given some kind of advance notice or something?

H. No. No advance notice.

T. They just came knocking on your door?

H. Yeah, yeah.

T. Were you allowed to bring anything?

H. Well, yeah, we packed a few things for a few days. Picked up toiletries. Of course, later on, my family send over some more things. We were over in Kilauea Military Camp.

T. How did you feel when you got picked up?

H. Well, I was feeling lucky. I wasn't picked up for two months, see. So, I thought, well now that they haven't come for me for this long, I think they not gonna pick me. Just when I feeling secure, the came and picked me up. So, I was kind of dumbfounded that time. But I was more or less prepared.

T. And then you were taken to Kilauea?

H. Yeah.

T. How long were you there at Kilauea?

H. We were over there for, let's see now, Feb., March, April, May we were sent out to here, Sand Island. May, around the end of May, and then in June--the middle of June--no, no.--No, May, yeah, beginning of May, I was sent here. And then around 10 days before June, we were sent out and then we landed at Angel Island. June 1st. We went through the Golden Gate Bridge on June 1st. and carried out to Angel Island immigration station. We were 109 of us, and only one was German.

T. German citizen or German American?

H. I don't know. He come for saying.

T. You know when you were picked up, were you given a reason why you were picked up?

H. No. No, no, no reason, but I suspect there was an informer over there and he was inside with the other internees. I know him because he was going with the FBI people before the war. And you know, when they have hearing, everything that they talk inside the barrack there, those people knew about it. Had to have an informer there. And later on, they suspected him and they start to shut up when he came around. So, he was no use, so he was released. So actually, he was active in all kinds of stuff and he should have been inside and stayed inside. But soon after he was released, eight of us who belong to this association of martial arts like judo, kendo and archery, were picked up and sent to the military base.

So, we knew it was him. He had good business, prosper and everything. He owned a night club after the war, but it didn't last...Went broke. He's still active, but people don't have much respect for him.

T. Were you married when you were interned?

H. Yeah. In fact, we had two...three (children.) But my oldest one was ...when she was three-months-old, we had a car accident, and she was thrown out of the car and had a fractured skull. Through that, lost eyesight and her left side was paralyzed. So, she couldn't walk, couldn't see. She couldn't talk and hear good. So, she was helpless and I was taking care of her. So that's why I was real worried when I was taken.

Then, after I was taken, the social worker came around and advise us to take her to Waimano Home. So, we had her inside Waimano Home while we were interned. But while we were inside there, she passed away. We heard the nurse, to spite the doctor, she left the child inside the bathtub with water inside. She used to have convulsions...She drowned in there. Of course I heard it was best that she went, but not like that. Not like that...

T. So, your wife and your other two children...

H. Yeah. I then I found out that she was pregnant. We didn't know when I was taken. And later on she wrote to me when I was in camp that she's pregnant. Then, when I was in Lordsburg--the childbirth. The baby's born. Almost same birthday as me--this month, 23rd. That's the one living on Maui. She's a nurse. I got two nurses. One, first daughter in Mainland. Other one--Pearl City one--used to be in admission office. She used to be, I think, assistant supervisor or something, but she wasn't satisfied. She had no hope for advancement, so she quit. She's taking law now--going to be a lawyer. At least she wanted some kind of degree so she could advance.

T. After your youngest was born, did you call your wife over to Lordsburg.

H. Yeah. All those ones on the welfare. We were on the welfare. We couldn't afford anything, so the military ordered them to evacuate--many of these people on welfare. And they said that they would have us join them as soon as they went over. But they didn't do that. They had all kinds red tape and everything all tangle up. That took about a year before we got together. So she was sent to Jerome Relocation Center. And that place, bad place you know. They drain swampland and built the barracks in there. So the grounds are all muddy, yeah. And when they went over, it was middle of winter, Jan. 5th. And of course, they had some snow, sometimes, hail mostly, and heavy rains and all kinds. They even had threat of flood from the Mississippi River. Really worried up there. They had malaria. Some people got chiggers...My daughter had beri-beri--the oldest one. And the youngest one had diarrhea--she almost died. Whew! Was terrible. So, actually, my wife suffered more; my family suffered more.

T. And they were out in Jerome for about one year?

H. Yea, about a year before we got together. You know, I joined the family right on that Pearl Harbor day. Dec. 7. And after we got together, wasn't so bad. The center was closed a half year later. So we had to move to some other relocation center. We went to Gila Relocation Center, Arizona. Over there was real hot. You know, it come up to 120 degrees. You know, you go outside, the air itself is just like oven. You know, hot! You stay in the shade--over here, if you stay in the shade, it's cool--but over there, no matter where you stay, it's hot. But you know some people smart. They devise cooling system. They made a hole in the wall, and they got some wire mesh, put some excelsium in between, and then plastic tube. Poured water on the excelsium, so that the air passed through that cool water. So even if outside was hundred so many degrees, inside was about 80 something. So, we stayed inside.

I was working as pantry man in the beginning, and then assistant cook. Then later on, all the Mainland people went out, relocation, you know, different places. And only Hawaii people left over there, and I was the chief cook. I pitied the people who ate my stuff. So, I was the last one to--after I feed everybody in the the morning breakfast--we had to pack up and go. I barely made the bus. From there Arizona, we went through, southern-side to Santa Ana. They had Navy Barracks over there. So, we stayed over there about three weeks waiting for the ship. Then that was alright. We went around on bus, sightseeing around. Then we came back on an old ship--the Shawnee. And it couldn't get going because all the electrical system was short--water-logged. What was supposed to be water-proof plugs was all filled with water, and the water couldn't come out. So that every time they tried to start the thing, the thing conked out. So, I help as a volunteer to clean up the plugs.. So I helped them open up and drain out the water, and they dried out. Finally, after three or four days on the ship, we start going. All through rough seas on a small ship. Took about six or seven days, I think. The first two, three, four days, we were so sick, couldn't get up. Well, we finally made it.

T. In terms of food at the camp...

H. The camp--they had nice menu, but materials didn't come. But it was in between the people in charge of the supplies, they huki this and sold in the black market or something. So, all we got was some lamb, and the cook didn't know what to do except make stew. So, we used to have lamb stew, lamb stew everyday. We got sick and tired of it.

So, it wasn't too bad, but it wasn't good either. If they followed the menu, it would have been alright, but it looks like they had crooked business. But after we got to relocation center in Arizona, the internees, the inside people, decided to farm and hogs and all kinds of stuff. They were good farmers, so we had lots of fresh supplies. We stayed there--(in Arizona) for year and a half.

T. Who was running the camps? The WRA?

H. Yeah, the WRA. In the beginning in the internment camps, especially Hawaii internees, the government didn't know who was in charge. So, we tried petitioning to get together with the family. Write to Washington Justice Department, the War Department, and they said said write to other people, you're not in our jurisdiction. Finally, they said write back to Hawaii. So, we write back to Hawaii.

And Hawaii says that you folks have been recommended for

H. parole and you should be released. But still we weren't released. And sometimes, VIPs come around the camp and we petitioned them. Ahh! It took a year and a half before finally I was paroled. I was about the first one paroled because my wife was petitioning and I was petitioning and I was helping all the other people petitioning. And I happened to be the lucky one. I myself knew one man, Nakano from Kauai. He and I along with other Mainland people were paroled to Jerome. Six of us were paroled to Jerome. We were the first ones... On December 2nd. It was two or three months later when the other people came, who were paroled.

T. Being paroled meant that you could leave or that...

H. We were paroled as internees, you see. So, we were still under some kinds of restrictions. Hard to say, because you know, they themselves didn't know what to do. (Laughs) Anyway, they started to relocate those people to the outside. So, the Mainland people started to go out--go work to different places. The only thing was they weren't allowed to go back to California until after the war.

T. So they were living outside the camp? Or did they have to come back to the camp?

H. No, they didn't have to. Of course, some of them went out a few months and work outside and then come back. When they were released from the relocation camp, they went out. The whole family went out and they settled someplace. So, many people went work outside. But eventually, they came back to California after the war.

You know, I had an incident in Gardena when we came back to Santa Ana. Went to Gardena with a couple of other people. Mr. Hasegawa and Mr. Okimoto. Hasegawa is here in Honolulu. He works at Japan Air Lines. Retired now. Anyway, we went to Gardena and we slept one night at Gardena Buddhist Church, and they were called hostels. For people who came from inside to stay temporary. I slept over there--one room--was Japanese school. It was partitioned into four. They had framework, they hang blankets into partitions and had cots. I slept on one of them. In the morning, I heard people right near my head. It seemed that they were a middle-aged couple talking.

And the lady was saying "Noo, otosan, anta kyo itara shigoto mo nai. Itara ii, itara ikinasai." He was trying to get gardener's work. You ask too much, they may not hire you. On the other hand, if you make it too cheap, we need the money. Especially, someone stole my shoes at the center. I don't have shoes. So, try get advance money.

You know, I heard something so comical, yet so sad. Right next they were talking. They were really having a hard time over there. They had a house, but they're all gone. Their farmlands were taken over.

Even, I had one friend that was in the same barracks at Gila. Anyway, we were talking. His name was Komai; he was an actor. He acted in one play. Four or five people came to Hilo one time. While we were talking, he says "I went to Hilo one time on taking movies, and I met one man called Hisa something. He was big shot over there and entertain us." I say "Wasn't that Hisanaga?" He says "Yeah, yeah. Hisanaga." "He's my brother-in-law," I says. "My wife's sister's husband." He was a big gambler in thosedays. He used to operate a gambling den. He was in cahoots with the police, so he was making money. So anytime any big shot used to come around, he used to entertain. "Wow, the small world." And we became good friends. He was living in Gardena. he came

H. back before we come. I went visit him. And while I went there, he and his wife were sleeping in the garage. And they had house and they couldn't chase the people who rent over there. According to law, they had to give six months notice.

T. So, they had to spend six months in the garage?

H. And you know, this man used to hunt for junks in the garbage dumps and used to bring up metal stuffs to make something. So when he went out, he used to pack it into crates. He had all these crates piled up in the garage. And they didn't have anyplace to sleep. He had this small hichirin hooked up.

When I went back to Los Angeles, when I moved over, I met them. At that time, he was living in the house, he acted little bit. Picked up some bit parts, but he didn't do too much. They were very good to me--friendship. He died, but funny thing when I went over there I got connection with the church were I slept.

One day when I was teaching Sunday school, suddenly, I realized that was the very room was teaching was the same room that I slept in. Some coincidence. Sometimes, life is very strange.

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And I found that the reverend was related to Rev. Maneki. He passed away. Principal of the Hongwanji Fort Gakuen, and was a friend, you see. He passed away about ten years ago. This Mrs. was related to him. Julia Tasuda. That Rev. Mrs.--over there--mother and this Rev. Maneki's mother were sisters. So, one day we were talking about Hilo and she asked me whether I knew Rev. Maneki. "Oh, he's my good friend." "Oh, well, his mother and my grandmother were sisters." And there was another Rev. Himeji, and he was brother to one Rev. Himeji in Honomu, Hawaii. So, we--when we start talking--why we seem to be related to each other. Well, after I went over there, I found lots of relatives. Strange things happen.

T. While you were in the camps, were you still allowed to practice the Buddhist religion?

H. Oh yeah. When you were in the camp, they let you do anything because after all you already confined in there. So we used to do all kind of stuff. Really Japanese stuff. When New Year's come, we pounded mochi and then some people had the Japanese Shinto shrine. They made shrine. And we went pray over there. They had this lion, shishi-mai, those people real alright. They made the shishi, the mask, everything--like real stuff. And They used to jump around and dance and they karatsu tengu and all kinds. And go around the barracks to celebrate. And so they had Buddhist services, they had Shinto services and all kinds.

My daughter used to learn dancing--Japanese dancing. At Gila. I've got some sketches of mochi pounding.

T. Were there people with special privileges in the camp?

H. Not exactly. But of course, we had our own government, so we had governor, mayor, barracks captains, dorm officials. So those people, of course, they were elected. It's All democratic. So there weren't any special privileges. But when we went re-location camp, they used to allow us to go to town for shopping. So they were free. When we went over there, there weren't any guards on that towers. First, when they went there, they saw they saw they still had the fence and towers, but they were no guards.

T. This is at Gila?

H. Yeah. Jerome too. Of course, in the internment camps, they had guards. But in the later part, they used to have us in a group of about 20 and 25 people. And one guard go out...

H. Go outside for...like Santa Fe, we had this pine nuts. Had small cones, you know the pine nuts they sell in the store? We used to go pick that and we used to go pick up fossils. All kinds of stuff. Enjoy ourselves. Come back. So, they give us about half day go around for excursion. So, they weren't very strict.

Only in the beginning they were hard. Like in our camp, a group of mainland people were coming inside the camp. There's about a mile or mile and a half from the railroad track, Lordsburg. And all the internees walked to camp. There were two people who were sick. So they couldn't walk. They let them wait.

In the meantime, another sgt. went to pick-up a jeep or something. You know, transport them. Then another sgt. had to come around over there and found those two sitting over there. And he figured that they were trying to escape. He pulled out the gun. Then since he pulled out the gun, the internees got scared. They tried to run. He shot them--he shot them dead.

They had all kinds of investigations, but he got off free. In fact, when he went to town, Lordsburg Town, the people praised him. "You killed those Japs--huh! You're a hero!" They made him a hero. And they were shot for nothing.

One of the internees from Hawaii, he was kind of off his mind. One time, he started to climb the fence. The other internees tried to stop him. And the guard at the shack shot him.

T. That was the beginning part?

H. Yeah. The later part, seems no problems. Ahh! Settle down and it wasn't too bad.

T. Basically, you were separated from your family for about a year?

H. Almost two years. February 1942 to December 7, 1943, the family got together. So, almost two years...One year and ten months.

T. Was that pretty rough then? Since you were married and all of a sudden, you had to do everything on your own.

H. It was hard for my wife, family. As for ourselves, we worry for the family, but actually, we just confined. And we had to endure whatever things that came along. It's the family that suffered. Especially my wife. She had to pack the small baby--only two-months-old--that was youngest baby in the camp. And the second one was two years and the oldest was six years. Small ones yet.

So, when she was taken from here to the Mainland--on the way--she had rough time. The baby had colic or something. She had pain--stomach pains. She cried and cried the whole time until this one lady, wife of dentist, Mrs. Kuwahara, she had this reiki (psychic healing power). You know, she put the hand over, and the actual impulse helps.

T. Oh, the psychic healer!

H. Yeah, yeah. And she put the hand on. From then, she burped and the gas came out and she was alright. Actually I paid \$50 too. It works, though. Sometimes when you have a cut or burn, then you hold it, it heals. Sometimes when you have stomach troubles, you put your hand and the thing works. Everyone has that power. Electrical wave.

T. When you came back, did you notice any changes within the community?

H. Yeah, the thing is that they didn't allow people to speak Japanese during that time. So the children forgot Japanese, how to talk Japanese. Mostly talking English. In Sunday School,

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I used to

H. talk in Japanese before the war. After the war, they wouldn't understand so I would talk in English. So, they changed quite a bit. You might say, they became more Americanized.

T. How were you received by the community after the war?

H. Yeah, they welcomed us. They understood our position. The average people, this was Japanese, they welcomed us back and felt sorry for us for suffering through the war. Of course, they themselves didn't have a good time during the war. They were kind of oppressed and considered like enemy. So, they couldn't talk to much and they couldn't hold any of their meetings. Actually, they didn't feel as free as we were in the camps. In the camps, we just let go. We went to the extreme already... and we didn't care. Over here, they were afraid yet, because they were still arresting people for a year or more.

T. So, you were accepted by the Japanese community. What about the non-Japanese community?

H. On the surface, they were alright. But when I went back to Hilo Electric to get my job back, the boss didn't like that. He refused to reinstate me. That's why I started my own business. But, later on they opened up.

T. Was it like they didn't trust you?

H. Yeah, they figured there was something wrong, that why we were confined...some of them...some of them.

T. In terms of your overview, you noticed that in Sunday School they spoke English instead of Japanese. Was that the only thing that you noticed?

H. Hard to say. But overall, there wasn't much difference.

T. Do you feel that there was a change in the community because the leaders were left.

H. Yeah, there was a change in the leadership. More second generation people took over.

T. Do you feel what the nisei would do be different from what the issei would do?

H. Yeah, there might have been so, but I don't know how much difference. Like there was a manager for a firm over there, he was imprisoned and his assistant took over. So, when the manager came back, he didn't like it. And during that time, he was managing and had his own side business. So, when the manager came back, he want him to take over the reins. And the manager suspected... He was gentleman enough to resign and he went to Japan. He passed away. This other guy, the other stockholders didn't like the way he was running things. He was finally let off. And he started his business on his own.

I think there were many people like that who resented the leaders coming back because they were now the leaders. And they came back and they wanted to take over and they were going to be left out, there was some sense of jealousy. Their own greed was a sense of trouble.

T. If they had another war with Japan, do you believe that internment could happen again?

H. They way they're talking about their mistakes, it may not happen again. You know, during the First World War, lots of these German people were confined. But you know, in this last one, ^{that} Very few of them. So, I guess in that terms, and also because 442nd and the 100th had a good war record, and also they realize that they made a mistake in confining these people, I think won't be. Of course, they might confine some people that are ^{Numbered} doing something. I usually think that they realized their mistake.

George Yoshio Hoshida (Follow-up interview #1) 10/27/81

T. Remember we were talking about this guy named Odachi from Hilo, who died in the camps. And you mentioned a good doctor who came from El Paso.

H. Yeah, yeah! Dr. Furugochi. He passed away though. He came once, came over once with his wife. And he had a daughter and a son, I think. But, his wife passed away, and he went back to Japan with his daughter. And then, he passed away in Japan. I don't know what happened to his daughter, whether she came back.

I compiled about Odachi from my diary. I made out a story about what happened. And I sent to his daughter; I made copies.

T. I wasn't able to read the entire diary because we were making copies of it.

H. He returned to Hawaii, anyway. He had three daughters and one son. With the mother they came back. And he was a Tenrikyo minister. They revived the Tenrikyo at Hilo at a big cottage. She was conducting...And then, she contracted cancer of the stomach...and she passed away. Before that, she was relying on us, me especially...to look after the family. So, once in a while, I used to go and look after them. And when she was passing away, she asked me to look after the children since nobody could help them. But, they had their own congregation, but not that much. So, I did what I can. Anyway, they've grown up already. The oldest is over twenty, and the second one went to nursing school to become a nurse. And, you know, when the second one got married to Shige Sugawa, fishing supply store in Hilo, one of the sons--I became oya-gauri. I gave her away, so she considers me just like her father. And she has five children and they call me grandpa, grandpa. They living in San Francisco way, in this place called Pinot. Once in a while they write.

And the oldest, she was married but got divorced. And she got married to this Portuguese guy, and they living up Hilo on homestead. And the youngest one got married to a Chinese guy. Nice young fellow, and they have three children. So, the children have grown up to college-age. They might be attending college. So they doing alright. The son is in San Francisco, but I don't know what he's doing.

We didn't know about them until we got interned. And we go traveling together, we get acquainted.

T. Was he conducting services within the camps?

H. No. There were lots of those ministers like Shinto, Tenrikyo, Konkokyo and Buddhist. There were a couple hundred. So, when anybody died, they had a very fabulous funeral service.

T. You were saying that you were interned because you were a judo instructor. And do you feel that was the sole reason or was it in terms of your involvement with the Hongwanji?

H. Yeah, more the church and of course, just church involvement didn't mean much to the G.I. people, so they picked my being a judo instructor, as a last resort.

Yeah, they had this judo organization in Japan, one of them was the Budokan and the other one was Dutokkukan. You know, we had teachers coming here from Japan. But in order to get the black belt rank, we had to join one of those organizations.

H. Kodokan wasn't too bad, but Butokukai, Dai-Nippon Butokukai, the records were in Kyoto, I think. Our instructor, Rev. Tachibana, was the instructor of Hilo Hongwanji, I was helping him. In the beginning, I was affiliated with the Kodokan because they had a shinyukai (advanced degree association) over there, and they were giving us the rank. But when Tachibana came, he belonged to this Butokukai, so he used to give us the rank.

And this Butokukai, as a Japanese organization, had a constitution. And in this constitution, they had to pledge allegiance to the emporor. That's natural, huh?

Also in one of the articles, it says "together in arms" and they used that for historical instructions, I think. Arms, they meant old arms like swords and all kinds. You look at the article, you can interpret it as gather arms, ~~is~~ so that if anything happens, will rise against ideas unfaithful to the emporor. Those articles are natural for Japan to put it in, but being affiliated to that organization over here, meant that they may imprison us because of our loyalty to Japan. And if anything happened between Japan and America, they might consider them diversives.

So, before the war started, there was some talk about it, and they for for and against this organization. And since I had to join that group to get my rank, they considered me as being more loyal to Japan, than Hawaii.

T. So, the FBI used that as more as an excuse to intern you?

H. Yeah, For us, we had to increase membership to get the rank, you see. We had no intention of being loyal to Japan or anything like that. But the FBI used that as an excuse.

Of course, I used to be active in church work. I used to be president of United YBA of Hawaii, just when I was arrested. And I was an official on the board of directors of the Hilo Hongwanji. And over here, they ~~is~~ had the Federation of United YBA and I was officials because I was the president of the United YBA. So, I had all those connections, but they didn't mean much. I was just active--that's all. They just so happened to chose me. So all those things, I did.

But, one thing--there was an informer. Among those who was detained at Kilauea Military Camp. And he was the officials of the Butokai branch. As a matter of fact, he was one of the organizer of thing. I know because he used to go with one of the members of the FBI. I guess he got friendly with them in order to save his own skin, I guess. Everything that happened in the camp, when the people went for the hearing, they had the record in there. So they suspected him, so people didn't talk anything when he was around. So, his use was use already, he became of no use. So, he was let out. About a week after he was let out, eight of us who belonged to this organization were pulled out.

T. That was the eight that you were mentioning that were into karate....

H. No karate, but we had judo, kendo and archery. Three of them were taken up at the same time. So people who were affiliated with those, eight of us, were taken at the same time.

I see no reason except for that person. It was two months after the Pearl Harbor incident, and I was just thinking that we'll be free--I won't be arrested. Then, here came my brother-in-law.

T. Did you continue judo in the camps?

H. No, in the camps, I didn' do.

George Yoshio Hosida (Follow-up int. continued) 3-3-3-3

Q. Where there judo lessons?

H. Yeah, they had judo lessons, mainly for Mainland people. There were good instructors over there, but I had trouble with my back. And for one month, I couldn't walk. I had this pain and everything, and I was hospitalized.

T. Was that from the accident or something?

H. No. When I was young, I went hapaiko. You know, carry cane. I injured my back carry that. So, I couldn't work in the fields. That's the reason why I came down to Hilo. Then I started work as a saleclerk, salesman and all kinds.

So, at the time, I was in no condition to any judo practice. But after the war ended, the Hilo Hongwanji asked me to organize a judo class. So, I helped organize that. About a year later, we got an instructor from Japan. That's Rev. Murakami; he's presently a minister at the Betsuin. He's not doing any judo now, but one of the minister there. He was teaching judo at Waipahu before he was transfered to the Betsuin. Anyway, we got him and he became the instructor and I used to assist him until I moved to the Mainland.

At one time, I used to be president of the black belt judo club. So, even after the war, I used to be pretty active. In the beginning, my wife used to squak like hell and I didn't want to go in. I was in camp and you come back, don't you go into that kind of activities again.