

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

**Andree Ikezawa Fallas (AF)
Rev Benjamin Shuntaro Ikezawa,
polished rock artifacts**

November 8, 2019

Interviewer: Mel Inamasu (MI)

Note: Comments in brackets [] are by the transcriber. Inaudible words or sections are identified by ((?)) in the transcript. This transcript has been lightly edited for readability.

MI: Today is November 8, 2019. We're in the Conference Room to interview Andree Ikezawa Fallas to learn about her grandfather, Reverend Shuntaro Ikezawa, who was an internee during World War II and also to learn about her journey in discovering her family roots. So I'm going to begin. My name is Mel Inamasu. I'm a volunteer in the Resource Center and I'm going to begin by having Andree introduce herself, her full name, month and year of her birth, and where she was born and raised, and then from there I'm going to start asking new questions, so why don't you introduce yourself first?

AF: My name is Andree Ikezawa Fallas. I was born in October, 1949 in Honolulu. I'm a fourth generation Japanese American.

MI: Okay. Thank you, and I'm going to begin by having you give us the names of your parents. We start [with your] father and mother. Let's just start there, simple.

AF: Okay, my father's name is Andrew Takahiko Ikezawa.

MI: Do you know what year he was born in, by any chance?

AF: He was born in 1920 in Kyoto, Japan.

MI: Okay. So he's the one who immigrated to Hawaii?

AF: He immigrated with his parents in 1931.

MI: Okay, okay hold on. Mother?

AF: My mother's name is Wilma Chikako Ikezawa.

MI: Maiden name?

AF: Maiden name is Harada. And she is...I guess she was born in Honolulu in 1925.

MI: So you are *Sansei*...*Nisei*, *Sansei*?

AF: I'm *Nisei*...

MI: Your father was an *Issei*, first...

AF: I'm *Nisei*, *Yonsei*, because my grandmother ...

MI: Okay, okay. So your father immigrated to Hawaii with his father and your mother was born in Honolulu.

AF: Yes.

MI: Okay, let's go back one more step now. Father's parents?

AF: My father's parents, the Reverend Benjamin Shuntaro Ikezawa ...

MI: He had an English name?

AF: Yes, I believe he was born with that English name because he was of the Christian faith. And his wife, my grandmother, was Toyo Okuyama Ikezawa.

MI: What part of Japan did they come from?

AF: My grandfather, the Reverend, was born in Nara and my grandmother was born in Kyoto.

MI: They immigrated with your father to Hawaii?

AF: Yes.

MI: Roughly how old was your father when he came here?

AF: My father was about ten years old and they also came with his younger brother ...

MI: Whose name was?

AF: Whose name was Michael Akira Ikezawa.

MI: Okay. Now let's focus a little on your grandfather then. Why did he come to Hawaii?

AF: He was actually sent by the Japanese Christian church in Osaka to the Good Samaritan Church in Honolulu, to represent the Episcopal faith in Hawaii, with the Japanese people.

MI: Do you know what year it was that he came to Hawaii?

AF: That was 1931.

MI: '31, okay, okay. And he came with his wife and family.

AF: He came alone at first and then my grandmother and the two boys came. Now my aunt, Elizabeth, who is older than my father, was already in Hawaii.

MI: How did she end up being in Hawaii before the parents?

AF: I'm not quite sure how or when she arrived but she was a teacher and she could

have accompanied my grandfather, but I don't have paperwork on her.

MI: Okay, okay, so you're not sure when she came.

AF: Yes, I'm not sure when she came.

MI: Okay and they were from Nara, I guess, in Japan.

AF: Nara, Kyoto area, yes.

MI: Let's go to your mother's side.

AF: My mother's side. My mother's father's name was Teruji Harada and he was born on the Big Island, in Hawi. My grandmother, my mother's mother, was Hatsuyo Kimura Harada.

MI: Do you know roughly when they were born?

AF: I did have it down here. [papers shuffling]

MI: Oh, okay. If you can quickly look it up. I'm trying to get a little bit of foundation for your family.

AF: So my grandfather, Teruji was born in 1888, in Hawi and my grandmother was born on Kauai, in 1893.

MI: Usually I don't have to go back this far, but I will in your case. So they're born in Hawaii, they're *Nisei*. What about their parents? Do you have their names and can you tell me why? Start with your mother's grandfather's parents.

AF: Okay.

MI: When and why they came to Hawaii.

AF: This is where it gets interesting, because my grandfather's father and my grandmother's father were brothers. So my great grandfathers, from both sides of my mother's family...

MI: I'm confused already. (laughter) But that's okay, go ahead, go ahead.

AF: Were brothers and came from the same place and the same family.

MI: Where in Japan?

AF: They came from two different islands in the Seto Inland Sea. One is Ya Island -

MI: How do you spell that?

AF: Y-A, and the other one is Heigun Jima.

MI: Spell that for me?

AF: H-E-I-G-U-N, J-I-M-A, you know, island.

MI: They came to Hawaii for what purpose?

AF: They came to Hawaii as merchants.

MI: Not to work on the sugar plantations?

AF: Not to work on the sugar plantation, interestingly enough. My grandfather -

MI: They came shortly after the first legal immigrants came.

AF: Yes, so my great grandfather had a store and a restaurant in Hawi for the supervisors or the lunas of the plantation. So today, it's the Bamboo Restaurant.

MI: Oh really? It's still there? What was it originally, do you know?

AF: It was their home.

MI: No, I mean, has it always been called the Bamboo Restaurant?

AF: No, it was called ... I think it was called the Harada Store, after my great grandfather. And then my grandfather was born there and so when his uncle, my great grandfather on my mother's mother's side, met my grandmother, I guess he said that she was so beautiful that he couldn't pass her up and he wanted to marry her.

MI: How did they...they were on different islands, though. But because they were family connections, that's how they met?

AF: My grandmother's father first went to Hawi to meet and stay with his brother. And then decided to go to Kauai to raise his family. I think because he had met a Japanese girl that was going to Kauai and then he married my great grandmother. There are other side stories because they also got divorced. (laughter)

MI: Okay, so we're gonna stick for now with your grandfather on your father's side and try to learn his story and the internment story. So let's go back, and you have to repeat this for me. This is the Reverend, he comes to Hawaii ... about how old was he? You said 1930s, yeah, I guess he came.

AF: 1930s and he was fifty-five.

MI: Fifty-five, okay, with family.

AF: Yes.

MI: And [he] came here at the request of which church, in Honolulu? I think you told me the church but I forgot.

AF: It was the Kawaguchi Christ Church, in Osaka, [that] sent him.

MI: In Hawaii, the name of the church was?

AF: Good Samaritan Episcopal Church on Tenth Avenue.

MI: Is the church still there?

AF: It sure is, it is. And up until my mother's death, we were active members.

MI: He was sent here to support the Christian Japanese immigrants in Honolulu and this is in the 1930s. Tell us again what happened, that got him into trouble in

1941. Some of the Christian ministers were not picked up immediately on December 7th, as were the Buddhist ministers. And some were never picked up. Tell me the story again about ...

AF: Well, at that time, it was quite unusual for the Japanese to have Christian ministers I was told, and according to [Yasutaro] Soga's book, there were four Christian Japanese descent ministers in the internment camps.

MI: Okay. You have the names by chance?

AF: No, but it's in Soga's book. (laughter) My grandfather was one of them. At the time the war broke out in 1941, in December, my grandfather had retired from the Good Samaritan Church.

MI: He already retired, okay.

AF: So some of the church members were arrested and taken to Sand Island Camp to be sent to the different internment camps on the mainland.

MI: What do you mean by some of the church members? You mean the Buddhist priests or are you talking about the Christians?

AF: No, the Christian church, of his church, the Good Samaritan Church.

MI: Really?

AF: Yes, so because my grandfather also helped the Japanese Consulate do some translations and helped with some of the older Japanese community with paperwork or whatever they needed.

MI: He spoke and could read English?

AF: Absolutely.

MI: How did he learn English?

AF: He learned English originally in Japan and then went to seminary school in Boston, at Boston University.

MI: And then went back to Japan.

AF: And then went back to Hawaii, never went back to Japan after 1931.

MI: So he was sent from seminary school to Hawaii, assigned to Hawaii?

AF: Yes.

MI: Interesting.

AF: I do believe he had to go back and he married my grandmother because they weren't married here.

MI: I see, I see.

AF: And I believe he met my grandmother at the Kawaguchi Church because she was

also a Christian.

MI: So what have you learned about his arrest and his internment? Let's stick to that story.

AF: Well, I recently learned, trying to gather information for this interview, that the church had these two letters. One from my grandfather to the Bishop, the soon to become Bishop in Honolulu, and one from the Bishop about my grandfather. Because it was during Christmas time...

MI: Christmas time, 1941?

AF: Nineteen forty-one, yes. My grandfather was concerned about the New Year's celebration coming up, because you know, Japanese, that's...they don't necessarily...the Christians celebrate Christmas but the New Year's celebration, Japan-wide, is the celebration of the year. So he was concerned that the people that were getting processed to be interned and also the staff at the Consulate would not be able to enjoy the New Year's festivities and food. So he decided that he would go to the Consulate and give them New Year's gifts. When he arrived at the Consulate, it was heavily guarded by the U.S. military. There was no staff there. In fact, they didn't let him in the building but arrested him at that time and he was sent to the Sand Island transitional center.

MI: Would you say that if he had not gone there with the gifts, he might not have been arrested or prosecuted?

AF: I believe he would not have, because he was older, already. He was sixty-five and had retired and was living a calm, sedentary life, and he was just trying to do a good deed, you know, for these people, and got arrested.

MI: Directly, from that point?

AF: Yes, from that point.

MI: There to Sand Island?

AF: So my father and my uncle and my aunt did not get to see him.

MI: How old was your father, roughly, at that time? This [was] 1941?

AF: Nineteen forty-one, so he was twenty-one.

MI: Twenty-one and he was a university student?

AF: He was a University of Hawaii student.

MI: Okay, okay. But let's hold that for a little bit later. So father is taken, what happens to the family?

AF: The family doesn't know what to do.

MI: Your father was the oldest son.

AF: He was the oldest son, but his sister was older than he. Five years older, so she

was already working.

MI: But they were all living together?

AF: They were all living together, yes. And I guess she went down to find out what happened to her father.

MI: He didn't come home from that visit [to the Consulate].

AF: Yes, he didn't come home. So the ladies at the church got worried and they found out that he was indeed in that Sand Island transition center and was going to be shipped out, I believe, in the beginning of February, to Santa Fe camp.

MI: Family have any opportunity to visit him at Sand Island?

AF: I don't believe so. They were able to write, but only when my grandfather got to Santa Fe camp. I guess they allowed the internees to write.

MI: Does the family, by any chance, have any of those letters that came to his wife, to his family?

AF: I think I do.

MI: Are they cut-out, for censorship, portions cut out?

AF: That I don't know. That I don't know. But when my uncle, my father's younger brother, passed away six years ago, his wife gave me his A File.

MI: His what?

AF: He had a military A File, cause he was in the military.

MI: What is a military A File?

AF: A File is [an] Alien File. The National Archives has a lot of A Files that belong to the internees. This is one of the things I found out.

MI: Was there one on your grandfather?

AF: Yes, in fact, that's how I got my grandfather's *koseki* [family registry].

MI: These A Files are stored where? Didn't the military lose a lot of their records in a fire?

AF: Yes, yes.

MI: This was not stored there, right?

AF: There was a big fire in the main military storage archives. After that time, all the archives were separated to seven or eight different archive centers around the country so that ...

MI: So his documents survived the fire.

AF: Yes, his documents survived the fire. I went to the National Archives in San Bruno and was able to request the A File, and they give it to you for free. The

only thing they charge you for is the printing of it. They don't give you the original file.

MI: So how large was his A File?

AF: It had several documents, like twenty or thirty documents.

MI: [Do] you have copies of those?

AF: I have copies of them and they also had his original *koseki*, which they would not give me.

MI: How or why would his *koseki* be in his military file, do you think?

AF: Okay, I think that, you know, usually a lot of *koseki*'s are in the temples in Japan and are held ...

MI: That's why I'm wondering. How did they get a copy of it?

AF: Yes, okay, because my grandfather was Christian and he had to present documents when he went to Boston University, they gave his documents, his family documents, to the government offices in Japan, which in turn ...

MI: Sent it to Boston.

AF: Sent it to Boston and which my grandfather pretty much kept, when he immigrated to Hawaii.

MI: Boston gave it back to him, you think?

AF: Yes, they gave him, because it's America. They're going to give him his files.

MI: Either that or the government had a copy.

AF: So when he got arrested, those documents became the property of the U.S. government. Including all the forms he had to fill out, and his declaration to denounce the Japanese government, that's all in the A File.

MI: Wait, what is this declaration to denounce the Japanese government?

AF: Because he never got his U.S. citizenship.

MI: When did he do this?

AF: When he was being processed. I have them all here.

MI: So he was already an internee, when he signed that declaration?

AF: Oh, yes, that was part of the transition process.

MI: Okay, hold off on that. So he's picked up. What did you, if you can tell me, what did you learn [about that] from the A File, about your grandfather? You learned that you had the *koseki*.

AF: I learned that he had a *koseki*. I learned that he had beautiful writing.

MI: Is that right?

AF: (chuckle) Beautiful, and it's full of a lot of lists and I feel that ...

MI: What kinds of lists?

AF: Lists of the people that were interned, who went with him on the boat...

MI: This was in his A File?

AF: It's in his A File and they're classified as Military Records. A lot of them had to be signed by the officers or whoever was doing the process thing. There were documents that they generated for them from the Department of Justice to be, like, passports for them, because they weren't citizens while they were interned. I have those documents.

MI: The document you mentioned ... what did he do as far as his citizenship? He renounced his Japanese citizenship?

AF: They had to renounce their alliance to Japan.

MI: He had to do that? He was made by the American government to declare his loyalty to Japan [America]?

AF: Yes, that's what it was.

MI: By chance do you remember the date on that thing?

AF: It's in here [packet of documents] and I can go back and take a look.

MI: If you can take a quick look. I'm curious. At what point in his incarceration he signed or prepared that document, I'm just curious.

AF: Yes, that would be interesting, wouldn't it. Let's see...American Consular Service. Granted Immigration Visa. I would have to look through the whole A File.

MI: Okay, that's okay. Later on, if you can, find that for me because I'm trying to put things together, like at what point he was asked to make that declaration and how it impacted his internment.

AF: I think, definitely when he got out, to get the documents to re-enter the United States, he had to...

MI: He had to sign that too?

AF: He had to sign those things.

MI: Okay, that's enough. So you learned that he went from Sand Island to Santa Fe. Is that what you told me?

AF: Yes, I believe that... I don't know exactly, the route, but according to Soga's book, I knew that he was on the second ship that went over. I also have that document. And that Soga tells you of the journey they took. So they went to a couple of other internment camps before they ended up at Santa Fe, but I think that was because they were on a train and the train or the bus took them there.

MI: How long was he at Santa Fe, from what you learned? Did he go from Santa Fe to other camps?

AF: That I'm not sure of. I can look up...I have another book, too, of other internees, especially from Hawaii, that list my grandfather too. I believe he was there at least three years.

MI: And no other camps at this point in your knowledge. No other internment camps mentioned?

AF: Yeah.

MI: Okay. Now, his family is here in Hawaii. Some of the families in Hawaii, left behind, were given an opportunity to join the father. [Have] you heard any stories like that in your family?

AF: No.

MI: That the wife, especially if she had young children, they were given an opportunity to intern themselves so that the family could be together?

AF: No, I didn't hear stories. 'Cause, my aunt was working and I don't believe she was married at that time. And then, my father and his brother were still in school.

MI: I think this may have applied mainly to families with young children.

AF: Yeah, they were grown already. And I'm sure he wouldn't want my grandmother to go and join him there.

MI: Some other internees asked their families to join, but you're not aware of any stories like that?

AF: No, no, and I'm pretty ashamed of myself that I don't know more about it.

MI: No, you don't have to be ashamed. Now, we leave him in the camp. How long was he there at Santa Fe? Let's close that.

AF: I think about three years.

MI: Did you find anything in the A File that he was discharged and a discharge date?

AF: I have his discharge records.

MI: Okay. You think roughly that he was there for about three years and then sent back, released to come back to Hawaii?

AF: Yes.

MI: So he's there from early 1942, roughly.

AF: February '42 ... maybe he was there four years. The war's over in '45, right?

MI: The war's over in August of [19]45, so before the war ended, he was released.

AF: No, I think at the ending of the war, he was released.

MI: So that would be in late 1945. Any stories, and this you won't find in the records, about the hardships of your father, your uncle, aunt and their mother, while father is interned, financially.

AF: Financially?

MI: Grandma did what?

AF: She just lived at the church. So they didn't have to worry about rent or anything like that. They lived at the church.

MI: So they were allowed to stay there during the wartime?

AF: Yes, they lived in the parsonage and I believe she took care of ... they had a little day care center there for children.

MI: Now some other Christian minister came in to replace your grandfather during that time?

AF: Yes, and I believe it was one of the Reverend Kennedys. 'Cause my grandfather had a close relationship with the Kennedy family. One of the Reverend Kennedys married my parents and another one married my sister and, you know, [became] my brother-in-law when they got married.

MI: Do you remember the first name of the Reverend Kennedy?

AF: I think it was Robert and I think he was a junior. They were twins. Bishop Kennedy had two boys that became ministers also, and they were twins.

MI: Any stories from your father, about the hardships during the war years when the family was without their father?

AF: No, I think maybe my aunt, Elizabeth ...

MI: What is her last name? Elizabeth...?

AF: Manol.

MI: How do you spell that?

AF: M-A-N-O-L. She married this Austrian guy. He was a pretty big realtor, in Hawaii, for a while, Leo Manol. They didn't have any children. I believe she took care of them, cause they were still in school. And then my father...

MI: Wait, say that again?

AF: She took care of my father and his brother.

MI: Your aunt?

AF: Yes, my aunt, Elizabeth. Because my Uncle Mike was still in high school, and he is a contemporary of George Ariyoshi. They were friends in high school...

MI: Farrington High School?

AF: No, McKinley, Ariyoshi went to McKinley. Inouye went to Farrington. No, Inouye went to McKinley?

MI: Yes.

AF: His wife went to Farrington. Inouye's first wife went to Farrington.

MI: Oh really?

AF: Because she was my mother's best friend. (laughter) Okay, so not stories of hardship but my father did try to join the military, in 1942.

MI: Let's get to your father, now. Tell me about him, a little bit. Raised in what part of Honolulu was it?

AF: In Kaimuki, on Tenth Avenue.

MI: What schools did he go to?

AF: I don't know what elementary school he went to but he went to McKinley High School.

MI: Graduated in what year?

AF: I think, forty-one.

MI: Forty-one, okay. Tell me about him.

AF: My father was president of his class.

MI: Now, was he class president because of academics?

AF: Yes, very smart. And from the University of Hawaii, he graduated Magna Cum Laude.

MI: Really, studying what, major?

AF: It's really funny because he studied Sociology. He had a Sociology degree.

MI: Magna Cum Laude. Now was he, by chance, in the ROTC during the university days?

AF: No, he was not.

MI: When the war broke out, he was about twenty-one?

AF: He was older. No, he... Forty-one, he was twenty-one because...no, he must have graduated before that, before forty-one.

MI: My question was going to be, was he obligated to join the military?

AF: No, because he was still a Japanese citizen.

MI: He could not. He was not eligible?

AF: Yes, he was not eligible. So this is why he had trouble and this is why I also have trouble finding his records. Because he was a civilian alien working for the

military, during the war.

MI: As a sociologist?

AF: No, as a translator, in the Communications Department.

MI: So he could speak and read Japanese?

AF: He could speak several dialects of Japanese and he was very well versed in English.

MI: So what was his job again in the military?

AF: He was a translator, communications translator.

MI: Civilian translator.

AF: Alien civilian translator.

MI: Where was he based in?

AF: On Guam.

MI: Oh they sent him to Guam?

AF: Yes, they sent him to Guam. He tried to join the Army but the Army didn't take him. So he went to the Navy and the Navy took him because of his translation skills. So not the one that got it wrong (chuckle) but part of the group. Because it was a group of them that translated the message. 'Cause he, my father, went to Gakushuin, which is the Emperor's school in Japan, so he knew the Emperor's language.

MI: Did he ever talk to the family about his wartime ...

AF: He never talked to me about it. Now, he was very close to my sister, Wendy, who had a little bit of a learning disability when she was younger, so spent a lot of time with my parents learning how to read and going over things and eventually excelled, because she became an attorney, for the Justice Department, in D.C.

MI: Did she ever mention anything that your father might have told her about his wartime experience?

AF: She doesn't remember. I remember she and my dad used to have long talks together.

MI: She's older?

AF: She's younger. I was more a free spirit and I was out of the house, right after high school. She used to have really long talks with my dad and when I recently asked her if she remembers something, she said that my father never talked to her about hardship. And this was so true of my dad.

MI: So this was a hardship for him, serving with the military?

AF: Must have been, must have been. And a little frustration, because he was a

contemporary of [Daniel] Inouye and all of that, too.

MI: So he was...I'm sorry, at McKinley, what was he, student body president?

AF: Yes.

MI: And one of his classmates was Dan Inouye?

AF: I think he was a couple of years older than Dan Inouye. He knew Dan because my mother's best friend was Dan's girlfriend, and eventually married him.

MI: So they were, Dan Inouye and his first wife were classmates with your mother, I guess. Your mother was classmates with Dan?

AF: My mother and Dan Inouye's first wife went to Farrington. After school, they used to go to the sweet shop and that's where she met Dan Inouye, Maggie. That's where Maggie met Uncle Dan. And my mother kept telling her, "Oh, no. He's one of the bad boys, don't go with him, he's one of the bad boys." And that's the other thing, he and my dad did not run in the same circles. My dad was the geeky guy, you know.

MI: Intellectual.

AF: Intellectual guy, Phi Beta Kappa.

MI: And Inouye was a bad boy.

AF: Yes, and Inouye ran around with the bad boys that smoked. They went to the pool hall and everything. Sorry, sorry, Maggie. (chuckle) Sorry, mom. (chuckle) But, you know, my mom would be the first one to tell you that.

MI: I should have asked her. (chuckle)

AF: So my dad ran with the intellectuals.

MI: Give me an idea of any of his contemporaries who were accomplished later in life. Any names that would be of interest to historians?

AF: Yes, Shelly Mark, who was the state's economic advisor. And, of course, he knew George Ariyoshi. He knew Dan Inouye. He also knew Shiro Amioka, who was a bigwig at the University of Hawaii.

MI: Educator.

AF: Yes, educator. They were good friends. Also, a lot of the judges.

MI: Let's go back a step to your grandfather again. He comes back at the end of the war, what happens to him at that point? He's older, but in terms of his life, anything to do with the church again? What happened to him, your grandfather?

AF: I guess, he went back to the church and he was actively involved in the activities, but not in the services.

MI: Was that by choice, do you know?

AF: Oh, yes, oh, yes, it was by choice.

MI: Do you know if he associated with any of the internees from Santa Fe, or they all just went their separate ways and never...

AF: That, I do not know because he died when I was six. So the only memory...

MI: Do you know what year he died?

AF: He died in...

MI: 'Cause, when you were six.

AF: Fifty-six. He died in 1956.

MI: So about eleven years after he came back.

AF: Yes, but my grandmother died in 1952 or [19]53.

MI: Before him.

AF: Yes, he came back and like five or six years later, she passed away. They were still living at the church then, because my only memory of my grandfather is that one day, we were in the room behind the pulpit and he and my father were having a discussion. They were great debaters. They always talked about a lot of things. And, you know, they could have been talking about things about the war and whatever, and I was sitting on the table with my chin down on the table, thinking, "Okay, when are they going to stop talking? When are they going to stop talking?" And there was a little cockroach that crawled down from under my chin, I guess it had come out from under the table, and I sat up, thinking that it came out of my mouth (chuckle) and I was trying to tell my dad. "You know, that roach came out of my mouth!" They were deep in discussion and they weren't paying attention to me. (chuckle)

MI: You don't remember what they were discussing?

AF: No, and that's the only memory I have of him.

MI: That's interesting, so they're having an academic discussion, father and son.

AF: Yes, they had a lot of that.

MI: Grandpa was pretty smart, then.

AF: Oh, yes, he was very intelligent. And in Soga's book, too, I just want to point this out about my grandfather, that I not only appreciated that he tried to have the staff at the Consulate have a good New Year's celebration, and out of the goodness of his heart, he took gifts there and got arrested, but that in Soga's book, he talks about hearing one of the sermons that my grandfather gave at the internment camp where they talked about the atomic bomb and my grandfather pointed out to them that it's not the technology about the bomb and about weapons, it's the people, the minds of the people that used them. That's the important thing that we have to

work with. And I thought that was pretty right-on, very astute of him to say that.

MI: It also tells us that they were still there in camp, in August 1945. They were there discussing the atomic bomb.

AF: Yes. Oh, that's right, he must have been there, then.

MI: He was not released until after the war. Okay, interesting. So no stories from your grandfather, your father or your grandmother about the war, hardships or anything like that?

AF: No.

MI: So you have no idea whether or not your grandfather expressed feelings about his internment, as far as being angry with the American government or anything like that?

AF: He wasn't angry.

MI: Or, how about your father? Your father never talked about how your grandfather was mistreated by his own government?

AF: No, I think they pretty much left him alone, because he was older. And just the fact that he ... these rocks that he polished, in the internment camp, he probably didn't have that much to do.

MI: Tell us about the rocks. [JCCH artifact collection] Tell us the story of those rocks that you brought in today.

AF: Well, when my mom passed away a couple of years ago, my sister and I were going through her things. And my sister was asking me, "Oh, do you want this, do you want that?" And she gave me this bag and I looked in it and there were a bunch of rocks in it. So I asked her, "What are these?" And my sister got a little misty-eyed and she sat down and she said, "You know what these are?" She says, "These are the rocks that our grandfather polished in the internment camp because he didn't have anything to do. So he polished these rocks. And he must have brought it back with him when he came back to Hawaii."

MI: Your sister knew a little more than you did because she spent some time with grandpa.

AF: Yes, so she must have found out what those rocks were.

MI: Any other artifacts that might have been around the house?

AF: I have a bank book from my father that he kept on his time on Guam. And that's the only reason I knew he was on Guam until 1945. I have been trying to find ...

MI: What kind of information do you get out of that?

AF: I found out he didn't have much money. (chuckle)

MI: It was like a checkbook, check register?

AF: Yes, it was ... back in those days, they had bank books.

MI: Now, he was already married?

AF: So this is the interesting thing about the book. My parents got married when my father came back from Guam, in February of 1946. This bank book is dated May 1945 to July 1945, and the account is under Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ikezawa, before they were married.

MI: What does that mean?

AF: I think my father opened this account just in case something happened to him.

MI: He wanted her to get it.

AF: Yes, so I think he listed her as next of kin.

MI: Let me ask you about your mother's side and the wartime years. Where is your mother and what is she doing?

AF: My mother's in Honolulu and in 1941, in school. She was in high school about to go to the university.

MI: How many years difference?

AF: Five years difference.

MI: So she didn't know your father, then.

AF: She must have known my father, I think, because she and Maggie used to go to McKinley after school. The story is that she and Maggie saw my dad giving a speech and being president of the class. He was giving a speech and my mother told Maggie, "I'm going to marry that man." (laughter) And sure enough, she did. My father was really good looking. He had wavy hair. For a Japanese, he had wavy hair and ...

MI: Would you, by chance, have any of his speeches?

AF: I do not. I can try and see if my younger sister has them because she lives in what was the family home and she gave me a lot of photo albums and stuff like that. What I do have is, I have some articles that were in the *Ka Leo*, the university newspaper, about him being in the Episcopalian Club, in the Christian club. He was the only guy in the Christian club and I said, "Well, my father was no fool." (laughter)

MI: He was a very religious man.

AF: And my mother joined the Christian club because my father was in the Christian club, so funny.

MI: She had a plan. But in terms of her family, she's not married at that point.

AF: Right, she's working at the cannery.

MI: Which cannery?

AF: The Dole Cannery, and my grandmother is a supervisor at the cannery and she also has a little delicatessen across the street.

MI: What's the name of the delicatessen?

AF: I have no idea but she was famous for making bentos and doughnuts. The Japanese workers used to come over. They actually lived a couple of houses down from the deli, on Kalani Street. And just one short little story. When I was little, my uncles used to shoot their BB guns across at the cannery. Years later, in the year 2000, I worked at Lion Coffee, which is in that cannery building now. The holes from the BB guns that my uncle shot into the cannery are still in that window. And across the street, between the two buildings that are there, there's a small little piece of earth that has trees growing, and I told my boss, that's where my grandparents used to live, across the street, and the only reason those trees are living there is because that's where my grandmother's greenhouse was. Otherwise, you don't see trees like that growing between cement buildings. Just [a] short little story. So my grandfather, my mother's father, had ...

MI: What was his occupation?

AF: He was a merchant, again, like his father, and he ...

MI: Took over the father's store.

AF: Took over the father's business and moved it to Honolulu, from Hawi on the Big Island, and it was called Harada Youngson. I don't know why he called it that because he wasn't actually the young son, he was the older son. He had a younger brother. They packaged Japanese food products and distributed it.

MI: They imported it.

AF: They imported and distributed. Nishimoto Trading Company bought them out in later years and it's still the Nishimoto Trading Company.

MI: In terms of specifically December 7, any stories that you might have on your mother's family.

AF: He wasn't arrested. And he didn't spend any time in the internment camp. I think it was because he was born in Hawaii.

MI: How about the military?

AF: He wasn't in the military. The only people that were in the military were his sons. Three of my uncles went into the military.

MI: With the 442, 100th, do you know?

AF: I don't think so. They were older than [Dan] Inouye.

MI: Their names, if you know them?

AF: Yes, Richard Yasuo (we called them by their Japanese names) -- we called him Uncle Ya Harada. Allen Iwao -- we called him Uncle Iya Harada. And Harry Hiroshi Harada.

MI: So they all served in the military and fortunately, all came back.

AF: Yes, and the only reason I know that is because I've seen them in military uniforms, pictures only.

MI: Any stories from your mother about wartime hardships or anything like that?

AF: No, never talked. I think I asked her one time but this was just before she passed away and she passed away when she was ninety-two. So she didn't have that great a memory, although her memory was still clear about a lot of things. She does remember being able to write to my father,

MI: You mean when he was in Guam?

AF: When he was in Guam, and then ... I should look for the letters because my father was a pretty prolific writer, also. Had beautiful handwriting, too.

MI: After the war, his career was what?

AF: Went back to the university, I think, to graduate. And then got involved... none of my mother's father's sons wanted to take the business over or work in the business, even. My grandfather was doing really well so they had more of a charmed life. So they didn't really suffer, financially.

MI: Business may have picked up, actually, wartime.

AF: Yes, yes, and so, to me, they became a family of privilege, 'cause even during the war, they could survive. He could still feed his family. My grandmother could still cook. And then my father started working with him because none of his own sons wanted to help him with the business and because my dad was pretty savvy about Japanese language and about accounting and he had such a nice personality, too. He helped my grandfather a great deal, to the point where my grandfather, whenever the family used to go over to their house, they had holidays or dinners or whatever, he and my father got very close. Closer than his own sons, I believe.

MI: But he didn't take over the business.

AF: No, he didn't take over the business. Because my father wouldn't do that. As much as my grandfather... I think my grandfather, at one time or on a couple of occasions, asked my father to do that, asked him to take over the business, that he was going to give him the business. And my father would not do that because he had five boys. So he went and worked for other companies, doing the same thing. My mom always got on my dad's case because he didn't go into the professions. He didn't become an attorney or a doctor.

MI: So how would you describe his career? What did he do? He was a consultant? He helped people with businesses?

AF: I think my father was a humanitarian, above anything else. I think, because he had that sociology background, he tried to help the Japanese people in Hawaii as much as he could.

MI: You're talking about people from Japan or Japanese Americans?

AF: Both.

MI: Both, in what way? How was he able to help them?

AF: He decided that he didn't want to become a professional person. He wanted to be an importer, like my grandfather, bringing in the foods for Japanese American families and Japanese families so that they could enjoy that culture, they could enjoy both cultures. And bringing a lot of the importers over to Hawaii to bring their businesses here and do trade with America. Because it was very difficult at that time, especially after the war. And he enjoyed it. He loved it because he made a lot of friends.

MI: From Japan or more locally? Did he try to help Japanese businesses in Hawaii, that kind of thing?

AF: Oh, absolutely. He worked for the Ajinomoto Company. And then after that, helped other local businesses. He knew Tokioka, the Tokiokas. They grew up in Kaimuki too, and they were friends. Sidney Kosasa was a friend of his, contemporary friend of his, too, because of the retail business. My father was in the wholesale business and Kosasa, they lived a couple of blocks from each other.

MI: How about mother? What did she end up doing?

AF: My mother became a teacher. She was an English teacher and I think she taught a little French, too. She eventually became a teacher for the mentally impaired, Down's Syndrome. McKinley and Kalakaua, all the public schools were trying to integrate handicapped students. They were trying to make them mainstream so my mother was part of that movement, working with those kids. And interestingly enough, my youngest sister is an instructor for handicapped children.

MI: And her name is?

AF: Anelle.

MI: Anelle, okay. So I think we have a good feeling for your family now. Now, what about yourself? Very briefly, because I'm going to have you evolve into your project of learning about your family, the process. Tell us briefly about yourself and then we'll get into how you learned about your family history. What school did you go to, what did you study?

AF: When I was younger, I went to Royal Elementary and Maemae Elementary schools. And then I went to Kawanakoa Intermediate School and McKinley High School, and then the University of Hawaii.

MI: Studying what?

AF: Of course, studying general things. I got involved in drama in high school and also in art. Our family, on both sides, are pretty artistic and so when I was in high school, I was very interested in becoming a fashion designer or an artist, but realizing that you don't really make that much money (chuckle) doing those things. Then I got involved in drama and became a dancer and continued dance all the way through university. And then I hurt my back and realized that I couldn't use that as a career. When I was in intermediate school, I helped my dad at his office, and my grandfather, in his business. Whether it was packaging foodstuffs and going on the deliveries with them. I did the same thing with my dad with his import business. And so he started teaching me how to do the accounts. Our family is pretty interested in mathematics and I have always been good with numbers, so it came kind of naturally to me and I started to go into business. And also, at the same time, working in the entertainment industry and in business, evolved into me doing promotions and advertising and writing for entertainment. I did that for several years and one of the companies that I worked with was this Japanese fellow who was a photographer by trade but also did filming projects with the Japanese. So there was art and drama together and also incorporated my writing, cause I would have to write press releases. So I did that and worked with him and got into several different Japanese businesses with him. And at the same time, when I was about fourteen years old, one of my aunts told me that, because of my writing, I should write a history of the family. She thought it was pretty interesting that my great grandfathers were brothers and how all the children trickled down into their different professions. So I started collecting pictures, taking pictures and collecting pictures of the family.

MI: At an early age like that, as a teenager?

AF: Yeah, I remember, when I was in intermediate school, I started doing that. Then because my dad was going to Japan so much, I had contact with my cousins in Japan. At the same time, I was also doing fashion illustration but I was also doing fashion designing. So I got into making clothes, and because my aunt in Japan was a kimono maker, I started to become interested in her life. So I think it was my dad, or it might have been my Uncle Mike who told me, "Well, if you're interested in that side of the family, your grandfather, the Reverend Ikezawa, has a *kakucho*, a death record which pretty much gave the pedigree of the Ikezawa family and the Okuyama family of my grandmother's family. He said, "Why don't you take this book" and I still have the *kakucho*. So I got interested in finding my family roots for my son, because my son's dad was Arabian-Italian. So that became very interesting to me and so I started researching any branches of the family that I could,

MI: Your side?

AF: Yeah, my side and my ex-husband's side. My friend, the photographer that I was in the filming business with, said to me, "I have this friend in Japan that is an

official for something like the Social Security Administration of Japan. So he knows about all these old people and all these old records, the *kosekis*.” He said that they were thinking about doing some kind of service for Hawaiian Japanese families to find their *koseki* and their roots in Japan, through this guy that he knew.

MI: So people in Hawaii were showing interest in their heritage?

AF: Yes, yes. You know, Ancestry.com was getting to be really popular.

MI: Now what year are you talking about, roughly?

AF: I’m talking about...this was fairly recent, four years ago. So he said, since you’ve already been doing this chart, he thought the chart was really interesting that I’d been doing of my family.

MI: Genealogy charts.

AF: Yes, he thought it was really interesting and he said we could share that with other people and he’s sure that other people want to do that, too. So I just put up this web site and we came up with services to help people through this guy and also through the Suo-Oshima Museum, an immigration museum, in Japan.

MI: How do you spell the name? What, Oshima...

AF: Suo-Oshima. It’s S-U-O dash Oshima.

MI: And where is that museum?

AF: It’s off the coast of Yanai City in Yamaguchi ken. It’s an immigration museum with lists of Japanese people that specifically came to Hawaii. So I didn’t know about that museum.

MI: Is it a list from Yamaguchi ken or covering all from Japan that came to Hawaii?

AF: I think primarily from Yamaguchi ken but they do have records, I’ve seen records from people that left from Kure [Hiroshima] and also from Yokohama [Kanagawa]. Yokohama’s not Yamaguchi ken, right? So I’ve seen records from those sites also. But this year, we changed the Japan Hawaii Roots site to an informational site because I’ve kind of lost the contact through the museum. Also the communication was not good and took a lot of time, like months, to get information. I felt just too responsible to the people who asked me to find the records. And I have to say, with not much success. The most success I did get was actually through the Resource Center here, at the Japanese Cultural Center with Marsha when she was here and with Yoko Waki.

MI: What kind of help did you need and how did they help you?

AF: Like most people, you don’t know how to start, to find records. It was one thing that I could go online to the National Archives, cause it’s all in English and I could go on FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com. That’s fine but Japan is a special case where mostly everything is in Japanese, and not easily ...

MI: And it's not digitized, not searchable.

AF: Yes, yes, and they don't give out records to organizations like Ancestry and stuff like that. [A] lot of information is kept in the temples and it's kept very sacred in the official offices in Japan. So it's not as easy to obtain.

MI: If an individual wants to do research on a specific family, their family, do they need to show a connection to the family, some documentation, or can anybody just go there and give a name and ask them?

AF: No, it's very strict. You do need to show documentation and proof of identification and the connection. And the connection cannot be further than great grandparent. You have to be within that, you know...at least, at the Japanese Consulate here, that's what they told me the parameters were. So this official that was in Japan that had worked for the Social Security over there, he could get records without those documents, without ID, which I originally didn't think was right, especially since people are so conscious now about your own personal identity and privacy, and the security of that. But I was willing to see if that was going to happen. And actually, it hasn't happened and it's been four years. So that's why I changed the site to an informational site, because I'm still willing to help people and I'm still willing to receive email to help people. A lot of people have a specific reason why they want to find out. What's interesting to me is the people that don't want to find out because they're afraid of something bad in their past or something like that in their family. But I think those things are really interesting. So because I got involved with the Japan Hawaii Roots genealogy site, last year I went on the quest to find the domiciles or the gravesites of people I was related to on these little islands. The islands, when I went there, had only about forty people living on the whole island. So the moment I stepped off the boat, people asked me what I was doing there or who I was looking for. I said, I'm looking for the Harada family. "Oh, they used to live next to this ((?))." Everybody knew. And when I went to Heigun Island, in the northern part, there were only twenty-five people that live there now. It was so cool, there's all these nice abandoned houses.

MI: Young children, or no children?

AF: No children, no businesses, no hotels, no cars. It's all pathways. A lot of them are paved, but pathways up the side of the mountain to these gorgeous houses that are all connected to Hawaii families but because there's no industry there, there's no jobs, there's no schools, there's no young people there. They just come to visit the old people there or maybe they might consider going there to retire.

MI: What do these people have to say about their country and the future of their islands? Or do they say anything? Are they welcoming all the families to move back?

AF: They're very welcoming.

MI: Or to relocate?

AF: They would like some of that. They don't want it to become like Waikiki or something like that, but they were basically very happy people. (laughter) The fishermen go fishing, everybody has their own little garden, and there's a ferry that comes once a day, if they want to go to Yanai City to go shopping. And on Heigun, the south side of the island is kind of like a resort so they can go there to go shopping also. But most of the people, they order *bentos* so ... the ferry goes twice to Heigun Island so they can order their *bentos* and have it delivered that day. It was really cute because one of the guys at the pier said ... I said, the brochure said about a hundred people live here and he goes, "No, there's more like twenty-five or thirty people." He said, "I can tell because of the *bentos* that people order." I thought they were really awesome. So when I got to Heigun Island, and that woman that was tying up the boats for the typhoon asked me who I was looking for, I said I was looking for the biological family [who] I found out was Nouguchi, and she said she's Nouguchi. And she turned out to be my third cousin. It was really something special. She was so thrilled; she became very excited. And there's a three room *ryokan*, the only one on that part of the island and she had the woman there in the kitchen make us lunch and some of the shellfish that was in the lunch was caught by my relatives. It was really chicken-skin time. And she had the *koseki* for the rest of the family. I only had it for my two great grandfathers. They had eight children.

MI: She was able to expand the genealogy.

AF: Yeah, and expand two generations above, too. It was awesome.

MI: Very interesting. Okay, do you have anything you want to add, at this point?

AF: No.

MI: Okay, why don't we stop and then I'm going to spend some time with you, just quickly, going through your collection.

AF: Okay, great.

MI: Thank you.