

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Richard Nakagawa (RN) and Dorothy Nakagawa (DN)

November 21, 2019

Interviewers: Mel Inamasu (MI) and Marilyn Higashide (MH)

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 21, 2019 and we're at the residence of Mr. Richard Nakagawa.

RN: The son of Mrs. Helen Nakagawa.

MI: Okay, and with Mr. Nakagawa is his wife, Dorothy Nakagawa (DN). My name is Mel Inamasu. I am a volunteer at the Japanese Cultural Center, and helping me with the interview today is --

MH: I'm Marilyn Higashide. I'm also a volunteer at the Japanese Cultural Center.

MI: We're here today to learn about Mr. Nakagawa's mother's story, her internment story during World War II. So I'm going to begin by asking Mr. Nakagawa to introduce himself, give us his full name, the month and year that you were born and where you were born and raised in Honolulu, or wherever it was. Go ahead.

RN: My name is Richard Kaoru Nakagawa. I was born in Honolulu, 6-30-34, June 30, 1934.

MI: Okay.

RN: I was born up [sic], they called the place Baker Camp, up there where the school is, Kuhio School is.

MI: Okay. Can I have you tell us the names of your parents? Now, you're talking about Moiliili, right, Baker Camp?

RN: Right, Moiliili.

MI: I don't know much about Moiliili. Now give us the names of your parents.

RN: My dad's name was Thomas Tamitomi Nakagawa.

MI: Tamitomi? Okay.

RN: Yeah, and my mother's name was Helen S. Kawada Nakagawa

MI: Okay.

RN: She comes from Kauai.

MI: So both of your parents were *nisei* [Second generation immigrants from Japan]? They

were born in Hawaii?

RN: My dad, was *Issei* [First generation immigrant from Japan] came from Japan.

MI: Why don't you tell us about his parents then. Do you know about his parents?

RN: No, I never met them.

MI: They died before you came around?

RN: Oh, they didn't come from Japan so I don't know. I never meet [sic] the parents. My dad was, came over here as a workman, yeah?

MI: So your father was [a] first generation *Issei*? I see.

RN: Yeah.

MI: Came to work on the plantation?

RN: No, as a carpenter.

MI: Carpenter, okay, and your mother was born here?

RN: Yeah, she was born in Lawai, Koloa, Kauai.

MI: Do you know the names of her parents, by any chance?

RN: I think her mom's name was Wai Sawada.

MI: W-A-I? Wai?

RN: That, I don't know because when we asked mom, "What grandma's name?" She tells, "Wai," every time.

MI: Oh, okay.

RN: It's a joke, you know, why?

MI: Oh, why! (Laughter) That's cute.

RN: But that was grandma's name, "Wai."

MI: That probably was not her real name.

RN: Yeah. No, no, that's her real name, "Wai," but I don't know how they spell it.

MI: And your mother's father's name?

RN: Ah, never met him, probably had died already yeah?

MI: Okay. Now do you know where they came from in Japan, your mother's side, your father's side?

RN: Both parents, I think, my mom's parents, I don't know where they came from, but my dad came from Kumamoto, Japan.

MI: Kumamoto, okay, and your mother's parents came to work on the plantation?

RN: No, they had a blacksmith shop in Lawai.

MI: Oh, I see.

RN: So everybody knew my parents because you know [the] blacksmith shop was ...

MI: Wait, wait. This is your grandparents?

RN: Yeah, my grandma and my grandpa, I guess, you know.

MI: Okay.

RN: And my mom was, um, very intelligent. She never go to [sic] too much schooling but she was very intelligent. She could speak Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Hawaiian. She can --

MI: Because she learned it from growing up in the neighborhood?

RN: Probably, you know, and she have to know those things because they were running a blacksmith shop, yeah. Her parents only, I guess, can speak Japanese.

MI: Is the blacksmith shop still there, the building, still there on Kauai?

RN: Oh, I went there, I didn't see anything, not familiar.

MI: Okay now, because we're interested in your mother's story, I'm going to ask about your father first. Tell us a little bit about him. You said he was a carpenter on Oahu?

RN: Yeah, he was a carpenter on Oahu.

MI: Can you tell us anything about his work? You know, anything else you might remember about your father?

RN: Oh, not too much, yeah.

MI: You know what company he worked for or was he independent?

RN: During war days, he used to work for Honolulu Planing Mill.

MI: Honolulu Planing?

RN: Yeah, Planing Mill. That's what, ah, they used to --

MI: What did they do, they built houses?

RN: They used to make all the boxes and things to send out to the war, you know, put the ammunition --

MI: The cartons for --

RN: Rifles, and --

MI: Okay, how about after the war, what did he do?

RN: He was a general contractor. My dad was a general contractor.

MI: Okay, okay, and where did he live before they settled down? What part of Oahu, I mean.

RN: Right over here.

MI: Moiliili?

RN: Yeah, Moiliili. I think when they got married, I think they lived, the first place I can think of was, I think, was Pua Lane, Kalihi side.

MH: Oh, yeah.

MI: Oh, okay, I know where Pua Lane is.

RN: Yeah.

MI: Yes, yes. Oh, okay.

RN: Yeah, I think was some place in Pua Lane [sic] they used to live but I don't remember. I wasn't born yet.

MI: Okay, let's go to your mother now. Tell us about your mother and her parents, start with the parents. You mentioned the blacksmith...

RN: Yeah, but only hearsay [hearsay?], through my mom, yeah?

MI: You never saw the shop.

RN: I never saw anything, yeah.

MI: You don't know who their customers were?

RN: No, none of them.

MI: I'm thinking about what kind of work the blacksmiths did on Kauai.

RN: My mom was saying, they used to make wooden wheels, the metal go around the wooden thing?

MI: This was for the plantation?

DN: Oh.

RN: Ah, you know, people used to run around with wagon and horse, yeah, before.

MI: I see, I see.

RN: And then my mom was telling that they used to make that, the people, the plow broke like dat --

MI: So it wasn't just horseshoes?

RN: Anything made with metal, they used to fix and repair.

MI: I see. Do you have anything here that you can show us that came from your grandfather?

RN: No. (Laughter)

MI: There's nothing left?

RN: Yeah, nothing left.

MH: What about pictures, photos?

RN: No pictures.

MI: You have pictures? [Of] your mother when she was young, or your father, when he was young? Don't need to get [it]. We're just asking.

RN: Yeah.

MI: You might have some?

RN: I might have some, yeah.

MI: 'Cuz that might be interesting.

DN: Your sister, Marie, had.

RN: But she died already, so we don't know. We don't know.

MI: Did she have children, that Marie?

RN: Yeah, the daughter, the daughter lives in New York, yeah.

MI: Oh, New York.

RN: And my sister, she looked through our picture album, I had pictures like dat, whatever she likes, she won't say anything. She just takes it, so it goes missing. We don't know what happened to it.

MH: Oh.

MI: So your picture album probably has a lot of empty spots?

RN: Yeah. (Laughter) My sister just takes what she likes, you know. And us, the old style, yeah, you no argue, answer back or anything to the elder.

MI: Wait, was she older or younger?

RN: She's older than me, but everybody thought I was older than her. (Laughter)

MH: Did she have other children besides the daughter?

RN: No, only the daughter.

MI: Let me just remind myself to take a picture of them.

MH: Okay.

MI: Okay, okay. So your mother grew up on Kauai?

RN: Yup.

MI: Can you tell us any stories about her growing up on Kauai?

RN: She worked for McBride Farm.

MI: What did McBride Farm grow? What did they [grow] and where were they located, McBride Farm?

RN: Ah, was what, Koloa? Yeah.

DN: I think.

RN: Yeah, I'm not sure, yeah, but I know McBride Farm, that was a pineapple company too, yeah, back in the old days yeah.

MI: Hmm mm. Okay.

RN: So my mom talked about this Kukuiolono Park, yeah.

MI: Kukuiolono Park? What is that?

RN: We went over there. That was part of the McBride Farm's place and my mom tells us about, "Oh, how nice that place was," and this and that but when we went over there, doesn't look like how she told us because long time ago, yeah.

MI: The park is still there but [there's] nobody maintaining [it], or is the park gone?

RN: I guess so.

MI: But did you see that park actually?

RN: I think they wen turn that place into one golf course or something.

MI: Oh, it's a golf course. I see, okay.

MH: Mmm.

MI: Now, what about your parents as far as going to school, education? Your father, your mother?

RN: I think --

MI: Your father came here to work. Your mother was born --

RN: I think my mom went to about sixth or seventh grade, yeah, that's it. You know, the old style, the *wahine* [women] go work, you know.

MI: I don't know if I asked you, I forgot. What year was she born, your mother?

RN: Oh, I don't remember.

MI: You don't remember? You wouldn't know? Okay, you can think about it. Okay, because I'm trying to be sure we get a feeling for how old she was, yeah, when the war started and everything. So she's living, she's born and raised on Kauai, your father is on Oahu, he comes from Japan.

RN: Yeah.

MI: How do they meet?

RN: I don't --

MI: Did your mother come to school here, or what?

RN: I think she came to live in Oahu, yeah. I'm not sure. I never hear anything about those things.

MI: I see. Okay, okay, but they ended up married and living --

RN: Together.

MI: At Pua Lane?

RN: Yeah, then they moved over here.

MI: Okay. How many children?

RN: Me and my sister.

MI: Two of you?

RN: Yeah.

MI: Both of you kind of grew up on Pua Lane?

RN: No, I wasn't born up there. I was born down here.

MI: When did they move to Moiliili?

RN: Oh, that I don't know. I wasn't told about it, you know.

MI: All you remember is Moiliili? But you know they started out --

RN: Yeah, I heard something about Pua Lane, yeah.

MH: But you grew up here in Moiliili?

RN: What's that?

MH: You grew up here in Moiliili?

RN: Yeah, yeah.

MI: Okay. What do you remember about growing up, ah, if you can, before the war period? Growing up in Moiliili, what do you remember?

RN: Mmm, well, everything was good, yeah, before the war.

MI: What do you mean, everything was good?

RN: When the war wen happen, all these Army guys, Navy guys, the military people, used to grab me and grab my shirt and shake me up and call me one little Jap spy.

MI: Oh, really?

RN: Yeah, they used to push me around, kick me in the rear --

MH: Oh.

RN: And I was a little kid, yet you know.

MI: How old were you?

RN: Oh, maybe about, between four to five years old, six years old.

MI: This is in Moiliili?

RN: Yeah.

MI: What were they doing in Moiliili?

RN: Who?

MH: Yeah.

MI: These people, these are soldiers, you're talking about?

RN: Yes, they're walking around, yeah.

MI: What are they doing in Moiliili?

RN: Like military people, I guess they get pass or something, walking around, yeah.

MI: So there was no base or anything in Moiliili?

RN: No, no, no.

MI: Just by chance, you see them on the street?

RN: Yeah.

MI: What was Moiliili like before the war, when you were five years old?

RN: Was Heaven [sic] over here, was good. Oh!

MI: When you say Heaven, what do you mean?

RN: Good place, where you know, all Japanese people live.

MI: Lot[s] of Japanese?

RN: Oh, yeah. [It] was Japanese town, see, all Japanese families. If I'm not mistaken, I'm not sure, I heard that our Senator, Mr. [Daniel] Inouye, was born in Moiliili, too, see. So I heard, you know.

MI: You remember any people you grew up with, you played with, who became famous from Moiliili?

RN: Yeah, Mr. Abe.

MI: Which Abe is this?

RN: The artist.

MH: Satoru Abe.

RN: Oh, he used to live right across the street over there. We used to run around together. Him, he had, I think, two brothers and two sisters.

MI: Same grade, or you went to school with him?

RN: No, Satoru is way older than us.

MI: I see.

MH: He lived here on Waiaka Road?

RN: No, across, you see where that 15 miles an hour sign?

MH: Yeah.

RN: They used to live a little further than that.

MH: Oh.

MI: I see. So you knew him? You knew him when he was young?

RN: Yeah, yeah.

MI: You used to play with him in the neighborhood?

RN: Yeah.

MI: What was he like?

RN: Well, he was more to himself, like.

MI: Was he smart?

RN: Oh, yeah. He was always drawing pictures, you know, like an artist, yeah. That's always what he used to do.

MI: You have any pictures that he drew?

RN: No. (Laughter) You know 1950, this one is my house, yeah, this one over here went

burn down to the ground.

MI: This whole thing?

RN: This house, yeah. When it burned, all the memorabilia went.

MI: Oh, really.

RN: So even when I used to go down to Honouliuli, I used to go through the fence. The first thing I used to do was, I used to grab Mr. Loveless, you know, Sergeant Loveless.

MH: You knew Sergeant Patrick Loveless? We gotta get back to that story.

MI: Yes.

RN: Mr. Loveless was nice to the Japanese people.

MI: How did you know --

MH: Yeah.

MI: Mr. Loveless?

RN: He used to stay right by the gate where we entered.

MI: And he always...He had a uniform with his name on it? "Loveless," or --

RN: I guess so. Maybe somebody mentioned his name or something but that stay in here already. [Points to head]

MI: Why does that stay in here?

RN: Because he was kind to us.

MI: He was kind to you?

RN: Yeah, Mr. Loveless was real kind to us.

MH: You know, we heard stories about Sergeant Loveless and how he was really, really treated the Japanese people so nicely.

RN: Yes, he treat us just like ordinary people, not Jap spies, you know.

MH: And after the war some of these *Nisei* internees, they wanted to invite Sergeant Loveless to a party because they were so grateful to him, but they couldn't find him. They didn't know where he went after the war.

RN: I think maybe they when [makes a sound as if his throat is being cut] the American people... maybe he was too close to the Japanese, maybe they went get [sic] rid of him, heh? (Laughter in background) You know, the talk is --

MI: I don't know. You heard talk about that?

RN: Yeah --

MI: Really, yeah.

MI: Really? Was he a local boy?

RN: No, *haole* [Caucasian] man, he was.

MI: *Haole* man?

RN: Yes.

MH: Was he young, Sergeant Loveless?

RN: No, he was older than us, so he's an old man already. (Laughter) As soon as we go there, I remember him, and always I used to have a bunch of flowers for my mom. My dad always used to bring a bunch of flowers. And Mister, Sergeant Loveless, everybody goes to the Mess Hall so he tell me [sic], "Go take the flowers to mom's house." So I used to run down --

MI: He let you go to her barracks?

RN: Yeah! So I used to go run down to my mom's room.

MI: You knew where her place was?

RN: Yeah.

MI: How did you know where her place was?

RN: My mom and Mr. Loveless showed me the first time I went there. So her house was like this square partition, she stayed [on] one side, had one other lady stay on the other side. I don't know who the lady was, I forgot.

MI: Japanese lady?

RN: Japanese, both of them were Japanese people.

MI: Did you see any non-Japanese ladies around there, in the camp?

RN: No, I don't remember.

MI: German or anything?

RN: But you see this [Lodge photo] they say Mess Hall, yeah.

MH: That was one of the Mess Halls, yeah.

RN: I don't think this is the Mess Hall I remember.

MH: Why?

RN: Because the Mess Hall I remember was all open air, no walls.

MH: Yeah, let me show you a picture.

MI: At one time the Mess Hall didn't have walls, that's the early period.

MH: Yeah, yeah, they put the walls later. Here's a picture somebody drew of the Mess Hall [Dan Nishikawa sketch]. This is all open air, Mess Hall.

RN: Yeah, had the kind bench like this.

MI: Does that picture [sketch] by Mr. Nishikawa, I mean is that how it looked? Does it bring back your memories?

RN: Similar, similar, vaguely kind, yeah.

MH: This picture here, this probably is later, when they put the walls on, yeah?.

RN: What I can remember was, if this is the place where we walk in [currently existing road

along mess hall?], the fence, we go walk in, Mr. Loveless, Sergeant Loveless was here, then you go up towards this way [towards aqueduct], all gravel like this, both sides get barbed wire fence, yeah? So you walk up this way, get one little gate, go into the Mess Hall, yeah? In between the Mess Hall and my mom's place, I don't remember if they had houses or anything like that.

MI: Before we leave, I'm going to ask you to draw us a little diagram, without looking at this [Lodge photo]. (Laughter)

RN: So from that you come down, my mom's place was like this way now. And then half this side was the other lady and half was my mom's living.

MH: Did it look like this kind of barracks?

RN: Yeah, little house.

MH: It wasn't a tent, though? Not a tent?

RN: No, not a tent.

MH: It was a wooden --

RN: The only guys used to stay in a tent was --

MH: The POWs [prisoners of war].

RN: Yeah, the POWs. So when you come down like that, my mom's place, the road comes like this, like the walkway. It's wide, maybe about thirty feet wide, twenty feet wide, like. So it comes down and then, that's how I met the Japan [sic] soldiers.

MH: Oh.

MI: When you say "You met them --"

RN: They used to hang on the fence. I used to make friends, "Hi! Hi!"

MI: And did they talk to you?

RN: Yeah.

MI: In Japanese?

RN: Yup. You know --

MI: Simple, simple Japanese?

RN: Yes.

MH: But you could understand, right?

RN: I could understand, because my dad talked Japanese, my mom talked Japanese, yeah. So --

MI: [Do] you remember anything you talked to them about? Or they talked to you about?

RN: Well, I made good friends with them. And when I walk down, when I visit, I don't know their names so the first thing come out of my mouth was, "*Banzai*" [cheers]. I used to tell them guys and they used to tell "*Banzai*" and they come by the fence, (Laughter) [they would say,] "*Boy-san*," you know.

MI: Wasn't that dangerous?

RN: No.

MI: The soldiers didn't say anything when they went to...

RN: No, they just tell me, "*Banzai*," yeah.

MH: Maybe because he was so little, yeah?

RN: I was a little kid, you know. So when I made friends with them, every time when everybody stay inside that ah, Mess Hall, I going take flowers to my mom's place, then I walk around and come to this place over here, and I used to say, "*Banzai!*" and they used to come out and... "*Boy-san, boy-san.*" So I made good friends with them and they made for me [sic] souvenirs.

MH: Oh.

RN: They made for me one wooden Jeep, like dat.

MI: Wooden what?

RN: Jeep.

MI: Oh, Jeep.

RN: Yeah, and you know the taillights like that, they make with the toothpaste cover, like you know...

MI: This was from the prisoners of war?

RN: Yeah!

MI: Now can you describe... did they have uniforms that said "Prisoner of War"?

RN: No, they had under shirt and just like a white, da kine, ah, da kine, ah --

MH: Undershorts?

RN: *Malo* [Hawaiian loincloth] or what that --

MI: What's that?

RN: The kind the --

MH: The *sumotoris* [sumo wrestlers] wear?

RN: Yeah, yeah, what they call "loin cloth"?

MH: Loincloth?

RN: Yeah.

MI: Is that what they wore?

RN: Yeah.

MI: All of them?

RN: No, some of them wore their Japan uniform and whatever.

MI: Did you see anything written on the uniform?

RN: No, I didn't take notice that kind, yeah. Because I just face-to-face make friends, yeah. Because you know, people always friends with anybody, you know. Not like that kind --

MI: Later in your life, did any of these people ever come back to Hawaii, try and look you up?

RN: I don't remember. I never met any of them after ... Life. You know and all that. Because if they're alive now, if I'm going to see them now, it probably going to be in the urn or in the graveyard because they're going to be a hundred plus already.

MI: Okay, okay. Now I'm going to still [stay] here, I just wanna stick here --

RN: You know, after the Jeep, yeah, they made for me one airplane, too, out of wood.

MI: Both of those things burned in the house [when you had the fire]?

RN: Yes, when 1950, [it was] demolished.

RN: Yeah, cause that was all in the glass case my dad had made --

MI: Oh, really.

RN: That was really a declaration place [decoration piece?] with a sliding glass door. My dad was a carpenter, he can make any kind, yeah. So that went all burn, yeah. And then, ah, 1950, my mom was a music lover. She loved any kind of music. So --

MI: Let's take a break and go back a bit because I would like to learn why your mother ended up in there. Tell us about your parents. They're married, they're living here, what are they doing work-wise? Your father, you said, general contractor.

RN: My dad was a general contractor. My mom was a *bon-san* [Buddhist priest].

MH: Oh.

MI: *Bon-san*? How did she become a *bon-san*?

RN: That I don't know, but --.

MI: That's why she --

MH: The connection, yeah.

MI: But her mother was not a *bon-san*?

RN: No.

MI: You don't know how or why she ended up on Oahu?

RN: No, I don't remember that.

MI: She marries your father, she becomes a *bon-san*. You know the name of her church, her church?

RN: Ah, no I don't remember the church. I know it was McCully, someplace.

MH: There were two Buddhist temples in McCully.

RN: So I don't know what church or whatever, yeah. So when I was a little kid, you know those books? I don't know if they call them Bible or whatever but --

MI: The scriptures.

RN: They called them *Shingyo*. I guess scripture. I used to know them by heart, at a little age.

MI: Five years old?

MH: That's Buddhist, yes.

RN: Yeah.

MI: So you used to go to her church?

RN: I stay home with my mom. I learn everything.

MI: She lived here?

RN: Yeah, and later on, we moved to Palolo.

MI: When did you move to Palolo, what year, roughly? How old were you?

RN: About, within my second and third grade, something like that.

MI: This was before the war, Palolo?

RN: Yeah, maybe. The war was happening, yeah, and then you know, the church people, they all bother them, just like the Jewish and all that kind, the people persecute them, yeah?

MI: Who was persecuting her?

RN: I don't...I don't remember, real thing... I think that, from what I heard, that the graveyard lady [neighbor ocean side of home] and this side lady over here [mountain side of home] they were jealous of my mom. Because back in the days when we used to live over here, I heard from... I used to drive [a] school bus for a while, and one of the kids that I used to pick up, in a wheelchair, the mother knew my mom. And she knows, she asked me, "What's your name?" So I told her, "Nakagawa." [She replied,] "Oh, Moiliili, Waiaka Road?" I tell, "Yeah." She tell, "You know, your mom was known as Kauai Beauty." My mom was really, really pretty, you know, good-looking lady. So I guess, probably those things, plus now, my dad, he cannot write English, he cannot speak English good. So [in] the old days, you know the carpenter when they pull the nail, they put them all back in a wooden keg and wrap-em up and my mom used to put the address of, you know, the Japan family.

MI: They used to send used nails back to Japan?

RN: Yeah, for the iron like that. They used to send.

MI: Yes, yes. This is before the war?

RN: Yeah, before the war.

MI: Which family were they sending it to, your mother's family or --

RN: No, my dad's family.

RN: So you know, small kid so you know I only vaguely, I remember here and there, you know. Some stuff come out clear, some vaguely hear, I can remember, yeah?

MI: At the time just before the war, your mother was at a church in Makiki, I mean McCully?

RN: No, she was home and...

MI: I don't mean on that day. I mean, her occupation, I guess her job was, she was a *bon-san* at Makiki Church --

RN: *Bon-san*.

RN: Just before the war?

RN: She was in training or regular, oh, I don't know. You know, I don't know.

MI: After the war she never went back to that?

RN: No.

MH: When you were living in Palolo, was your mom a *bon-san* for a church there?

RN: She had her own.

MI: Oh, so she did come back [to the church]?

RN: No, we were living over there before she went get lock-ups, see.

MH: Is that church still there?

RN: She had to move the church to Palolo because the American people, the *haoles* [*Caucasians*], they were persecuting all the da kine church people, yeah. Every time we get war or anything, Japanese, Italian or whatever, Jewish like that, they're always persecuting the church people, eh?

MI: So they closed down the church in Makiki and they opened up a new one [in Palolo]?

RN: I don't know what happened to... it wasn't Makiki, it was McCully.

MI: McCully.

RN: I remember it was McCully.

MH: What about that Palolo church? Is it still there?

RN: No, it's gone, long gone.

MH: There's a temple there.

MI: Remember the name of the church, the Palolo one?

RN: No.

MI: What is the name of the church, the Palolo one?

RN: No. We were [on] Waiomao Road, and when you go up Waiomao Road, you pass the stone quarry, they used to have a quarry, had one stone quarry. You go up there, had two families then us, and had one we called it haunted house, nobody-live- inside kine. So we were second to the last house up in there.

MH: Waiomao Road?

RN: Yeah. So when you go up the road, Waiomao Road, where you turn right facing the valley, you turn right and got one steep hill you gotta go up. We lived up inside [sic] there. Then when you come down that place when [it] rains, you cannot go up. The road get two, three feet water comes rolling down. So my dad, he cleaned up all across the street and he made a place to park. So he leaves his car down there. The old days,

nobody steal. My dad had a 1928 Chevy La Touring, you know no mo [more] windows, nothing, just door and rag top, four-door, you know. So from our driveway when you go up, you come back down the road, if you go straight down there's a river, and there's a... we called it Bent Dam, the Dam come la dat and stay like this. That thing is still up there, yet. Then that water goes down to that Chinese Home.

MH: Yeah.

RN: They make taro patch and all that with the water, see.

MH: Now, that's separate from La-i Road? La-i Road is separate from Waiomao or was it the same road?

DN: Separate.

RN: La-i Road is separate, that side.

MH: Okay.

RN: That side. This side goes into Waiomao Road, up the mountain. So that was the good old days, you know. I went to Palolo Elementary, you know. (Soft laugh in the background)

MI: So did your mother ever talk about December 7th, for example, or your father?

RN: No.

MI: Any stories like Pearl Harbor?

RN: No, never did hear anything about those things.

MI: Okay, do you know anything about how and when your mother was picked up and put in Honouliuli?

RN: I don't --

DN: She was writing letter [to Japan.]

RN: Huh?

DN: Writing letter.

RN: Oh, I don't remember when she was picked up but I think, I'm not sure... you know the mind, yeah. I don't know whether it was over here, they picked her up or what, but I remember I saw that big, two and a half-ton truck, the one with all the canvas, the one that packed the troops...I remember the MP (Military Police) helping my mom onto that.

MI: That's how they picked her up?

RN: Yeah, on a truck, yeah.

MI: Was there anybody else in the truck, in the back?

RN: I didn't, I didn't notice those things, yeah. Even when she came home --

MI: You were how old then, about five?

RN: Four or five years old so everything is gray.

MI: But you remember --

RN: Certain things.

MI: Being home and the soldiers coming?

RN: Yeah.

MI: You remember that?

RN: Yes, the MP, I remember that MP, you know, the band.

MI: And they had their rifles?

RN: No, they brought her home [the] same way. The big, same kind truck with the MP and drop her off.

MI: Oh, what and so the family, two children, mother and father, you're sitting at home and they come and just take your mother away?

RN: Yeah. So --

MI: Did they...you wouldn't know I guess, do you think they tried to explain to your father why they were doing this?

RN: I don't know. I --

MI: You don't know but you were there.

RN: Yeah, I was right around here while they were doing it, right on the road over there.

MI: Did you cry or anything?

RN: No, I didn't know what was happening.

MH: Did they take your mom to Sand Island or to Honouliuli? Did she ever go to Sand Island?

RN: I don't know that much about it, whether she went [to] Sand Island. But I know we went up to Honouliuli. You know, Honouliuli is on the Kunia Road side, yeah. I neva know that, you know. I was so small that when I used to go, I thought it was in Kapolei side. You know, when you go down into Kapolei town, then the main road goes to Kapolei and the shopping center, then you pass that, you go to what's that, Barber's Point or whatever, the military place. Well, between those two parts, I thought my mom used to stay inside this side, in the gully.

MH: A lot of people didn't know.

RN: Yeah because you know why?

MI: It was top secret, right?

RN: When we go, they used to cover the truck. They close the behind, all dark, we don't know where we going.

MH: Oh.

MI: Wait, you folks didn't go with your father driving there?

RN: No.

MI: Where did you meet the truck you're talking about?

RN: I don't remember those things.

MI: But so you and your father and your sister would meet the truck and the truck would be covered up and you're driving up.

RN: Yeah, all canvas up, yeah.

MH: So you never had to put on blindfolds?

RN: No, no.

MI: Then when you arrived there, they would uncover the truck.

RN: Yeah, that's why I say when we arrive there the first thing you see, the barbed wire fence. They reverse near to the gate, yeah, and the next thing I remember, when you come out of the thing I run up to Mr. Loveless, you know, Sergeant Loveless. That's the first person I used to see down there. Maybe the MPs stay around but I don't even comprehend them or think of them so I don't remember them. But I remember Sergeant Loveless, because he was so nice to me, you know.

MI: Now you talked about your mother. Could you tell if she was in a separate area from others? You talked about the Prisoners of War. What about the men, the male internees?

RN: I don't know where the male internees --

MI: You don't remember seeing them?

RN: Yeah, I only remember that they used to stay in that open air, that Mess Hall. I think, had one --

MI: The same time that you were meeting with your mother? You met your mother in the Mess Hall?

RN: Yeah.

MI: Or you went to her barracks?

RN: First, go to the Mess Hall. Then after a couple of times, you know, and I make friends with Mr. Sargeant Loveless, after that I go directly. I put the flowers in my mom's [barrack].

MI: And you would meet her there?

RN: No, I would meet her in the Mess Hall.

MI: Then you had to go to the Mess Hall.

RN: Yeah.

MI: So the men internees and the women internees, they met [their families] at the same time?

RN: All separated.

MI: Separate, only the women then, when you went.

RN: Yeah.

MI: No men in the Mess Hall?

RN: No, they were mixed, all around.

MI: Oh, mixed? The men and women were there at the same time?

RN: Yeah, so I remember had one painter contractor was over there, too. I forgot what his name was, Murakami or something. I think start with M, you know. But that's about what I, you know, can think of.

MH: You know when the covered truck took you to the barbed wire fence, when you arrived at Honouliuli and you had to get off, then you had to walk, right? You had to walk down that road...

RN: Yeah.

MH: Did you have to walk down? Do you remember?

RN: The level.

MH: Oh, level.

RN: Level.

MI: Right into the Mess Hall?

RN: Yeah, that thing was just like this. You see the gravel I get over there, you know da kine, the stone, hah, the kine you make cement kind, yeah?

MI: Was it coral or was it, ah --

RN: Rock, blue rock.

MI: Crushed coral, huh?

MH: Crushed coral, long time ago, like?

RN: I think it was blue rock.

MI: Do you remember seeing a rock wall or anything alongside the road?

RN: No, never did see that, that I can remember, rock wall.

MI: And you never saw that, what we call the aqueduct?

RN: No, I never saw no rivers, no water running over there.

MI: Oh, you didn't see any water?

RN: No.

MI: Stream or anything?

RN: No, everything was piped out. You know...

MI: What do you mean?

RN: Like the Mess Hall, they get all the pipes. Like when you go down to the New Years to the church, you go wash hands like that, they get all pipes like that.

MI: So how many women were there, that you remember?

RN: I don't remember.

MI: You saw other women though?

RN: The only one I remember, my mom and the lady that was, you know as I said, the same barracks, duplex, yeah. And the fun part was, you know the wall between the two guys, had *puka* [hole] inside there, they can talk to each other. And they had [a] picture hanging on top there hiding the *puka* (Laughter) But they go talk to each other, yeah.

MI: What kind of picture?

RN: Oh, I don't remember. Just whatever to hide the *puka*.

MI: You're saying that they couldn't just go next door and talk story, your mother and this lady?

RN: No, no, they separated.

MI: Really?

RN: Yeah. So they had the *puka* between them, maybe... I don't remember how big, I forget already. But I found out and I [said,] "Hey, hey, hey," I used to yell through that. They stay, they both stay in the Mess Hall, so --

MI: Interesting, so they couldn't just socialize, go back and forth, during the day?

RN: I don't think so. You know, they were prisoners, too, huh.

MI: But they were prisoners as a group, yeh. Like the prisoners of war, they were all together?

RN: Yeah.

MI: And did they have barracks or did they have tents?

RN: I'm telling you, this kind tents, they had [photo].

MI: Different from the internees.

RN: Yes, they never had this kind house. They had tents like this. But the picture [Lodge photo] looks all *kapakahi* [mixed up] for me, over here looks different.

MH: We have bigger pictures that we can show you later. Maybe this is kind of small too, yeah?

RN: Try let me see this.

MI: Later on, we'll have you draw a diagram for us.

MH: And I think, I think, Mr. Nakagawa, I think you should come to Honouliuli with us and look at the place. Interesting, don't you think? I think we have to take him.

MI: They have tours, once a month or so that if he's, you know, interested. Later on, we'll let you draw the picture.

DN: Later on?

MI: And then you can tell what, in your mind, is different from the photograph.

RN: This is the Mess Hall, my mom's house, the Japanese prisoners. [quickly drawn small sketch]

MI: What is that black line in between?

RN: Fence.

MI: What kind of fence? Was that fence different from the barbed wire?

RN: It was something that you cannot go through or anything.

MI: It's different.

RN: Yeah.

MI: That's the aqueduct.

MH: Aqueduct.

RN: So in between here maybe had something but I don't remember, see. And this is where we used to get off from the truck.

MI: Right across the Mess Hall? As far as you remember, the road was right across the Mess Hall?

RN: No, no, maybe about here.

MH: Oh.

MI: Between the Mess Hall and the --

MH: Interesting, so it was not this Mess Hall, yeah. All these years, I thought it was that Mess Hall.

MI: That they met?

MH: Yeah, it's this one.

RN: When you come inside, when you go inside the fence, you go inside over here, Mr. Loveless was right around here.

MI: Now is this a road?

RN: Yeah.

MI: That's the one you said --

RN: Gravel road like, you know.

MI: Gravel or ah, the gray rock, yeah.

RN: So I guess they put the gravel right there so no more grass growing or anything.

MI: You never saw a white coral road?

RN: Maybe it was white, I'm not sure. I was a small kid so, coral, gravel road?

MI: How come, if you coming here, you were talking to the prisoners?

RN: After I go in here, come outside, I used to come here. I talk to them.

MH: Oh.

MI: Oh, wait. Inside your mother's barracks?

RN: So when they wanted to give me the jeep and the airplane, I ran from over here, I go up to Mr. Loveless, and he used to come down with me, and he take the stuff and hand it to me.

MH: Oh.

RN: Because I cannot take anything from the Japanese. What if I take something, bomb or whatever, gas, so I had to run over there and go talk to Mr. Loveless.

MH: So even though you were a small child, you knew that you cannot just accept. You had to go --

RN: Yeah, you cannot take anything, yeah.

MI: Were there other children like you, visiting their mothers or fathers?

RN: I don't remember. Because I used to be more going my own. Japanese called me *gasa* [Japanese term for a child who moves around a lot]. I no can stay still kind.
(Laughter)

MH: So how often were these visits, how often? Once a month, two times a month?

RN: I don't remember if it was once a month, once a week or whatever, yeah. I don't remember.

MH: You, your father and your sister?

RN: Yeah.

MH: How long was your mother in Honouliuli?

RN: I don't remember.

MH: This is so interesting, yeah?

MI: You think it was a long time, like years she was there or just? You have no idea?

RN: Yeah.

MI: What grade were you, kindergarten when you first started? You were five or six?

RN: Well, I was, I was in a --

MI: You were going to school at that time?

RN: Palolo Elementary, second or third grade. And when I came back this side, later on, that's...I remember my mom was up there with us. Then I don't remember, we came back this side [Moiliili] and they took my mom, or what. But I remember that, kinda remember that she rode the truck from over here, going and coming home.

MH: Right here, on Waiaka Road?

RN: Yeah, right in front my garage.

MI: And you think you were maybe second grade, when you used to go out to see her?

RN: Yeah.

MI: How about when she came home? Do you remember what grade you were in?

RN: I don't remember.

MH: You were born in 1934 and the war broke out in 1941, so you were seven when the war broke out, seven, eight, yes second, third grade. That's about right.

RN: Cause me, when I was small kid, I was real *waru bozu* [Japanese for rascal child], see, yeah. My mom, four years old [I] go to kindergarten, Mother Rice. So my mom take me go this way, go down King Street and go to Mother Rice. I cry, I don't want to stay over there. I cry. So me, I stay by the fence over here, before her. (Laughter) I come through the back roads, yeah, I know all the back roads. Small kid but I know all the back roads. That's how rascal I used to be, yeah.

MI: Interesting. How did you folks do, with your mom not at home? You, your father, your sister?

RN: I had one step-sister --

MI: Step-sister.

RN: My parents adopted but they let them keep their last name, Hashimoto.

MI: What's the first name?

RN: Annie.

MI: Annie Hashimoto.

RN: She's gone, she died. She was, I remember towards the later part, when my kids was going school, yeah, she was the head custodian for the cafeteria. She was the boss lady.

MI: What school?

RN: Kuhio School, right over here. She was the boss lady over there.

MI: When did your parents adopt her, before the war, or?

RN: I think was before the war.

MI: Did she go out to Honouliuli with you?

RN: I don't remember. I forget those things. But her, she had one brother, Katsuto and one other brother, Chris. Three of them had. So my mom and dad --

MI: They adopted three of them?

RN: Yeah, they stayed with us, all that, and I guess my dad trained them for carpenter and all that kind stuff, yeah.

MI: Wait, they were older than you or younger?

RN: Oh, way older.

MI: Way older?

RN: Way older, cause I remember my step-sister used to walk with us from way up in Waiomao to Palolo Elementary. Every day she used to walk, take us to school. And going home we used to go on our own, yeah. Cause you don't know when school *pau* [Hawaiian word for "finished"], yeah..

MI: It sounds like they lost their parents so your parents adopted them. You don't know?

RN: I don't know.

MI: You remember your mother coming home, you said in the truck, the same kind of truck?

RN: The only thing I remember, I saw her getting off the truck with the MPs.

MI: How was she like when she came home?

RN: She was cheerful like herself, always. My mom was a very cheerful person, always happy, eh? Grandma was always happy.

MI: Did she go back to her church?

RN: No, I don't remember that. But I think she finished the church and, umm....

MI: What did she do?

RN: She went to work, you know over here used to get Dairymen's right across from that..

MH: Oh, yeah.

RN: My mom was a cook over there, the restaurant.

MI: What do you mean, for the cafeteria?

RN: No, No, the Dairymen's, right across the street.

MI: Oh, cooking the milk? Oh, the restaurant.

RN: It's the Cakeworks, right across the Humane Society.

MI: Oh.

MH: Recently it was Ted's. It was Maries, some kind of bakery.

RN: It's Cakeworks.

MH: Oh, Cakeworks, it used to be Dairymen's a long time ago.

MI: Oh, I see.

RN: So, so, you know, where the safe and all that kind stuff. I know all where stay what, [sic] because I remember all those things, yeah.

MI: Wait, what is this?

RN: The safe.

MI: What safe?

RN: The one for them [sic] guys, you know where they put the night's earnings and everything, put the money in the safe.

MH: Oh, you knew?

RN: I don't know if they changed it or what because I used to help put the money in. The manager lady used to let me go put 'em in, see, and she tell me the combination. I open 'em, put 'em inside and I go, "Keri, keri," you know [Sound of the lock spinning] so nobody else can open, yeah. But every time when she tell me, I forget the next hour or so, I forget the combination already. You know, kid, yeah. Then from there, my mom went to Nuuanu, you know the American Drugs? They had a restaurant and drug store, yeah, fountain.

MH: Nuuanu by where? Where the Chun Hoon Supermarket was, over there?

RN: No, on Nuuanu.

MH: By where? Nuuanu --

RN: Right there on King Street and Nuuanu.

MH: Oh, King and Nuuanu?

RN: Yeah, right across had one furniture store. The owner was the guy Tiger Leong. So that was One Nuuanu, or One King Street, yeah, One King Street. But my mom used to cook and [was] fountain manager over there.

MI: So your mom, did she ever talk about this time that she was at Honouliuli? To you, she was the same like she was before? She wasn't mad or anything?

RN: No, my mom was a happy person. She always was smiling happily and whatever [sic]. Well, one of the workers from the --

MI: Well, she never brought home with her anything from Honouliuli?

RN: That I don't remember personally, whatever they had brought home.

MI: How about the other women who were with her at Honouliuli?

RN: I don't remember them.

MI: They, she never kept --

RN: I don't know if they ever met each other or what but, I don't think they ever came my house, yeah.

MH: Did your mother ever talk about the food they ate over there? What they were served at Honouliuli?

RN: No, my mom was a very, very good cook too, you know. She was terrific, food-wise. That's why she was cook and fountain manager, like that. And then when she was working [at] Dairymen's, they sent her to, ah, university, for go study management and all kind of management. That's how she when learn to be manager and whatever of the American Drugs, like that.

MI: Did you ever see or did she talk about non-Japanese people in the camp?

RN: No, I don't remember that.

MI: You don't remember seeing German people?

RN: No.

MI: How about Italians? Even from foreign prisoners of war, Korean, Okinawan?

RN: No, Japanese, that's all I remember that was locked up in there, yeah, all Japanese. I don't even remember, you know kine Japanese people was married to *haole*, Portuguese, Korean or Italian, or what, I don't remember that--did they come visit or whatever. 'Cuz me, and you know you small kid, your mind is ninety per cent on play, yeah, yeah? So when I go over there, my mind is, go to see Sergeant Loveless, it's the first guy I going see, then he going let me go to mom's place, put the flower inside her room, then I go meet my friend, the Japan guys (POWs), you know. That's my friends already, you know.

MI: So [what] are your father and sister doing while you're doing this?

RN: They're visiting mom in the --

MI: Cafeteria?

RN: Mess Hall, yeah.

MI: I see.

RN: That's why I say, I used to be very rascal you see, I used to be. I go anyplace I like. I do any kind stuff, whatever I like.

MI: Can you remember the first name for Sergeant Loveless, his first name?

RN: No, I don't remember.

MI: And you have not been out to Honouliuli since then?

RN: The only thing I remember about Honouliuli is we used to go out with my dad's car, the Touring [spelling?]. Then from that the rest, memory, is gone.

MI: I thought you went on the truck?

RN: No, we went with my dad's car and I don't know if we go to, ah, DeRussy, or Armstrong or what, wherever we're going.

MI: That's where you get on the truck?

RN: Then we're going on the truck.

MI: Not downtown, like Aala, or?

RN: No, I don't remember that.

MH: Iolani Palace, not near Iolani Palace?

RN: Maybe, could be. You know, they had that... by Iolani Palace on Beretania, they had one Fort Armstrong, I think it was, yeah.

MH: Oh, Iolani Barracks?

RN: In the back.

MH: Yeah, that stone building, Iolani Barracks, that's like a fort?

RN: One side on Beretania like dat and one side was Iolani Palace and I think, you go down little bit more, they had some kind of fort.

MH: Yeah, they moved it. They moved the whole thing to Iolani Palace grounds.

RN: Oh, see, I don't --

MH: Yeah, and where that was is now the state capitol. You know, the state capitol where the Governor and the Legislature meet?

RN: Umm huh.

MH: That's where the Iolani Barracks was. That fort was over there.

MI: And that was called Iolani Barracks?

MH: Iolani Barracks.

RN: I don't think the name was Iolani Barracks, you know. Was something else.

MI: There is a Fort Armstrong, but I guess it's in Waikiki.

MH: I don't know.

MI: There's a Fort Armstrong today.

RN: There is a Waikiki Fort DeRussy and one by Pier 2 [Immigration Station, Fort Armstrong].

MI: Maybe that's Fort Armstrong.

MH: Pier 2? Oh.

RN: But I know they had another fort because when I was in my teens, I remember, we used to go to this President Day Dance, they used to get. And they stamp your hand for one dollar and you can go to all the different places and go dancing, you know.

MI: When you say "you," who could go to all these places?

RN: What is that?

MI: Who is the "you" you're talking about dancing?

RN: I cannot hear.

MI: When you say, "talked about the dancing..."

RN: I cannot hear.

MI: And "you" said about the dancing "you get stamped." Who are you talking about, the soldiers, or you?

RN: No, no, no, all local boys. That was after the war. Way after the war because I was in my intermediate/high school already. But they used to call it, "President's Day," yeah. We used to go all over the different forts and all that.

MI: Tell us about yourself now, your life. What happened to you? Where did you go to high school and all these things?

RN: I went to Kuhio School, then I went to Palolo Elementary, came back to Kuhio School, went to Washington Intermediate, went to McKinley High School. In my sophomore year I quit school, joined the army.

MI: What year was this, roughly, when you quit and joined the army?

RN: What year was it? About '56.

HN: '57.

RN: 57?

MI: Why did you do that?

RN: Forced to. I was in the National Guard and they called us, umm, what that kind "draft dodgers."

MI: You were in high school?

RN: I was in high school. I was in the Hawaii National Guard.

MI: How did you end up in the National Guard while you're going to high school?

RN: My friends all went join so I went join with them.

MI: They let you join as a high school student?

RN: Yeah, I went crook my age and go in. I was too young, yeah.

MI: That's how you joined?

RN: My friend guys went in, so I went in.

MI: So you lied about your age?

RN: Yeah. (Laughter)

MI: How could you trick? Don't you have to show some proof, Birth certificate or something?

RN: I don't remember those things, you know, but I was in the National Guard.

MI: And then your unit got activated?

RN: No, they were staying. I was with the 227th Engineers, yeah.

MI: I see.

RN: Then, um, they want you. They called us "draft dodgers," the ones that didn't go in the regular army.

MI: The Reservists?

RN: So they used to make us come down every Sunday, for cleanup of the barracks and all kinds. You get tired of doing things where you don't get paid and have to go to do things, yeah. So you start running away from that. So they turned me in and I had to go in the service. That's why, when I went in the Army, they came over here, just like my mom, they picked me up.

MI: They picked you up.

RN: Yeah, MPs picked me up, and as I say, you know that fort down by, at Iolani Palace, we had to go over there, was across the street of Beretania, you know. So we had to go over there and then wait. Then from there, the truck took us all the way down to Schofield. So we went through physical and all that. Then about two, three o'clock in the morning, they let us use the phone. I called up mom, "Mom, I'm in the Army. Cannot come home." I was gone, already.

MI: You were not the only one? There's a bunch of you?

RN: Yeah, there was maybe two, three guys like me and then, they had volunteers and they had regular guys, you know, that went in. And they had guys from outside islands, just like me. Yeah.

MI: Okay, so you served. What did you do the rest of your life after you got out?

RN: I took after my dad. I went --

MI: Carpentry?

RN: I worked carpentry, then I hurt my back in Kauai, I couldn't work. So my wife supported me for almost fifteen years, I couldn't lift up everything or whatever. So [I] worked carpentry. I worked that kind to help feed my family.

MI: I see.

RN: Then, aah, I used to stay home, you know after that. I used to stay home. No mo nothing to do, I used to play puzzles. I used to live on that side you see, on that side house. So I used to stay out all night. I used to play puzzles, you know those two thousand, twenty-five hundred, three thousand. I used to put those things together in three or four days. I was good at it. So while I was doing that, I made friends with the people in the back and I learned how to drive school bus. So if I knew about that, I would have went to drive school bus a long time before that because all you do is... your tool is one pen and one book. That's your tool. Carpentry, when you go, you gotta bring one big truckload of tools, yeah. So in the meantime, before I went to driving school bus and all that, about two, three hundred thousand dollars worth of my tools, somebody stole them all from my shop, yeah, from my cabinets locked up. So I don't know what I was going do already, cause no more tools, you cannot work. So they helped me find job as a school bus [driver] but I didn't go as a school bus driver. I went in as an aide, the one that sits down and logs the time and all that. But the guys down there, the man that was in charge of the place, he told me, "Oh, you go drive school bus." So as an aide, I get paid five dollars an hour. So he tells me, if you drive school bus we give you ten dollar plus. Double that and you still sitting in the bus. So I agreed and I started off driving those school vans first. Then I went to training as a CDL driver, Commercial Driver, yeah. So I stayed with them, how long I when drive a school bus? Ten years?

DN: Yeah. I think that.

RN: Yeah, ten years. I had no family life because I used to work from about 4:30 to about 4 o'clock in the morning till about 12, one o'clock, yeah, the next morning I used to work. I used to work long hours because I cannot retire, no more enough retirement time and no more enough, what's that, for that Medicare. So I took all that they can dish out to me driving. So I worked, worked, worked for ten years. So I hardly saw my family.

MH: You must have been tired all the time right? Hardly any sleep, yeah?

RN: No, when you drive school bus, funny you know, while you're driving you get paid. When you're not driving, you don't get paid. They call it down time. So when I go to, say, Polynesian Cultural Center, I drive them down to, you know, the Polynesian Cultural Center, from the time I drop them off, they give us free *kau kau* [Hawaiian word for "food"] and, you know, if you like go see the show, all free like dat. All they going do is sign in your name, the group you're with and all that, see. You know, after a while, you get tired of seeing the show. So you sit, lock up the bus, you tell the teacher, "I'm going to lock up the bus. Come by the driver's window and pound the window. I going be sleeping." That's how we used to catch up on sleep.

MH: Oh.

RN: Otherwise, you cannot drive like that.

MH: Oh, yeah.

RN: And my company used to depend on me so much that when somebody missed their charter or something, two o'clock in the morning, three o'clock in the morning, they used to call me. I used to wash face and jump on my car, go down to the yard, take the bus and pick them guys up. So I used to treasure all the time I can get out of the company, just to make my hours for my retirement. That's why the joke was all the time, before they used to send the check by the first week of the month, you know, when you get Social Security, yeah, so I used to say, "I going sit down by the mailbox, wait, as soon as my Social Security check come, I going rip open the envelope and look at my dollar ninety-five cent check. Cause no more enough hours, yeah.

DN: You folks want a drink?

MH: Oh. I'm good.

MI: So just to kind of finish up, do you think this whole thing with your mother affected your family and if so, how? The rest of your lives, your father, your mother? How did it change your life?

RN: Oh, yeah, plenty. When you one kid, at a young age, who is the one that helps you all the time? Daddy is at work. It's mom and...

MI: So what happened to you folks, without your mom?

RN: As I said, I had a step-sister that...

MI: They took care of you.

RN: Used to take care of us, you know. And actually, like no more family life. No more mama. Mama is the one that every time you look forward to seeing. "Mama, mama, where's mama?" But you no more mama, what you going do? Daddy is at work, he not going come home. He's the breadwinner so he gotta work. That's why, I tell you for a fact, from my point of view, I kinda don't care for *haole* people because of what they did to me when I was a little kid. You know, they kicked my rear ass --

MI: Tell us a little about that part. We just started. Who were these *haole* people, I mean, soldiers?

RN: All service men.

MI: This was wartime now?

RN: Yeah, wartime, service men.

MI: Just walking the streets and you were playing?

RN: Yeah, yeah, just like tourists. You know, you went in the service?

MI: Yes.

RN: You know when you go to foreign country like that, you like go walking around, look around the place.

MI: I didn't go to a foreign country, but I can imagine, but why would they pick on little boys? I mean, you talked about Sergeant Loveless...

RN: Yeah, but that's two different persons.

MI: But two different persons.

RN: People inside is different. You know, like if was me that was locked up, I come out maybe a rotten person, going look for trouble. But like my mom, she's so big-hearted, nice person, that she took it in stride. Another person would be like that is my sister, yeah, Aunt Mary. My sister is so big-hearted. She takes anything as beautiful. She don't --

MI: How about your father?

RN: My dad, as long as he had his booze, he was happy. (Laughter) He used to love his drink.

MI: He wasn't mad about this the rest of his life?

RN: No, no. My dad was "Go to work, feed the family". That's it. He was a person that take care of the family. But my mom was the one that hold the family together, see. So when you lose the rope that ties up everybody together, everything *ala ala* [Hawaiian word for "separate"] already.

MI: But did it come together again, when she came home?

RN: Well, I guess so, I guess so. 'Cuz, when the later part of life, before I got married, she (wife) used to live in Palolo Housing. I used to go and visit her Palolo Housing. Take her go out and she was going to Kaimuki High School. I was going work already because I was serviceman. So she was going to school yet, so I used to go and pick her up down at the school, give her spending money and once a week, I used to go her house, take her and the momma go shopping and then, kinda acting up but make like plenty money, go pay for the groceries like that. You know now, you try go shopping and you buy twenty-five dollars worth of food, you get one little package. (Laughter) When she and I got married, Washington state, we went to Safeway, two wagons, we had canned goods, fresh meat, bread and all kind stuff, was all of twenty-five dollars. The two wagons was full.

MH: Amazing, yeah. (Laughter)

MI: Wait, how did you end up getting married in Washington state?

RN: I sent for her.

MI: Huh?

RN: I sent for her. She was --

MI: Oh, you were in the military?

RN: I was in the service.

MI: I see.

RN: So I wrote a letter to my mom and dad. I told them to send her over for me. So they sent her over for me. And you know, the funny part is, when she came up, we got married, we got married Justice of the Peace on the side of Highway 99, yeah. (Laughter) Maybe within the last ten or fifteen years, they had ... you gotta bring your marriage certificate,

your birth certificate for your Drivers License. We weren't married. They spelled her name wrong.

MH: Oh.

RN: We weren't married so they had to trace all that back. We couldn't find it so my young son, the one that lives in San Diego, the wife traced it all back and got it for us. So we had to go renew all the paperwork. We had to sign here, sign there.

MH: And you had to be married again?

RN: No, just the paperwork.

MH: Just the paper? Oh, okay.

MI: Verify that the name was wrong?

DN: Yeah.

MH: Oh.

MI: That's interesting.

RN: Yeah. That's, that's about, you know, and we reaching the end of our road already, too, huh. Going towards the end so just walk across the street and get my niche over there. Yeah.

MH: I'm curious. I have one question. When your mom was at Honouliuli, did she ever ask the family to bring things for her? They had very little over there right, at Honouliuli. Did she ever ask?

RN: Not food or anything.

MH: Not clothing? She never did ask. Okay. I was just curious if she asked for things.

RN: Yeah. So that's about it, yeah.

MH: Wow, that's a great story.

MI: Did she go to church afterwards as she got older? She had nothing to do with the church?

RN: No, I don't want nothing to do with them. Because my mom was locked up. I pray, pray, pleaded, everything, to mom come home. Nothing happened. That's why my belief in church went.

MI: Now where were you going to church then? You? Where were you praying for her at church, which church?

RN: You know, church, you can pray any place. You know, you can, excuse me, but you can pray in the bathroom, too. It's between you and the Lord. So you pray, pray and mom don't come home, something is wrong. So my belief in church went...

MI: And she herself never developed a faith in any church or anything?

RN: Not after that. Not after my mom got locked up. I just gave up everything.

MI: No, I don't mean you. But how about her?

RN: I don't know if my mom went to church-kine. Most of her life after she came out was

she used to work as a cook, fountain manager. And she was good at it. As I said, my mom was a very intelligent person. Yeah, she was compassionate, all that, she was real good.

MH: So her name was Helen Nakagawa?

RN: Helen Shizuko Nakagawa.

MH: And what was her maiden name again?

RN: Sawada.

MH: Sawada.

MI: She is, we do have her in our list of, we have a list of internees, you know and her name is in there. If you can find any photos of [or] anything of her.

MH: Oh, yeah.

MI: Maybe you can check with--your sister is still living?

DN: No.

RN: My sister is gone.

MI: Oh, sorry. You did say.

MH: Your niece is still living, yeah?

RN: She had [a] stroke, yeah, my sister.

DN: Yeah.

RN: When they went go Zippy's, yeah? (Laughter) She went Zippy's. They go every time, go out for brunch and stuff like dat. So they went to Zippy's, in the parking lot, yeah, you said.

DN: Yeah, she --

RN: She tell 'em something and my sister only smile at her (Laughter)

DN: Smiling.

RN: So she came home.

DN: I was kind of nervous so I came home and I told him so they called the ambulance.

MH: Oh, she was sitting down then?

DN: In my car.

MH: In your car?

DN: I didn't know what to do, yeah.

MH: Yeah.

DN: Supposed to call, you know, usually but we didn't...

MI: But you said she had a son still living..?

DN: A daughter.

MI: In New York, was it?
DN: Yeah, Marie.
RN: Yeah.
MI: Could you, are you in touch with her?
DN: Not really.
RN: Not really. You know, families when you...
MI: Yeah, I understand. I was going to ask you if you were in touch with her if she could look and see if she has any pictures of your mother. You don't have any pictures of your mother?
RN: I, ah --
DN: I have pictures of the mother and the father.
RN: I have family photos of us.
DN: I think I have them.
MI: If you don't mind, you know, maybe if --
MH: If you take pictures of your pictures.
MI: Thank you very much for sharing your story.
RN: Nice to have met you people.
MH: Thank you so much.
MH: I'm going to take your picture. You wanna go and put on a shirt?
RN: Nah, no need. I'm like this.
MI: You like this, it's okay?
RN: Yeah. (Laughter) I'm down-to-earth.
MI: Oh, okay, okay.