BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: HOOK CHEN LEW, retired mill supervisor

Hook Chen Lew, son of Chinese immigrants, was born in Waialua in 1900. His father, dissatisfied with plantation work, opened his own store and rice farm. Hook Chen helped his family on the farm while also attending school for seven years.

Hook Chen worked for Waialua Sugar Company for 46 years, rising from a field worker to a mill supervisor. In between, he went to China to find a bride, got married, and had five children. In 1954, he joined his wife's Buddhist sect and became a vegetarian. Hook Chen has enjoyed his leisure since his retirement in 1965.

Recently, the Lews had to move from the home they have rented for thirty years to a low-cost apartment in Chinatown because the plantation's lease with the Gilman Estate was not renewed.
NOTES FROM PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW
with
Hook Chen Lew
June 29, 1976
Waialua, Hawaii
BY: Vivien Lee

Hook Chen’s father was born in China but came to Hawaii as a contract laborer when he was a young man. It was a three year contract. Since they drove him "like a mule," Hook Chen’s father left plantation work to look for a place to plant rice. Hook Chen was born and raised in Waialua (b. 1900) and helped his father on the rice farm. He also helped in his father's Haleiwa store, Liu Tat Store.

Hook Chen’s father wanted to return to China and so took Hook Chen back there at the end of 1921. Hook Chen was then on leave from the plantation. He met his wife (age 18), married her and returned to Hawaii June 7, 1922. (Mrs. Lew remembered the date). The boat ride back was two to three weeks long but Mrs. Lew did not get sick.

Mrs. Lew's father was a businessman in China. He lived in Africa for awhile but went home before the war with Japan. Eventually, the communists imprisoned him and he died a year later in prison. Both Lews still have relatives in China.

The Lews have four daughters and one son. Mr. Lew is one of five children. One brother (in-law?) is a rock crusher for Dillingham (Mokuleia); another sister lives in town; one sister lives in the Philippine Islands and one lives on Macao. All of his children speak Chinese.

I asked why he stayed on the plantation when so many other Chinese left for town. He said it was because he is not educated.

One of his jobs was as engine driver (machine to crush cane). I said that it must have been dangerous-- did any serious accidents happen? No, not at Waialua, which is one of the safest places, he said. They heard stories about places like Waipahu where a man's arm got caught in the crusher. Someone quickly hacked his arm off, thereby saving all of him from being crushed. Once he heard that someone's whole body was crushed.

He was never in the union because by 1945, he was already a foreman. In 1965 he retired. They are being evicted from their house after 31 years because the Gilman Estate lease is up and they want the land back. They don't know where they are going to go. The company offered them a house near the mill, but there's too much smoke and dust there, and the house is very, very old. Before, Mr. Lew lived in a smaller wooden plantation.
A house that had a wood fire for cooking.

Mr. Lew made another trip to China in 1929. In 1961 he took a Char Tour to Hong Kong. In 1974 they tried to live in Taiwan but found it too damp; also there was a language problem.

The Lews do not eat meat.
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Hook Chen Lew (HL)

August 19, 1976

Waialua, Hawaii

BY: Vivien Lee (VL)

VL: This is an interview with Mr. Hook Chen Lew, and today is August 19th, 1976. We're at his residence in Waialua. Okay. Can you tell me when and where you were born, Mr. Lew?

HL: I was born Waialua in November 27, 1900 at Waialua.

VL: Can you tell me a little bit about your father?

HL: My father first came here, he working for the plantation, but I don't know how long he been working. And after his contract, then he move out from the place. He was disgusted with the plantation by the kind of work they had. And the way how they push them. And then, after, then he looking for his own job. What he found, I don't know. I was so young.

VL: And you were saying he was born in China. And we figure that he came in the late 1800's. And could you repeat about the boat ride?

HL: Yeah. Maybe he was immigrant in that time. Then he come in to the island. For the way he coming down, they had small sailboats. And then they came down. Take them quite a long before they reach through the islands. And after, some people didn't stand the life. Then, he (they) pass away. And some, they came in the island. They had some kind of trouble, sickness; call it diabetes or some other sickness. And then they pass away. And very few left back.

VL: So then did he tell you why he was disgusted with his three year contract?

HL: Well, I did not quite sure, but he tell getting kind of hard to them and whip them and so they have to go back in the field and do the job. And when they go doctor, they say, feel sick, and they have to give the aspirin. Then they make them bowel move. Then after that, they feel so bad, they have to stay in bed.

And after all, they didn't like the idea. Then every time they sick, they won't stay home. Then they went someplace, the policeman came around and look for them to go work. They had to find what's wrong with them, the labor didn't go out work. 'As why they didn't like that story about that. Then they get little bit harder time, so that's why they didn't like the
contract.

VL: Did he finish his three years first?
HL: Yeah.

VL: And then he came to Waialua?
HL: Yes.

VL: And he started his own rice farm, yeah?
HL: Rice farm. And doing little bit store, then try to make little bit business money. At the same time, he doing the little bit small farm to keep us going. Keep the children going to school or doing something else. Then, after a while, he was trying hard and he was struggle so long. Then they be a old age. By the time I was born and raise up, then I try to help them out to see what I can do for....

VL: Now, did he go back to China to meet his wife?
HL: No. They didn't had any chance to go back and get married. The contract don't allow workers to go back and get wife. Only the businessman, they can get their wife and bring it down. That's why. But for a long run, but after all, my father find one. On island.

VL: Oh, she was local girl?
HL: No, that brought back from China. Some rich people brought her down for maid like, eh. And then after getting old and they call it "sold". (Laughs). But it's not sold. They put it that way for the time they been raising her up. And that's why people call it, "Chinese, they sell their wife." That's not true. But it's....they working, because same like they're earning wages to keep them alive for when they grown up. That's why. And when they try to get married, their owner to help them out. Give 'em so much money. Anyway, my father, when they offer him some money, then he give that to the owner, so much. That, I don't know how much, but for that's by keeping up the living. That's why different.

VL: Did he meet her in Waialua?
HL: Must be in town. By....they call....between mid-person, eh.

VL: Oh. Somebody arranged it, yeah?
HL: Arranged it, yeah. Then tell them that, "I have a girl there." Then my father answers okay. Then they started get everything ready. Then they get married.

VL: Did he only see her picture? Or he could...
HL: No. Down here, they don't need the picture. Like in the back home (China), they sent the girl's picture down, then you says okay. Well, then, they ship it (the girl) down here. Bring it down. Then they get married, see.

VL: But here, he could meet her?

HL: Yeah. Even so, you cannot meet. Not very seldom. Not much. You had to be single. (Laughs)

VL: Do you know how your father got the land to start the farm?

HL: Yeah. father farm only by leasing the place from the owner. Then so much--was kind of small--paid for the lease. And they do the farm. The olden days were very small money they making. And the lease land is very small, too. Only a few dollars for quite a big place. And after all, when the later date, the farm land is going up.

VL: Where was his farm?

HL: His farm is Kamaloa, eh. Then the next one, he took it up. Down here, is call it Paalaa. You know where the (Haleiwa) elementary school?

VL: He had two then? Different times? First...

HL: No. He quit that (Kamaloa) one. And then he took the next one (Paalaa). But meantime, he had the store already, see. Then he living there, then he say somebody left the place off, then he try to get the land fix up. Then, cultivate it again. Then planted rice and do so ons, eh. When I was young, then I go to school, but I didn't have much time. Then I start in helping my father. Then, after all, that was my school. (Laughs)

VL: You went to Haleiwa Elementary School?

HL: Yeah. Same elementary school. Up...

VL: It was nearby where you lived?

HL: Yeah. Not much, but I stay on the further back to Haleiwa district, eh. You know where the supermarket further up, eh. Close to Twin Bridge. That's where.

VL: Do you remember your first house?

HL: Well, the house is broken down already. It's all change already.

VL: What did it used to be like?

HL: It used to be right close to where is the Haleiwa Gym. Right across.
But the house is all change already.

VL: Before time, how many rooms did you have?

HL: Well, my father had a store close to the road. And that back house get about three bedroom. Quite a big place, too.

VL: How many brothers and sisters you had?

HL: Have only just myself and four sister.

VL: You were the first one?

HL: No. I'm on the third one. Two sister above and two below.

VL: Oh. Do you remember what kind of kitchen you had in that house?

HL: In the house is firewood.

VL: Firewood stove? What did that look like?

HL: The firewood. You know, they make it out of the frame with some kind of a crossbar, and with some bricks laying down and close up. Then you put the firewood and you put the pot right on the bar. Then you start it cooking.

VL: This is outside the house?

HL: Inside the house. Because they had the ceiling open.

VL: A puka in the roof?

HL: Yeah. They do that. After long while, they change it. The kerosene came out. They use kerosene stove. And some, they have some quite long already, the electrical come out. And they use electric. Then, mostly they was using firewood quite long. Then, after all, they change it to kerosene.

VL: You had to buy the wood or you chop wood?

HL: Well, my father used to go look around for wood, see. While I was on the plantation, well, the plantation supply the wood to us. That's much different.

VL: Do you remember where you took a bath in that house?

HL: Yeah. We had to make a special room to take a bath, see. Like a small shack. Everybody got to go out of the house. Like outside wash house. Something like that, see. Then you had to boil hot water and you take it in a bucket. Then you take that and you mix it up, how warm you want, how cold you do. Then you take a bath.
VL: You had a big tub?

HL: Not quite big tub. Quite big bucket that you have to use. Then you pour the hottest water. You mix it up enough to you take another bath. After you not enough, then you pour in the rest what you need. Then you take your bath.

VL: You don't get inside, eh? You pour on top?

HL: No. Just pour on top.

VL: But the Japanese used to have like a furo? They...

HL: Yeah, the furo. That's right.

VL: But you didn't have one?

HL: No. Chinese idea didn't have that kind. We didn't like that idea, see, because it's not so nice. (Laughs) The Chinese is all very strict, see. Each person to do their own, see. And they don't want like Japanese, see. That's why. Well, that was different.

VL: Yeah. What kind soap you had?

HL: Soap. We used to have the brown soap. Well, after, they make some Ivory soap, eh. Then we use the Ivory soap. Since today we using Ivory soap.

VL: But before was brown soap? You bought it?

HL: No. The brown soap is use to wash clothes, eh. The island made brown bar. They wash clothes and all. After all, we find that kind not so good. Then we buy better soap to take a bath, see. We don't have a so fancy Safeguard or any other soap. Or good kind soap today, see. Well, that was different.

VL: The brown soap, how much it cost?

HL: It cost five cents for two bars. But long bars, you know. About two by three (inches). They call it eight inches long.

VL: And how did you wash the clothes?

HL: Well, we get a scrub board and use a tub. Then we had to scrub the clothes and rinse 'em away. But we had tap water anyway. Don't have to fill the bucket with water, like the olden days.

VL: You had a pipe?

HL: Yeah, they had water line.

VL: Cause I know some people had to go to the stream and get buckets.
HL: Yeah. 'As the close to the mountain side or where they get houses close to the water, around the stream, they wash the clothes. But our days, that time, my father time already, they had water line already. Yeah.

VL: And then you used kerosene lamps?

HL: Yeah, kerosene lamp.

VL: For light?

HL: Light. Like they call it English made lamp that stand up with a chimney on.

VL: Glass?

HL: Yeah, glass, yeah.

VL: What kind of store did your father have?

HL: Well, it was Chinese store. Not much merchandise. Mostly grocery. Chinese grocery. And some American grocery, and that's all. Just keep going for a while. My mother used to be a clothes patcher. Then help people----old people, some people don't have wife at all. They bring the clothes and sew 'em. Before, the olden days, we didn't have much clothes. But some of the rice bag, they ask for fix the bag for make a pants from the rice bag. And some other clothes, they buy for making the shirt and the dresses. You know the old days clothes, eh. The pants (Chuckles)...You saw some?

VL: No.

HL: Oh. Like some, the fellow on the street, eh, long wide pants, see. That was just tied up with any kind of cord, eh.

VL: Is that the kind they call sailor moku?

HL: No. They had to make 'em out of light stuff. That's linen stuff. Sailor moku is the heavy. Only for the man pants, see.

VL: So your mother used to make clothes or patch clothes for single men?

HL: Yeah.

VL: Chinese or....

HL: Yeah. All, mostly is olden days we have plenty Chinese over here working for the plantation and some rice fields.

VL: And mostly Chinese shopped at your store?

HL: Well, not exactly. What they want, they come around and if you don't
have, they go some other store. That's all.

VL: That was called Liu Tat (store)?

HL: Yeah.

VL: So, did your father make enough money for you to... was it enough?

HL: Well, not quite enough, but still 'nuff going for the olden days. But he never think any more of savings. But only what comes, what go. 'As all you can do. But it was...

VL: You had no savings?

HL: No savings. Is right. After, for a long while, we getting older, then he had some saving.

VL: Did you used to have chores to do around the house when you were small?

HL: No, I just eat up my father's...(Laughs) I didn't do anything.

VL: Oh, you didn't help your mother do laundry or sweep....

HL: No. That time was young; they do themself, see. But mostly, the olden days, they don't have much laundry, see. But like the clothes, everyday use, you don't laundry. That's wash and hang and wear on. But only the going out clothes, well, you starch and laundry.

VL: So when you were little, you didn't have any work to do?

HL: No, once in a while, father say, "Eh, clean the yard and take care some place." That's all. But mostly, run away from the house. Play. (Laughs)

VL: What kind of play?

HL: Well, you know, go out with some fellow go play ball. And sometime they want to go ask boys to play around and get together. But you don't know the olden days, what kind you play, not that much any game like today, see. The olden days, mostly the elder one, they come back, they go study, see. But not much time running around the street, you see. And they don't want small one run around the street, too, see. Got to behave.

VL: But you used to play ball? What kind of ball?

HL: Oh, just regular baseball. And someday, we used to go play other kind of ball. Play marble and so on. (Laughs)

VL: Any other kind of games you used to play?
HL: No, not much. Because we don't get together with the other boys, playing some other bad mood kind. They try to do some gambling like. Well, we don't get together.

VL: A lot of kids used to gamble?

HI: Oh, not to say gamble, but they get together. But there used to be the elder people used to gamble, see. That's why sometime they go run and look and find, well, they gamble. They try to do some, too, while they're young. But mostly, their mother see them what they doing, they scold him, you see. They don't let them do that, anything like that, see.

VL: What about police?

HL: Police very seldom they used to bother. Police, the olden days, they didn't go so hard like today, see. But not everything go wrong, see. Because they gamble, they didn't fight. They don't do anything, but once a while, the police come around and look. And then, nah 'em. Then they pay fine. Some they don't find any money, well, they let 'em go. After all, they know the idea, well, they don't put any money outside. They just play. They put the matchstick and all. How much they count after the game. Well, they count it the money, eh. And then paid all off. Who will be the loser, but I don't know. (Laughs)

VL: Was that camp police or...

HL: No, it's regular police.

VL: Regular. Do you remember any camp police, like plantation police?

HL: Oh, yeah, the camp police, they used to be going around over here. And hard with the people. They was hard with the people. If you don't do right, then they tell you move out and get out from the place and all, so. Then they watch you what to do, and they warn you. That's all. But mostly, you don't want to be a bad name anyway. The olden days, you always looking for the name, 'as all, see. But not like today, you know. Worry about your name.

VL: Name was important back then?

HL: Yeah. Not like today. Every day you listen to the radio, you find somebody got killed, somebody got shot, and you get all kinds of trouble.

VL: So did you help your father on the farm?

HL: Yeah.

VL: You fed the buffalo, you said.
HL: Yeah, I do all that job what other working men didn't do. All the rest. And I have to take care of it.

VL: How many people did your father hire?

HL: Well, sometime, season time, he hire seven. After, when they plant the rice, they hire some men. After planted, no job on that time. After the rice comes up, grow nicely, then they hire some more men to weed the grass on the fields and clean it up. After that, the rice grow up and they don't need any man. Then by the time grown up---we need one man for regular check-up for water running right place or get enough or not. They call it supervise. Then that's all he have. But animal, we have to keep 'em everyday, eh?

VL: So what exactly was your job?

HL: Yeah, but other one cannot come back and do the job and I have to help 'em out, eh, because that part is your own money. (Laughs) Was the father's money, see. If you have to hire more men, well, he had to pay more, see. That's why you got to take care of everything.

VL: So you took care of the animals?

HL: Yeah.

VL: Anything else?

HL: Some chickens, too. Got to feed them. After all, the chicken grow up, then we make food with 'em. (Laughs) But not much. But not so good, anyway.

VL: Did he (father) pay you any money?

HL: Well, he pay me only the food. (Laughs) Because I didn't ask for any money. Even I go out working and I make the money, I give it to my father and my mother. Just take 'nuff what I want to spend, that's all. Olden days, well, you cannot get more money for spending anyway. No place to go. No show, no nothing.

VL: They didn't have movies?

HL: Movie, they don't have. Quite lately, they have. About close to 1928, '29, then they had the show come out. But before, the olden days, didn't have any show.

VL: What about swimming and fishing?

HL: Well, fishing, swimming, but only one I didn't learn how to swim. One day I went with the boys to try to swim. Kind of in the river. I try to float myself and after I float, I go so far, then I didn't get my chance to get on the mud. Then after I was nearly drown and the other boys got me out. Then after that, I didn't go back no more
in the water.

VL: Can you tell me a little bit about going to school?

HL: Yeah. Well, everyday we go school. And get up in the morning. Sometime they wake me up and sometime they don't have to wake me up, then I get ready. Then sometime, I go play hookey. (Laughs)

VL: And what would you do when you played hookey?

HL: Go down to somebody's farm and lay down and fall asleep. (Laughs) After hours, then I come back, follow the kids and go home.

(Laughter)

HL: After my father found out, well, then he bawl me out. That's all.

VL: Did he spank you?

HL: Well, that time, when I go school, I didn't like spanking so much already, see, but he scold. But sometime we do something wrong, well, he spank. But we got to take 'em.

VL: You didn't like school or did you like school?

HL: Well, the part is I like school, but the brain didn't work so good.

(Laughter)

HL: That's why play hookey. That's why I was dumb today.

VL: Did you have good teachers?

HL: Well, teachers all was good teachers. All nice. And some teacher try to ask you come back in the later hours and stay back to learn little bit more. They do quite a bit help for us to learn something. Then try to get us ahead. That's why you go back and ask them for help, they always do.

VL: Were they strict?

HL: Well, they is strict, too. They spank, too. (Laughs) Well, you do wrong, they spank, see. Yeah.

VL: What is an example of doing something wrong?

HL: Yeah. Sometime, you want to fight with some other boys and all that. They call you and ask you question why you first started doing this. Two of us standing there. After ask one question to this, then they ask question of the next person. Then he say, "What did you do?" And after he found out which one was the wrong one to start the fighting, well, that one get the spankings. Then that's all the course.
VL: Did you have children of all different ethnic groups, like Japanese, Korean...

HL: Yeah. They have all kind. They all mix. Well, they don't say you what kind, but they do all in one class.

VL: Did they all get along okay?

HL: Yeah, they all was alright.

VL: No fights?

HL: No. They always all nice.

VL: Good. Can you remember your first summer job?

HL: Well, the first summer job, I was looking for a pineapple job. Look for job, then I went. And they offer me a job. Then we have to travel quite far before we get the job, though. We had to ride the bicycle. Go about three miles riding bicycle to the pineapple field to work. Then after all so many hours, then we get out. Eight hours, then we got off. We get home. Ride the bicycle home and all. Take our lunch there and eat whenever they get regular lunch hour. And that's all. Work everyday and everyday get...

VL: What kind work?

HL: Is picking up pineapple. Because the fruit is getting ripe and you used to pick up with a bag. Hang over across to your neck and to the shoulder. And you put the pineapple in the bag. Then after, bring it down to where the location where they want to put the pineapple for boxing. Then after that, go back till the line is finished. Then you change the line.

VL: And you get paid by the hour?

HL: Paid by the hours.

VL: How much per hour?

HL: Is about 15¢ an hour.

VL: And you work eight hours?

HL: Yeah.

VL: Not much. (Laughs)
HL: Not much is right.

VL: How old were you then?

HL: That time was 15 years old. Then after little more, after pineapple season is off, they don't offer any job, try to locate some of the (sugar) plantation summer job. Then they gave me the job. Job used to be go out where they harvest the cane. Then I had to go fix the line. You know, the furrow. They call it furrow. And pull all the rubbish, they call opala. You know, the leaves. Put it all the line and clean for the water run in, and that's why....

VL: It that called palipali?

HL: Yeah, palipali, yeah. Then, English, is called furrow, eh. Clean the furrow and let the water run in. Then after no palipali, then they offer you...

VL: Wait, how much did you get for palipali?

HL: Well, about ten cents an hour. Less than the pineapple. And after all, well, small kid time, we didn't think about...but only so long as we find a job. Then we do. But not today. Today everyday is money. Then they offer you, "Eh, tomorrow you come back. You take the hoe and you go irrigate." They call hanawai, irrigate the furrow. And after all, so, I working. First time I didn't know too good on the job.

VL: How do you....

HL: Irrigate the place?

VL: Yeah.

HL: Well, when they get the long ditch running through and they use the leaves to close each furrow to stop the water running. After the furrow filled up, then I close the furrow. Then I open the other furrow. Till field are irrigated.

VL: That time, you just close 'em with dirt? Or did they have the...

HL: No, they didn't have anything. You just use the cane leaves. You know, they bundle up the cane leaf. Then it just seem like a whole thing. Then you just put it right on that and you hold that mud back and block it up. But it still leaking a little bit. But after all, you cannot do, well, they shut the water off anytime. If you let the water run through, well, he run over the other side, see, because the furrow is fill up. Yeah. Then, that's why the irrigation. And one day, I had bawl up to and I have to do all the job all over, first line to the back of the last line, because I didn't see that was my line to irrigate, see. Then after that, the foreman caught me. Then he tell me, "You go back and water the line there." Then I
have to open all the line to go back to the last line. I finish up, I come back. Everybody laugh at me.

VL: You mean you forgot one line?

HL: Yeah. Because suppose to be my place, but it looks little bit different. I didn't go in, see. And then after all, say, "Eh, one line, you didn't irrigate," see. That's why.

VL: Was the lunas nice?

HL: Oh yeah. But some, well, not every one nice. Some they bawl you out, see. The olden days, there always be people get more smart, eh, bawl you out for what you doing wrong, see. But not today. Today, well, you bawl me out, I go see my union.

(Laughter)

HL: Before you don't have to. He tell you go home, you go home. You don't have---they fire you, see.

VL: Did anybody ever tell you go home?

HL: No. They don't do that, because they knew that only you got to take the bawling, that's all. Get the scolding, that's all. And they won't tell you go home. But they keep your record, though. They tell you, "This good man or not," see.

VL: Your next job?

HL: Yeah, next job. Was mostly go back to back to my father's place where I start in. Then my father sold the place. After I get trouble with my co-partner. And I went up to tell my father that didn't work right. Then I told my father that 'as alright. But they got to figure out for that I was working long hour. I was tired. I fall asleep. I realize then they still not satisfied. Then after that, I told my father I quit. Then after all, then my father didn't say anything much. Then after the next day, I went back work and I told my father, "Well, we finish the place and the season. And we try sell it to the next person who want to make a farm." Then after my father went to look for one person who wants it. Then he sold it. Then each person make two grand.

VL: Each person? Meaning...

HL: Co-partner, eh. My father and a co-partner make two thousand dollar. They split half, eh. And that's all. They get the money and 'as all. And I get nothing.

VL: (Laughs) But as you said, he wasn't angry at you?

HL: My father didn't get mad. But first, he started ask me, "Why you
sleep on the job?" I told him, "Well, I fall asleep. You fellow got to figure me how many hours I work. And I have to fall asleep anyway." 'As why he didn't say much.

VL: So then after that, he only worked in the store?

HL: Yeah, he working just only that. He's kind of old already, see.

VL: Oh. Do you remember the year that he sold the farm?

HL: About 1919, I think. Somewheres around there. That time, after sold the farm a few years, then I came down the plantation. 1919 I started working on the plantation. Then after all, I went the pump. Ask for a job. Didn't have much jobs. Then I went looked for job outside on the plantation. Then a friend told me that he had a job open, and I wen ask for a job. Then I got the job. Then I went there work. Then after that...

VL: What job was that?

HL: The pump. Water pump.

VL: Oh, you oiled the machinery?

HL: Yeah, oil the machinery. Take care the machinery. And take care then, everyday do for nearly one year. Then after one year the Japanese strike came in. Then I look for another job. A better job. Then I came down on the plantation to ask for a job. Then one job was open. Then I got the job. The job was call water tender to take care the boiler. That for keep steam to run the machinery.

VL: So you worked at the mill?

HL: Yeah, at the mill.

VL: And how much were you paid for that?

HL: Well, that time, we have little bit better wage anyway. About $110 that time.

VL: $110 a month?

HL: Yeah. Then that's all the highest all pay they can get. But after all, you go back work, but only get twenty cents an hour. Only you working out of job in the mill, they only pay you twenty cents, fifteen cents an hour, too.

VL: Is that why the Japanese went on strike?

HL: Yeah. Yeah, that's why. But the Japanese went on strike, but they on a contract for loading cane and all that. But they loading so
many cane, but they didn't get any raise, see. That's why they ask for the strike. And the plantation still didn't give them any money, more than that. Then they sent 'em all out, and then they hire some other strike breaker. And they keep a-going. And after all, Japane gave up. They went back. They work.

VL: How did you feel during that time?

HL: Well, kind of hard feeling is right, you see, because they didn't gain anything and they lost everything. After they were moving out from the camp, they told certain days to move their stuff out of the camp, but they didn't move it out. They throw it all out in the road. Then they have to pack it away.

VL: You mean police came inside the house?

HL: Yeah, the police came and tell 'em all pack and throw 'em all out. And they have to move. Some, they move by themself. They know make mistake, see. But they move in. But some, they play hard, eh. That's why they get into trouble, see. But mostly they move out, find house some other place. They move out.

VL: I heard some of them made tents. They camped out in the church yard like that.

HL: Yeah, they do. Because they don't find a place occupied with houses. Some, they stay in the church. They do all over place, but I didn't get much time to see where they go. And...

VL: You were still working then, yeah?

HL: Working, yeah.

VL: What was your job at that time?

HL: That time was a water tender. Make steam for the machinery to work. Then I work for one year. Then ask for my leave. Then I went back to China to visit my family. My mother and the sisters. We went back in 1920 or somewhere around there.

VL: Your four sisters and your mother?

HL: No, the other one got married down here. And the other one died. Yeah. Then, one left. Then only two of us, small sister and myself went. And my father and my mother. We went back.

VL: You all went together?

HL: Yeah.

VL: Oh, I see.
HL: And then the first time when I went, well, that time I was single yet. And after all, my father didn't like me come back myself. And I brought her down, my wife down.

VL: From the same village?

HL: Yeah. Same village. But is not the village. The village is same like you go from here to Haleiwa. You call it one village, anyway. But it's close to it. And then went up, look for 'em. Then we got married. Then after that, we don't stay too long, because I have to come back for look for money.

VL: When you went over there, did you think you were going to stay?

HL: No. That's only temporary for my father wanted go go back.

VL: You took a boat?

HL: Yeah. That time was only boat. Didn't have any plane that time.

VL: How much was the boat?

HL: Well, was about $65 or something. The first time was $55 or something. A small amount. After one year, they went up, yeah. High up, because they travel kind of long. Then boat fare went up.

VL: And then your mother and father stayed there?

HL: Yeah.

VL: And you came back with your wife?

HL: Well, we build a house there, too. And put a house up there for my father and my mother live. Then after the house paid, then I get married. Then I came down.

VL: (Your father) sold the store already?

HL: No, long time (before) they sold the store. And he live with me down the camp over here, see.

VL: How come he sold it?

HL: Because he didn't make much money. And everything going up high, too. The grocery price changing. And people are getting less of Chinese. And 'as why didn't make much business. Then he sold the place.

VL: So when you and your wife came back, where did you live?

HL: I live down on the back of this camp.

VL: Is this Mill camp?
HL: Yeah, they call Mill camp. Mill 7, they call 'em. Back lane there. Then for another so many years, she (wife) was so sickly. Asthmatic and I finally ask for move back in here in 1945. And then all the years we stay back, in the back side here. And after all, she came here and then she feel a little bit better. Then was alright. Then asthmatic goes out.

VL: That Mill camp had all different ethnic groups, too? Or mostly Japanese?

HL: Well, that time, they had all mix already. Only Japanese and some---this camp, they call this Spanish camp, see. They all was Spanish stay there. Then the Japanee used to be over here, but when the strike there, they bin change all the place. All the group all change, see. Because they had the camp down here called Mill camp, Mill 6, Mill 8. All around there, see. And that's why after the strike, well, they all change it. Mix up.

VL: Before then, did they decide themselves to only be together, the different groups?

HL: Well, mostly they like...

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

VL: This is a continuation of the interview with Mr. Lew. You were talking about going into town for the Chinese doctor.

HL: In town, yeah. But we don't have any other doctor. We have the plantation doctor, but we didn't use him, see. Because we didn't like so far; we get used to the Chinese herb. Is more easy than American drug. 'As why they all go down there and they look at the patient and find out you had certain sick. Well, they tell you what is sick, see.

VL: So you could go into town, but you said it was a dollar and a half each way?

HL: Yeah. And first, some, they go 75¢ one way. Then after that, they came up little higher. And that's why kind of hard to take care.

VL: What about train?

HL: Train, yeah, I think so many hour before you go down, eh, and you had to walk, eh. The train is taking you around the way from here. From where the station is start from the Waialua Fire Station. Then all the way round the range down to this side and go down to Kaena Point and all the way down here. You take about so many hours to reach downtown, you see. That's why kind of hard.
VL: Did you ever take that train?

HL: Yeah, we take the train, but time is lost. So long, see.

VL: Was it cheaper than taxi, though?

HL: Yeah, is more cheaper. But the hours, so you want to get down there, well, don't match. That's why kind of hard. Then that's why we took that way. This way is shorter. It just about one hour time then you be in town. But over there, it take you about two hours before you reach. They go and stop, go and stop. Same like the bus what we have, see. That's why take longer.

VL: So, when you were in Waialua, you always had to walk or ride your bicycle?

HL: Yes. That's the only thing when we want some shopping with a bicycle.

VL: Were bicycles very expensive?

HL: No. That time, bicycle was very cheap, that time. About ten dollars you can get a bicycle. Was very cheap. Not like today. You ask them, and they say, "Eh, thirty bucks, sixty bucks." Come down to a hundred bucks. Hundred dollars a bicycle and all. No, before is cheap, you know. Even you go repair, then he give you a free job. He don't charge you. You had a flat tire, you just, "Eh, I get a flat tire." "Okay. I help you." They all were friendly before. But not today.

VL: How come it's different today?

HL: Today, they want the money, eh. They want to make more money what they can, see. Not like before. Well, they say, "Eh, friend. 'As alright. You come back next time, you come buy something else. Then I charge you." But not today. Like the olden days, the food not so bad, you see. "Eh, I want to get one chicken from you." "Ah, you just catch 'em and take 'em home." Then he come over your house, "Eh, I want something else. Vegetable." "Ah, go over there, cut 'em. Take it home." And no trouble. But today, you cannot have that kind anymore.

VL: More sharing back then, yeah? Share everything?

HL: Yeah. But it's small wage, but it's better idea. Better living. Friendly like, see. But no matter what nationality you go through, they all will be friendly. But today, no.

VL: Never had fights between the different nationalities?

HL: Well, it's mostly fight they get is the Puerto Ricans, eh. Puerto
Rican and Portagees.

VL: Oh, they fought?

HL: They fight, yeah. But Chinese get fight, but they don't go out too much. After quarrel with their own, then they stop and forget it, yeah. But they don't raise hell with pick or gun or something like that to fight one another. Or knife. They don't do. They only quarrel. Yeah. Even so, like they gamble, they come out, they lost money. Then they started to argue. Then they start fight. Then after all, they forget themselves after on.

VL: Did the Chinese ever all get together for New Year's or some kind of celebrations?

HL: They get the celebrations together, but the first time, yeah. Where all the Chinese live, well, they all celebrate days, and get firecracker going on. And take about three days, or some place, they take one week. Some place, they take one month for the holiday. Depend what they want. Like the rice plantation, they say, "Eh, you take three weeks off." Well, you alright. Take the week, because they don't have much job, well, you take your vacation. But when they ask for the work, well, they start a work, see. And work everyday.

VL: And did they make special cakes or.....

HL: Well, cake, they don't have much cake. They only get the fish. Sometime they make certain day, some like a occasional season come out, they make a feast for them. Make a roast pork. And make some fried chicken. All what they can find, a good stuff, then they make a feast for them. Put on the table and then after all, anybody who come around there same time, well, they can have the food, too. Not only say you cannot. Some you meet them in the rice plantation, you just go in there and sit down and eat all what you want. But not today. The Chinese contract, they used to work in the field. They paid the cook. Then the cook cook the food and take 'em out in the field. 'As the only one Chinese do. The other one, they take their own—the Japanese they take their own meal out. Only Chinese, they ask, "Well, you like work, well, got to be hot rice."

VL: What about when you were doing irrigation or palipali like that? You took your own lunch?

HL: Yeah. That time, we took our own lunch.

VL: You made it at home first?

HL: Yeah, we made it at home.

VL: Rice and what?

HL: Rice. They get all some pork sausage and all kind what you want to
eat. Put it together. First layer, well, you put all the rice. Then, next, top can. Then you put all your food inside. Take all what you can eat and no take more what you don't eat. Don't waste. Because you come back, it going be fermented. Sour.

VL: You took Chinese food or sometimes American?

HL: Well, mostly is Chinese food that time, eh. You get all cook in the roast pork. Or sometime you want a chicken steam up. Or sometime a fry meat or something like that. And all kind different food. Sometime you got can fish, eh. Your Chinese can fish. You ate some already before? Yeah. They had the kind, they get it. One pound can, you take it all out because it's sitting in the oil. Then you would take it out then eat it. Then we drain the oil from home. Then take 'em to the field. Then by the time the sun is up, the can is warm up. Not oily, eh. Then we get a bottle of tea. Then we have our lunch.

VL: Did you used to share food with the other workers?

HL: Well, depend on the friendly like, we share. But if some different fellow, they don't feel, well, we don't share. But mostly, we get together with the same one, well, they share the food. But sometime even they share the food, you didn't like it, the food what they made, see.

VL: Do you like Japanese food now? You eat any...

HL: No, still today, I didn't like it.

VL: What about Hawaiian food?

HL: No. Mostly Hawaiian food we don't take. But only one thing mostly I use—wife never take any Hawaiian food—only myself, I take kalua pig and 'as all. And poi, Lomilomi salmon, I didn't try to take it. I puke.

VL: (Laughs) How did you get to be vegetarian?

HL: Oh, I join the Buddhist, eh. Around 1954 or somewheres around there. Then after 1961, I baptize. I went Hong Kong when my vacation; I went down to China, Hong Kong with wife. Then after all, see, I baptize. And one year after, my reverend, they came down. They didn't ask me, but wife was vegetarian already. They ask me, "Eh, how about you taking the vegetarian food?" I didn't answer. But after all, I said yes. And then I started. From 1961 till today.

VL: What about long time ago? Was there a Chinese church?

HL: Not church. Is a society. They don't have...

VL: What's the name?
HL: They get all kind of society. Like Loong Doo Society, See Yup and all kinds like that, see.

VL: Did you belong?

HL: No, I didn't join any like that, because not suit too much. Because you only go get in trouble, mostly, eh.

VL: Oh yeah? What kind of things did they use to do?

HL: Well, they go there, they talk. When they join the lodge, they talk their own business, eh. But you don't bother them, see. That's why they brought the certain society, see. But now these Buddhist, anybody can go over there and can see. Listen if you want. And you get food there. If you want to eat, you eat. All free. Everytime was occasional donations, yeah. They ask you, but it's not amount. Same like you giving the help for the make the food. That's all.

VL: The societies—the Loong Doo and the See Yup did they ever get together? All the societies come together?

HL: No. Outside they talk all the same, see. When you go back. See Yup place and you go Hakka place, you go Loong Doo place, like that, see. But after all, you meet together, well, you all mix. They don't talk about their story what they want, see.

VL: Okay. What about your next job?

HL: Next job after water tender, then I was promoted to job open for engine tender.

VL: That's after you came back from China?

HL: No. That is still on that job. When I came back from China, I get other job. Anyway, meantime job is little bit take care the place. 'As all. And after a few months, I got an engine tender.

VL: What is an engine tender?

HL: Engine tender is to take care to run the machinery go crush the cane. And get the juice and you have to hold and go to the boiling house to clarify and clean up and all the thing like that. See, everyday, the same thing. You have to take care the machinery. Anything broke, repaired it, and...

VL: Where did learn about machinery?

HL: Well, while you working, you learn. While you working, see. But my book and pencil one don't work. (Laughs)

VL: But you're smart, you can learn that kind of machinery. So, did anybody teach you?
HL: No. They teach you the first time how to run 'em. Then after all, no, they not staying around there. Then you have to learn your own self. Anything what you think better, well, you do it. That's all.

VL: Did you have supervisor?

HL: They had. Yeah, they had. They call 'em engineer, eh. The high one. They come, they take care; once in a while he go around. Then after break down, he tell 'em, "Eh," and here come the engineer. Tell you what to do and tell you where to go and you do the job. That's all. And then keep going all year around. Day and night. Then, before it's 12 hour yet. Then you work 12 hour. 11 hour you work day time but night time you work 13 hours because you go little bit early for that fellow go home and change off early that same one. Then you get it back the next week, eh. But only two shift. Then they do that all that 12, 11, 13. Sometime you work overtime, you come back all like groggy.

VL: You get paid for overtime?

HL: Well, the pay is small, eh. Before is the overtime, you figure 12 hour, you divide it by...you work four hours then you get quarter day, eh. But today, you work three hours, you get quarter day, right?

VL: I don't know.

HL: Eight hours a day now, eh. Before, you work 12 hours a day, see. 'As why you work four hours to get your quarter day, see.

VL: How much money for 12 hours?

HL: Well, 'as two dollars a day.

VL: Six days a week?

HL: Seven days a week, sometimes, see. But they pay you small in the overtime, eh. If they can let you off, well, they try to let you off, but mostly, they want to keep on going, see.

VL: So, when you work that long, you must get up 4 o'clock in the morning or what?

HL: Yeah. You get up that early. Walk to the job. (Wife) go cook. Then I get up little bit later, then I get all the lunch can and then start to work. Come back with the dirty clothes.

VL: Anything exciting ever happen when you were engine tender?

HL: Well, sometime they do, but not much serious anyway. But breakdown, they always have. On the machinery. They working all 24 hour through, see, cause everything must happen. But men, they don't have any things
serious. What, small cuts and all kind minors, yeah, but that's nothing. But so long, God bless.

VL: And then after you were engine tender, then you went to China?

HL: No. Wait. Afterward, I change my job first, before. And I get my foreman job, supervisor. I was working supervisor. When they offer me a supervisor in 1938, then I change my job. But that's only pay me eighty dollars a month. I lost more what I earning.

VL: Right. But earlier you said it was smaller pay, but it was salary, not wages. So that when you were sick, you still got paid.

HL: Yeah. I work, but in salary, I get eighty dollars a month. But when I lay off, they don't take anything out of me. That's all. I gain all. I go doctor. 'As why they call salary job. And then I take care same thing. Just be a supervisor all around and anything. We change shift, too. Work one week a day---when we work in the afternoon, when we work at night.

VL: Was this eight hour shift now?

HL: Yeah.

VL: When did they change?

HL: When the union came in. 1946.

VL: Then they changed to eight hours, right?

HL: Yeah.

(Wife comes in and says a few things).

VL: So let's see. 1938, then, you became a supervisor. And can you describe that job?

HL: Yeah. That's take care all the men and machinery and everythings what it doing right and all. And take the time and make requisition for parts and everything like that. And day is the same thing. Then we go over anything and anything wrong, report it to top man.

VL: How many men you supervised?

HL: Supervise is sometime 24.

VL: Oh, you had 24 men? And you took their time when they come, when they go?

HL: Yeah, all the time. When they come to work already, we know ahead we're going to work so many hours, eh. Well, if he sick, well, he just notify, "I'm going home." Then we put the time in for how much hours off and that's all. Then everything something like that.

VL: They had little bango numbers, yeah? You write down the number and...
HL: No, that time, they change it now. Well, my time, I have hango like that, same like dog tag they call it. (Laughs) Then they do away with that after all. Yeah.

VL: Oh. When did they change that?

HL: After the strike. Not the strike. After the union came in.

VL: '46. So how long were you supervisor?

HL: Supervisor till '65.

VL: From 1938?

HL: Yeah.

VL: Oh. Gee....why do you think they offered you that supervisor job?

HL: They want the man who can handle the job, 'as why they offer you do the job. And on the service, too, eh.

VL: You mean you had been there a long time?

HL: Long. And they depend on you what you can--think of you, how far you can go, see. And 'as why they offer you that job. 'As why I stood there at that length of time.

VL: You ever had any problems with the workers?

HL: Well, problems always comes up, but always you be patient. If he come up hard with you then you just say, "Yes." Then after all, when he cool off, then you go back and tell 'em what is right. But you start in right away, well, you get in trouble. Like when the union come up, well, you cannot go too hard, anyway. You get in trouble, then they go back and say, "Talk to the union....who supervise on that department." Then he tell him. Then he go back and make all the trouble. Comes up again, then you go back in the office, and he tell, "Certain-certain things didn't suit us, and what you want to do? Then, if you fellow don't do the right thing, well, we going off the job. The whole gangs."

VL: Strike.

HL: Then that's why you have to go easy with them.

VL: Did that ever happen?

HL: No. But out in the field, that happen. But, 'at's only short time, then they want to go back. Then after, then the plantation getting more smart, eh. Then they tell 'em, "Try cooperating with them certain while." Then go back and tell them what's been going on. And
after, what they think of it, and tell you what to do the next stop and keep on going so on, like that.

VL: I remember the last time I was here, I asked you about accidents. And you said Waialua was very safe.

HL: Yeah. The less accident at Waialua. Few of them, they had accident but that is cannot help, eh. Like they working out in the field. Accident, well. Like the grab break off and fall on the man and then he died, eh. Not much, but they all was looking for the more improvement, eh. After get the accident, they try to improve little bit more, eh. Sometime they cannot see 'em, too. Like back up this harvesting machine. Well, just right over there, they run 'em over. But not much. Only few.

VL: Anything ever happen at the mill? Accidents?

HL: The mill, well, they don't have any. No.

VL: I remember you said at Waipahu, I think, one man got crushed in the machine, or his arm or something?

HL: Oh, 'as the olden days already. That long ago, but I don't know. The top man of the other people, they told me about a story, 'as all. But I didn't like hear that, too, see. But he was trying to save the man. 'As why he cut his hand off. And it's better with one hand off than the whole body is gone. But that one, I think, I don't think so he in the island. But other island, I think, that one.

VL: Did you ever get new machines in the mill?

HL: Yeah, they do. They get new machine. After they run so much, they wear out. Then they try to put in turbine, like that, see. Only lately 1948 or '49, something like that, they change some more to machinery. They do.

VL: I mean, like more modern kind. So you need fewer men?

HL: Yeah. From my time, it's not too much yet. But from today, well, they getting more every year what they can try get. Less and less (workers). 1969, they start. From that time, they try remodel everything what they can out in the field, first. Then after, in the factory. Man is always wages more, more, more, more. They had mechanical mower, eh. They got to do on more mechanical improvements, see. Then 'as why they get the man less.

VL: Since 1938, you get raise little by little?

HL: Certain time, the union ask for raise, we have a raise anyway. The contract pau two years, then they ask the raise. We have a little bit, but not much at one time.
VL: Even though you're not a member of the union? Get raise...

HL: No. When we come up the supervisor, we stay in with the other top man.

VL: And this house was free first?

HL: Yeah, the house was free for up to '46. Then after all, we had to pay for the house.

VL: And then how much?

HL: Was $39. Dollar half for water. Electrical, we pay....

VL: So by the time you moved in here, was what? 1945?

HL: Yeah.

VL: And you had electricity?

HL: Yeah, all electric, already.

VL: And did you ever have a car?

HL: Yes, I have a car.

VL: You do? When did you get one?


VL: So before that, how did you travel?

HL: I travel with my bicycle or with the taxi to go in town. That's all.

VL: When did the taxis stop?

HL: The taxi stop? Not too long. I think five years or so. Then after, like they have Wahiawa bus running quite long already anyway. Then the strike going on all the time, eh. And Honolulu Country take it up and you know all about that story now. The bus strike. Well, a couple of time. They want raise the tax money. Then after all, the man want to raise. Then after all, then they go on strike. And that time, they let go again. And then after next strike. Then after all, they cannot stand. They City and County take over and that's all the story going on till today.

VL: What about telephone?

HL: We had telephone all the time.

VL: When you were small, did you have?
HL: Well, the first time telephone, when I learn how to see around the telephone, they had telephone. Only the big company had the telephone. Outside don't have any telephone. But they have some in the public, but they have to pay 'em on the call. Same like you are ringing up, then they ask you what you want and what place and what phone number. And they give you and you got to pay for it, see. After, they improve, improve. Then, better system, then they....

VL: When did you get your first telephone?

HL: My first telephone, well, they all have. I'm the last guy for put in telephone in the house. I think I move in this house, eh, I think 'as the time.

(HL's wife replies.)

Wife: Not twenty year. Only ten something.

VL: Only ten years you got a phone?

Wife: More than ten year. Maybe 15 year.

VL: Newspapers?

HL: Yeah, used to get newspaper alright, too. But they keep a-going. Only last year, I take it off. When this year they wanted two dollar half for newspaper, I didn't use any newspaper.

VL: When you were small, did your father get Chinese newspaper?

HL: Oh, very seldom, too. They don't have much, but they have newspaper, but it cost less.

VL: From China, did they bring...

HL: No. They had a printing press in Honolulu. They get a newspaper in Chinese.

VL: And your father used to get?

HL: Yeah, they have.

VL: And also English paper?

HL: No, that time don't have any English.

VL: What about radio?

HL: Radio at a later time, I have, too.

VL: Do you remember any crimes in the community?
HL: No. Not here. Waialua was so peaceful.

VL: Stealing? Nobody steal?

HL: No. 'As the best. Over here was laki. Good. Laki means good, Hawaiian. (Laughs)

VL: You think Waialua was a good place to raise children?

HL: Well, not so bad. It's a good place to raise children. No much bad people around, 'as all, see. Then they all the same thing where you raise any other place, children. But only the parent got to be good, eh, to tell what's right, what's wrong, see. That's all. If you leave 'em alone, well, they wild going learn all the bad, wrong thing, too, eh.

VL: Did you have children?

HL: Yes. I have five.

VL: And were they born in the hospital?

HL: No, midwives. Only the last one was the hospital.

VL: When was the first one born?

HL: First one born 1923, I think. Somewhers around there.

VL: Chinese midwife?

HL: No, Japaneese.

VL: And she came here?

HL: Yeah, came over the house and do the job all. And the rest, we take care.

VL: What did she charge?

HL: Just small amount---I don't think so too much.

VL: Do you think that sugar is going to stay in Waialua? In the future?

HL: Sure. That the biggest plantation, Waialua here.

VL: You think it's going to last a long time?

HL: Yeah, that going last. Of course, this company is the biggest company. They nearly own the whole thing. Pineapple, this transportation, outside oceanic food. And tuna factory, plantation sugar company, and all. They will stand long. Like if this one go off, I don't know what the island going be.
VL: You mean Castle and Cooke?
HL: Yeah, Castle and Cooke.
VL: What would happen if Castle and Cooke decided not to grow sugar in Waialua?
HL: Well, I don't think so they would go out of that, because they trying to get more land on the place try to raise more sugar. But they own half of the land, they own it, see. But half of the land, they lease on it, see. That's why they won't go out of that. I think, still they won't go out. Last place, I think, they go out.
VL: What do you think about the future of Hawaii?
HL: Hawaii? I don't know. (Laughs) 'At's the hardest one. Now we getting worse and worse.
VL: Well, you think tourism is still going to be number one industry?
HL: Well, I guess for meantime, I don't know how long that going be last, too. And all this condominium, all these things coming up, I think going be kind of hard. After all. You don't think so every year the tourist going make that much money to spend to going around the place. Like Japan, the people come down here. You know how much they earn before they make that much money to come down here to spend? Kind of hard, eh. They got to pay back after the interest and all, before they can get another one, see. Take long. But like Americans go around other country, well, you alright. You can spend less than double, anyway. Like we go Hong Kong, well, we can spend little bit more buying any other things, see.
VL: Would you like to see Haleiwa become developed? More condominiums, maybe, hotel?
HL: I don't think so. (meaning: it won't happen) That's all. Even that Kuliima, they get hard time. How much people passing at Waialua. And how much people will be try to buy a house? Only the Mainland people buying the condominium and so on. But all other place, they don't get much---Waialua, I don't think so. Well, they can put it up, but I don't think so they can make money on it.
VL: Oh, you don't think they can make money?
HL: No.
VL: How come?
HL: Well, who going buy it? 'As one thing.
VL: People with money?
This is an interview with Mr. Hook Chen Lew at his house. Today is September 1st, 1976. You know, when you were growing up, when you were small, did you ever have any dreams about what you wanted to be when you grew up?

No, I don't think so that time.

You didn't want to be a policeman or something?

No. Didn't think of anything like that.

Did your parents want you to be anything?

Oh yeah, he want me go to school and study and learn better things to do. And better way. And graduation and study hard.

How much school did he want you to have?

He want all what I can. (Laughs) But I didn't get enough to go through.

You went to eighth....

Seven (grades).

Was he disappointed? He wanted you to go more than seven?

Well, yes. Family was disappointed, but I cannot help. Because, anyway, father was poor. I have to do the job and help 'em out. That's why it's the drop of my school.

But they thought that education was important?

Yes.

Yeah. How much school had your father had?

My father didn't have any English, but in Chinese, well, pretty good.
VL: He went to school in China?

HL: Yeah.

VL: Do you know how many years?

HL: No. That, cannot tell, but Chinese, they go school, they don't have
to go so long. They can go three years, two years and they work it
all through their brain, by the books. Then that's why they learn
that way, see.

VL: Did your mother have any school in China?

HL: No, my mother didn't had because she was a servant-like in the island,
you see. Was brought in here young.

VL: She was brought to be a servant for a Chinese family?

HL: Yes.

VL: Oh. Do you know any more about that?

HL: Uh, no. I cannot tell you, because stay in the back, eh?

VL: She didn't talk about working for them?

HL: No. No, I just heard what they are talking about. That's all I know
that's my mother.

(Chuckling)

VL: But it was a Chinese family that she came with?

HL: Yes, that's a Chinese family.

VL: Oh. Was that unusual?

HL: That is. Is really unusual, because rich people, they get a little
bit money, they want little bit help. Like in the kitchen work or
like that. 'As all. But they treated just same as their daughter,
see.

VL: Oh yeah?

HL: Yeah. But they don't do any harm to them. They want just like a
helper. Like what---we growing up, we got to help the father and
mother, see. Same thing like that.

VL: Did your mother have parents in China?

HL: That, I don't know that far.
VL: And then you had four sisters, right?
HL: Wait....make a mistake. I think I had three sisters. (Laughs)
VL: Three sisters. Did they also go to school?
HL: Yeah. Yeah, they go school.
VL: Same....seven grades?
HL: No, they go little bit over that. And, anyway, we had only up to eight grade. That's all. When the olden days, eh, they don't have go to college or go any other place, eh. (Those) who graduate more or better study, they go. Like, go on (to be) a teacher, they go grammar school, see. 'As all they go, then they be a teacher.
VL: Did your sisters do that?
HL: No, they didn't do any, because they get enough job at home, see, for help father and mother.
VL: And then they eventually got married?
HL: Yes. Yeah.
VL: They married people from Waialua or.....
HL: Yeah. Is born in China, but he married in town.
VL: And you mentioned last time, I think, one of your sisters died?
HL: Yeah, that's right.
VL: What did she die from?
HL: Die influenza. Influenza and 'as why she didn't get any chance. She had only three days sickness and she gone. That time was after the war, I think, that. When the break out. And 'as why everybody had the flu.
VL: This was after World War I, right? Back 1920, around?
HL: Yeah, that's right. World War I.
VL: That's about the time they had that strike, right? The Japanese strike?
HL: Yeah.
VL: There was a big flu?
HL: Yeah, that's right. 'As same time. But I don't know what the date.
VL: So she caught that?
HL: Yeah.
VL: Was there any medicine?
HL: Yeah, they went doctor. Doctor didn't give medicine, but get no chance. Get no hope.
VL: He didn't give her any medicine?
HL: They had medicine, but didn't help, see. And doctor came and after doctor take care of her, but didn't help much.
VL: You didn't catch the flu?
HL: No, I was out in the working for the plantation that time. Out of the house.
VL: Oh, your sister was in the house?
HL: Yeah, with my father and mother. And I was down on the plantation place to work.
VL: Back then, what kind of funerals did they use to have?
HL: The funeral? The funeral they get olden days, they don't do much. Use to be a coffin, always wood made of. There's a box like. And then cover with a black cloth and that's all they have. That been a coffin, see. Yeah.
VL: You buy this? Or you make it?
HL: Oh, yeah, we buy.
VL: And do they have cemeteries around here?
HL: Yeah, they have cemetery down here. They call it Puuiki.
VL: That's where your sister is?
HL: Yeah.
VL: You know, when you were small, did you use to drink milk?
HL: Well, we drink milk, but not much milk on that time, see.
VL: Where would you get it from?
HL: Well, from the small dairy where they had raise few cows, but didn't had much like today. Today, they have big flock of—everyday you have milk, but before sometime you go there late, well, you won't
buy any milk. It's all out. Yeah.

VL: Did you drink coffee when you were small?

HL: No, I didn't drink coffee. Even tea, I don't think. Yeah.

VL: Did young people in school ever smoke cigarettes?

HL: No.

VL: No? Okay. You know, your parents, did they practice a religion?

HL: Well, they do, but not much. Didn't have much people in religion yet that time, but it's a very small. Only they had like a small little temple, you know, where the Foster Gardens (is)? They call it Kun Yon Temple. 'As where they go and ask for help or anything what we want to do or so like that. 'As all. And end of the year, well, they go back and give them the thanks for what they help us the whole year. Yeah. Every year we do that.

VL: When you were growing up, did you ever go on dates?

HL: No. Olden days, we don't know about anything about that. Only stay home, but only once a while they go show. Movies. But not much movies around, see. But movies is all good movies. Not like today.

VL: What are the differences, comparing today and yesterday, between men and women?

HL: Plenty difference today.

VL: Yeah. Back then, what was it like?

HL: They all would behaving there at home. Always believe in their parent, what the parent tell them. What to do and what not to do. Everything is doing it the right way.

VL: You think it's better that way?

HL: Oh, yes, that's better.

VL: What about your children? Did you ever have any conflicts?

HL: No, but they all would be at home. They all nice children. Till they're married. 'As all.

VL: Did you ever have any dreams about what your children were going to be when they grew up?

HL: No, but wife thought, try to get them educated, 'as all. And see what they think of what they want to do. You cannot tell (them) what. You want that way, well, (it) won't work with them what they want
to learn, see. That's why, then they grow up, then they go school. But mostly, they go up to school. They go up to the limit grade, that's all. But know what the language and all that, that's all.

VL: So how much school did each of your children have?

HL: Well, they all goes up to twelfth grade. And the boys went up to Mainland. Went to learn up mechanic. After he learn all that, be a mechanic, well, he got all everything, he came home here. Then he say he want to start a work. But he say, "Tell Mama I cannot do the job because my hand all blister with the gas. And all my hand is infected." He said. But mother told him, "Well, you cannot do, well, you look for something else." After all, they went back. Try to get together with the other boys, they want to go out to another school, try to learn to be engineer. When they try to change their mind, they want to draft. To go to Army to get the school from the Army, see. Then, after all that, they came back say, "Well, I'm going draft next week." But Mama told him, "Well, we shame." Myself, too. I said, "You better go in the Coast Guard." And then he take our word. And after he went, then he stood there for four years. Then he came back. But he say very hard. Once a while, "What you going learn?" He say he got a job there in a boat. Well, he wants to be a cook. Then he do all the job. Then after they get in a practice, they going to review on what they going to learn, but they try put him on a dive. For a forty feet dive. He say, "I don't know today I going make it or not." But, well, he made it alright. Then he wrote back home here. He say, "Well, save my life. I dive forty feet." (Laughs) He say, "I made it." He made it, anyway.

VL: Back then, did you use to bank your money?

HL: No, the olden days, well, we don't think about the bank, because we just make enough to pay our bill then 'as all. Little bit left over, but nothing wrong if you leave (it) in a house. Olden days was no matter how much. Like today, well, they come up the house and ask you for money, and hit you on the head or do (laughs) anything bad, see.

VL: Did you use to hide it?

HL: No, just don't have to hide it. Just leave it on a shelf.

VL: You know, your first jobs, did they give you cash or...

HL: Yeah. That time, when I work for my father, that time, was pay out the labors all gold money. Twenty, ten, five dollars. All gold.

VL: Oh. And when you worked for the plantation, same thing?

HL: Well, the plantation, they change little bit. They pay you in dollar. And some, they had to give you dollar bill. They change already; that gold is collected back to United States already, see.
VL: Oh, when was that?

HL: Was quite long already. I cannot remember when the date, but quite a bit long already. Anyway, call about thirty years, over, maybe more, I don't know. But they collect it back. Because the gold is all going out, see. Because some people taking back to China. Some to Japan. And some to other country. But if go back United States, still in, but they go back outside, see. Like mostly in Orient, see.

VL: So then the plantation use to pay you with dollars?

HL: Yeah.

VL: When did they change over to checks?

HL: Well, 'as the time after the strike.

VL: After the 1946 strike?

HL: Yeah.

VL: You mean, all up till then, they paid in cash?

HL: I think little bit back of time, they use to still pay you in money bill. Up to, anyway about 1936, around there. But I cannot be exactly. Can't remember. But still, we get paid in the envelope with the bill, money bill.

VL: You mean cash?

HL: Yeah. Like money bill cash? Ten, twenty, and dollar bill, well, he give.

VL: When did you first start to use the bank, or did you?

HL: Maybe have around 15 years back, 'as all. Twenty years.

VL: After the War, you still didn't use bank?

HL: I think after the War, we was doing that. Yeah. But anyway, at that time, everything was getting bad. And change, because you live in a house, kind of...might be lost or maybe burn or something like that. Then after that, go to the bank. But not much saving anyway. That small amount enough to keep the family going, 'as all. Yeah.

VL: The plantation store, they allowed you to charge, didn't they?

HL: Yeah. They allow me to charge.

VL: How did that work?

HL: That, you took all what you want. Grocery or merchandise or anything.
You just charge it on your—they call it a bango, or your name. Then you take all what you want. Then they taken it out from your pay-check. And after that, the government find out that, they don't allow them to take that off. You had to go by yourself and paid it with your cash in front of them. That way, they cannot take that money from your check.

VL: Do you remember about when they did that? Was that after the union?

HL: No. That about close to back around 1936. Somewhere around there, too, I think.

VL: Did you ever hear of this Myles Fukunaga murder case?

HL: Well, I heard once a while, but I don't know what they do with 'em, but we just forget it. We don't know.

VL: You don't remember too much?

HL: No. No.

VL: You were telling me last time about how you preferred to go into town to see the Chinese doctor instead of use the plantation hospital, yeah? You remember any kinds of herbs or herbal medicines that you use to use or your mother use to give you?

HL: Yeah. Like we have a small cold. We use to use little bit of this ivory and grind it to powder and then put in boil water and put little salt. Then we drink it. Well, the cold go away.

VL: Oh. Ivory?

HL: Yeah, ivory. You know the teeth, eh.

VL: Oh, from elephant?

HL: Yeah, elephant, yeah.

VL: Oh. Where did you get that from?

HL: Well, that, her (wife's) father use to be in Africa, eh? They send it home, see. Then we brought it down, see, for our own protection, see. And some more other stuff. We use to (use) only one special fish. They can use the bladder for a cold, too, and some of these sickness. Same way how to make. Just crush 'em down, melt it up. Then, like all come smooth, eh. Then you add boil water. Then drink it. Then after, sick goes away.

VL: It works, eh? (Laughs)

HL: Yeah, that work. But the olden days, well, you cannot find a doctor, anyway. You doctor by your ownself. Go friend's house and ask, "Eh,
today certain certain get certain trouble." Well, they ask, maybe, all these people from immigrant, they learn something to come down. Some, they know how to cure a boil. You know, the boil.

VL: You know how to do that?

HL: No. That I cannot. But I know, I had one myself. But after all, my father left me home. And the friend came down and say, "What's the matter with your son?" He say, "My son has a boil on the stomach." Then he say, "Well, let me take a look at it." He say, "Oh, boy! You got to go right away now and get medicine to put it on and let it pull it out." Then after, then we get medicine for couple of days more. After that, then, they pull it right through. Then he bore hole through it and then that matter came out.

VL: You know what kind medicine?

HL: No, that is kind of herb, eh. Yeah, but I cannot tell you because too young for remember. (Laughs)

VL: What about acupuncture? You know, with the needles? They use that, too?

HL: No, only lately they use that. Now, it come out about five years, I guess. Somewheres around there. Five years. 1964, when we trying to take a trip, we went Taiwan. That's the first place we try acupuncture. But some people work, but some, like us, didn't work on us. Yeah. My leg had a rheumatism like or painful. All swollen up, eh. And after, he put some needle on. Then after about two times, it didn't work. Later, we took the plane and came back. The wife had a sore back that time, was in bed patient that time. And we came back. We suppose to go to Hong Kong, but we didn't go. We'd had to come back right away. Emergency.

VL: Do you still, today, use some Chinese medicines?

HL: When I join the Buddhist, I didn't think about any medicine any more, anyway. Just praying all like this what you saw me now. And after all, then, even catch cold or headache, but not much. But it's very seldom you feel the headache, but it didn't bother me too much. Then once in a while, it's too heavy, I just take a aspirin. But after now, I don't know what is aspirin for another five or seven years.

VL: Oh. So you don't take any drug?

HL: No. Just I want to go see the doctor. But now he says I had a kind of pressure high, eh. Not too high, but he say acid in the blood. And give me medicine to try and cut it down.

VL: Do you remember the first time you used the plantation hospital?

HL: Only when we use the plantation hospital is the time we use to be
emergency, eh. When we working, we get accident, then we use the hospital. 'As all. But the rest, we don't think too much. But mostly we go down Chinese doctor. Or either go church to ask what is good. Then we get that herb. That church, they had one hundred kind of list. All kind of sickness comes out. You just get the stick. Hundred sticks. And you rock it to ask "Well, I have what kind of sick? You can help me out what to do." Then the stick come out, say 29. And you mark it down, 29. Then after, you ask for two more, then he give you. And you ask the three. That's all. Not more than three, anyway. Most time is three times. But still you can (do more than three), but is not needed. Then we go down medicine store and get the herb and come home and boil the water.

VL: The sticks that come out is the medicine, or the kind of sickness?

HL: No. Say what the name of the sickness, not what the numbers for the medicine. Say I had my back ache. Say, well it's my kidney get trouble or what. Then the stick come out. Then he say,"Well, you use that for number. Then you go get medicine for that sickness." That's all, see.

VL: Oh. (Laughs) That's the Kwan Yin (Temple)?

HL: Yeah, Kwan Yin.

VL: Also back when you were growing up, what did you do with the garbage?

HL: Well, the garbage, plenty use to be fresh garbage. The pig slop man use to pick it up and feed the pigs, eh. But the olden days, well, some family use to keep the pig in the backyard, eh. Then, they allow, but not today. The Board of Health cancel that, see. Now, you have to be in a big farm. Yeah. The olden days, you can do in the backyard. Well, there use to be not much house before, see. Then, you can do all anything. Just build a house for them. Shed. And then you can raise the pigs.

VL: Did you folks ever do that?

HL: Well, my father use to do that. But not myself. Somebody else do that. Get the big farmer, eh. Rice fields, people they get plenty slops, eh. They use to raise that. And then after that, they want to use that (pigs) for food.

VL: And the other kind of rubbish?

HL: Rubbish, they burn it up.

VL: Everybody just burn their own?

HL: Yeah. That's all. Some, there use to be outdoor stove, eh. Make it hot water, 'as where just put it in there, burn it all up. Then put firewood and help same time boil the water to take a bath. (Laughs)
VL: So they never had rubbish collection?

HL: No. Didn't had any.

VL: But the camps were clean?

HL: Well, they all clean, because the plantation use to come and get people around to look around. If not clean, they send people to clean the camp. They call camp cleaner, see. Yeah.

VL: Some people have mentioned to us about making okolehau in the sugar cane fields.

HL: Well, I heard that. But not around where we stay. Like the olden days, they use to be—I heard, but not quite sure—down Mokuleia in a forest. Because over there where no policeman go around or what they bin do with 'em. But they made that.

VL: Did they sell liquor in the plantation store?

HL: No, not that time. Not that time. Very lately, there's get little bit, but not much. About 1925, somewhere around there, start small one.

VL: Then they would sell them?

HL: Sell little bit, but after all, they didn't do much with that, see. Because people don't believe too much that time for drinking. But today, you go holoholo town, you find liquor store. Nightclub.

VL: Did the Chinese stores ever have liquor?

HL: Well, they have some, but it's the Chinese liquor. They call 'em Un Kau Pi. That very strong. Taste like little bit medicine in there, too, but all the working people have to get some when they finish work. When they are in the dinner time, you know, like the rice field, eh. They work hard. Then the owner of the rice field there supply that, see, to them. When they come home, they drink. Most people, they just drink one jigger or two, 'as all. But some, I don't know. They sure overload it. (Laughs)

VL: Did the plantation ever use to have any rules about what you could do and couldn't do? Like you couldn't leave the plantation after certain time or some kind of regulations like that?

HL: No. That time, no regulation on that. Only so long you do everything right, see. No fight. If you do fighting or something, they send the camp police to take care of the people when they overdrink or anything like that.

VL: What would they do?
HL: Well, just warn 'em. And they warn 'em not to do and send 'em back home into his own house. And get him out. 'As all. So they don't get in trouble in the camp.

VL: What if it happened again and again?

HL: Well, after that, I don't think so they come back. They think little bit more about doing wrong, see. Some, the olden days, I hear, they whip 'em. (Laughs) Yeah, you don't behave, they whip you like a horse.

VL: You ever heard of any of those? Or you ever knew...

HL: No, not my time. But my father's time, maybe, yeah. Even they're sick, they lay off in the house, well, they come in the house, then they whip you.

VL: Your father told you that?

HL: Yeah. Even the friends, some of the friends say that, too.

VL: Even if you were sick, you mean, they want you to come to work?

HL: Yeah. That's right. Force you out to work. Then if not, they give you medicine. Some people, the plantation think that you laid off on purpose to stay home, see. They send you down the hospital; they give you the aspirin or some kind of.....then you had diarrhea. Then after that, you get scared. Then you have to go everyday work.

VL: Oh. Okay. I asked you last time what you thought about the managers. The different managers, you know? Do you think there was one that was the best?

HL: All the manager was good. But one was only not so good. All the different way how they work it, 'as why. Little bit cranky like. 'As all.

VL: But was there any that was much better? The best?

HL: The other manager you mean? The other manager was alright. All nice.

VL: You know, World War I time, you were about 17, 18 years old, yeah? Did you have to register for the draft?

HL: No, that time was not age 17. Not going to 19, but after all, we suppose we going draft, but after they call the war off. Out.

VL: Oh, so you never had to...

HL: No.

VL: Did the war affect you in any way?
HL: No, I don't think so affect over here on the island, anyway. Mostly out of the island. Only just want to train the people to go to war. Or some they won't get much down here. No affecting.

VL: And last time you were telling me about the strike. Do you remember the strike in 1920? The Japanese?

HL: Yeah. Well, there was a Japanese strike. They want to ask more wages. And then after, plantation didn't give any more. After they all stayed home, then they (the plantation) give 'em certain days to stay in the house and the limit days. Then they have to go out of the plantation grounds. In the camp or so. Then the people play hard and stay. And then the policemen come back and throw their things out to the highway for they can pick it up by themselves. 'As all.

VL: Did you think that they--the Japanese--were right?

HL: Well, Japanese was right. You want to ask little bit more wages anyway. Since me myself, I want to ask, but I couldn't get nowheres to ask. (Laughs) Like the small pay what we have, see.

VL: Could you have joined the Japanese going on strike?

HL: No. We don't bother. We was something like a strike breaker, 'as all. When we was young, we don't know anything about strike anyway. He say, "You want to work?" Well, we go back, ask them, "Yeah, I want to work." 'As all. We not a strike breaker, see. But not like today. Even you go work, then they give you lickings. And so on, see.

VL: The Japanese, though, they didn't ask you to join with them?

HL: No, that time, they only look for themselves, and after all, they kind of sorry, too. They didn't gain anything, see. But is kind of bad, 'as all.

VL: What did you think about the plantation kicking them out of their houses?

HL: Well, one way is the only right, see. But one way is not so good to the people, see. That's the only one thing I think of it. But they can hardly find any house that time, see. Same time while you going out, so many hundred peoples in the camp, then they want to rush 'em out. Well, kind of hard, eh. But some, stood back. And then they make a force. And try to get them back to the job, but they still get hard, well, they have to move out, see. That's all I know all about that.

VL: Do you remember in 1924, a few years later, the Filipinos went on strike?

HL: Well, that time, I don't know much anyway. I don't think in that time much. But they still didn't get anything, too.
VL: When you were the supervisor for those men in the mill, you said you use to keep their time, right?

HL: Yes.

VL: Now how did you do that?

HL: Well, after every man shows up to work, we just... Everyday is the same people coming back to the job. When I get time, then I mark it there, the hours in. Then after, make a slip. Then goes to the office for their time in, see.

VL: You recognized everybody by face?

HL: Oh yeah. By name and face. And the bango, too, eh. We remember that, see.

VL: What if they came five minutes late?

HL: Well, everybody—even myself sometime go late, but we have to give in, too. So long you ask 'em to come to work because when you short of one man like that, well, that kind of hard for the other people. That factory got to go, see. We have to need so many people to do the job. If he's sick, we have to apply for one more man to take the job, see. Call it out for say, working overtime, see. Yeah. And the first call out, well, you got to figure that they call the first overtime for the next shift. Then after I give the four from the backshift, then they come back and make it—each get a 12 hours job, see.

VL: So if a man came late, would he get docked his pay for that time he came late?

HL: No. But that time, well, very nice people, we say, "Eh, tomorrow morning you come back and square up your time. Or you do, or I deduct it your time." He say, "Alright. I come in early." I give him back the same—what I came in late. Well, people before is very nice. Like sometime, say, "Eh, I had some kind of trouble. Can you change my shift?" And "I want to go someplace." He say, "Alright." Then they change the shift, too, see. They jump up one shift. Then you go back and there his shift then do the job, too, see. But not like today. Today you got to struggle hard somehow. Or either lay off, 'as all.

VL: Did you use to make those kinds of decisions? Change the shift?

HL: Myself?

VL: Yeah.

HL: Well, I do.
VL: You were responsible for....

HL: No, not the responsible for.... yeah, I do ask them two what they wanted do with 'em before I do the decision, see. Then they say, "Well, I want to square it back." Then I say, "Alright." I ask him, "Alright with you?" He say, "Alright." Well, then them two talk to it together, too, see.

VL: After the union, did things change like that? You had to be more strict with time?

HL: Yeah, the time after that, you cannot start in little bit earlier time, too. We had to start the right hours. If not, you had to pay the overtime. Even five minutes ahead of the time, well, you cannot do it. Start at 6:30, well, you have to start right on 6:30. And if he goes home little bit later, five minute later, you have to pay him the overtime, too. You cannot say, "Eh, just forget it." No. You have to pay them in the overtime, see.

VL: Did the method of timekeeping change? Like before, you use to write it down, yeah?

HL: Yeah.

VL: Then later, they punch in?

HL: In the factory, they tried it (punching in). But didn't work much.

VL: How come?

HL: Because the time, they always changing little bit different, eh. Then after, they do away with that. Then only like the shop, the mechanic and all the other one, they punch in their time in, see. They want to know that the right time they go home. Like us, they are in the factory everyday, the same hour they have to go out, see, because then they cannot fool 'em, see. But the other one (in the shop), they say, "You punch my card. I going home now. You punch my card." 'As what they doing it. They find that out, see. They have to punch their ownself, see. Because they try to fool the plantation, the hours, see. Like they working overtime.

VL: But in the mill, in the factory, you still kept their time for them?

HL: Yeah. Yeah, all this time now. Even so. Then you want a day off, well, you ask for a day off, then we apply for somebody else to come at the time with a overtime.

VL: Is it more complicated now since unionization?

HL: Not much complicated. But is only just different how you work it, that's all.
VL: More rules, yeah?

HL: Yeah.

VL: Can you think of any other changes that came about because of the unions?

HL: Because the union is more strong then that's why mostly they change, see. (Laughs) They force in, see. Like anything you go with the labor little bit hard, then tomorrow morning, you find out yourself in the hot water. They go over to the union supervisor then tell him about this person said this and this. "They make me to do that job, is not right." And then after all, they went to the manager first. Then after the manager, then come down to the supervisor and come up to myself. Well, what they did at times. Well, you got to tell the right thing. Then if not, you'll be in trouble.

VL: Did that ever happen to you?

HL: Well, not much, but only a very small one. One of the laborer--- I wanted my way to do, but he want himself that way to do. He went home. He say, "I'm going home." Then after that, he...

VL: To do what? What did you want him to do?

HL: I want him to do the job what I want to do. And then he want to do his way. But after that, I tell him he feel kind of bad, then he went home, see. Then after that he went home. The next day he want to see the union, see. The union man, they send him down who taking care the union, well, they come ask you.

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

VL: Okay, what did the union president do?

HL: The union president get time, well, he come around after work or so, he meet me in my yard then he say, "What did you do with that certain people?" Then say, "I didn't say that. He want to go home himself. 'As all. I told him do that way I want to do, but he didn't follow me. Then he get mad and went home. That's all." Then he kind of give me a bad smile, but after all, nothing happened with me. Yeah. But he want to prove it anyway. Then go back and tell his men, see. Then what the union can do for 'em, see. 'As why he had to come out to find out, see.

VL: Yeah. So what happened?

HL: Well, nothing happened. Just he lost his time. That's all.
VL: Oh, he did?
HL: Yeah. He went home, well, I take off the time, see. I cannot give the time, see. Because he went home himself. 'As only the thing supervisor get, see. You had to watch people what they doing. They's going home or not, see.

VL: How did you first hear about the union?
HL: What you mean?
VL: The first time you heard that there was a union being formed?
HL: Oh, I see.
VL: How did you know about it?
HL: Oh, the union, well, he started talking right in front you and all. But we're the supervisor, well, we cannot join the union. But we only listen to the company's side. 'As all we can do. 'As why we cannot do much. But some of the people don't want to join the union, but they want to stay with the plantation. And they tell the plantation if you give the man a job without belonging to the union, well....They get harder, harder, then the company give up, too. And they tell, "You (the men) go join the union and then you come back and work." 'As all. Because they get so strict, eh. 'As why. The union get strict.

VL: What kind of things did the plantation tell you supervisors?
HL: Well, just tell 'em what the union want to do, well, just follow up the things not to do. Just keep the right way and keep the company job go through. Don't make trouble. Don't get in all the trouble what you going through. 'As all. Time to time, they advise us not to do this and that. When anything goes up to the manager, well, it always come down the line to the supervisors.

VL: Was there ever any trouble between union people and plantation....
HL: They use to do, but they settle down. Make it fix it up. Either the company, or either the union. And that's all.

VL: But during the strike, did you ever hear of any fights or....
HL: Well, that time they don't have, but they mostly say they give you good kicking and all. Like us supervisor, we got to stay on the job. We got to take care of the factories and all, some bad manners one, he say, "Wait till I fix you someways," 'as all they say, see.

VL: But they never did bother you?
HL: No. That fellow passed away early. (Laughs)

VL: Oh. So during the strike, you still were working then?

HL: Yeah. During the strike, still, we have to go on. Because that time, they appoint you to a certain job; that time we had nobody, see. Like you go on shift, you take care of the watchman of all the place in case of fire or something like that. You have to be on duty, see.

VL: Oh, not the regular job, though; it something different?

HL: No. That's not the regular job, but now it's a off job, now.

VL: What other kinds of things did you do besides watch for fires?

HL: No. Then mostly, you stay back, only sitting down and listen the radio and what going on, that's all. You cannot do any job, because they find out that you fellow doing the job, they go back and tell you certain people were doing on the job, see. When the first union start, that time, alright. You can do the job. After next strike or so, nobody supervisor can do a job.

VL: Oh. Which strike are you talking about?

HL: Like the first one, 1946 and the next one, after fifty-something, eh.

VL: '58 was one big one.

HL: Yeah, 'as the one. Then they tell you you cannot do any job.

VL: Oh. So in 1958 strike, you didn't work?

HL: Well, we work but only stand by and then take up the people—they supply the people for watchman, or the people that take care of any fire or anything like that in the mill yard. And we, during our days, we just sitting down over there. Hear anything, they let us know. 'As all, but nothing can we do.

VL: Were you still paid?

HL: Oh, yeah. We salary at that time.

VL: Was that good? You get paid and no work?

HL: (Laughs) Well, one way is good. One way you don't feel too good when the other one laid off, eh. And union people sometime they say, "You alright. You get pay and us no more." And then they kind of sad story, eh.

VL: Did you have friends that were union?

HL: No. Like the working man is all friend, eh. While they working
under you, they all love you. (Laughs) That's why you always, you feel sad, eh. But cannot help. If their own selves say, "Well, we cannot help. We stay home, see." They force, too, eh.

VL: But did it make you not friends?

HL: No. They come back; all we work. But only cannot talk with the union people what everything and what the story. Well, he won't tell you. 'As all. But only say, "I cannot help."

VL: 1946, did they have soup kitchens where they fed the strikers?

HL: They had soup kitchen that time, 1946. And 1958, they had.

VL: Did you ever go to see?

HL: No. We don't want to go down that side, but. We only get our headache for listen them what they push you here and there, see.

VL: But it was friendly? It was not like they were enemies?

HL: No, they all was friendly, but only, not look so nice, 'as all, see. Anything is on the company.

VL: So do you think that after the union came in, what things were better because of the union?

HL: The union is good, too, eh, because they help us. We get a little bit higher wages. (Laughs) They get the raise, we get the raise, too, eh. 'As why the people say, "We fight for us ourself, you fellow get the pay, too." See, 'as what they telling to us.

VL: Was there any things that were worse afterwards? That were not so good?

HL: Well, no. They didn't say anything. They quiet down and all working peaceful. They don't bother any more. Because even so, they know they cannot go too far anyway. They got to be peaceful.

VL: So you think that union is a good thing?

HL: Yeah, but only the union is good. But only one thing, they go too far to ask more pay everytime.

VL: Oh, you think they ask too often?

HL: Yeah. Because after one contract, well, they asking for so much. Even any other place, too, eh, the union. Like the state and all over the place now. They not supposed to go on a governance, but they go. Like the police, everything. Now they ask them, eh. They not supposed to be on the government place. United States. But the law went all through, see.
VL: Do you think the union brought about any other kind of changes besides more pay?

HL: Well, they want to work it down for their labor more or less job. And more people go back into the job. At certain point, certain job that what they belong to, he work. And the other people are supposed to take other part of the job. While these people (are) working on the job, you cannot jump on his job. And then ask the union. Then they can put the man on the job, see.

VL: You mean, if you had one job, you couldn't shift?

HL: No, same. Like he's the truck driver. And he was a clean-up man. And he try to put the clean-up man on the truck driver, you cannot work. He's not applying for a truck driver, see. That's why you have to watch out for that, see. Because certain job, certain job, you cannot go over that.

VL: Any other things? Changes?

HL: Well, no. 'As the only thing they want to get strong on 'em. Because the rest is the same, eh. They want to get the pay. They have to pay the overtime. Got to watch for the overtime, mostly. Because every minute, they count, see. If one minute over that, sometime where you have to give 'em half an hour for that time, see.

VL: Oh yeah?

HL: Yeah. But you don't. Because small amount of money that one... more the hour's pay, eh.

VL: What about changes in people's attitudes towards supervisors?

HL: Certain time they (the company) want to pick up a person to want to be a supervisor. They go up the union president and ask them, "We want to pick up certain people to be upper grade." And the union says okay. 'As all. That much difference.

VL: I mean, did your workers treat you any differently after they had a union?

HL: No. They all come back. They all will be peaceful. No trouble.

VL: Did you treat them differently?

HL: Oh, yes. You cannot treat 'em bad anyway. They go back (to the union) see. You had to treat 'em right. Yeah. But they all was good.

VL: Did you know any union organizers? The early ones?

HL: They had some, but I don't know what the name of them. Like they started, eh. They pick up few of them in the plantation. Then they
talk, talk. Then some of the hard headed ones, they want to say, "Well, I think that's the best." Then they started that way, see. Like even so, he was in the union, but they (the company) pick 'em up. He want to pick 'em up for a supervisor, too, to take 'em out from the union. And give 'em more pay, too.

VL: Oh, so the leaders, they wanted to take the leaders and make 'em supervisors?

HL: Yeah. Couple of 'em on this company, already. One, they call 'em Justo, eh. Justo Dela Cruz. Well, he was one. He say, "I go to the last day with you fellow, with the boys." And then after, the Filipinos swear at him, too. Tell 'em "You big liar." See. They get sore with him, too. The Filipinos sore with this union leader. Because he said that, well, they force the man to try hard to get in the union, eh.

VL: Where were you on December 7th when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor?

HL: Well, December 7th, I never know anything about it. I get the taxi. I want to go downtown. And my daughter stay in the Queen (Hospital) training (said she) wanted a blanket (because it's) kind of cold. I took the blanket. Went on the taxi. After about half way, then they heard through the radio. They say you cannot go in town. And declare war. And that's why they turn around and come back and came home the house. That's why I know the War was on.

VL: What did you think?

HL: Well, nothing can do about it. But it's bomb already. But I have to go back and work. That's all. To take care the factory.

VL: That was on a Sunday, yeah, you had to work?

HL: Yeah, that Sunday.

VL: What did you have to do?

HL: Just go back on the job and stay on it with them. And after few weeks war, then after then when (the workers) change shift or a different guard on 'em, then they get mix up, little more I get shot. (Laughs) Because they (the guards) heard even a cat making noise, they holler, "Who's that?" But they heard--my companion was good, see. He say, "No, no, no. That is not the man---the fellow stay with us. That our partner." And after all, he (the guard) stop and he didn't fire it. If not, I went down already.

VL: Was night time?

HL: Night time. Is true.

VL: And you were coming home or...
HL: No, I was on the job. Because you went for a drink of water or maybe in the restroom, see, or something like that. And you walk on the iron plate, get noise, eh. (Makes noise of walking on iron plate.) Then he holler at you, say, "Who's that?" I never hear, see, but I heard the loading the gun. And the other companion tell, "No, no, no. The other fellow is our companion." He said. And after that, then after I go through there, then he look at me.

VL: (Laughs) This was a guard from the Mainland?

HL: Yeah. And the guards from the Mainland.

VL: Haole?

HL: Yeah. They all coward guys. They more scared than us.

(Laughter)

HL: Any little noise. Even the cat run through. But he never see the people yet, but still say, "Who's that?" See. Well, cannot blame 'em, anyway. Young fellows.

VL: There were a lot stationed in Waialua, weren't there?

HL: Yeah. And they all stationed all around the place. They built one bomb shelter for them right in the corner of our yard. This yard. They make a duck hole, eh, make it for they can sit in there, nobody see them. And they watch in there. Then they camouflage 'em. Then they stay in there. See what the enemy coming in or not.

VL: In your yard? Right here they did that?

HL: Yeah. That time, not my yard yet. I was on the back side yet. And we walk around, we see the guard. Day time, we see the guard come up. But they all very nice. But only night time you got to watch out. Who's coming or who's going, see. That's why bad. Sometime, well, we on duty.

VL: And were there any rules? Like, you had to be home by dark or something?

HL: That, right away, the rule came out. You have to be all dark out already, see.

VL: Black out.

HL: Yeah, black out. Right away. Any place they go around and see any house, any light in there, they knock your house. And they say your house get light. Said you had to be very dark. But very warm in the house.

VL: Because you had to close all the windows and everything?
HL: Well, because it's all nailed something like that, eh. (Points to his window). With all black out paper, eh. And all up and down. Only day time, you put your window down. 'As where that come. And day time you get that much air. So night time you put 'em all up again. Then, all dark, eh.

VL: What other kinds of things or changes did you have to do?

HL: Well, not much but only sometime they'll ask you for change our job little bit. For instead of duty on the job in the mill...the mill was going that time, but you want to get some supervisor to take care; they want to crush rock to pave the road for the Army to go through, see. Then that's why I had to be working in the rock crusher. But nice pay though.

VL: (Laughs) Who paid you? The plantation?

HL: No, not the plantation. The government pay us.

VL: Oh, so you changed job then?

HL: Yeah, we change job, only about one month's time or so. Then after they say, well, nothing go wrong. Then they quit crushing rock and then I go back my same regular job. 'As all. Even so, sometime you be on the job when you put the light on for check the trouble. And after long, you forget for put the light off. They come with a truck and say, "You all wrong now." They walking with you with the gun in front you. That fellow come out, want to find out what's wrong. They get the gun on you. Right in front of you, too. Then after all, kind of scared, too, but he say afterwards, "Eh, where you put the light?" "We had trouble." Then that's why say, "Well, you put if off." Put it off. Then after, nothing happen. They go back. And next thing, too, when you work your eight hours off, then you go home. Like between 11 o'clock in the night, see. But the Army people used to take us home, you see. Bring horse. Go back in the camp. Then where you live, where the place, they tell 'em whether drop you off and you walk in the dark and go in the house. And sometime if you go through your side, well, they hold you up, too. But you cannot go through by yourself. Too strict.

VL: So you can't walk around at night by yourself?

HL: No.

VL: And then did they ration your food and your gas?

HL: Well, that time I don't have car. (Laughs) That time I don't worry ration the gas. Anyway, I didn't have any car that time.

VL: How about food then?

HL: Food alright. We get just enough. We get enough. But it ration
alright, but certain time when you get friendly little bit, well, they give you little bit more. 'As all. But nothing more.

VL: So, overall, you think was hard time, or....

HL: Well, it's not too hard, but only too rough. 'As all, see. Kind of rough. Not working, but you go in and out and all so kind. Everything guard around the place.

VL: What was the roughest part about the War?

HL: Roughest part when you go back on duty. 'As was the hardest one. I never get shot. That's the hardest one. The rest is alright. Nothing go wrong. Come home night with a Army cars. And they bring you home the house. I think 'as all.

VL: You remember voting like that?

HL: Yeah. Voting. Well, you on what party, 'as all. Democrat and Republican. 'As all you got to know.

VL: When did you first vote?

HL: Well, that was long time. Was in Republican all that time I was in voting, but I forget what year I joined, anyway.

VL: Before the War?

HL: Yeah, that time, was before the War.

VL: How about before you became supervisor?

HL: Yeah, before that.

VL: So this is '30's.

HL: Yeah, somewhere around there, but....

VL: You ever changed your party?

HL: No. No change. Today, but they never forget me. Every letter come, ask me ask for help. Want a donation for them. I didn't send any anyway.

VL: (Chuckles) In 1954, one time, the Democrats came up, yeah? And lot of Democrats got voted into the legislature. Do you remember that?

HL: No. No.

VL: Oh, was all of a sudden. One time, plenty Democrats were voted in and plenty Republicans out.

VL: What did you think of that?

HL: Well, you know, party is party, but everything they want to fight. Even today, they fight the party when they want to get their man in. That's all. Nothing more. But mostly they want. But if Republican do, people get little bit more. This food little bit cheaper, 'as all. But Democrat one, they want more wages and 'as why that going be more hard for the labors; the company cannot make more money, see. Then every time, they asking for more wages. That's why I think between Republican and Democrat, 'as all. Well, before the olden days, you can vote for anyone you want. Even Democrat or Republican. You only know that it's a good right man to do the job. But not today. Today kind of hard. They say you want to go back your own place, own side, see. That's why they ask you Republican, Republican.

VL: Can you compare life today with life forty, fifty years ago? Do you think you can say what things are better now, and what things are not better?

HL: Well, the olden days, we had a smaller pay and better. And people is more better, too. And we can find food little cheaper. And we can raise your own food little bit and do your vegetable garden. And that much easier, but kind of hard. But, still, today, you get more money, but you get foods go up. Kind of hard.

VL: The prices?

HL: Yeah. And that's the difference, see. For some people alright. They know what they do. They save plenty money, but some people keep a-going for spending their money. What come in, what go, see, because like free money, eh. Today you work eight hour, you get five times as back before, see. Before you call it dollar an hour. But now you get four dollars an hour. That much difference, see. Lowest wages.

VL: So do you think that life is better today in general than in the past?

HL: Oh, life is not so good, but you cannot say it's not good. But it's alright. But one way how they going, I don't think so too good, because everything going high.

VL: You think people are the same as they used to be?

HL: Well, people is about the same. But what they get, they spend more. What they do, what they get, they more happy, see. Not like before. Thinking about what you going do the next, what you going say? Or how you going get enough food for keep up the children go school and that, see. Today you don't have to, see. Certain day, I don't have enough money, well, the government look after them. They'll give 'em free lunch and all this and that. Low class.
VL: What would say was the most happy times in your life?

HL: Well, very seldom happy life in my time. Working all this time. Keep a-going, keep a-going. And you want to make some money, but you cannot. Got to keep the children go to school. And that's why you get a hard time now. You won't get too happy.

(Laughter)

VL: Were you ever happy?

HL: No.

VL: Never?

HL: Stay the same as today. Happy 'as today. Well, wouldn't make any difference. Only you thinking, mind work little bit more, 'as all. Well, only one thing that what the government do when the social security came out is the best. 'As the only thing. Collected fund, then you get something. Even you don't have not much saving, but still, every month, you get little bit to live on, see. 'As one thing. That much happier. (Laughs)

VL: Do you get a pension from the plantation also?

HL: Yeah. The first time when I pension, 1965. I get $146.05, 'as all.

VL: One month?

HL: Yeah.

VL: Today the same?

HL: No. Three years back I think, or four years back, they add little bit more to me. Another $48. Now make $196.24 now.

VL: And how many years you worked for the plantation?

HL: 47.3.

VL: And they gave you that watch that you're wearing now?

HL: Yeah, yeah, that's right.

VL: They gave you this at a banquet or a....

HL: Well, they say, "Well, it's your present. 'As a gold watch." 'As all. And they take one of my picture and then enlarge 'em and they get in my picture. Then hand it to me. "That's your souvenir." And then my own picture. (Laughs) With a white-grey hair.

VL: (Laughs) What would you say were the saddest times?
HL: Well, I would say, sad time is not very sad, but only sometime the family is sick or so, you have to go work. And more hard, 'as all. Little bit. But 'as only the saddest time, see. But the rest is alright, though.

VL: Even though you've had a hard life, you think...

HL: Yeah. You don't feel it. Because you had to struggle. Thinking everyday what you going do. Work for the money for keep them going, you see, 'as all. You never think it's hard life. So, today, I think they get the best. They go over there, work eight hours. Like we used to work 12 hour, we work. Well, they work four hours for you get quarter day. And you come home, you know, and get much rest. See, 'as the difference.

VL: What if you only worked three hours? Then you wouldn't get quarter day?

HL: Well, they wouldn't get much. All the way up to four hours, anyway, for what you quarter day. Divided that in portion, eh. Because that is 12 hour, eh. You take half of that, well, 'as why you have to be about four hours before you get your (quarter) day, see. 'As why. Then you come home all tired already, see.

VL: Can you think of one single event that brought about the most change in your life?

HL: I don't think so. Not much change for my life, because, after all, I retired. And I feel little bit better I serve the time. (laughs) Don't have to go out and work. 'As all. That much happier.

VL: (Chuckles) I forgot to ask you one question. Going back to union time, about the time in the early 1950's, they started accusing some of the union people of being communist. You remember that?

HL: No, I don't think so.

VL: They arrested some of them and said they were communists.

HL: No, that time I don't hear much of that. Maybe, they do some other place, but I didn't hear any.

VL: It's about the time of the Korean War. Around there. Lot of people were saying, 'Hey, you're communist, and..."

HL: Oh, you mean, like communist China or something like that?

VL: Yeah, yeah. Or Russian communists.

HL: Yeah, but the plantation think I was one of them, too, see, but I was not, see.

VL: They thought you were what?
HL: One of the communist, too, eh.

VL: When was this?

HL: Well, I don't know what time. Quite long before when I was working, but anyway, 1944 or '50. Because I try myself to reduce my payment for the house and light bill, see. And then I hold it back for three months. Then they call me in the office. "Eh, what you do? Why don't you pay up the bill?" I say, "No, I paying up the bill." "But you send all your money back to the communist place?" I say, "No." I tell, "My boys go school...buy food." They never say anything. You know, because I owe him so much, 'as why he tell to want to get it back, see. Because, you know, so many hundred dollars, might call it two hundred dollars a month. After you pay a small amount, fifty dollars, and you get one month, a hundred so much back and back and back. About three months, you get (owe) about four hundred dollars, see. 'As why, that time, kind of hard to pay back, because your wage is kind of low, eh. 'As why the trouble.

VL: You were paying rent? It was rent money and....

HL: Yeah. Rent money and light money and water bill, and all.

VL: Those things was changed after the union, yeah? Because before was free.

HL: Yeah, that's right. House free. Water free. And all. But before, some place get electric light and some place don't have that time, see. But after all the rest, then they start in. Put in all the water system and a bathroom and all that. Then light in the house. Anyway, the Board of Health want them to do that. 'As why they changed that, see. If not, we get little harder time, yet. Night time, you had to go out in the house for use the bathroom. The restroom.

VL: Yeah. I'm going to shut this off.

(Taping resumes.)

VL: Okay, can you kind of tell me your feelings about Hawaii becoming a state in '59?

HL: Hawaii came a statehood is good. But one thing is alright for Oahu, but next one, well, people is on a draft. They off in the Army (after WW II). They want to make a living in the island. And after the visitor from Mainland or other country, they come on over here. They want to make a living in the state here, then I say, well, county is all fill up with the people. No place to live in. And then we have to buy higher rent, housing. And higher rent. And 'as why that bad.

VL: You think that was cause of statehood?
HL: I think so.

VL: What do you think we can do?

HL: Well, you cannot do anything now. They set that for statehood. Well, you cannot put back a county again.

VL: Is there anything that we can do about all the people coming in and the rising population?

HL: I don't think so you can, eh. Because they say, "Well, I'm a citizen, too. Well, I belong to the place." Well, you cannot stop nobody. But only one thing kind of hard, too. Lot of bad peoples coming down here. 'As why, you know, today, rob tomorrow. Bank, house, rape. All kind bad today. But anyway, one thing I blame them. They never go fast enough, stop the people to get all the sex and all this kind. Go through. That's part...sex. Like all now, you see all the young people all kind of bad, eh. I don't want to say it about that, anyway, but it's too late.

VL: What do you think will happen to Hawaii since there's nothing that....

HL: Well, if you're going through, but I don't think so. That pineapple and sugar---don't have any sugar or taro or something like that for export, well, Oahu won't get any income. Then we would be all way off. I don't think so you going get a twenty years more tourist coming down.

VL: Oh. You think that's going to stop?

HL: I think so. We going be a hunger. They have people living here. Well, got to ship all the food from Mainland or any other places.

VL: Is there anything that we can do to change this?

HL: I don't think so. (Laughs)

VL: So what happens to Hawaii if there's nothing to do that we can change?

HL: I don't think so. When you come bad, when you (try) make 'em good, is hard.

VL: To make it good is hard?

HL: Yeah. That's right.

VL: Once it's already bad, you mean? Hard to make 'em...

HL: Change it back. Good. You cannot. The bad is always ahead. The good is very less.

VL: Maybe if we work real hard, we can change it.
HL: Well, maybe sometime. That, too. But that got to come through the Congress, though.

VL: The state or the national?

HL: Either way. Got to start national or then the state got to come. You got to make anything always strict. Then you can get it back. If you going to tell 'em, like people kill one another, then you just go in the court, and jury, jury, jury. After all, then you say you get, oh, small amount. What you can do about it?

VL: You mean small.....

HL: Free him up. So small. He kill one person already, see. Then still you won't give death penalty. But state don't have that, see. But they keep a-going, keep a-going'do that, see. Tomorrow, you see they going, "I going that place. I hit 'em on the head." Just like. And then, "I'm free again." 'As why 'as hard to say.

END OF INTERVIEW