

Oral History Program

OH-11A

Box #1

Oral History Program

KAISER PAERATA

Copyright BYU-Hawaii Archives

BYU - Hawaii Campus

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY - HAWAII CAMPUS
Behavioral and Social Sciences Division
Laie, Hawaii 96762

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

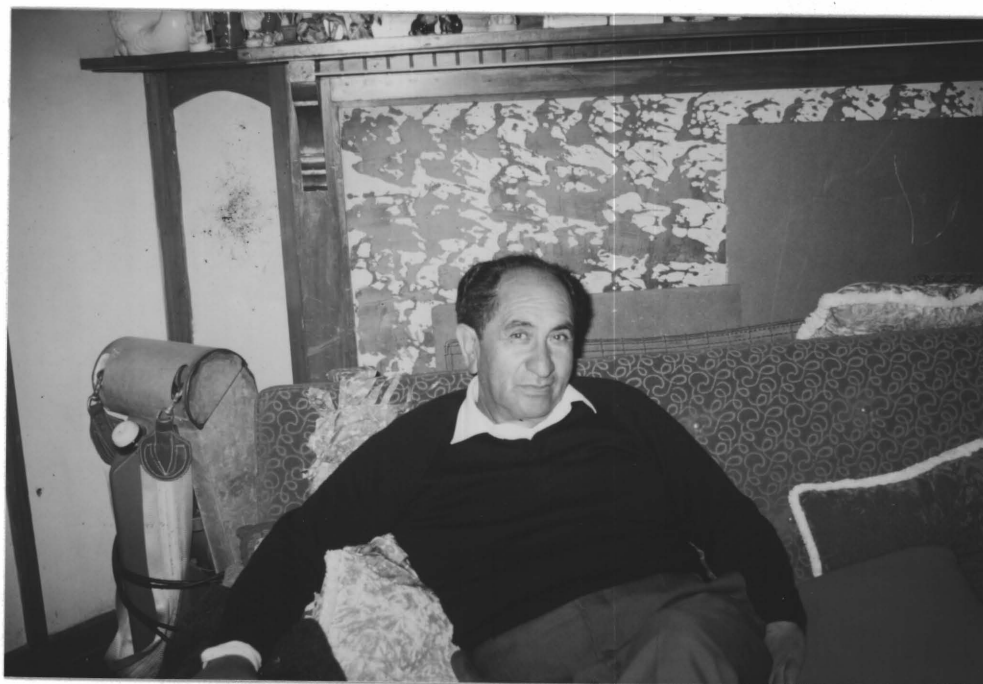
NARRATOR: KAISER PAERATA

INTERVIEW NO.: OH-11A

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 24 December 1971

INTERVIEWER: Kenneth W. Baldrige

SUBJECT: MAORI AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



**BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY-HAWAII
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
Behavioral and Social Sciences Division
Laie, Hawaii 96762**

KAISER PAERATA

INTERVIEW NO: OH-11A

DATE OF INTERVIEW: December 24, 1971

INTERVIEWER: Kenneth W. Baldrige

SUBJECT: Maori Agricultural College

INTRODUCTION

Kaiser Paerata resides in Tokomaro Bay, New Zealand. He attended the MAC in 1929 and planned to return in 1931. He was a member of the Church and his father was one of the directors of the college so naturally that's the college he went to. While at MAC, he took classes such as agriculture, animal husbandry, farm management, bookkeeping, and human biology. These classes has helped him vocationally. He has been a supervisor of all the big tribal farms and it has helped him in his own farming activities. He was also interested in the musicians of the MAC.

In 1929, he played football. They had Hawkes Bay representatives playing during that time too. He played rugby and his football career evaporated when he lost his kneecap in a game. There was also an influence of American football on New Zealand rugby. Kaiser also talks about George Nepia who was a great player in the world of rugby. He has had various coaches and has had many experiences with them. The MAC has influenced Kaiser academically, vocationally, and spiritually. He has been a branch president for many years and he has been a district president for nine years.

This transcript contains one interview of Kaiser Paerata. He was interviewed by Kenneth Baldrige on December 24, 1971. Student oral history secretaries carried out various processes: Noreen Orta did the transcribing, editing, and auditing and Candice Nozaki completed the final assembly. "[OH-396]" and other such notations tell the reader that an interview of that number has been completed with that individual and is on file in the Oral History collection at BYU-Hawai'i.

William K. Wallace, Director
Oral History Program
Brigham Young University-Hawai'i

Laie, Hawai'i
July 23, 1997

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

SIDE A

- 1 Attended MAC in 1929; planned to return in 1931
- 2 Classes; vocational help
- 4 President Ballif; Brother Hodge; non-Maori students
- 5 Dormitory facilities; sports
- 6 Rugby; Hawkes Bay representatives; older students from Pacific Islands
- 7 Spiritual influence of MAC; Church leadership
- 8 Huitau; President Magleby's prophecy
- 9 Paerata's football experiences
- 11 Influence of American football on New Zealand rugby
- 12 Coaches; George Nepia.
- 14 MAC musicians
- 15 END OF INTERVIEW

SIDE A

INT This is Ken Baldrige; it's Christmas eve, 1971. I am in the home of Kaiser Paerata in Tokomaro Bay, New Zealand, speaking with him about his experience at Maori Agricultural College [MAC]. Now, Bro. Paerata, what years were you there?

KP In 1929. And I was returning in the year 1931.

INT So you missed out the year 1930, and you were home; your father was ill?

KP Yes, I had to look after the farm.

INT And just as you were getting ready to leave, you heard about the earthquake. And you didn't go down, right?

KP Just the day before.

INT Now, when you went down in 1929, you were a member of the Church at that time, of course; was this the primary reason why you went to MAC?

KP Yes. I wanted that for my school. They wanted me to go to Te Aute College. But, being a member of the Church, Dad and Mum decided-- Dad was also one of the directors of the college in that period of time, so naturally that's where I went to college.

INT Were there any secondary schools around here at that time?

KP No.

INT So it was, either going there or to Te Aute College?

KP Te Aute College, right.

INT How did you travel down to--?

KP We had service cars in that period of time, we used service cars.

INT Service, this is what, on the train? [tape broke before transcription possible]

KP . . . fourth year was graduation.

INT I see, you were there then for your first year, and you would have gone back in 1931 then for your second year?

KP That's right.

INT I see. What were some of the classes that you felt were especially helpful to you?

KP Well, agriculture, animal husbandry, farm management, bookkeeping, human biology. These I've had something to do with my period of life. Farm management, bookkeeping, and animal husbandry.

INT Now, do you feel the agricultural classes that you had there were to prove a help to you vocationally?

KP Oh yes, they have definitely been a help for me. In that form, after I left the college, I have been a supervisor of all the big tribal farms. And I've been chairman of these blocks, altogether it would be approximately forty thousand acres. And my experiences that I got through my schooling at MAC helped me in my appointments into these blocks, besides, of course, helping me in my farming activities on my own.

INT Did you have any other secondary schooling after MAC collapsed?

KP No, I was going to go to BYU with three other boys, but that was the period of time that Dad died. When Dad died, I had to get right in the harness straight away, to take over the farm.

INT So that one year at MAC was your only secondary schooling?

KP Secondary schooling, yes. I had taken different courses for a period of time, though, and then correspondence courses and so forth in my latter years which has certainly been a help. But actual secondary school, no.

INT Well, it's been quite a fruitful year, then. Now, you said you remembered the fees to be . . . ?

KP About forty-five pounds.

INT It's been interesting as I've talked to ones, of course, from different periods. I think they were twelve pounds, I believe, first. And then later [it was], sixteen pounds, then thirty pounds. Then, of course, toward the end, they were . . .

KP I think, toward the end, the year I was there, I can recall that it was forty-five pounds. That could be verified by that catalog, it'll be on that catalog.

INT Yes, it'll be good if that shows up. Now, how did you pay your fees, that forty-five pounds?

KP I was one of the fortunate ones, dad had the money and he paid for me.

INT Would have been pretty rough after that with the depression coming on, wouldn't it? How many students do you recall there in 1929?

KP Wasn't very much. Forty, I think.

INT And was President Ballif the headmaster for you?

KP He was the principal. The vice-principal was Hodge. I can't tell you what his first name, but Bro. Hodge was the vice-principal.

INT He was a Zion elder [i.e. American missionary], also?

KP He is a New Zealander.

INT Now, the time you were there, did they still have the primary part of the program? Initially there was a primary section and a secondary section. I heard later it was phased out.

KP No, just the secondary.

INT Okay, that's interesting. That's one thing that I'm trying to get nailed down.

KP No, just the secondary.

INT Secondary only at that time.

KP Prior to that, there certainly was a primary list, but only at standard five. They termed it standards in those days, standard five in those days. During our period of time, there was none of those primary classes, just secondary.

INT I see. Now, were there quite a few non-Maori students at the time you were there, from the islands?

KP There were more islanders than Europeans. There were no more than six possibly that were pure Europeans.

INT There were six Europeans?

KP Yes, I think there were six Europeans. I might mention just a few names there, Tubman, Marvin Ensor, Melvin Going, Norman Going.

INT And then were there Tongans and Samoans there?

KP Tongans and Samoans. David Maile, David Langi, Vili Purcell. Oh, you know, it could help us a tremendous lot if we had that catalog.

INT Yes, we'd better hope that shows up.

KP I'll really make a point of trying to pick it up.

INT Oh, that would be good. Now, the dormitory facilities, I think I know about that.

KP I was in number ten.

INT Number ten room, right?

KP That's for sure.

INT Now, was there just the one dormitory unit with the two floors?

KP That's right, just the one.

INT I see, kind of like it is at CCNZ [Church College, New Zealand], I guess.

KP Yes, yes.

INT How were the sports in 1929?

KP Well, our football, the football we played, of course, in the competition. We won the competition. Played very stalwart teams from Napier to Hastings. We won the competition for that year.

INT Now, was that on the schoolboy level?

KP No, no. We played the senior. We had a challenge from the Te Aute College, but they wouldn't play our seniors; they had to play our third

grade. Oh, we had some grand men. We had representatives of the Hawkes Bay team. Actually a football team playing and going to school, such as Sid Crawford, Joe Hapi, Joe TeNgaio, Jury Thompson.

INT Joe was a Hawkes Bay representative, wasn't he?

KP Not this one; he was the cousin. There were two Joe TeNgaio's.

INT Oh, I see.

KP This one was the cousin. He was a big fellow; he'd be about eighteen stone, I suppose.

INT Oh, I thought Joe would be kind of little to be in rugby. [This Joe TeNgaio died in Hawaii in 1987].

KP Those were the representatives on the Hawkes Bay senior team.

INT Now, you mentioned that some of these standards were old men, you say. How old would some of them be at the college? I know when CCNZ first got started, we had some who were up to twenty-one, twenty-two; was it the same situation at MAC?

KP Some were twenty-seven. The ones that were that age were islanders.

INT Oh, I see.

KP They were islanders. I'd say they'd [i.e., most of the students] be round about twenty, eighteen, predominantly the eighteen-year mark.

INT And Sid Crawford was one of the Hawkes Bay representatives?

KP Yes, Sid Crawford, Joe Hapi, Joe TeNgaio, Jury Thompson. They were the representatives from the college, and to get that many naturally they would have to be the top team in the competition.

INT Yes, I would say.

KP We didn't play very many secondary schools, because it would be stupid to play players of that caliber--secondary.

INT Yes, I'll say. Now, you've indicated how you felt you benefited academically, and also vocationally. How do you feel your attendance helped you spiritually?

KP Tremendously, to the effect that I have been branch president for many years; I have been district president for nine years. I've been to the temple; I've had most of my family to the temple. Most of my family, at this time, are employed by the Church in the education program of the Church. Quite a few members of the family, plus myself, have been out on missions. So I really feel that my training at the college has been a tremendous help to me in my church activity.

INT Well, excellent. Now, what impact do you feel the college had on the development of the Church in New Zealand? As in your situation, multiplied several times.

KP Tremendously. If you go into, oh, many areas in this vicinity, you'll find that the old boys, MAC old boys, have been predominate in the activities of the many communities. In that, they have been able to direct many of their people or people round about them to go to the college in Hamilton, and to embrace the Gospel. And they've found in many fields--we've certainly had an old boy to represent the Maori people in Parliament. [end of one tape, beginning of another. Bro. Paerata is speaking of Steve Watene].....representing his people in the Parliament and while he has been there, his training from the school was evident to the effect that he was very widely respected by all the members of the House, and that he was given the privilege of representing the Maori people overseas in many speeches. He visited many countries and spoke about the Maori people and from time to time, spoke about his Church training which he got from the old MAC. Now, many old boys who were old MAC, I can recall many, in many fields; Paiwai family, Dr. Paiwai.

INT Is Dr. Paiwai MAC?

KP No, he is not MAC; his uncle was.

INT Lui Paiwai, was that his uncle?

KP Lui Paiwai was his uncle, that's right. But the influence of these old MAC boys also rubbed off on their families and they always have respected the opinion of their uncles or fathers who have been members of the old MAC. These different qualities that have been developed, and because of this influence from their uncles and fathers, they have been able to become real effective members of the Church. And they have been a real help in pushing the Church in different areas in which they have been.

INT If you were to look back on your experience at the MAC, what would you pick out as being perhaps the highlight of your stay there?

KP Well, you know, you sprung it so. The highlight for me--as I can recall--during that period of time of the old *huitau* that was held at the college grounds. Well, all the missionaries from all over the island attended--was just one mission at that time--and all the members from the South Island right up to the North Island. They lived in marquees right on the college grounds, during that year in 1929. The president at that period of time was President Ephraim Magleby. And for me, that is the highlight that I feel, of events that happened at that college during my . . .

INT Someone mentioned the prophecy that President Magleby gave.

KP And that prophecy was made in 1929.

INT At this *huitau*?

KP I wouldn't say at the *huitau*. No, it wasn't done at the *huitau*; I can't say that. But there were individuals that were leaving, travelling to Napier. In that period of time there were waters, there was a bridge running over the water. Anyway, it was a waterway. Well, there

was a bridge over the waterway, and he [President Magleby] looked around and said, "You know, someday this is going to be desert, dry land; all this water's going to be pushed away." It was well known; it was the older people, of course, that talked about it. I was only a youngster at that time. And if you look at it now, you will find that there is actually no water there, but that place there was all water down there.

INT Now, you mentioned being one of the youngest that was there; how old were you when you went?

KP Twelve. I was twelve years old. For that period of time, yes, I was the youngest.

INT Yes, you would be, all right.

KP I was attending classes with ones who were sixteen, eighteen. It's unfair to quote the Samoans, of course; they were much older.

INT Did you play sports; did you play rugby also?

KP Yes, I was captain of the junior team. I was also on the senior team for a while. Was that good, but I'm not--when Dad wasn't around. I was only twelve then, you know, playing in the senior competition. But it didn't do me any good because, from the college I suppose, I could say I lost my kneecap; I was pushed into big football too soon. But I played basketball; play all the games. Played American football with the elders, and I can recall that during that huitau we played the elders.

It got a bit hectic; don't forget that the boys were all grown men, and playing the elders got a bit hectic. The mission president had to step in because the boys couldn't accept being tackled without the ball. And if you can recall American football, you block and things like that. Well, that was a bit strange to us, when playing rugby you can't touch a man unless he has the ball. So one thing led to another, and got a bit hectic. The president had to step in and stop the game. So that was the first and last time we played with the elders at that

time. But it was enjoyable. But we played all these games. Played tennis. I won the tennis championships for the college and I think I represented the school, too, in competitions they had.

INT So, pretty good for a twelve-year-old.

KP Yes, I think so. Don't forget I played senior football, too, at twelve. So, I wasn't small though; I wasn't small, even at twelve. I haven't grown too much; I wasn't small, but I was very fast. Even then we had the athletics and to show you how fast I was, even at twelve I did the 100-yard dash in ten seconds.

INT Is that right?

KP I think, I think if you looked up the, oh--I'll get that catalog.
[Laughter]

INT Yes, that raises another question all right.

KP I'll get that catalog. We had quite a lot of boys that represented the college in athletics.

INT Well, then, I think we may just put it away for this evening; we've pretty well covered the sheet. You were mentioning about being just a kind of baggage boy and not on the regular first fifteen.

KP I wasn't on the regular first fifteen.

INT But still you had the opportunity to play quite a bit whenever the authorities weren't around.

KP That's right. I did. I got to the stage where I actually played, actually played in the finals.

INT Oh, yes.

KP That's where my football career evaporated and that, well, that's the game I lost my kneecap. And I'm sorry that I got into where I had no

business.

INT Yes, yes. Sad part about it. Generally the bigger fellows looked after you as much as they could.

KP Oh, yes. Otherwise you never appreciate that factor. A boy--it's utter nonsense to think of a boy of twelve -- put him among men, and you think that that is something. Well, what could a boy of twelve be doing, he has to have some protection. And that's the only way it can be made possible, because during that period of time, they were real footballers in Hawkes Bay. They were riding the crest of the wave, they were the real rugby team in New Zealand.

INT Now, do you feel that these American gridiron techniques proved to be quite helpful?

KP Very helpful, I'm very sure of that. It developed the rugby in New Zealand to the effect that they embraced the long throwing; they embraced the spiral kicks. These were foreign until the Americans went to start teaching the boys at the college.

INT So do you feel that these kind of came out of MAC, then?

KP Yes, it certainly did. And I suppose the best advertisement of that is George Nepia himself, who is noted as one of the great spiral kickers in the world of rugby, and probably one of the greatest tacklers in the world, throughout the world. And he has always stated that he attributed this to the teaching that he got from our coach from the college, from MAC.

INT Yes, he said that the other day, how he used to spend hours after practice.

KP That's right, that's right. And you know, many times he used to get you to kick that ball and he'd throw it from one side of the field and just drive you all the way down. You can't kick further than that. And he made you throw it. Other things that he taught us to do was to pick up a rolling ball, and these things we got from him. And

sidestep--he used to put a lot of obstacles in the way and you had to come down full-tilt and sidestep those obstacles. Now, these things were all taught from the college. These were still foreign to outside rugby.

INT Who was your coach at this time, in 1929?

KP Well, we did have an Elder Andrus. I'll have to use the term, "I think" --I didn't know much about him, but he did a lot of the coaching during our period of time, Elder Andrus.

INT I know in 1924, it had been Moser and then later Jorgensen.

KP And there was a Sharpe. I think Sharpe was the man that really.....

INT Sharpe was the headmaster, I believe, wasn't he?

KP Headmaster, yes, but he went out too. What I can tell you about him, of course, is what I know. But they were wonderful coaches there. They were a real help to the rugby world. Possibly they would have picked it up in time, possibly from somewhere, but it started--the news on rugby--it started from the college right there. When George Nepia was picked, his regular position in the Hawkes Bay Team was second five-eights. He played as a five-eight; he didn't play as fullback.

INT Who was this now?

KP George Nepia. Lui Paiwai was another five-eights. Now, when he [George] got into the main team, they tried him out as fullback and all these things that he was taught--the spiral kick and the tackle, and how to pick up a rolling ball, all these things sort of just balanced, working right for him that he just became the ideal fullback.

INT Oh, yes.

KP And I still think he's recognized as the greatest fullback that rugby's

ever had. And I think even the South Africans admit that. If you get the South Africans admitting that one, you have to be good.

INT He'd be ahead of Don Clark, would you reckon?

KP Oh, definitely. Oh, definitely. Not because that was my period of time, no, I think if you get the comments of those that are well up in the rugby world, always that would be all these qualities that makes a true fullback, a true great fullback.

INT Well, that's interesting.

KP You can anticipate a tackle, and it was many a time that he was able to tackle two men at one time. All this was through his training, that he had to aim for his target; he pushed them all up on the line and as he hit them. Now, don't forget we were talking about American football, blocking, etc. Where you had to start--all these things sort of worked in, where he was able to use them in rugby, and because they were things that rugby really needed. Well, he just shot them up. But he was a good footballer, he was a really good footballer.

Talking about the rugby field, I think of some of the things that the college was really noted for. Such as their music--we had a band there, an exceptional band; we had boys playing the different instruments that, after they left school, they--well, take David Kamau, he travelled pretty well all over the world as a noted musician, singer.

INT Now, was he Sid Kamau's brother?

KP Sid Kamau? Oh, could be an uncle. That I don't know, I think he was named after this other chap, this Dave Kamau. Young Dave Kamau went to school when I was there at school. But the one Dave Kamau I was talking about was there before him.

INT Well, there was a Sid Kamau there at the very beginning.

- KP Sid Kamau; that's where I heard the name, Sid Kamau. Now, he was the singer.
- INT He was there for about nine years, from primary to secondary, then he went with his uncle, Walter Smith, to Auckland.
- KP And through of course, the genius of Walter Smith, but he had the ability to sing; he was a real musician.
- INT Guess he's giving music lessons; that's where I interviewed him today, in the practice room at Sutcliffe's in Hastings.
- KP He was wonderful. He is wonderful.
- INT Should have had him sing a school song.
- KP And all of these things came out of there. We had a great glee club. Now, oh, where is the catalog, where are you catalog? I've tried to wring brains; I'm pretty sure it's around somewhere. We had a great glee club. Boys--you know, it's natural for boys to be able to sing. And many a time we sang for the public functions in Hastings itself. We were called out to sing there for them. And our choir was exceptional; it was very good.
- INT Did you have a Maori Concert Party?
- KP Well, I think there was one, but during that period of time that we were there, then, there was one, but not that year. They didn't go out that year, I think it was the year after.
- INT Were there any Maori classes?
- KP No, don't forget, we didn't need to learn Maori in those days.
- INT Yes, I guess not.
- KP Now is the only time when the Maori has forgotten his language and his culture, etc. There is a need to recall them all over again, or to

learn them again, but there was no need in those days. Of course, we had a lot of competitions at the hui tau and church functions. Now, if you will--of course, if you're tired . . . [as the interviewer, having driven over two hundred miles and conducted interviews, nearly fell off to sleep]

END OF INTERVIEW