

Oral History Program

OH-99

Box #6

Oral History Program

JOHN Y. KAHIKINA

Copyright BYU-Hawaii Archives

BYU-Hawaii Campus

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

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

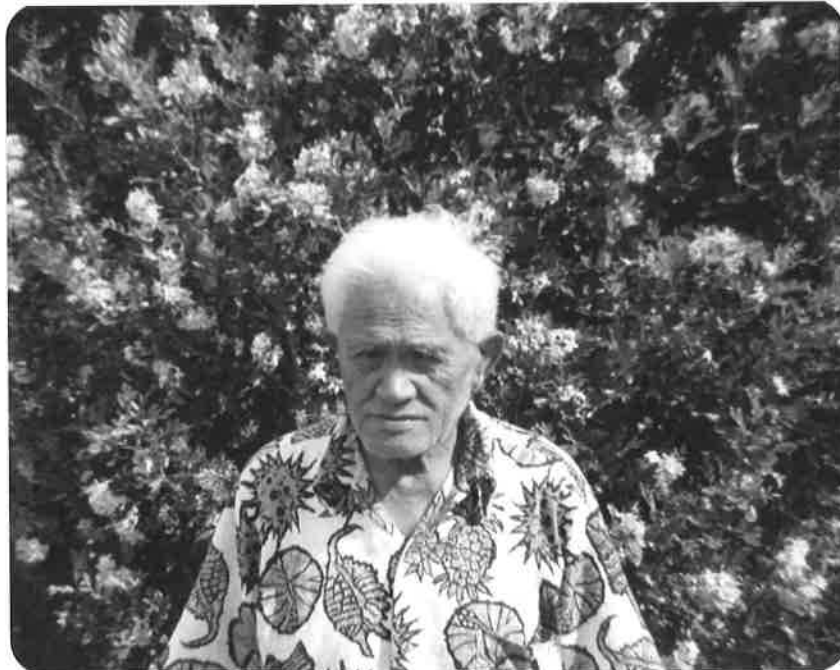
INTERVIEWEE: John Y. Kahikina

INTERVIEW NO: OH-99

DATE OF INTERVIEW: Dec. 28, 1979

INTERVIEWER: Kenneth W. Baldrige

SUBJECT: LDS in Hawaii-Molokai



INTRODUCTION

John Young Kahikina was born in South Kona, Hawaii in 1897. In this interview, December 28, 1979, he was living at Ho'olehua, Molokai, eighty three years of age. He tells of joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (1920) and the early branches of the Church both in Molokai and Oahu.

During World War I, Kahikina was a corporal serving the whole time on Oahu. He married in Kona right after he was discharged and since there were no jobs in Kona, moved to Honolulu and worked for the army. It was on Oahu he joined the Church and attended Kalihi Ward. His first position in the Church was in genealogy. He was active in this endeavor most of his life. Brother Kahikina tells of his missionary experiences and the reception of the Mormons in this early time on the islands.

John Kahikina tells of the early branches of the Church and the problems of some of the members. He and his wife returned to Molokai when his wife received a homestead (forty acres) in 1929. They leased it to Del Monte to plant pineapple.

During World War II he was called back to work for the army at Schofield Barracks, living in the Honolulu Veterans home. He tells of the Church schedule of meetings during the forties and how he continued to help the members with their genealogy.

He ends with his testimony and his firm conviction of the good life he had as a result of keeping the "Word of Wisdom." He had a long life of service to the Church.

This interview was transcribed by Myrna Kitashima and edited by Grace Pratt, Barbara Dalby and Rebecca Smith. B.J. Fuller of the BYU-H alumni affairs office also read the transcript and helped with some of the Molokai names and relationships. "Esteban Arce [OH-100]" tells the reader that an interview of that number has been completed with that individual and is on file in the Oral History collection of BYU-Hawaii.

Kenneth W. Baldrige, Director
Oral History Program

February 15, 1992
Laie, Hawaii

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SIDE A

- PAGE 1 Introduction of John Kahikina, born 1897 South Kona, Hawaii; joins the church, baptism.
- 3 Military service in WWI; marriage in Kona.
- 4 Positions in the Church; activities with missionaries; Mormon branches in Honolulu.
- 7 Wife applies for Homestead in Molokai; first house in Molokai; lease of land to Del Monte.
- 9 Work on pineapple plantation; work done on Ho'olehua church.
- 10 Experiences in branches and falling away; the Church at Kainalu.
- 12 The three branches on Molokai: Ho'olehua, Kainalu and Maunaloa.
- 15 Backsliding Mormons; House on Homestead, electricity, farming.
- 16 Taxes on Homestead; water on Homestead.
- 18 Challenges as branch president; visits of district leaders; closing of Kainalu Branch; combines with Kaunakakai.
- 21 Bonus (pension) from army and social security; work experience at Schofield and Pearl Harbor; Dec. 7, 1941.

SIDE B

- 24 His Car: Model T.
- 25 Members join the Church in Kainalu.
- 26 Testimony of John Kahikina; long service in the Church. Conclusion (age 83).
- 28 END OF INTERVIEW

December 28, 1979, this is Ken Baldrige, I'm in the home of John Young Kahikina at Ho'olehua, Molokai, talking about his experiences in the Church.

Int First of all, where were you born?

JK Kona, Hawaii.

Int Born in South Kona.

JK South Kona, Hawaii, yes.

Int Back in 1897.

JK 1897.

Int Had you ever heard anything about the Mormons before you moved from the Big Island?

JK No, when I went Honolulu, then they came preach the gospel in my home.

Int Why had you gone to Honolulu?

JK Look for job, Kona no more job.

Int And were the missionaries just tracting?

JK Yes, Clissold. Clissold was the missionary at that time.

Int Clissold?

JK Yes, Elder Clissold [OH-103], as the old timer, Clissold. Kaliko, we used to call him in Hawaiian, Clissold. I think they all know him.

Int The one that was later Temple President and Mission President?

JK Yes, yes, yes, that's right.

Int He was a missionary?

JK Yes, he was.

Int How did you feel about the Church after you heard the missionaries talk about it?

JK Well, soon, that time what takes time you know, take me a long time--to I read, they give you the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenant, three-in-one those days. I start to read. Then, I believe.

Int Where were you baptized?

JK Honolulu, Kalihi.

Int Whereabouts?

JK Kalihi ward, now is the ward.

Int It's the branch then.

JK Yes, before it was a branch.

Int Was there a baptismal font in the building?

JK Yes, that's right. So, who this, Murphy was there, too. President Murphy.

Int Castle Murphy?

JK Yes. He came. Murphy then Wilford and--who the other mission president now?

Int When was it you were baptized?

JK June. June the nineteenth when I went over there, no take long, take me about seventh month to join the Church. Then I was baptized.

Int So, you were baptized the nineteenth of June?

JK Yes, June 19, 1919.

Int 1919. You said you had served in World War I.

JK Yes, 1917, I start--went into the war--went in the first World War. 1917, 1918 and 1919

Int What did you do while you were in the military?

JK I was a corporal, drill the boys in my squad, take care of my squad, during the time.

Int Were you over on Oahu?

JK Yes, only Oahu, we stay there until the war finish, then we all discharge [from] the Army, 1919.

Int And you just stayed there. . . .

JK No, I went back Kona see my father and my mother. Then I get married in Kona in that year. I get married, no more job, get hard time, so I told my wife: "I'm going Honolulu, I better go work for the Army." So we move Honolulu, I work for the Army.

Int That's when you met the missionaries?

JK Yes, yes.

Int So was in 1919 that you join the Church.

JK Yes, then in 1920, then I join the Mormon Church.

Int Oh, 1920 you joined the Church, okay. So June 19, 1920 is when you joined the Church.

JK Yes.

Int Okay.

JK But I used to live Kona the missionary come over there, my house. Because my house close to the road. They come in and preach me the Gospel. But I didn't believe that time, then Alice tell, "Well some day you're going join the Mormon Church."

Int So you had heard about the Mormon Church before you went to Honolulu?

JK To Honolulu, yes, Oahu. Then, they come every week to Kona. But I didn't baptize, when I move Honolulu--I baptize.

Int Then you went to the Kalihi ward, located right where it is today?

JK Yes. My house close to the church.

Int Oh. What was the first job you had in the church.

JK Oh, I was first counselor for the genealogy. William Peters was my president. And I was a first counselor and the wife was a secretary, Peters' wife. Then I stay there, go to church every Sunday, so my wife went [to] apply Homestead, move over here. So 1929 we came home, Molokai.

Int Did your wife join the Church?

JK Yes, we both join the Church, we baptize in Kalihi ward.

Int Was Albert Like there at Kalihi then?

JK Albert Like? Yes, yes, yes that's my good friend. He comes to the house, preach me the Gospel.

Int Yes, when you mentioned genealogy I thought Albert was probably involved.

JK Yes, yes, Albert Like I know.

Int So the time that you were in the Kalihi Branch from 1920 until about 1929, did you have any other Church assignments besides genealogy?

JK Well, they come pick me for go on part time missionary. Sometime the elders, they need help, while I get to go because I work night time. Day time then I, well, no work all night, just work you know twelve o'clock, build up barracks and all that.

Int So that during the day time you go out with the full time missionaries.

JK Yes, yes, yes, that's what I was doing at that time, Kalihi.

Int How was the missionary work received?

JK Good, good, but only some non-member, they give us bad time, they no like hear the Gospel, they no like us go to the house. Tell us no, we no like hear the Gospel. My friend Waddoup, not Waddoup, that boy working down the Temple now I forget, Hubbell, George Hubbell the father. Then he come pick me up, go with him okay, part time.

Int So his father, George Hubbell, that is now at the Temple.

JK Yes, yes the father, yes. Then I do all kind you know, help the Elders go home teaching, that's what they was (laughter) keep me busy.

Int Did the non-mormons ever give any active opposition or did they just tell you. . . .

JK No, no, yes, they no like the Mormon elders go to the house.

Int There were never any serious problems.

JK Yes, maybe they don't keep the Word of Wisdom you see, they no like

us go to the house because they smoke, they drink, you see, that's why they no like the Elders go to the house. Sometime we go the other house they tell us, "Daddy and mama went out in the evening you know." No, they hide inside the house and go tell the children [to] tell us. Then my partner said, "That's alright we keep on going, they no like us, well, that's alright."

Int Were there any other Mormon branches in Honolulu at the time, besides Kalihi?

JK Yes. They have Pearl City Branch, and way up here, oh I forget the name now. . .that. . .

Int . . .Awaiolimu?

JK Waikiki, Waikiki Branch and the Tabernacle, I used to go, outside Waikiki.

Int The Tabernacle wasn't built at that time, was there a branch there where the Tabernacle is today?

JK Yes, they have a branch over there.

Int What did they call that?

JK Well, they call that Waikiki Branch.

Int That's where the Waikiki Branch was, right.

JK Yes.

Int Okay.

JK Oh, Gulick Avenue. He get branch over there.

Int On Gulick Avenue.

JK Yes.

Int You remember the name of that branch?

JK No, only you know sometime go over there visit, but I not supposed to go over there, I supposed to go Kalihi, that's my branch. But sometime just go visit, see the members, my family over there too, just go visit.

Int You came over here to Molokai. Your wife had applied for homestead, is that right?

JK Yes, my wife been apply. So I like stay back Honolulu, but the commission don't allow me to stay. Get to come home with the family. That's why we all came home. I had two children that time.

Int Why didn't you apply instead of her?

JK No, I told her to go apply because she's Hawaiian. So only, you know, let her own the place. When she go well, I take over (laughter).

Int You're Hawaiian also?

JK Yes, I'm pure Hawaiian.

Int Why did you think about applying to come over here to Molokai?

JK Well, I was staying Honolulu, lot of people coming in, going to be crowded. So my wife make up [her] mind to apply Homestead come over here. So I didn't like come home, but she like, (laughter) [me to come home], too lonesome, you know.

Int Did you know there were other Mormons over here?

JK Yes, plenty Mormons over here. Most Mormons over here in Ho'olehua.

Int Tell me about the trip over here from Honolulu.

JK Well, we come on the plane, during that time. . . no [by] boat. Get

boat Inter-Island, come on the Inter-Island is cheaper, five dollar one way coming over.

Int So you flew over here?

JK Yes. During those days cheap.

Int So you can fly from Honolulu to Molokai for five dollars.

JK Yes. No, only the boat five dollars but the plane more dear, you know.

Int Now did you bring all your furniture and things like that with you?

JK Yes, yes, I bring all, but the Commission pay all the freight; my car all come over there, my first house when built where the garage is.

Int Where the garage is today is where your house was. Was the house already here when you arrived?

JK Oh, yes, already built, only waiting for me to come home.

Int The Commission built that?

JK Yes, the Commission built.

Int What did you do when you first got here?

JK Well, farming, I do a lot of planting. I brought a tractor and I plow my own forty acre land. Then CPC, Del Monte, he came over here, he like my land, plant pineapple. That's during Jacobsen's time.

Int Did they want to lease your land?

JK Yes, lease my land, plant pineapple. Well those days cheap, they give us only fifty dollars a month (laughter), for one acre. That's how they pay us, fifty dollar the whole forty acre a month.

Int So they took the whole forty acres?

JK Yes, and they plant the pineapple, they harvest on what I receive, fifty dollars. Well, better than nothing you see.

Int Did you get fifty dollars an acre for each of the forty acres?

JK No, no. Fifty dollar a month for the whole forty acre.

Int You couldn't live on that very well could you?

JK No. Well good thing the food cheaper those days.

Int What did you work at?

JK I work for the plantation, I drive truck, haul pineapple.

Int When you first got over here, where was the Church meeting?

JK Oh, up there, the first church up there, the old church. We used to go up there, right up there by the school, high school, Molokai.

Int Up by the high school. Was that meeting in the warehouse?

JK No, real house. They been build that for church for the member.

Int The church house by the high school?

JK By the high school. So we used to go up there, then they change, they said we going move up here, down here, they build this new church we work on this church.

Int Here in Ho'olehua.

JK Yes, Ho'olehua. Then they choose me branch president for Kainalu, east end. I went over there for two years and *pau* [finished, ended] release, another brother take over. Then they transfer me up Maunaloa. No more church up there, but they get a house--small house--we hold our meeting over there. I was branch president up

there for four years. Then the mission president came, they look the members don't come church on Sunday. They asked me why the member they don't come, I told them: "They go gamble on Sunday, most Filipino, they go fight rooster." Then the mission president told me, "Well you tell them if they don't come church, they [are] going close the church up there." So they don't come, only the wife, the children come. Sometime the wife don't come, only few of us in the church. I have to go visit every member. Every Saturday I go up there, tell the member come church. Only few come, they all go gamble. I said, well, I no can do nothing.

you So I tell the mission president, then he told me, "Well, John, get to move Ho'olehua because the member don't"--no he put other brother up there, John Kaleikini. He put him up there, he want to try the same thing. Then the mission president change again another elder. [Esteban] Arce [OH-100]. Arce, one Filipino. For two year he stay up there. No success, the members no come, he talk Filipino to the Filipinos, but Filipino, they don't believe. They believe only gamble on Sunday [and] fight chicken. So he told Arce, well, if that's the case they going close that branch. They when close and he came home. So I was the branch president up here, Ho'olehua, the mission, when choose me, so I take over the branch president.

Int Was there a building out at Maunaloa, the chapel?

JK No, that building that's belong the company, the plantation company. But the Mormons hold their meeting in there, free, no pay, only the light they pay. The building that's one house.

Int Was it a community center or something there at the. . . .

JK No, community center building different, but they no allow us hold the meeting in there. That's where they hold their social, entertainment, outside member. . . .

Int Is the building still standing at Maunaloa where they used to meet?

JK No, they broke them down, too old.

Int What about the building out at Kainalu, when was that?

JK Oh, that's way back 1952. I was branch president over there.

Int 1952, you were the branch president out there.

JK Kainalu, yes.

Int When was that building built?

JK I came over here, already built. Maybe 1929 or 1928, I think.

Int That was already built before you got here.

JK Yes, yes, before I came here. That's the first church they went built over there.

Int So that building out at Kainalu was built before the Ho'olehua Chapel.

JK Yes, yes, because lots of members over there.

Int When you were meeting in the building up by the school when you first got here, was there another branch meeting out at Kainalu at the time.

JK Yes, they have, they have church Kainalu.

Int So when you got there, there was the branch. . . .

JK Yes, 1929, they already build that church.

Int There was a branch meeting at Kainalu, another branch, was there another branch meeting out at Maunaloa at that time?

JK Yes, yes.

Int And then your branch.

JK Yes.

Int What did they call your branch up there by the school. Was that Ho'olehua?

JK Yes, that's Ho'olehua Mormon Church.

Int So there's the Ho'olehua Branch, the Kainalu and the Maunaloa Branch.

JK Yes, and one Kalaupapa too.

Int Did the Kainalu Branch operate in those days right up until you were branch president there in the 1950's. . . .

JK Only for up here, Ho'olehua, I was a branch President. When I came back from Maunaloa, they chose me over here. They put me branch president.

Int So you were branch president at Ho'olehua after you were branch president at Maunaloa.

JK Maunaloa.

Int But weren't you branch president at Kainalu also?

JK Oh yes, I was there for two years.

Int That was 1952 to 1954?

JK Where?

Int At Kainalu?

JK Yes. I left there. 1952 for two year. For two year I hold the branch president, only for two years, when pau, 1954.

Int Oh, 1952 to 1954 at Kainalu.

JK Yes, yes.

Int Kainalu, okay. When was the branch at Kainalu discontinued?

JK Oh, they been close them, that time I left.

Int So in 1954 when you left, the branch close down and no more since then.

JK No, no more church and he tell all the member, the mission president tell all the member for come Kaunakakai Church.

Int When was the first branch built at Kaunakakai?

JK Oh, maybe 1960, I think, that branch Kaunakakai was built.

Int Well, the building is there now.

JK Yes, still yet.

Int But the one before that got broke down.

Jk Before--when broke them down, too old.

Int Yes. When did the branch. . . .

JK 1960, that year I think.

Int But there had been a branch there before next to the Seventh Day Adventist Church, wasn't there?

JK [That] was the old church, [that's] right.

Int The old church. When did the old church build their branch there?

JK When we came home the church already build, but I don't know what

year.

Int So was there a branch going there at Kaunakakai when you arrived here in 1929?

JK Yes.

Int Okay. So there are four branches up top side.

JK Yes.

Int Kainalu, Kaunakakai, Ho'olehua and Maunaloa.

JK Yes.

Int So there are those four and then Kalaupapa also.

Jk Four.

Int So, when you first got here in 1929, you were meeting at the warehouse near the school. What was the first church position that you had then.

JK What you mean, hold any work in the Church?

Int Right.

Jk I no hold any position in the Church because I new, only the old people was taking charge. I was going over there, then we move down here when they build this new church, that's when they give me a job. They put me as the genealogy because I was already know the job, Honolulu, me and Brother Kauma Makaiwi. I was the. . . .

Int So you worked in genealogy. How did the people here in the homestead feel about the Mormons?

Jk Oh, some outsiders, they no like the Mormon. The members okay, some alright. Some oh boy. . . .

- Int Was there any special reason why they didn't like the Mormons?
- JK Because they strict on the Word of Wisdom, you see that's why they don't come. They come church off and on. Soon the elders stand up and talk about the Word of Wisdom, they all "ah", the Word of Wisdom again, same old thing.
- Int Were most of the Mormons here pretty good Mormons or were there some kind of backsliding?
- JK I think some back sliding, some alright. Some Mormon, they break the commandment, you know, cut off from the Church.
- Int So there were people that were cut off?
- JK Yes. Who this, well I no like mention the name. Yes.
- Int Yes that's the problem at all times I think, this sort of thing happens.
- JK Yes, this cut off from the Church.
- Int When you first arrived here and your other house, out where the garage is now, did you have electricity and running water inside?
- JK No, first we stay in the house we get a lamp, kerosene, no more electric. Afterward, get electric.
- Int Was there any electricity on the island at all?
- JK No, never, never start that time. Afterward, I think 1930, 1930 or 1931 I think, then we start electric. Then they lay the post. Then I get to pay for the post, big money.
- Int Yes. Were you involved in any farming activity before the plantation leased your land?

JK Kona, I used to farm with my father. Hawaiian always, plant taro, anything get you know, that's only the way they can live. Plant taro, make their own poi--down the beach, go fishing.

Int Did you do any farming here?

JK Yes, I do used to plant taro. I still planting outside there.

Int I mean on your forty acres before the plantation took over.

JK Yes, only home use yes, but the rest of the land only grass.

Int How is your forty acres used today?

JK Well, because the plantation they no like take our land, because the commission stop the homestead not to lease the land to the plantation, we got to farm our own land. If we no can farm our own land, well, turn back the land to the commission. Turn back the land. But if we pay the tax that's okay, the land still remain. If you don't pay, well, might as well. . .then we only use, home use five acre.

Int So the rest of your. . . .

JK Yes, the rest turn them back to the Home Commission, but I no like turn back, I pay them. My grandson, the one working Utah, he tell me, "Grandpa, no turn back on the land, I pay." He paying the tax.

Int So you have five acres that you have right here. . . .

JK Yes, for me I pay that, seven dollar I pay every year.

Int And then the other thirty five acres. . . .

JK Ah that boy, this one pay.

Int It's just covered with grass now is it?

JK Yes.

Int It's not being used.

JK Yes, he like leave the land until he come home. He going come home when he retire. So he tell me he pay the tax.

Int Do you remember some of the problems they had with water when. . .

JK No, we don't want suck [i.e. pump] water, we get plenty water. They get the water from up the mountain. Three river--they when lay the pipe--what you call--cement pipe. Big pipe, about three inch pipe, three or four inch, no four feet I think.

Int Three or four feet.

JK Yes. So we get plenty water, no problem with the water.

Int Do you remember the experience when some of the Melchizidek Priesthood brethren had a fast for rain?

JK Oh yeah. I never come that time yet. I never come Ho'olehua. That's before, brothers, yes they do that.

Int So that was before 1929.

JK Yes. Yes, Makekau.

Int I wasn't sure exactly when that was.

JK Makekau was telling us the story. They fast, and they had plenty rain, Makekau, Manese Makekau.

Int Do you remember when you got electricity in your old house or did you ever have it over there in the other house?

JK Yes, I have. I put over there the electric and then we turn off, pau with the kerosene. Then we make this new house, get electric, just connect this new house.

Int When did you build this house?

JK Oh 1970.

Int So you lived over there until you came into this house?

JK Yes, yes.

Int Your work as branch president, what was your major challenge that you had?

JK Well, I go among the members, hold cottage meeting you know, every once a month. Talk to the member, but sometime they get mad, you know, they get mad because I teach them the right thing. You know Hawaiian sometime hard head, they don't listen, (laughter). Well, I stand fast to God for them humble themselves and all that. That's why I pray for them, always. But sometime the devil too close. Yes, you got to have a lot of faith.

Int How many members were there at Kainalu?

JK Kainalu? Oh, sometime twenty, sometime less than that. See like Sunday I know my first counselor, he always tells me, "Brother, you know me I tired eat can stuff," he go fish on Sunday. So I tell my counselor, "Oh, you know what it says one of the commandment, remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." "Yes, I know that, I know that." "Why you go fishing on Sunday? You and me, we are branch president for this branch, well, we get to show our good example to the member." "Oh, you know me, I tired eat can stuff." He like eat raw fish, I mean fresh fish, I tell him, "No, no you better come. I no going accept your, no. . ." and he get mad. He stay home by himself, when he come he tell, "Oh, I wasn't feeling good," I know already he telling lie. Well I tell him, only God know, not me. (laughter)

Int Were you visited quite frequently by the district leaders?

JK Yes. Ernest Elia [OH-97] was the district leader, he used to come over there. Ernest Elia was our district.

Int Were the people pretty good tithe payers in those days?

JK Well, some good, some they not honest tithe payer. I ask then why they get hard time, well you know the Lord come first. The Lord will bless you if you pay your honest tithing, that's why I tell them. I tell the members and they tell they get hard time and all. I talk to the district, Ernest Elia. I talk to the mission president when he come, or Murphy, I talk to him.

Int The Kainalu Chapel still stands doesn't it?

JK Yes, still standing, but old. Still Standing.

Int Is it used for anything anymore?

JK No, they don't use them. All the Mormon got to come Kaunakakai. They don't hold church over there.

Int Pretty soon everybody go to Kaunakakai.

JK Yes, that's what going happen. All us going down there. This church going to be closed.

Int Is that a pretty good idea do you think?

JK Oh, one way it's good, cut down the expense you know. Cut down the expense and beside members they don't come, only few. I think good to hold one place.

Int Only a few come to Kaunakakai now?

JK Yes.

Int Ho'olehua?

JK Yes, Ho'olehua. Some time we go down there hold the conference. We hold the conference Kaunakakai. Brother Young, he's the Bishop over there.

Int In your experience watching the Church over the last fifty years, would you say that it has been a period of growth or has it been fairly constant?

JK Well, today when I look, I think coming down. Some members pass away. The old members many pass away, and the children they coming back to Church. Some time good, some time, when I look at it, the Church--. Not like before olden days, our days 1929, go, the church; plenty members come, full inside, the chair outside by the veranda. During my time and during the other branch president, because every two years change.

Int Did they rotate the branch leadership every two years?

JK Yes. Give change for the other brothers take over.

Int Was it they didn't have priesthood living in Kainalu that they had to bring you in from outside?

JK No, they get priesthood brothers over there. Ferreira, Duvachelle and uh. . . .

Int But they still had you come in from outside clear from Ho'olehua.

JK Yes, they come some of them, some they come, some they don't come. Only few coming.

Int And you think the Church was stronger back in those days?

JK Oh yes, during 1929 yes, plenty members.

Int Were there any problems during the depression years here on Molokai?

- JK Well during the depression year, oh yes, lot of people get hard time, that's right and the Church help some of the member.
- Int Did you ever lose your job in the 1930's?
- JK No, I still working, and get bonus from the Army. Oh, I make good money. Now I get the Army pension, that's what I receive now and from the plantation, my social security; I get enough. So Uncle Sam take care me now. Good money, I make good money from the Army.
- Int What about during World War II?
- JK I went work for the Army during the World War II. He like all the veteran, those who get honorable discharge, that's why I went work for the Army World War II. I been like go in the Army, they said no, you too old, (laughter), too old.
- Int When you worked for the Army, was that in Molokai?
- JK No. Up Schofield, build up barracks. The time they when bomb, good thing we never when work that Sunday. Oh! that building where we went build, the barrack, all wipe out. Lot of you know, Army die, then they call us go back work, go pick up the body. Oh-h man, the airplane hanger, oh you no can tell who and who. All spread all over the place, then we get the canvas lay them down, pick them up, oh-h man. Hey, me nervous boy, scared, (laughter) when I pick up, get to put on glove, Oh-h-h.
- Int Where were you living when you went back to work?
- JK I was living Honolulu, Veterans home, I was living over there. All the Veterans stay over there free; we don't pay; make *kaukau* [food] for us, go work in the morning.
- Int Where was your wife, was she still back here?
- JK No, [she] came Honolulu [she] no like, [she] scared. Come home, Honolulu get the rent house, but she come home off and on. Come and

go back.

Int So all of you were over there.

JK Yes, all my children.

Int Were they little, or were they grown up by then?

JK My children all stay.

Int So your children were little then too.

JK So the Army no can let me go, get to work, I like come home, the Army, no you cannot until the war is over, then let us go.

Int Did you continue working at Schofield throughout the war?

JK Yes, build up barracks.

Int Where were you on that Sunday morning when the bombs started to fall?

JK Oh, I was home. At home at the veterans home, we just *pau* our breakfast that morning, then he was sitting down outside the veranda playing music, singing with the boys. Then we hear the bomb. Oh, we never know Japan was bombing Pearl Harbor. We could see that smoke over there. We thought they was practice, you know. Then came in the radio. Japan attack Pearl Harbor. He call us all the veterans return immediately you know, come back work. So we getta dress up, go up Schofield. Oh-h-h that's where the plane came from Schofield first and came to Pearl Harbor. Good thing we never go, if we went oh boy, we all dead. But before Sunday we was working you know, every Sunday and that Saturday, then they tell us, "You fella no work tomorrow." "Gee," I tell the boys. "God protect us, God save our life."

Int So when you were back in Honolulu you were going back to the Kalihi Chapel, I guess.

JK Yes, I went back, I go Kalihi Chapel yes, because I get used to over there. Every time I go see Albert Like, used to come.

Int Did you have any church assignment while you were there?

JK Oh yes, go home teaching, they give me. . .

Int Ward teaching they called it then.

JK Ward, yes, yes, ward teaching, me and Albert Like.

Int So then later you were branch president when you came back, came back here after the war.

JK Yes. But before that I was with Hubbel when I was living Honolulu.

SIDE B

Int I'll back up just a little bit; I think we are talking about you visiting with Albert Like when you were back in Honolulu during the second World War and you've worked with George Hubbel when you were over there before that time. I was interested in pursuing this schedule of meetings that you had. Let's take Kainalu as an example. When you were the branch president there for the two year period, what were the meetings that you held on a typical Sunday. Just tell me what would be like a normal Sunday, out there.

JK Well, I hold my meeting with my, like Sunday School officers and genealogy officers, what they suppose to carry on, you know. Tell the members to make their record, genealogy record. Then I have to check out whether right or wrong, that's only the way. Some, they don't know how to fill up their genealogy, so I have to show them like this, like this, like this. Some they don't know how to read, especially the Hawaiian, so I have to tell them. In Hawaiian--I get to talk in Hawaiian, you see, I can talk in Hawaiian and English. Some Hawaiian, they don't speak English. So I have to speak in Hawaiian. Oh, lot of you know, you got to be patient.

Int So you had your priesthood meeting?

JK Yes, I have every Sunday, Sunday morning, that's the first thing in the morning nine o'clock.

Int Hold for one hour?

JK Yes, hold one hour.

Int Then it was Sunday School right immediately after or you wait awhile?

JK No, after the Sunday School, then hold their meeting.

Int Did you have sacrament meeting right after Sunday School, or was sacrament meeting later?

JK In the afternoon.

Int Later in the afternnon.

JK Yes, yes, two o'clock like that.

Int So people go home after Sunday School.

JK Yes, go home, eat and come back.

Int Then come back for sacrament.

JK Yes. But me I stay over there, I take my lunch.

Int To far to come back to Ho'olehua.

JK But good thing I have car, model T, during my time I was branch president. I use to go on my model T.

Int In 1950?

JK Yes.

Int You still had a model T?

JK Yes, but no where to go, only come home stay, only go store, come home. Then after 1960 I buy new one, brand new car, throw away the old one. But had part, model T they get part you know, lot of part.

Int Yes, that was a long time for a model T.

JK Got to crank.

Int The sacrament meetings that you had, they were generally hour and a half like today?

JK Yes, hour and a half. The whole hour and a half.

Int And who were your speakers usually.

JK My first counselor, me and the members. I choose, you know some priesthood with the speaking on Sunday Sacrament meeting.

Int Was the district high council organized then?

JK Yes, the district Counselor came over, Ernest Elia, he come over there see how I holding the meeting.

Int Were there many adult members that were converted to the Church?

JK Kainalu?

Int At Kainalu.

JK Plenty, plenty. Plenty big member, some they come, some they don't.

Int Now, children when they come to be eight years old were baptized. They were baptized down in the ocean?

- JK Yes, they come. Some they don't baptize they still come, but not enough age, they get to be eight years old.
- Int Well it's interesting to compare the Church as it was thirty years ago with the way it is today or even fifty years ago.
- JK Yes, now different. You try visit the Church over here. Very few members come church even Kaunakakai.
- Int How come?
- JK I don't know. Maybe they go astray, I don't know (laughter). I think they don't believe God.
- Int Too bad.
- JK Too bad, yes. That's why they like all the members go down because not enough.
- Int If you were to describe in a few words the changes that you've seen in the Church over the fifty years since you've been here on Molokai, how would you describe it?
- JK I think to me, before better. Before better. I rather have before-- yes, lots of members. See, some the members pass away, the children they don't come church, they join the other church. Lot of members, you know join the other church, this Jehovah Witness. They come over here. I tell them no, I belong to the Church of Jesus Christ.
- Int Okay, well, you've given me quite a good picture of what life was like in those days. Is there anything else you think you might like to add?
- JK You know me, I love this Church, the teaching of the Gospel. To my understanding the teaching of the Gospel is very true to me. Soon they talk about the Word of Wisdom, no other church upon this earth

teach the member live a good life, keep the Word of Wisdom. When I first join this Church, Kalihi, I hear they talk about the Word of Wisdom, I don't understand what the meaning of that "Keep the Word of Wisdom." Then I ask the boys, Albert Like, I ask, "What that mean, keep the Word of Wisdom." "Oh, no drink no smoke." Then I tell Albert Like, "Gee, now I know, I join the right church." I go Hawaiian church, Kalawina and Catholic, I go those church and they tell me, "Oh, you can smoke you can drink." So I tell the priest, Kalawina priest, I tell them, "That's not the right way of teaching. That thing is not good for the body, yes." Then they tell me, "Well if you no like drink, well it's up to you, but we no stop, you can drink you can smoke." Gee, I think, not right. I go home I tell my wife, "You think this church they teaching us the right thing, you can smoke you can drink, not right?" My wife when tell me it's up to us, it's up to you. That's what they tell you, it's up to you if you no like, no like. Same thing with the Catholic. So I went Mormon, try--I try. Then they tell me that, "Keep the Word of Wisdom," they was talking up the pulpit. The members teach the members "Keep the Word of Wisdom." Then I ask Albert, what the meaning of that "Keep the Word of Wisdom?" No drink, no smoke. Albert, now I know this is the true church the teaching I like, good, I going join this church. That's how I join until today. Until today.

Int Well that's good, you've had a long period of service.

JK Go church, they tell me, keep the tithing very important, keep the tithing. I try my best, keep the tithing. Keep the Ten Commandments as in the Bible, the Ten Commandments. The Beatitudes, memorize. I memorize all that, even the Article of Faith from one to the thirteenth. I memorize all that. So I thank God. So what I teaching this boy, this grandson of mine. He's good, he listen. So I have strong faith this is the true Church of Jesus Christ. No other church upon the earth. Yes, that's how I live.

Int Well, thank you very much, I appreciate having the chance to talk to you.

JK You welcome. Eighty-three years old (laughter) living a good life.

See, the teaching of the Gospel.

Int Well, that's what does it.

JK A-a-a-a-ah, yes!

END OF INTERVIEW