

Oral History Program

**OH-138**

**Box #8**

Oral History Program

HENRY LINDSEY

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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY - HAWAII CAMPUS  
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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

NARRATOR: HENRY LINDSEY

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INTERVIEWER: Lance Chase

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## INTRODUCTION

Henry Lindsey was born in Kula, Maui and came to Oahu to attend high school in Honolulu. After graduating from Kamehameha he went to Maui to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Following his mission, he traveled to New York to pursue an interest in radio engineering at the RCA Radio School. He then worked at jobs involving this field. With the outbreak of World War II Lindsey enlisted and was later stationed in Hawaii where he witnessed the attack of Pearl Harbor.

When the Church College of Hawaii was first constructed he moved to Laie and taught classes at the college part-time. In this interview he recalls his association with Laie and relates important information of the early development of this town as well as offering insight into events and places with which he has been familiar.

The interview was carried out in Henry Lindsey's home in Laie. Pornchai Juntratip transcribed the tape; Grace Pratt audited and edited it. Oral History secretary, Debbie Barker, edited, typed and completed the final assembly of the manuscript.

Kenneth W. Baldrige, Director  
Oral History Program, BYU--  
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Side A  
[000]  
INT

My name is Lance Chase. I am visiting in the home of Henry Lindsey on Moana Street here in Laie on the 18th day of July, 1980. I am here to interview Brother Lindsey in connection with the Oral History workshop which I took under the direction of Ken Baldrige last Saturday and will complete tomorrow.

Henry--if I may call you Henry--I used to home teach you and you were always Brother Lindsey, but perhaps I can be less formal than that and call you Henry today. When and where were you born?

HL I was born in Kula, Maui in 1911.

INT Was that at home, Henry, or a hospital?

HL At home.

INT And were you born into the LDS Church? Were you born in the covenant? [i.e. to Latter-day Saint parents who had been sealed in an LDS temple.]

HL No, I was raised by pure Hawaiian foster-parents.

INT What percentage of Hawaiian are you, Henry?

HL One-eighth.

INT One-eighth Hawaiian and what other nationalities?

HL I have one-quarter Chinese and the rest Caucasian.

INT And you grew up near Hana, did you say, on Maui?

HL No, on the slope of the Haleakala Mountain.

INT Is that close to the place where the Church began over there?

HL It is at the place.

INT And that's where you were reared. Now, let's see, you said the date was 1911?

HL 1911.

INT So the Church had been there for about sixty-one years by that time.

HL It's about that.

INT What are some of the recollections you have of growing up on

the slopes of that volcano? Tell me about what you remember as a boy, especially as it relates to anything connected with the Church.

HL There are some very interesting things. During my youth I used to attend Relief Society with my foster-mother and my older sisters--used to relate many interesting stories about the Savior appearing to George Q. Cannon on the slope of Haleakala. The story is told that when George Q. Cannon came down from the slope, [here his voice breaks slightly] They said, "Where is your companion?" And George Q. Cannon said, "Well, you saw him, didn't you?" They said, "Yes, there were two of you." And he said, "It was the Savior".

INT Who related that story to you, Henry? Who told you that? Do you remember?

HL [indistinguishable reply] Another interesting thing was one day when we were in the chapel and it was pouring rain there were two elders [one was] Elder Scholes, and I don't know who the other elder was. They came over on a mule and we expected them to be soaking wet when they entered the chapel. But when they came in they were perfectly dry.

INT It sounds like a miracle. Is that the Kula district?

HL Pulehu.

INT And did you ever know your parents?

HL My mother.

INT You knew your mother, but you were reared by foster-parents. Between what ages were you reared by those foster-parents?

HL Three days to fourteen [years].

INT Until you were fourteen? So you grew up in that area--Pulehu--until you were fourteen. You were there in your boyhood. Did you attend church regularly as a boy?

HL Oh yes, regularly.

INT Do you remember what the branch was called?

HL Pulehu Branch.

INT Can you remember how many members there would have been?

HL About sixty.

INT Did they come from a widely scattered area or did they live fairly close?

HL Within three miles or four miles.

INT Three or four miles. It's quite a rural area, isn't it?

HL Oh, yes.

INT So in those days, I would guess, there may not have been  
[100] many automobiles around where you were.

HL Just old Model-T Fords, wagons. I even saw the trace of the old ox teams and wagons.

INT Henry, this might really stretch your memory. What's your earliest memory in life? What was the first thing you remember?

HL The first thing I remember was falling off the wall. As kids we were throwing rocks and someone got off balance, and pushed me over and I fell down quite a ways.

INT Off the stone wall?

HL Stone wall, and smashed my face.

INT Were you badly hurt?

HL Just my face bruised, broken teeth and so on.

INT About how old would you have been then?

HL I'd say about five or six.

INT And then when you were fourteen, your foster-parents--by the way, what were their names?

HL Keawe Puhi.

INT Puhi? What was the woman's name?

HL Sarah.

INT Sarah Puhi. Do you remember her maiden name?

HL Kalepa.

INT Kalepa. So was your boyhood a happy one?

HL Oh, yes.

INT Was it? Growing up in the country there?

HL Among the Japanese farmers.

INT That's quite an agricultural area then?

HL Right.

INT I see. Was it mainly Japanese and Hawaiians living in that Pulehu area?

HL And Chinese, Portuguese.

INT Not many haoles in the area?

HL A few, just a few.

INT Do you remember the missionaries from Utah coming through regularly or not?

HL Oh, yes.

INT And so you went to school in that area up through--eighth grade, would that be correct?

HL About the seventh grade.

INT Well, how was your schooling as far as its quality went? How did you feel about the schooling as you recall?

HL Very good, very strict. Any time you break the rules you had to face the principal, put our hands out and get a strap [strikes his hand].

INT With a strap, leather strap? Do you have any idea how many children there might have been in each of your classes, like for example--the second grade, the third grade--would there have been fifteen or twenty children in each grade?

HL About twenty, twenty-five.

INT And so then when you were fourteen your foster-parents apparently decided that you needed to go to school on Oahu?

HL My foster-mother died when I was fourteen and I had a scout-master with me, Pop Parton [unsure of name]. He asked me, "How would you like to go to Lahainaluna School?" That was not in my mind at all but it appealed to me. So when I finished school that year I went to Lahainaluna School.

INT You were fourteen when your foster-mother died and it became quite difficult for him them to take care of the children.

HL I was there alone.

INT Oh, you were there alone, I see. So you went to Lahainaluna. Where is that?

HL That's in Lahaina, Maui.

INT Maybe fifteen or twenty miles away from Pulehu?



HL Oh no, it's about forty or fifty miles.

INT Oh, is it in Lahaina? Had you been there before?

HL Yes.

INT That still must have been quite a switch for a young boy from Pulehu to go up to Lahaina to school.

HL Then the tuition was just five dollars a year and the rest-- we had to raise our own food, wash our own clothes, beat our clothes with a stick.

INT Is that right? In the stream or you had sinks?

HL No, right in the wash house.

INT I wonder how many children would have been in Lahainaluna. That would have been 1925, about.

HL I think there were 300 or 400 students.

INT It was a boarding school though?

HL Yes. Just boys.

INT Was it denominationally run; was it run by any church groups?

HL No, by the government.

INT A public school. Would you call it a private school? Would all the children have been entitled to attend the school or would it have been more of a private school like a . . .

HL By application?

INT So I guess a private school. Not like Kahuku High School, for example, where anyone goes. And what do you remember about your school days at the Lahainaluna? Can you remember any particular memory?

HL Hard work. (laughter)

INT Hard work. Academically?

HL No, we had to work our way to school, get up at three o'clock in the morning. My job was to clean the assembly hall and take care of the grounds and so forth. So one day I was stacking the seats something happened and slipped and so the principal came running. It made such a roar, came running up and I got a big switch.

[200]

INT You did not get the leather strap on the hand for that one.

HL No. Mr Rodgers was quite a strict principal.

INT Did you enjoy your days in school there, as strict as it was?

HL: Oh, yes.

INT Were you a good student?

HL Yes, I got enough good grades to get into Kamehameha School.

INT How long were you at Lahainaluna then?

HL For just a year.

INT That would have been the eighth grade. Well, was it not possible to through your nineth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth grades at Lahainaluna?

HL Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

INT I see. Why then, would someone like you go to Kamehameha School?

HL We looked at Kamehameha School as one of the best schools.

INT I see, and where in Honolulu is Kamehameha?

HL It used to be where the Farrington High School used to be located, near the Bishop Museum.

INT Is that near Kalihi? And so from the nineth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth grades you were there at Kamehameha School?

HL Right.

INT Was it quite difficult in those days from Lahainaluna as compared to Kamehameha?

HL Very, very.

INT In what ways?

HL Strictly military, from the time you get up by the bugle until you went to bed at "Taps"--lights out. Everything was regulated.

INT You wore a uniform?

HL Uniform all the way through.

INT But it did not prepare a young man to go in the military, did it?

HL Oh, yes. It's on military rating. I got my commission [through] Kamehameha School.

INT I see. And did you feel that was a good academic preparation you received?

HL Oh, yes, yes.

INT Was there anyone that we might know from here in Laie with whom you attended school at Kam School?

HL [Pause] Chang--Samuel Chang.

INT Were you active in the Church during those years?

HL Oh, yes. It was very difficult, you had to have a pass to get out. Sometimes we managed to run away.

INT How can you account for it? You had some good training from your foster-parents but you were so much on your own at Kam School. Was it difficult for you to stay active? It would have been so easy not go on Sunday it seems.

HL No, what we did is, a group of boys get together and we petitioned the school to allow someone, the missionaries, to come on the campus to teach us and so they had President [Edward L.] Clissold.

INT Clissold? [then a young married man living in Honolulu, later president of Oahu Stake, Hawaii Temple, Japanese Mission, etc., see OH-103]

HL He organized the class and he came every Sunday.

INT Sort of like an early [morning] seminary in a way. Isn't that interesting? Was he the president of, well, he would not have been in Oahu Stake at that time.

HL No, later on he became president.

INT He was a businessman from Honolulu but well-known, I guess.

HL He was retired, a former missionary too.

INT So you held Sunday School class right there at Kam School? How many LDS boys were there then, Henry?

HL I'd say about, from twelve to sixteen. There were more but that's about the number . . .

INT That were active?

HL Yes, that were active.

INT Was the Sammy Chang that you mentioned, was he a member in

that group?

HL I think he was not converted then. We used to work together in the dairy and I used to preach him the gospel. (laughter)

INT Do you have any particular memories about your experiences there. You mentioned the chair episode at Lahainaluna, what about anything else you remember from your day at Kam School that might be of interest? Any particular memory that you have?

HL I had to work my way to school, too; get up at three o'clock in the morning and milk eight cows and deliver milk and get up to go to school and start again three o'clock in the afternoon.

INT You milked all those cows by hand? It's hard to imagine cows in Kalihi now. So you were there until somewhere around 1929.

HL 1932. We had a part-time system so, it stretched the last two years.

INT So you were there when the stock market crashed in 1929?

HL Yes, and I was back in New York in 1933.

INT So when you graduated from Kam School then you went right into the military or not yet?

HL No, I went on a mission for a year on Maui. See, we had proposed to the president of the mission to set up a radio station and it was [undecipherable. Possibly "planned"], you see. And Herbert [Newton, see following] was in the lower class. [So they said], "All right, we'll send you on a mission for a year. When Herbert finishes school we'll release both of you and you can go back to New York and study radio and set up a radio station."

So, we were back there and studied and finished our training and the Church applied for the radio station and the existing radio stations fought it and finally President Hugh Cannon grabbed me in conference and said, "Son, sorry we are going to have to withdraw your license because we have stiff opposition in Hawaii". And that's how they withdrew.

INT Where would our radio station have been, had we succeeded?

HL: KGMB. So finally, we bought it, KGMB, and we went on for years and years and years.

INT This was years later though that we bought it.

HL No, almost right in the beginning. Stock, stock. They

didn't have complete control but they kept on buying stock.

INT [300] Well, those were the early days of radio, weren't they, in the early 1930's? Now, you went on a mission for a year back in New York?

HL No, Hawaii, Maui.

INT Oh, on Maui, I see. And you were involved in the proselyting at that time, actual proselyting on Maui?

HL Yes, I had a lot of church activities and was district superindendent and Sunday School and other things and I carried it on along both those lines. And every once in a while dovetailed with the missionaries and go tracting with the missionaries.

INT I am still puzzled at one thing, Henry. I don't understand, from what you told me about your upbringing, how you came out so committed to the Gospel when since you were in the eighth grade really, you had had no parental supervision at any time. It would seem surprising to me that then coming out of high school you would have gone on a mission. Where did you get that commitment?

HL I think it could be my companion. Herbert Newton was a devoted boy.

INT What was his last name?

HL Herbert Newton. He was a very close friend so we always talked about the gospel.

INT Is he still alive?

HL Oh yes.

INT Where does he live?

HL He lives in Orem [Utah].

INT A haole boy?

HL No.

INT Hawaiian?

HL Hawaiian and Caucasian. And I think it's companionship, friends. . .

INT Somehow, you had the right friends. They were a good influence upon you and you upon them, undoubtedly.

HL We were active because I was in Sunday School and. . .

INT Was that at Kam School or on Maui?

HL No, Kalihi Branch.

INT Oh, Kalihi Branch. Where was that Kalihi Branch then, do you remember?

HL It's where the present chapel is [on Beckley Street].

INT That's not the same building though?

HL No.

INT About when, do you remember when that would have been taken down?

HL Fifteen, twenty years ago, I think.

INT I see; after the war was over? So you were on a mission for a year in Maui? Now how did it happen that you served a mission for a year rather than two years?

HL He released me and said, "You go on to radio school as part of your mission".

INT Who released you.

HL Castle Murphy.

INT And the headquarters of the mission then was still on this island in Honolulu, was it not? Where was it, do you remember?

HL At Kalihi.

INT At the branch there in Kalihi? Was that the mission headquarters also?

HL The mission headquarters was adjacent to it, where the parking lot is.

INT I see, was the building standing where the parking is today? That was the mission headquarters? I wonder how long that's been gone, Henry.

HL That's been gone a long time ago, maybe, twenty or thirty years.

INT Was it before the war or after the war, do you think?

HL Before the war.

INT So, maybe more than forty years ago. So your schooling in radio education or, whatever it might be called, was in New York. Where in New York?

HL RCA Radio School.

INT In New York City?

HL Yes, in New York City, Holland Street.

INT Holland Street? What's about that experience. What can you tell about that?

HL Tough experience. We had to study math and it took us all the way up to calculus and we had to really study and plow and during those depression days it was really tough.

INT That would be in 1933, about?

HL 1933. The effects of the depression were still on and people were still in bread lines. But I was very fortunate even though we struggled sometimes; we did not get money from home. We had to live on raisins for about a week. We rode in the subway about four miles for a nickel then walked four miles home to save a nickel.

INT Where did your money come from to go to school?

HL My foster-parents gave me some money, and some others, [inaudible] forty dollars a month allowance.

INT Were there any LDS boys involved with you?

HL Oh yes. Dean Fawsett was one of our roommates.

INT He was LDS?

HL Yes. And Dean Fawsett and Herbert Newton.

INT Oh, Herbert Newton went back with you also?

HL The three of us rented a room.

INT Seemed strange, to me at least, that a prospective radio announcer would take calculus and math.

HL That was not the announcer. This was as a technician and engineer.

INT As a technician and engineer, that explains it. So you would have been a radio engineer at the conclusion of your training. That's what you had been trained for.

HL Right after school I went for my exam for my license and I went out west with KSL.

INT So immediately after your getting out of school in New York you went up to Salt Lake to work for KSL? It wouldn't have

been a 50,000 watt station in those dates, was it?

HL It was a 50,000 watt station.

INT And you became an engineer for them. Were you homesick? Were you miss poi and rice in Salt Lake City?

HL Oh, I missed poi, but I managed.

INT You were still single, of course, then. Did you have a girl friend?

HL No.

INT No girlfriend. Did Newton go with you?

HL Well, Newton did not come with me [to Salt Lake City] whereas, he stayed back, and I wanted to get back. So it was not quite a year until I was released from KSL and went back to study.

INT Study where?

HL I took a course in marketing at New York University.

INT You must have liked the city, Henry, to go back to it.

HL Seven years.

INT Seven years in New York City, seven years? In the thirties? All in the thirties, right in the depression?

HL I was very fortunate, you know. You had a long--it was sad when you see a long line of professors, engineers, standing for soup. And when I went back here I did not get a job. So, but finally talking to Brother Bennett I asked him whether he was interested in getting some microfilm. He said, "How are you going to do it?" [there were] no cameras. I said, "I'll find a way". He said I didn't own a camera. And then so finally we contacted the Holland Society and commenced to microfilm all Dutch church records all the way back to 1630 or 1640.

INT The Dutch had been predominant in New York for a time.

HL Oh, yes, real exciting, over ten thousand volumes.

INT That was very early to involved in microfilm, isn't it?

HL It was the beginning.

INT Yes.

HL There was no camera so I took a French motion-picture camera, removed the spring and everything else put in



electronic motor, redesigned it, made a stand. Then I persuaded Brother Easter, who also got involved in microfilm, both of us microfilmed Dutch records. We didn't know Dutch but anyhow, we microfilmed.

INT How did you get access to those records?

HL Through the Holland Society. The Holland Society wanted to get a collection for the library and so they negotiated with each church. It was simple, see? We just merely went into the church.

INT Were you paid to do it?

HL I charged the genealogical society three cents a frame and I made good money.

INT Isn't that interesting.

HL That pulled me through the depression.

INT Did you live reasonably well? Were you able to live reasonably well off that three cents a frame? Are you still not married at this time?

HL No.

INT And were you living in New York?

HL Several places. Close to 42nd Street, and Broadway and finally moved down to Bay Ridge--that's in Brooklyn--then finally to Gate Street. That's about it.

INT You were there for seven years? How much of that time were you actively attending New York University?

HL Not too long. Less than a year, I think.

INT So most of that seven years you would have been involved in the microfilming work?

HL Microfilm and radio.

INT You were working as an engineer also?

HL No, I landed a job with the Air King Radio as a tester. After the radio was assembled I'd test it and a lot of different trade names. They manufacture for the big--like Macy's--and all the different trade names. They take a contract and manufacture table models and some big shortwave radios, too.

INT: What did you do for leisure in New York? Were you a baseball fan? Or what did you do in your spare time?

- HL We went to shows; very seldom did we go to shows. Mostly, we had MIA and Sunday School. We had our church activities, socials.
- INT Was it a branch then, Henry?
- HL When I was in Manhattan, I went to the Manhattan Ward and when I went to Bay Ridge I was among the Norwegians and so forth. It was quite a community, see, and we went to the market early in the morning--three o'clock in the morning--bid for our string beans, came, brought it back, canned string beans and then divided up the cans. The Saints took it home; it was one grand happy family.
- INT Were the Saints reasonably well off, would you say, or were they struggling like the rest.
- HL Struggling.
- INT What size group would it have been there, Henry; how many Mormons?
- HL In the Bay Ridge area, I'd say about 200 Saints. On the Manhattan, 500 or 600; then Queens, then it became a stake.
- INT Did you see any of your family during those seven years, Henry?
- HL No.
- INT Isn't that something for a Hawaiian boy in the thirties to be living in New York? Was New York cosmopolitan enough you did not feel any racial persecution or prejudice or do you remember anything about that?
- HL The only thing was between the Italians and the Jewish. Otherwise it's normal.
- INT Were there any other Hawaiians there in New York?
- HL A few, I mean I never associated with them, see. They were more or less in the night clubs; singers. Just one or two in the Church.
- INT And then along came World War II and you enlisted?
- HL Yes, I was working with Brother Wolf, installing sound systems at the Worlds Fair and walking in the corridor and then the announcement came that Hitler had bombed England. I said, "Well, it's my turn to pray [undistinguishable]. I told Brother Wolf [I'm going into the military].
- INT Who is this Brother Wolf? [Do] you remember his full name?
- HL He was a member of the stake presidency, William Wolf.

INT And you were working for him?

HL Yes.

INT And then you decided to enlist and it wasn't the bombing at Pearl Harbor that you heard about but rather the. . .

HL Bombing of England, London, and the interesting thing is many of us wanted to go in; they wouldn't let us go in; it was unofficial; we weren't at war, see. And so some of my buddies, in order to get to England, renounced their American citizenship and joined the Canadians, became Canadian citizens and joined their air force.

INT And how did you get in?

HL I didn't get in England. I enlisted in the American service. I went to Mitchell Field, Long Island.

INT Was there any difficulty since you were not a citizen of a state; you were citizen of an American territory, weren't you? No difficulty in your enlisting, though.

HL No.

INT In the army?

HL In the air force. A very nice use of my background in radio, radio communication officer.

INT What year would that have been?

HL 1940.

INT And you had your basic training right there in New York?

HL I had my basic training here at Schofield.

INT Well, as soon as you enlisted in New York, where did you go?

HL Mitchell Field, Long Island.

INT Was that for basic training there?

HL No, regular service.

INT They did not give you the twelve weeks of basic training, or whatever, in those days?

HL I had all of that, see? While I was at Kamehameha School, and I went to Schofield for one year and officer's training.

INT Were you admitted as an officer, then?

HL Oh, yes.

INT Oh, you were the second lieutenant when you signed on. I see. What was your job at Mitchell Field?

HL Communication, aviation communication officer.

INT Because of your radio experience? How long were you there?

HL One year.

INT And then?

HL An interesting thing happened. The day we were to be shipped out we were all given gloves and white cloths and long coats I was standing in the lines and someone ran up with this message which was a special letter from Washington. It was a transfer from there to Hawaii and I told the rest of the officers that I got it. (laughter)

INT They were envious?

HL Ah, yes.

INT Had you put in a transfer to Hawaii?

HL I wanted to come back before I went overseas and this came in the nick of time.

INT Where were you going at the time?

HL At the time we didn't know. It was all secret orders. There was food lockers on board and later we found where they went. They were shipped to Iceland.

INT Iceland. No wonder they were envious, Henry.

[510] END OF SIDE A

SIDE B  
[000]

HL And I got back here August, 1941.

INT So, Pearl Harbor is still [four] months away at that time. And what do you remember about that experience? You came across the United States on a train and came. . .

HL No. I bought a car and drove all the way across and sold the car and. . .

INT Came by ship?

HL Military ship.

- INT Was there anyone here to meet you when you landed in Honolulu?
- HL No, I came back here and reported to the--it was a matter of courtesy to report to the base commander, see. When I went to pay my courtesy call, he was listening to a short wave radio, see. He said, "Son, will you wait a minute until we finish listening to this short wave broadcast?" We were listening to a broadcast from Japan, see? And as soon as he got through listening he said, "What do you think, son?" I said, "We'll be in a war soon". He said, "That's right". So, we anticipated war. But one or two weeks before the attack I told my men to shape up, not because we were so far away from the enemy we wouldn't be attacked. So Saturday, the day before the attack, we were searching for a radio station site and I had pointed to a site and they said, "Where do you want your site?" And I said, "Put it right into that hill". I got a laugh from the colonel, except my commanding officer remained silent. He said, "Where shall we build it. [The colonel] said, "Down at Barber's Point". When we got down there he said, "This is the place to build it". And so I got mad and I said, "You put a radio station here and it will be blown to bits". (laughs) And this was Saturday.
- INT December 6, 1941. Fortunately, they did not have time to put the radio station there by the time the attack occurred.
- HL But we were making preparations before that. Some laughed at us--the idea that Japan would attack us.
- INT Where were you on December 7?
- HL I was home getting ready to go to Sunday School.
- INT Where's home? On the base?
- HL Hickem Field. While I was dressing I heard this explosion boom! And there was a metallic screech. So I looked through my window and there was a big gashing hole on the hangar, see. So, I knew there was an attack. And a strange thing when I ran down stairs, officer's wives--I did not know where they came from--all direction--came running to my quarters. I don't know why. I guess they watch you going to church and in time of crisis they turn to you. They said, "What shall we do?" I said, "Get out of that staircase". And they all filed off the staircase. Then I got a guy off the street and then Mrs. Taylor, Captain Taylor's wife--I said, "Where's Captain Taylor?" She said, "I don't care. His father sold scrap metal to Japan". And so she proceeded me right in from of my car, And then there's a Japanese Zero fighter, or whatever it is, came strafing and hit her car and I thought they were killed. And so, I kept driving past. When I passed a little farther, she and her daughter stood in the middle of the

lawn. I guess they were frightened. And just then, as I turned my car the colonel came in pulling his clothes out. "Is this the real McCoy?". I said, "Yes, sir". Then I dashed through the nursery and went to the radio station and got my men under control, and we could see the pilot, you know; when we're at the radio station we could see the pilot and one of my boys was shooting at him with pistols.

INT  
[100]  
HL

They were shooting at the airplane with pistols?

(laughter) And I told them to stop, but they would not listen. I threw a handful of pebbles and stopped it. He dashed and put his head underneath the steps, at the same time I dove underneath a truck. And there was a sergeant and both of us were underneath. My heart was beating and I could almost feel my heart in my throat. And I said, "Cross your fingers", and we crossed out fingers and funniest thing, I said, "Father, help me". That's all I said in my prayer [was] "Father, help me". And there was a ringing sound, the same sound that you hear in the Sacred Grove [Palmyra, New York] ringing in my ears and all fear disappeared and I was able to get out and control my men. At the end of the war after the hearing, after the court martial [sic. war trials] in Japan, we found what we wanted to know was our target designation and our radio station had been circled "one", first priority.

INT

They hadn't destroyed it though?

HL

They failed to bomb it. They wanted to bomb. . . Communications, fuel and transporation, aviation. They struck Hickem Field before they struck Pearl Harbor. Something I can't understand, too. Thursday we were going to town and as I was going down and Lieutenant Bark[?] was my neighbor and said, "Where are you going?". "I'm going to town," I said. "Forget it", he said. I said, "What's the matter?". He said, "We're on a triple alert". I said, "Since when?" He said, "Since one o'clock today." So I went down to the radio station and told the men to warn the ordnance [depot], get the machine guns, and bring everything else ready, set up the sandbags and we got it all ready for action.

INT

That was three days, four days before Pearl Harbor.

HL

Then, one o'clock Saturday they said, the alert's off; turn your guns in and all the heavy arms were turned back in. All we had were rifles. It would have made a difference. And the Navy did the same thing. Navy had all the big guns all ready; ammunition in place; alerts called off on Saturday. They took the ammunition down in storage. One more day. . .

INT

What did you do during the war, Henry? Did you stay at Hickem?

- HL That was my home base and my job was to set up a radio station and when that happened they said, "Henry, build your radio stations under the ground". And so I got several million dollars to build at least two big radio stations.
- INT Henry, another question occurs to me as you're talking about the war. A number of people think that the Nisei should be given reparations for the way they were treated. You remember, of course much better than I, who was only a baby at the time, that the Japanese were rounded up here in Hawaii and taken to detention camps. Do you feel, Henry, looking back on it now, that that action was justified?
- HL I think so because there were some evidences of sabotage and spying involved. I wasn't too involved in that thing. The only thing, we captured all the ham stations from the Japanese people [indistinguishable]. I went down and begged them, they wouldn't let me have. So I drove a truck in there and loaded the truck up and took six or eight transmitters (laughter).
- INT So you feel that under those war-time conditions that kind of action was justified?
- HL [200] Oh, yes, because there were agents there working. I know even in my youth, when I was in Maui. This guy, particular guy, would come along and demand money and military supplies and people, the Japanese, did not want to buck it so they would contribute to ward [undistinguishable].
- INT And the money was going back to Japan to build their military force. That was in Maui?
- HL That was for years.
- INT Now, so do you remember, Henry, we got right down here at our place called the "Bathtub", there's a pillbox down there. We see in these mountains, Tanaka's Store, across from the store, and all the way to Honolulu many gun emplacements. Were those gun emplacements built after the Pearl Harbor attack?
- HL Oh yes. They were the days. Since I had checked with Brother Parker. I said, "Do you think they're gonna attack us?". He said, "They will try but they won't succeed; we have the temple here". Then we had this Midway battle and that turned the tide.
- INT Who was Brother Parker?
- HL He was a patriarch, Arthur Parker, in Kalihi.
- INT Now, were you married yet, Henry?

HL Yes.

INT At this time you had gotten married. Who did you marry?

HL I married this Jessie, a girl from Salt Lake.

INT Jessie was her last name? What was her maiden name?

HL Jessie Higbee.

INT Jessie Higbee. And you had children by this time. When were you married, what year?

HL 1939, I think.

INT While you were in Salt Lake or while you were in New York? An LDS girl? Were you married in the Salt Lake Temple?

HL Salt Lake temple.

INT And she had been reared in Salt Lake, Jessie Higbee, and you met her in New York. She had been reared in the Church. Did you have any children during the war?

HL No.

INT Did you have any children by that wife?

HL No.

INT No children. And so you remained throughout the war at Hickem Field and then peace was declared, I guess, with Japan in August of 1945, and you were living on the base at the time.

HL No, I was in San Francisco.

INT What were you doing there?

HL I used to go back and forth. Sometimes I was in Australia, sometimes in Washington D.C., all over the Pacific. I was a real gipsy. My job was to help guide aviation. I was in the army air waves radio communication system. We put radio stations in different islands and atolls all over the Pacific.

INT Do you remember, Henry, when the Air Force became separate from the army? It used to be the Air Corps.

HL When I got in it was the Army Air Corps.

INT I see.

HL Finally, during the war it changed to the Air Force.



INT And you went with the Air Force?

HL Yes.

INT And so you're in San Francisco when peace with Japan was declared and you were there on military assignment? Where were you in San Francisco?

HL Right in San Francisco.

INT So, soon you returned to Honolulu, by boat or flying?

HL Military aircraft.

INT Were you still planning to make a career in the military?

HL I got to a point in the war when I'd had enough, enough. I wanted to get out.

INT Had you been out to Laie much during those five or six years that you were in Honolulu?

HL Just when I came to the temple.

INT How often did you come out, would you say? Can you remember?

HL Once a month.

INT Once a month to the temple. Temple looks pretty different then, or about the same as it does now?

HL Small, and it did not have the wings on the side.

INT It did not have the wings. Was Castle Murphy the president?

HL No, Belliston, or . . .It wasn't Castle Murphy.

INT Were the sessions held as regularly as they are now?

HL No. It was difficult when you can only take one session. They had the slow system.

INT Because they were all live sessions then. Could they accomodate sixty or eighty people at one session then as they did before the temple was remodeled?

HL The maximum would be about eighty because we squeezed the chairs in the aisles. It used to be crowded, with the servicemen coming back.

INT Was the chapel then in Laie, the one that still stands beside the temple over there? Was that the building then, do you remember?

HL I think at that time, I remember, they were trying to raise money--I'm kind of vague--they were in the process of building and Bishop [Poe] Kekauoha was the bishop. They were raising money to build a chapel see, during the war.

INT Not the Bishop [Willard] Kehauoha that lives across the street from you here?

HL No.

INT I think he is from Kauai.

HL Kauai.

INT Where did he live in Laie, that Bishop Kekauoha?

HL Right where Sister Mahiai--right directly back of Sister Mahiai's, you know Mahiai's [undistinguishable] Moana Street and Lanihuli Street. There used to be a poi factory. . .

INT There used to be a poi factory. That was Willard Kekauoha's father then. [sic. Bishop Poi Kekauoha was the father of James Kekauoha of Honolulu. Bella Lin Ke'e, Rohab Au, and Gloria Kamae of Laie, and Ruby Enos of Hauula. Willard's father, George was a nephew of Poi.] Were you an elder then?

HL Yes, I was an elder.

INT And then what did you do after the war? What kind of work, 1946?

HL After the war, 1946, I worked at Pearl Harbor.

[300]

INT As a civilian.

HL Civilian yes. Later on I worked as assistant manager, hotel manager of the New Niunalu Hotel.

INT Well, you got right out of the radio work then?

HL No, after Pearl Harbor I was in radio, handling communication supplies, teletype equipment.

INT And when you went to work for the hotel, you left the radio business? Did you ever return to it, radio business?

HL Oh yes. And then Kaiser bought the New Niunalu Hotel and so in that direction we stepped out. And when TV came and I went into the TV business, put in cable television in Aina Haina. After I put the first satellite, the FCC didn't know what a satellite was. (laughs) I designed the satellite. It was quite an issue. I put a translator upon a hill, picked up radio stations, retransferred the signal

back into town.

INT When would that have been, Henry, would you say?

HL 1953 I came out here.

INT Now, was your first wife still alive at that time?

HL Yes. I had been divorced.

INT I see. So, you divorced when?

HL 1947.

INT 1947. Two years after the war. Did she return to the mainland then?

HL Yes, to the mainland.

INT This maybe a sensitive issue to ask you about. Would you say that the difficulties of marriage had anything to do with the inter-cultural aspect of it? The fact that you were a Hawaiian and she was reared in Salt Lake City, or was it other things?

HL [undistinguishable] We were stubborn in our ways.

INT I can relate to that. You have been married twice then and so you had not met Lily yet?

HL Oh, I knew her.

INT You had known her. Well, she did not live in Laie, though. She was from Maui. Her maiden name was. . .

HL Wilson.

INT Oh, Wilson. She is part-haole?

HL About half.

INT That's a Caucasian name. After you left the hotel, you returned to radio work again and satellite work, you said. You said satellite station, satellite relay station. And what ward would you have belonged to then?

HL Kaimuki.

INT And when did you marry Lily Wilson?

HL In 1953, near 1953.

INT She had been married?

HL Yes.

INT So, Emi and two other girls, Elizabeth and Linda, were those daughters, your daughters by Lily? Did she have any children of her own that she brought to the marriage?

HL Yes, Frank Kalama.

INT Oh, I did not know that. I lived here seven years and I never knew that. Then, of course, Elizabeth was your first child?

HL Born in 1956.

INT And you were active in the Church during that time?

HL Yes, bishop's councilor in the Kaimulki ward.

INT Who was the bishop?

HL Bishop Horner.

INT Bishop Horner. And you were still working in the radio business, and how long did you live there in Kaimulki?

HL From 1953 until--wait, not too long, about two years.

INT Then you moved where?

HL We moved here to Laie.

INT In what year?

HL 1954.

INT What do you remember about then?

HL Things were slow. I know we used to come to the temple because President Bowring used to beg us. He'd say, "Why don't you come to Laie?".

INT President Bowring. To live? He meant to support the temple works?

HL Temple works and the school. The school was being built and we hesitated, hesitated. . . .

INT You mean the college. . . .

HL And so, when we came here, we had the bare necessities then.

INT Was it dirt roads here or was there a paved road in Laie?

HL Paved road, with a lot of pocket holes in it.

INT You came out through the Pali in those days? Because the

Wilson tunnel might not have been built then.

HL I'm not quite sure. I know we came over the Pali.

INT And Laie was much smaller than it is now.

HL Population-wise, was small.

INT And much of Laie in that day, Henry--correct me if I am wrong--would have been on this side of Kulanui, on the Kahuku side of Kulanui, because most of that is new over there [on makai side of Kulanui].

HL The streets weren't laid out then. When we came here we finally organized a community association. We finally determined the streets, and had plans laid out.

INT Oh, there was no Moana Street at all, then, or Iosepa? Some of the old ones maybe, like Lanihuli or. . .

HL Wahinepee.

INT Wahinepee? When you came, Henry, was there anything left of the sugar-mill that used to be here?

HL No.

INT Do you have any idea where the sugar-mill might have been?

HL Between the sewer plant and the girls. . .

INT Married student housing?

HL Yes.

INT Is that where it was, Henry? Was anything left at all or was it totally gone by then, even the ruins of it?

HL Totally gone. I was fortunate; I went to Salt Lake City--do not remember what year it was--I met Brother Gardner [phone rings]. Brother Gardner was called by Brigham Young and somebody to come out here and help with the sugar industry.

[400]

INT So, how do you know, how would you know--if there wasn't anything left--how would you know where the sugar-mill had been located?

HL Brother Gardner had shown me pictures of it and the railroad track and some of the early workers, and when they hauled cane by hand.

INT Before I forget, Henry, I have read in some missionary journals of the 1870's and 1880s about Crater Valley. They built a bowery in Crater Valley to have church meetings in. Do you have any idea where Crater Valley might have been in

Laie?

HL No.

INT Okay, but the mill was back there and Brother Gardener showed you pictures of it. I wonder if there are any pictures of that place still around.

HL He turned his diary and things like that to the Church Historians Office.

INT Maybe when the Church Historian comes over for our conference in August 1 and 2, he'll have some of those with him. I'd be interested to see those. [He is referring to the first annual conference of the Mormon Pacific Historical Society at which Church Historian Leonard Arrington was the featured speaker.] Did you ever ride that railroad?

HL No.

INT It was all gone by the time you moved out here?

HL We saw traces of the tracks past the Goo Store.

INT Past the Goo Store?

HL Yes, and went on right down the street.

INT What is that street? The one that goes toward the ocean?

HL Naniloa.

INT Oh, Naniloa Loop?

HL Ran out to the sugar-mill and also went all the way down to Kahana.

INT Kahana. Were there still quite a few Mormons living in Kahana, do you think, in those days?

HL No, gone. I mean there were Saints but the branch was moved out by then.

INT And where the village shopping center, for example, is today there was nothing then except canes maybe or . . .

HL No, just the wild, just trees.

INT Not cultivated at all. What was growing on this property where we are now? Would that have been under cultivation in those days, do you think?

HL There were a lot of taro patches in this area. Some say there were rice, but I did not see the rice, just the taro patches. There was a camp here, Filipino camp.

INT Was there? Right about where we are at this moment?

HL Yes, somewhere down in this vicinity.

INT I wonder if Tanaka would have been a part of that? No, he is Japanese.

HL Brother Wayas and a few others.

INT Brother Wayas would have been part of that group? Wayne's father and Aurelio's?

HL Yes. That area was the Filipino camp, plantation camp.

INT Where did you live then, Henry, when you moved out? Where was your house?

HL Where Brother Ah Quinn's house is located, Bishop [Joe] Ah Quinn [55-619 Naniloa Loop]. It was an old shack there and the fire burnt it down. Finally, we rebuilt it and it was sold to a Samoan and then it burned down again.

INT What kind of work were you doing then, Henry?

HL When I came here I started teaching. I was teaching with Brother [Ernest C.] Jeppson.

INT At what school?

HL The University.

INT Right there at the college, then. You started there the first year it was built?

HL Part-time teaching. I taught radio and refrigeration.

INT What was Lily doing?

HL Lily was secretary to President [Reuben D.] Law.

INT What do you remember about those days, anything of particular interest or note?

HL Oh, they pulled a couple of army shacks to have class-rooms and library and then we had a flood; the water was right up to the floor.

INT Would the water have come out of a stream, Henry?

HL No, the stream wasn't kept clean, so it blocked, and so the water spilled over.

- INT The water over here by Matsuda's [Laiewai Stream]?
- HL Right, that got clogged up. This was under water you could sail a boat all over Laie (laughter).
- INT Because the stream overflowed its banks in those days. Was there anyone living in those days up on the egg farm road?
- HL No.
- INT That was not even developed then? Were the people living at Laie Maloo in those days?
- HL A few.
- INT Henry, down there by Laie Maloo, across the street, near where that stream empties out at Laie Maloo, there were some pier posts going out into the water. What was there? Was anything there when you were here?
- HL No, but Brother [Ralph E.] Woolly used to tell us that when they were building the temple they needed a landing place and so they tried to bring in some supplies by that means and also ship some sugar.
- INT So, there was a wharf there, then? But you don't remember. It must have been long before the fifties. And yet those pilings are still there. Remarkable.
- HL There's a natural channel there.
- INT Were there any other dock facilities any where in this neighborhood, the point, or any where around in those days?
- HL No, they talked about the Goat Island area. Brother Woolley needed lumber [when he was building the Hawaii Temple, 1917-1919] and he prayed and this captain came--was forced ashore and in order to get back out to sea he dumped his lumber. President Woolley got his lumber for the temple.
- INT Did the boat get stuck on the reef or something? A freighter you mean? Was it in the storm or something?
- HL No, he just miscalculated, I guess. He said he didn't know how he got out there. President Woolley had prayed hard for the lumber (laughter).
- INT And that was the lumber that was used to construct the temple?
- HL Yes, framing.
- INT That would have been back in 1918, 1919; sometime in there.



- HL Sister Woolley tells us the story. She told us in the assembly.
- INT Isn't that interesting. She came back from the assembly here at the college and told that story? Of course, it wouldn't have been held in the auditorium in those days; it would have been. . .
- HL No, no, she came back years later and she told the story in the auditorium.
- INT In the one that we have now? Isn't that interesting? Was it quite exciting to be involved in the building of a new school here?
- HL Oh, yes, Brother Jeppson and I and a few others used to go down to surplus property, haul our machinery, all kinds of things to equip the school.
- INT Did the hill, in those days, have the brown-red gashes in them that they have up behind here? It looks like erosion, with no vegetation at all. Was it like that even in those days?
- HL Oh, yes, even worse. The forestry people got after Clissold. They said, "You better plant those trees or else we'll cancel your conservation area." You don't have to pay taxes on conservation property. So Clissold got busy and planted some iron woods.
- INT [500] I know you're a big tree man yourself. You have been for a long time a voice in the wilderness crying for the planting of trees. Did that come from that time?
- HL Yes, I know we used to have friction with Marvin [Stone, Manager of Zions Securities since 1968] and I said, "Come on, let's plant the trees." He said, "Oh, you can't do that." I said, "That's conservation property that. I've talked to the conservation people. They're approved." The strange thing was when I went down to [Libert] Landgraf [of the Forestry Division, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources], he was relatd to my wife, so I just speak freely to him. "Oh, yes, I lived thirty years in that area as a forest ranger. There's ulu forest all over the place here and there and so forth." I said, "What do you think about planting more ulus?" He said, "How much do you want?" I said, "A few thousand." He said, "We will give you 50,000." And I said, "We'll prepare to plant and then we'll get the helicopter, military helicopter, and we'll drop from the sky,." So I came back all enthused and went to President Clissold, [President of Oahu Stake], I said, "I

talked to the people downtown and they said they're willing to help us propagate the mountains." He said, "Oh, no, you don't." Until today I don't know why.

INT That's hard to explain, isn't it? What made the hills like that, Henry?

HL Not planting. . .

[512] END OF INTERVIEW