

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Peter Martin, 79, retired lighthouse boat worker, streetcar and trolley conductor, and Pearl Harbor Shipyard worker

*"I was no troublemaker. But once in a while I used to get fights, though. The guys who used to pick on me, well, up and up. Before, I used to take up boxing, too, see? So, I know little about fighting. So, I used to take care of myself. But I'm not the kind bully guy go look for trouble or what. Well, most of the guys in Kalihi, they know me so they no bother."*

Peter Martin, Portuguese-Hawaiian, was born in Kalihi on June 29, 1905. His family owned a taro patch in the area behind the present Kalihi Union Church. As a youth, Peter was active in neighborhood sports and was a member of the Kalihi Thundering Herd barefoot football team in the 1920s. He attended Kālihi-Waena School and completed the tenth grade at McKinley High School.

Peter then began working as a sailor on an inter-island lighthouse boat, transporting gas tanks to different lighthouses.

In 1932, Peter secured a job as a streetcar and trolley conductor for Honolulu Rapid Transit. In 1941, he began painting and repairing ships at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

Peter retired in 1966. He lives in Waipahu with his wife.

Tape No. 11-31-1-84  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Peter Martin (PM)

January 26, 1984

Waipahu, Oahu

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. Peter Martin. Today is January 26, 1984, and we're at his home in Waipahu.

Okay, Mr. Martin, can you tell me, first of all, when you were born and where you were born?

PM: I was born June 29, 1905.

WN: And where were you born?

PM: In Kalihi, Honolulu, Oahu.

WN: What part of Kalihi?

PM: The center part. The center part of Kalihi which they call Kalihi Waena. And "waena" in Hawaiian means the center part. So, I was born and raised right in Kalihi.

WN: Where in Kalihi Waena exactly?

PM: It was near to that Yamane property in Kalihi, right in the back of this old Kalihi Union Church, which is still standing yet today.

WN: What did your father do?

PM: Oh, my father, he was a seaman. That's why he came to the Island. He got married to my mother. When I was a child, then we moved to the Mainland, went to live in Oakland. While I was in Oakland, my mother couldn't stand the weather, so they came back to Hawaii. So, they came back to Hawaii, then my father didn't want to live in Hawaii. He wanted to go back to Oakland. So, he told my mother that either she goes with him, or not, he's going to leave her. He left my mother. So, he went to Oakland by himself.

WN: Your father was local boy?

PM: No, he was a Portuguese. He was a seaman. He was born in Portugal. So, when he came down, worked on the boat, then he stayed in the Island. That's how he met my mother. Then he married my mother. So, he never did come back after that when he left my mother, when he went back to the Mainland in Oakland. So he died in Oakland. Few times there, he tried to get my mother to send me go to the Mainland to live with him, but my mother said, "No, no."

WN: How old were you when this happened?

PM: I was a little baby, yet. At that time.

WN: Did you have brothers and sisters?

PM: Yeah, I had. From the same father, I had one sister. Then, from different other fathers, then I had another sister and two brothers. So I lost one sister and one brother. So, now, living now, I have one sister and one brother living now, that's all.

WN: So, three of you?

PM: Just three of us now.

WN: Your mother, she was local born?

PM: Yeah, she was local born in the Island.

WN: Where is she from?

PM: She born and raised in Hawaii. In Honolulu. I had a grandmother. My grandmother was born in Molokai. So, my grandmother got married to a Portuguese, too.

WN: Your grandmother is Hawaiian?

PM: Hawaiian, yeah. So, she married a Portuguese. He was a sailor, too, (chuckles) before. In the old days, most of the Portuguese, they all come from the Mainland. Most of them, they was a seaman or something. That's how they came to the Island. Mostly all of them, they jump ships or somehow or another they stayed back, eh?

WN: Your last name is "Martin." Is that a Portuguese name?

PM: No. I tell you. My name supposed to end with s. But as we go along, somehow, the family, they drop the s.

WN: Martins?

PM: Supposed to be Martins. End with s. Somebody contacted me and told me that I had an uncle in Oakland. So, at one time, I went to Oakland. I visited him. Then I found out that my name supposed to end in s. Martins. But was too late already. Can't change 'em, eh? (Chuckles)

WN: Did your mother do any kind work?

PM: Yeah, my mother, she used to work in the cannery--pineapple cannery. The oldest cannery they had before used to be in Kalihi. Used to be the Thomas Pineapple Cannery.

WN: Where exactly was that?

PM: Oh, in Kalihi Kai, they call it. Yeah, at that time, they used to work cheap wages. Six cents, seven cents an hour, way back. Then, later on, then she works in a laundry. Then she went work Fort Armstrong laundry. They had a laundry. And probably from over there, I think she retired, or she quit her job, or too old or something.

WN: She raised you folks by herself . . .

PM: Yeah.

WN: . . . or did she remarry soon?

PM: No. Quite a while before she got married again, you see.

WN: The house that you lived in behind Kalihi Union Church, was it a big house?

PM: Yeah, was a big house. We had about one, two, three--about four bedrooms. Then, alongside of that, we had another extra cottage. Right next. That was an old property we used to own. Big property there. In the back, we used to raise taro. We had a taro patch and all that we owned.

WN: Oh, yeah? How big was the patch?

PM: Oh, I'd say maybe about one or two acres, I think. That was right next to that church. Kalihi Union used to own a park. Had a park in the back of there, see? Yeah, we used to raise taro. And after school--we used to go to grammar school--soon come home, right in the taro patch. (Chuckles) When we were kids, eh?

WN: What kind work you had to do in the taro patch?

PM: Well, we go there to clean the taro patch or at times there, we go pull taros, eh? You know, to make poi. Cook taro or make poi. Those days, we used to pound our own poi, too. Way back, the old Hawaiians, that's what they used to do.

WN: This was wetland taro?

PM: Yeah, wetland taro.

WN: Where did you get the water from?

PM: Right here we had a river. We had a stream running right alongside our place. So, we didn't have to worry about water.

WN: Was that Kalihi Stream?

PM: No. Kalihi Stream was this. . . . Maybe a branch of Kalihi Stream. Was a branch of Kalihi Stream.

WN: So, that taro patch was owned by your family?

PM: Yeah, was owned by our family and all that.

WN: Who was in charge of the . . .

PM: My mother and one of my aunties. And somehow or another--I think at the time when my mother took me and went to the Mainland when I was small little baby that time--I don't know, the family got into debt or what, so my auntie sold the property in the back. Big property, too. That's where we used to raise the taro and all that. So, when my mother came back home, my mother was angry with her for selling the property and all that.

WN: How old were you when you folks gave up the taro patch?

PM: Oh, when we sold only the taro patch, you mean. Not the whole property, eh?

WN: Yeah, the taro patch.

PM: Oh, shucks. I think I was. . . . Oh, I was really small then. About seven or eight years old at that time. When they sold the taro patch--no, I was bigger. I was about ten or eleven. About ten or eleven, yeah. Excuse me. Yeah, because I remember I used to work in the taro patch myself, too, see?

WN: How you felt about working in the taro patch?

PM: That time, during those years when we were kids, I don't know, just like we didn't mind, you know. (Chuckles) Just like we're playing. And you figure, well, you got to survive. You got to do something, us kids, eh? And our grandfather, he was a strict man, too. He's a small Portuguese, but, oh, (chuckles) with a whip right in the back of you, boy.

WN: Oh, yeah?

PM: Yeah. The old Portuguese, before, they really strict. They get after you. I had a friend, you know, and he was one of the football players. He used to play hookey and all that when we used to go to school. So, the father found out about that, the father put a halter around his neck and walk 'em to school with a horsewhip. Make 'em go to Kalihi-Waena School. See how strict, those days, eh? I just

want to tell his name--Peter Richard.

WN: Peter Richard?

PM: Mm hmm. (Chuckles) And his father was short Portuguese, too. But they were a well-to-do family. They had big area, too, you know. They had taro patches and all that, too. They had bigger taro patches than we had. They used to own lot of property.

WN: This is the area where Richard Lane is now?

PM: Yeah, that's the one. Named after. Richard Lane.

WN: So, over there had taro patches, too, eh?

PM: Yeah. Taro patches. All the way alongside the stream, going up. And some, they used to raise taro right in the stream, too. The stream coming down, eh, Kalihi Stream. Only, when they get flood, it wipe out everything they have.

WN: That happened to you folks?

PM: No, not to us, but to the people who live close to the stream. Us, little further in, you see? So, not too bad. That's how this Richard, they got wipe out one time.

WN: So, the area where Richard Lane is and near KPT [Kuhio Park Terrace] like that was lot of taro patches?

PM: Yeah, before. Way back before.

WN: And in your area, behind Kalihi Union Church, was there other . . .

PM: Taro patch? Yeah. That one belong to us, too. Before, maybe Kalihi was little all taro patch before. You know, going up Gulick Avenue, all on the right hand side going up, all almost taro patch land before. Yeah, way back.

WN: You mean, across from Kalihi-Waena School?

PM: Yeah. All taro patch land.

WN: Who owned the taro patches mostly? The Chinese?

PM: No. Before, mostly Portuguese live in Kalihi. Way back before. You know how they settle? One Portuguese settle. When another one come, they stay close to one another. Just like in Kalihi Kai before, all Portuguese. Say, like Punchbowl, all Portuguese. That's how it was before.

WN: These taro patches, what you did with the taro? Was it for home use?

PM: Yeah, home use. Home use. Very few people sell taro those days, because they use 'em for their own self. Because lot of people used to raise taro, and the neighbors used to give one another taro. They help themselves. They make poi, or cook taro, or whatnot.

WN: So, you and your brothers worked out in the taro patch?

PM: Yeah.

WN: Did you have any hired help or anything like that?

PM: No, no hired help. We did it ourself. Usually, my aunties--all my aunties before, they all work in the taro patch, too. All the family--it's a family job.

WN: Did you get paid at all for working?

PM: No, we don't get paid.

(Laughter)

PM: That's for your survival. (Laughs)

WN: What you did with the taro besides poi?

PM: Well, we cook it. Some, you know, we cook it. They can steam 'em. Some, they steam 'em or sometimes, you fry 'em. You can fry 'em after you steam 'em. That's what we usually do. Now days, they make potato chips out of that now. We have a friend, belong our senior citizen, Chinese. He made potato chips out of that. He made good potato chips, taro.

WN: Chee, must have been dirty, working out there?

PM: Oh, yeah. But it was all right. When you get bigger and bigger, well then, you get lazy, I guess. Then you don't want to go in the taro patch. That's how this young generation now days, eh? Now days, you hardly see taro patches. Yeah, like in Kauai, too. Kauai, I think that's only place that raise most taro now.

WN: Maybe Big Island someplace . . .

PM: Princeville. Hanalei [Kauai].

WN: The area that you grew up, had the taro patch. Was there any other kind of things growing in the area besides taro?

PM: Yeah, we used to plant vegetables, too. Certain part, we plant vegetables. Close to the house, we plant vegetables; and further up, all the rest, that was taro patch.

WN: What kind vegetables?

- PM: All kind. Lettuce, onions. Mostly onions. Leaf onions. Tomatoes. And something else, too. I forgot what was. I know tomato and leaf onion, though. That's what the majority of the stuff was we used to plant.
- WN: Did you folks have any livestock? Or fowl?
- PM: We didn't have no livestock. The only thing we had, we had one horse. One horse, one goat. (Chuckles) And we had dogs. Maybe couple of dogs.
- WN: What was the goat for?
- PM: Well, we had 'em first for milk. Milk and all that. One of the cousins, one of the girls, we used to make little carts. You know, make carts. You know da kine four-wheel carts and all that? So, she used to tie the goat (chuckles) to the cart to pull her, you know. Oh, my grandfather caught her, boy, oh, the licking she had, boy. (Laughs) For using the goat, eh? (Laughs)
- WN: What else you folks did to have good time when you were young?
- PM: Afterwards, when they had that--right in the back Kalihi Union-- then they build that park over there. Then we used to go over there and play different type of games and all that. Was close. Our house here and the park was right next, see? That's why we used to go there and play basketball, volleyball, football, softball, those days. We used to play fourteen-inch before. Big softball, eh?
- WN: Do you know about how old you were when the park came up?
- PM: That park? Shee, I think I was about thirteen. About thirteen years, think. Thirteen or fourteen. Sometime around that, they build. The church was built already. Then later on, they build a park in the back. Then, they build that little shed in the park where they had games to get together for kids and all that. They had a woman. She was just like a playground director there. Was a haole woman. Oh, she was really nice. I never forget her name. Her name was Mrs. Peterson.
- WN: Peterson?
- PM: Yeah. Way back.
- (Noise in background.)
- WN: That neighborhood, what nationality was it mostly?
- PM: Portuguese and Japanese. Chinese. Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese. That's where the Fongs. The Fongs was there. [Former United States Senator] Hiram Fong like that.



WN: Oh, they were in that neighborhood?

PM: Yeah.

WN: Had Hawaiians, too?

PM: Hawaiians. Not too much Hawaiians, though. Mostly Portuguese or the mixture, Hawaiian-Portuguese. That's how had the Richards one side, then the Martins, and the Phillipps. Kalihi Kai over there had the Timus.

WN: How you spell that?

PM: T-I-M-U-S. Timus. Had the Cardozas.

WN: You folks used to play sports together?

PM: Yeah. Then they build a gym next to the church, eh? The Kalihi gym. I used to play softball in the gym.

WN: In the gym?

PM: Yeah. They call it Kalihi Union Gym. Yeah, we play softball in the gym. Not only us. Kakaako had a gym, too. And one other place had a gym. So, we used to go out and play. Play against Kakaako. And had this other gym. I think was School Street someplace before. And every time, end up with a fight.

(Laughter)

PM: Oh, shucks. Yeah, Kakaako had a good team. They had George Kane. He was a good pitcher. They had good volleyball team. Kakaako, they had good players those days. Good volleyball players.

WN: When you played Kakaako, like that, who organized the league?

PM: I think was the city. I think was a church, or city, or something, I don't know. So, we get together, like us, was Kalihi Union. We call our gym, Kalihi Union. The church, next, was Kalihi Union. So, we call it Kalihi Union team, because Kalihi Union Gym, eh? Then, we have softball. We had good pitchers before. One of the best in the Island--this guy, Arthur Parker. But those days, the gym was small, so we have to play with a seventeen-inch softball. Because the gym is small, eh?

WN: How come you couldn't play outside?

PM: I don't know. They make this one in the gym. They had outside, but fourteen inch, eh? But to play in the gym was seventeen inch. Oh, and hit the ceiling, (chuckles) all over. But no sliding. In the gym, you don't slide.

WN: What if hit the roof, what?

PM: Ball in play.

WN: Ball (chuckles) in play? So, hit the roof and you catch, what?

PM: Well, it's still in play, yet. Yeah, but this pitcher, Arthur Parker, he was one of the best, before.

WN: What's that? Fast pitch or what?

PM: Fast pitch. But like him, he get change of pace and all that. That's why, throw you off, eh? Because small and short, the distance. That's where I started to learn how to play softball.

WN: Did you folks play other teams within Kalihi, like Kalihi Uka? Or was just one team?

PM: No, well, they played Kalihi Uka, or like that. Different leagues, we play outside leagues. See, we go outside and play, you know, before. But other teams, well, I belong to other clubs, maybe, then I play different leagues. Only, I forget what league they call this already, before. Oh, the City-Wide League. Oh then, maybe you get to meet the Kalihi teams. Maybe Kalihi Uka, like that, you know. In the league. Because go by areas. So, then I used to play for that Kalihi Thundering Herd group. Softball, eh? That time we used to play, was fourteen inch. The twelve inch came way later. It came in, I think, the '30s.

WN: Twelve inch?

PM: Twelve inch. Because the Mainland was playing twelve inch already, see? Then, finally, down here, they took over twelve inch. Because when I was playing for HRT [Honolulu Rapid Transit], we were the champion, fourteen inch.

WN: This is in the '30s, eh?

PM: Yeah. Then, for three years in a row, the Commercial League, HRT won. So, this Hawaiian Pine, they say, "Well, we better change 'em to twelve inch." (Chuckles) Twelve inch. So then, we started to play twelve inch, and we still won. We still won the championship, twelve inch.

WN: You mentioned the Thundering Herd gang. Was the gang living all in one area or the gang came from all over the place?

PM: All over. Was all over. That includes later years, because then we have some Palama boys came join our team. That's how we had this Tom Hugo. Alec McKee. Bill Flazer, the punter.

WN: They from Palama?

PM: Yeah. They came join Kalihi that time.

WN: Palama didn't have a team?

PM: They had, but somehow, they break away, eh?

WN: So, you were a member of the first Kalihi Thundering Herd football team . . .

PM: Yeah.

WN: . . . in 1922?

PM: Twenty-two, wasn't that time. . . . Yeah, was Thundering Herd. But wasn't organized. Oh, it was organized. But we played for different area. The '22 was playing for that Kalihi Kai. I've gone through the records, you see? The following year, then we came up to Kalihi Waena.

WN: Where did you practice?

PM: We practice at that Kalihi-Waena park. They have a small, little park there.

WN: Was it the Fernandez Park?

PM: Yeah, Fernandez. You practice. Bumbai, later on, we go practice up Kam Field. You know, Kamehameha Field? Because the park was too small over there. We breaking windows, eh?

WN: Who was your first coach?

PM: Our first coach, football?

WN: Mm [yes].

PM: We had Benny Waimau. I think one of the pictures in there was his picture. (Chuckles) I never notice that till today. Bumbai, later on, I saw it. [PM examines photograph of Kalihi Thundering Herd.] Ey, how come no more our coach picture? (Laughs) We never put his name down, yeah?

WN: No, no. What about Manuel DeCorte? Was he the coach?

PM: No, he was just a manager.

WN: He organized you guys?

PM: Yeah, he's just the manager.

WN: So, the Kalihi Thundering Herd, who did you folks play? Who was in the league?

PM: We get Hui 'Eleus, that's from School Street. We have the Kakaako. We had the Olympics from Punchbowl. They call the "Olympics" from Punchbowl. (Pause) Yeah, that's all. We started with that. Bumbai, later on, we had different other teams came in later years. We had one team, the Forty-niners. Oh, what were some other names of . . .

WN: Had one team, Atkinson.

PM: Atkinson, Pawaa. . . . Then, other teams came in.

WN: Where did you play your games?

PM: At first, we played, before, the old Moiliili Field. You know, the old Moiliili Field?

WN: Where the [Honolulu] Stadium . . .

PM: Yeah, it was there.

WN: Oh, across the street?

PM: Yeah, across the street.

WN: But still get Moiliili Field, yeah?

PM: Yeah, yeah. Then, later on, went to McKinley. You know McKinley Field, the old field?

WN: The old McKinley School?

PM: Yeah, yeah. Played there. Then, you know Makiki Field up Makiki? The field where they play softball and all that?

WN: Oh, yeah, yeah.

PM: That's all. In later years, then we finally went to the stadium. We played in the stadium.

WN: What kind of guys was on the Thundering Herd? I mean, you folks all knew each other before?

PM: Yeah, most. Majority of them. Majority was all within Kalihi, you see. And most of the people, we know. Like us, from about first time we started playing--you know, from the Kalihi Kai team--that's how we get to know the people. So, when the following year when we moved up to Kalihi-Waena, then we have addition, new people that came, joined the club, and all that. Made our team stronger.

WN: Did you play for the Kalihi-Waena grammar school football?

PM: No, no.

WN: They had a team, though, yeah?

PM: Yeah. They had a team. All I played for them was softball.

WN: What position you played, football?

PM: I play end. Most all, end. Play end.

WN: You told me once that you quit for one year, Thundering Herd?

PM: Yeah. Thundering Herd.

WN: How come?

PM: Play for Hui 'Eleu. (Chuckles) We had a little disagreement. Me and my partner, Peter Richard. Then, we play Hui 'Eleu one year. Next year, oh, them guys, they all came after me and Peter Richard. Tell, "You fella better come back." (Chuckles) Because we gave 'em bad time for the championship, eh? So, we came back.

(Laughter)

WN: Hui 'Eleu was where?

PM: School Street.

WN: School Street gang?

PM: Yeah. School Street. They used to practice, what? I forget what field. That school going. . . .

WN: Kapalama School?

PM: (Pause) Somewheres up there. So long ago, I forget what field. I know was one school. I forget where was already, though.

WN: Further down from Kam Shopping Center?

PM: I forget already. I know was one school up there.

WN: Kauluwela School?

PM: That's the one. Kauluwela, yeah.

WN: Around there?

PM: That's where we used to go practice. Yeah, Kauluwela School. Shee, so long I never hear the name, boy.

(Laughter)

WN: The school is still there.

PM: Yeah, Kauluwela School. That's where we used to practice.

WN: So, you were on the Thundering Herd for about eight years till 1930, yeah?

PM: Yeah, about eight years.

WN: How come you quit?

PM: I quit because I went play barrel weight. I played barrel weight.

WN: What's that?

PM: One hundred seventy-five pounds. They organized the barrel weight. The year before I quit, they started that barrel weight.

WN: The limit before was what? One fifty?

PM: One fifty. That was the senior league, eh? Then they started barrel weight. Somebody organized the barrel weight. Then a country team won that year. The following year, then I joined this Kalihi Union. You know, Kalihi Union? Well, we organized our own team. And that year, we won championship. Then, the next year, I quit. Tough. At that time, I don't weigh 150 pounds, you know. I weigh 138. I think the highest I went was 140. But maybe through experience, that saved me from getting hurt, yeah? The only time I get hurt when they punch you, because this league rough league before, eh?

WN: They used to punch?

PM: Oh, punch and everything. Those days, no headgear. When we started, no shoulder pad, no headgear, no hip pad. The first couple of years. Wasn't organized, eh?

WN: You wore shoes?

PM: No, no shoes. All barefoot. That's why they call it a barefoot league. No shoes, no hip pad. Mostly, you see, they all wear sailor hat. Rough. (Chuckles) See guys with black eyes. How many guys, you see with black eyes, boy.

WN: Had referees?

PM: Yeah. Hard to catch them guys. Those guys, they old-timers. They know when to punch you. When big guy is down, eh? Especially when you good player, good runner. Like this Ben Ahakuelo and this Toots Harrison. Like Toots Harrison, he was a star for Kakaako, before. Oh, he was good. Good runner, too. Oh, that's the kind guys, they lay low for, eh? (Chuckles) Yeah, so when you coming down with the ball, about three guys going for you. (Chuckles)

WN: Who was the biggest rival?

PM: Mostly was us--Kalihi, and Kakaako. Two of us every time.

WN: How bad was it? Did you folks hate each other or what?

PM: One time we had a fight in the stadium. (Laughs)

WN: Honolulu Stadium?

PM: Yeah. (Chuckles) So, they want to throw us out of the league. The guy was running this Spalding League, so he told them guys, "Any time you throw out this Kalihi Thundering Herd, there will be no more barefoot league." (Chuckles) Because they figure that we the one draw the crowd and all that. I don't know why they blame us because most time, it's the Kakaako guys troublemakers.

(Laughter)

WN: You sure? (Laughs)

PM: Yeah. (Laughs) Lot of fun, though.

WN: What happens when you saw a Kakaako guy on the street or something? Would you folks fight?

PM: No, no. I never did get in trouble over there. No kidding. I get to know all of them, too. You know, from playing other sports beside only football. I played softball, I get to meet them. And we can sit down. Maybe someplace, we drinking, all da kine, talk stories, but no fight. And before, those days, way back, when you fight, you stand up and fight. No more the gang stuff. If he lick you, then you two guys shake hands. Pau, go your way. (Chuckles) Not later on. Not like now days. That's why, way back before, nearly every district, they had their own "bull," they call 'em--the head man, eh?

WN: Who was the head man in Kalihi?

PM: One time we had "Bighead" Kanai.

WN: How come you called him "Bighead"?

PM: I don't know. He used to have one big head or he swell head, or something. I don't know how they give him that name. (Chuckles) "Bighead" Kanai.

WN: Softball, like that, you used to fight, too?

PM: Softball? No, softball, not too bad because no more the contact. Because football, plenty contact, you know. Even the guy clipping you or what. Some, they clip you from behind. That's the worse kind because they can break your leg, you know, they clip you from in the back. Just so they can get rid of you, eh? Yeah.

WN: Did you folks play the whole game or you had substitutes?

PM: Had substitutes. But very seldom they play, though. (Chuckles) The subs, they get hard time play. Sometimes, they even grumble. They figure practice, practice and they don't play. Yeah, before, gee, them guys all conditioned. Practice, practice, eh? That's the only way. You got to get in condition because you going play in the regular game, boy, you going to get it. If you not in condition, boy, going be tough on you. Can't go inside there, (PM makes panting sounds). Them guys know you tired, more they give it to you.

WN: The referees were strict or . . .

PM: Oh, yeah. They have to because somebody might get killed or what. Especially with a big group like that, you see the referee right in there looking. But he don't get too close, (chuckles) he might get one, too.

WN: What about like half time? Did you folks go someplace or you just stayed out in the field or what?

PM: We stay out in the field. Half times, when we play in the stadium, sometimes we go under the bleachers. You know, when we play in the stadium, we go under the bleachers.

WN: At the stadium games, was that regular season game, or was that the post-season kind game?

PM: No. Ours? Regular-season game. The barefoot.

WN: How many people used to come out?

PM: Oh, plenty. Shee, plenty guys come watch the barefoot league. Sometimes, chee, we draw more than the school. (Chuckles) Before, we even want to challenge the schools.

WN: You ever challenge schools?

PM: No, never did. They didn't want. They figure the guys might get hurt, eh? Because we play too rough. The barefoot league too rough.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

PM: Yeah, we had this Peter "Sambo" Robero. He was really good, though. For our team. He can punt, he can run, he can pass. Oh, lot of teams, every time he run and make big yard gain. He cut on the side. The guys call 'em, "Ey, you yellow." They call 'em yellow and everything. Just because he run on the side, eh? Just so he



don't get contact. So they call him yellow. This Peter, he smart, yeah? Good passer. He was good passer. That's why, most of the games we win. Through his passing. Like Kakaako, they had good runners, but the guys, their halfback, that's all they do is run, run, run. Naturally, they going get tired with all the beating every time, eh? But like "Sambo," he's a good passer. He can run.

WN: You folks passed every down or what?

PM: No, all depend, all depend. If our running going good, well, we run the plays. Then, in between, then maybe we throw one pass for throw 'em off, eh? But we depend most on our passing because we get nice plays, our passing, and most usually we click. And we no go for too many long ones. Just the short ones. That's what pays off.

WN: How many times you won championship?

PM: I think four or five.

WN: When you were young, too, did you have any kind odd jobs to make extra money?

PM: No.

WN: You used to get into any kind mischief when you were small?

PM: All kind. I shoot crap and everything. No, I was no troublemaker. But once in a while I used to get fights, though. The guys who used to pick on me, well, up and up. Before, I used to take up boxing, too, see? So, I know little about fighting. So, I used to take care of myself. But I'm not the kind bully guy go look for trouble or what. Well, most of the guys in Kalihi, they know me so they no bother. Before in Kalihi, we used to get smoker every time, you know. Up that Fernandez Park, we use that. We used to get smoker over there. We hold smoker.

WN: You used to fight?

PM: Yeah. We get smoker. That's why, I was trying to think of one guy. He was boxer, too. Morse, his name Morse. He was in the Navy, see? When he came out of the Navy, that's how he came play football with us. He was fighting in the Navy. So, when he came out, I fought him. He was my weight, eh? Couple of pounds off maybe. So, I was trying to think of his first name. I couldn't think of his first name. And he used to live right in Kalihi, too. Morse.

WN: The smokers at Fernandez Park, they had a ring set up?

PM: We made a ring. (Chuckles) We made a ring.

WN: How you make a ring?

PM: We put the pegs, like that.

WN: And what, mattress?

PM: No, on the grass. (Chuckles) Just grass. You met Willie Phillips, eh? He's a good fighter, too. So, he fought this guy Peter Foster, the football player. Ah, he didn't want to hurt him, so he was taking it easy. End up Peter Foster knock him out. (Laughs)

WN: You had gloves?

PM: Yeah, gloves. With gloves. "See, Willie, you take it easy, take it easy, the guy out to knock you out. Why didn't you try your best?"

(Laughter)

PM: I said, "You will never make a fighter because you too softhearted." (Chuckles) Yeah, Phillips. He sickly now, yeah? Too bad.

WN: They used to have a Houston Arena in Kalihi?

PM: Yeah. Not Kalihi. They call it Kalihi, though, but to me, just like it's Palama. That's the cane field. They used to have cane field, before, over there.

WN: Oh, near where Kalakaua School is now?

PM: Yeah, little further away, I think.

WN: How big was that arena?

PM: Oh, big.

WN: I mean, you know, was like same size as Civic Auditorium?

PM: No, no. Civic Auditorium is bigger. But the ring is big and everything. It was a nice place, too. Yeah, Houston Arena. They had good fights there, too. Over there, that's where I was mentioning about the cane. They used to haul that cane over there. The train used to bring all the cane to this Aiea Mill, eh? Aiea Mill on this side.

WN: How big was that cane field?

PM: Oh, kinda big. I don't know how many acres. I know was big. That was a big place. Used to go across the street, too. Go up across King Street. Further up, too. Right by that river.

WN: Oh, the canal?

PM: Yeah, the canal.

WN: Kapalama Canal.

PM: Yeah. Two sides.

WN: Who organized those smokers in the park?

PM: Where? Which ones?

WN: You know, the smokers you had at Fernandez Park?

PM: Oh, like us, we get together. Oh, do you weigh so much, you weigh so much, and all challenge one another. That's all. (Chuckles)  
That's how the old days.

WN: You just fight or you had rounds?

PM: No, by rounds. But the most we go is about six rounds. Like maybe, the last fight like that, six rounds. Majority of fights is about three or four, that's all. But they don't make 'em too long. Then sometimes we get about seven, eight fights, boy. Bumbai, they like challenge back, eh? Challenge and rechallenge again. You think, "Confound it, I can beat that guy." (Chuckles)

WN: Had grownups over there or just you folks?

PM: Oh, yeah. Grownups. Oh, big guys like us.

WN: Had a referee, too?

PM: Referee. We get referee. You have to have referee. Yeah, that was good. I never thought about that for a long time. (Chuckles)

WN: What else do you remember, other kind sports in Kalihi?

PM: Chee, that's all I know.

WN: So, boxing, softball, football.

PM: That's all we had, mostly. We never play volleyball, though. We used to play softball, most times, Sundays or Saturdays. We get together, we play softball. You pick your team, I pick my team. We challenge, we bet. Just to make little friendly bet and all that. But we used the bigger ball. We used the fourteen inch. Because the park small, eh?

WN: Kalihi Union Church, were you a member of that church?

PM: No, I wasn't a member. But my two boys, when they was small, that's where they went kindergarten. Then, when they left there, we sent them to St. Anthony. Catholic school down Kalihi Kai. Then they went St. Louis. My two boys went St. Louis. Then, the sophomore year, my oldest son, he took the test for Kam School without us

knowing. He passed the test and everything, so we had a letter that he passed the test and everything, so all he need now is an oral test. Ho, when we got the letter we were surprised. And we didn't want him to go Kam School.

WN: Why?

PM: Because he's not the type. My youngest one, his hands, eh? When he was small, that's all he do. Make airplanes. You know airplanes? Fly. You know, go in the house, (PM makes buzzing sound). He's the type that he's always building something. But my oldest boy, he's always something different.

WN: How come you had to be good with your hands to go Kam School?

PM: Because they do things up there. You know what I mean? That's just like a trade school. It's a trade school. The following year, my youngest wen pull the same thing. (Chuckles) So, now, we couldn't stop him. The other one, we was trying to stop him. He said, "Daddy, I like go learn trade."

I said, "You not the type." (Chuckles)

He said, "But I still like go learn trade." So, we let him go. The following year, the youngest one, he pull the same thing. But that one, we couldn't say anything. Might as well let 'em go, too. So, the two of them graduated from Kam School. So, my oldest boy, when he graduate, he join the Coast Guard. He went into the Coast Guard. When he served his time, then he went to Oregon College of Education. My youngest one, when he graduate, he went in the Air Force. See, he wants to still stick with his plane, eh? Then, wait for him for graduate for send him go college. He didn't want to go college. He want to go join the Air Guard. He said, "I go Air Guard little while and make little money, then I go school." College, eh? He went Air Guard, he stick to Air Guard. He was making good money. He didn't want to go quit. So, he stayed in the Air Guard. The two boys, they don't give me no trouble. Stay in Kalihi. I tell 'em stay away from that corner gang. I says, "No hang around that corner." So, they go the other park, you know, Fern Park. That's good kids up there.

WN: Oh, the Fern Park kids were good kids? Even when you were young?

PM: Yeah. Up there good.

WN: How come had better kids or good kids?

PM: Because down our place, all roughneck kids, eh?

WN: You mean, by Fernandez Park side?

PM: Yeah. Down the corner, too. Down the King Street, by the theater

and all that. And you know the guys from Fern Park, they couldn't come down, you know. Come down Kalihi. Hang around down Kalihi place. These kids, they lick 'em. The Fern Park guys, they don't come down, you know.

WN: How come? Was difference in . . .

PM: Yeah, the section.

WN: . . . economics or what?

PM: I don't know. That's how was, before. Even the Kalihi Valley guys--you know, Kalihi Uka--same thing.

WN: You used to call 'em "mountain goats"?

PM: Mountain goats, yeah. (Chuckles) Oh, they can run, eh? That's why, they got Johnny Castanha. He's a runner, before. Good runners.

WN: So had the Fern Park boys, and then the Kalihi corner boys--you folks--and then had the Kalihi Uka?

PM: No, before, I don't hang around the Kalihi corner. I was, before, down Kam IV, eh? That's why, you know where Kalihi Union? Well, that's where. Up there. We call ourselves "Kam IV." (Chuckles) Kamehameha IV Road, eh?

WN: What was the roughest bunch?

PM: Before, was Kam IV, way back. The first start. Then, bumbai, later on, everybody just like move up to that Kalihi corner. Since had that theater and people hang around there all the time, eh?

WN: That's the King and Kaili Street?

PM: Yeah. King and. . . . Yeah, you can mention . . .

WN: By Queen's Super Market?

PM: Yeah, you can mention that, yeah. That theater over there, before, Kalihi, this was the second theater. Had old one, before, over there, you know. Then, they built that new one. And had one more going down Mokauea Street. Used to be Kalihi Kai Theater, but us, we call 'em "Oakland." Because (chuckles) down Kalihi Kai. And that's what we call Kalihi Kai--Oakland. That's where all the Portuguese, eh?

WN: Oakland?

PM: Yeah, Oakland. Just like in the Mainland, Oakland, eh? That's where all the Portuguese, so we call 'em "Oakland Theater." That's where all the Portuguese go. That time, never had any roof, eh?

Two theaters.

WN: You folks used to go?

PM: Yeah, we used to go. Bumbai, then they broke down that one, then they build one little further over. Kaili Street, but little further over. I forget what they call that theater. That one had roof and everything.

WN: How much was admission to get in?

PM: Before, quarter. Twenty-five cents. Then, went up to one time forty cents.

WN: When you were young, how you get your money?

PM: Well, we used to go pick kiawe beans. You know da kine kiawe beans? Go sell 'em.

WN: To who?

PM: To the da kine dairies. You know, dairies. Like we had this dairy in Kalihi, eh? Antone Joseph. The Joseph Dairy. Because they had cows. They get cattles, horses, and all that.

WN: Where was this dairy?

PM: You know where Yamane [i.e., Kalihi Shopping Center, owned by the Yamane family], eh? By the road going down. They had one road going further down. Before, used to be one big farm down there. They plant vegetables, all kind vegetables, and all that. Cabbages.

WN: You mean, makai of the Yamane shopping center?

PM: Yeah.

WN: Toward the ocean?

PM: Yeah, yeah. Had a train track. And below that train track, this guy, he had his farm over there. Not farm, but I mean, the dairy one side, and the farm one side. Joseph.

WN: Is that near where HC&D is now?

PM: Yeah, mm hmm. Yeah, that's where. They all in the back.

WN: Where you used to go pick the beans?

PM: Oh, sometimes, we used to go as far as almost down Damon Tract. (Chuckles) You know where the Damon Tract before? We make our own cart. You know, four-wheel wagon. And had other places, too. But before, plenty beans. Right in Kalihi, too. Kalihi Kai.

You know, Kalihi Kai? Way back before, had no houses, because was all kiawe trees, eh? Till later on . . .

WN: You mean, down by Republican Street side?

PM: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Used to be all kiawe trees before. And mostly down there was all this coral, eh? Lot of coral. Shee, the people who bought that place, look what it is today. That time, they were selling so cheap, too.

WN: How they used to buy the beans from you? By the bag or what?

PM: By the bags. They buy it by the bags.

WN: How heavy was one bag?

PM: Shee, I don't know what the weight, but they used to buy 'em seventy-five cents. Bumbai, went one dollar. That's how I raised money. (Chuckles) For go show or something. You get from your allowance, eh?

WN: Anything else besides beans you did to get money?

PM: No, that's all, I think, I know. Beans. (Pause) No, that's all I know, beans.

WN: You went McKinley [High School], eh? After Kalihi-Waena School?

PM: Yeah.

WN: What grade did you go up until?

PM: That's what I tell you. I went to sophomore, eh?

WN: And then what happened?

PM: Well, that's what I tell you. Then, well, my father was getting hard time so I have to quit, go work, eh? And my mother, was hardly any money, work cannery. So cheap, eh? At that time. That was the first cannery in the island, that time. Thomas Cannery.

WN: You were the oldest?

PM: Yeah, I'm the oldest. I had one other brother who was little younger than me. He got married and he moved to the Mainland. He married one girl from Pearl City. Then he moved to the Mainland and he died in the Mainland.

WN: So, when you quit McKinley, where did you work first?

PM: I work on the ship.

WN: What did you do on the ship?

PM: I work as a sailor. I work in the inter-island boat first. Work on the Kukui. Not the Kukui. Excuse me. I work on the Likelike.

WN: What did you do on the boat?

PM: Sailor. We used to go here and there. Pick up cattle certain place to bring to Honolulu. Load up fertilizer, whatnot, or deliver fertilizer. That's on the Likelike. Then, this boat not for me. Then, I tried on the Kukui. That's a lighthouse boat. Then I got on. It was all right, but hard job, though. Because you have to carry the gas tank, eh? That's the one I tell you, go to all that islands-- Molokai, Kahoolawe, Niihau, Molokini.

WN: All the places with lighthouses?

PM: Yeah.

WN: And you take the gas tanks because that's what powered the lights?

PM: The lights, yeah.

WN: How heavy was one gas tank?

PM: Some, 115 [pounds]. Some, 120. All depends. I don't know how come they get different weights. But we get those old-timers, boy, that's what they look for. (Laughs) First thing they go see where all the tanks, they look which one the lightest, eh?

(Laughter)

PM: Like us, greenhorns, by the time we pick ours, we get the heaviest.

WN: You had to load 'em on the ship, too?

PM: No, we take 'em, see, from the ship, we put 'em on the lifeboat. Then we take 'em to shore. Then from the shore, then we have to carry 'em go to the lighthouse, eh?

WN: Oh, I see. Because no more harbor, eh?

PM: Yeah. No more, you see.

WN: You carried 'em or you had one cart?

PM: No, you carry 'em. Because certain place like Molokini or Kahoolawe, from the shore, you have to carry 'em. Because after you take 'em from the boat, you have to pick 'em up and carry 'em go to the lighthouse. Walk. That's hard life, boy. Some job.

WN: You had to go up the lighthouse, too, to the top?



PM: Yeah, go to the top.

WN: Up the steps?

PM: Go, climb, go, go, go, go. (Chuckles) Till you reach the lighthouse. When you get over there, well, most time, the first mate or second mate, they help you maybe take 'em down. By the time, you tired, eh? Then, they help you put 'em down and everything.

WN: How much you got paid for that?

PM: We get paid monthly. (Chuckles) That's government job, you know. See, that add to my service while I was working Pearl Harbor, too. That's government job.

WN: How many years you was on that doing that?

PM: This one? Three years. Work on boat.

WN: How you got the job in the first place on the boat?

PM: See, I went down the office. I knew couple of people that work on the ships. They told me how to go about it. So, in the office, I sign paper and all that. And never take long, they called me. They tell me, "Hey, boy." An old-timer--Hawaiian guy--old-timer tell me, "Ho, boy. I think this job too hard for you." He said, "You look small. You think you can carry that tank?"

I tell, "Well, I going try."

"Okay. Good luck, eh, brother."

When I went the island Molokini, shee, when I came down, he shake my hand, boy. He said, "Brother, you all right." Say, "Any time you go through that, you pass the test." He said, "Even the old-timer, now da kine old-timer we get, they get hard time. They strong up here in the shoulder, but the leg weak." That's right, you know. Someplace go, I know, shee, up here kind of weak. Someplace I got to run, you know.

(Laughter)

PM: So I get there faster.

WN: You folks didn't stay over on the island?

PM: No, no, no. We go deliver, then go another place. Keep on going. Then, bumbai, we go certain place. Maybe we stay outside the ocean. You know what I mean? Outside?

WN: On the boat?

PM: On the boat. Stay on the boat.

WN: Overnight?

PM: Overnight. Or maybe you can hit one other port. Maybe certain place get the port, well, we can go to port, and land, and stay. Yeah, rough. But one thing good about this government ship, the food all nice, clean, and all that. That inter-island [boat], oh, them guys, when they eat poi, from the barrel and all, eh? Some guys, they don't wash their hand, eh? Instead of put 'em in a bowl or something, it's all right from the barrel. That's the real sailors.

WN: Eating poi?

PM: Yeah. They eating poi from the barrel.

WN: So, how long at one time were you folks out?

PM: We go, sometime, ten days, twelve days. All depends. See, like when we go to Hawaii, we go right around the island, see? Hawaii. And they get lighthouse all over. All the points, eh? And some places Hawaii, we got to go from the inland. Then, we get trucks. Put the tanks on the trucks and go to the lighthouse. Like that, good. Me, I like (chuckles) that one. That one, you don't carry too much.

WN: How you got the tanks from the ship to the lifeboat?

PM: Put 'em on the side. The winch, eh? We lower 'em down with the winch. Right on the boat.

WN: But the lighthouse was pretty close to shore, eh?

PM: Oh, yeah.

WN: Don't have to walk too far with the tank?

PM: All depend. No, some kind of far. Like Kahoolawe, shee, you got to go up, up, up. Because they got to make a walkway for go. But this one, Kahoolawe, go up. Go, go, go, climb up. But Kahoolawe good because they get da kine resting place where you can put the tank down, see, like this [i.e., at shoulder level]. Then easy for pick up, you see. Not from the ground. If from the ground, come up, oh, tired, eh?

WN: Oh, so you can put the tank up higher?

PM: Yeah, yeah. Because just like with your shoulder, you just roll 'em on top here. And leave 'em over there. When you ready, just roll 'em on your shoulder. You don't have to lift 'em up, you see. That don't make you too tired, eh? The only thing is your legs. The legs. You young, not so bad. But chee, when you old, I can imagine the old people get hard time, eh?

WN: How old were you when you were doing that about?

PM: Oh, that, I was. . . . Chee, I don't know. I was about thirty, I think. Thirty-something. No, that was way before. I was younger.

WN: This was in the 1920s, eh?

PM: Yeah, in the '20s. I was younger.

WN: So you were sailor on the lighthouse boat. What other kind odd jobs you did during that time? You said you were a painter, eh?

PM: Yeah. I used to paint. I used to go Kahului [Maui]. When they build the Kahului Wharf, I went up there, paint. Stayed up there till the job finished.

WN: How come you quit the lighthouse boat job?

PM: Oh, I was getting tired, that job too hard. Rough, eh? That's long enough, shee. I want the sea life, but you know me in the first place, I want to work on the Matson ship, see? You know, the big boat, they go Mainland, eh? Shee, but to tell you the truth . . . . Way back before, I was a boy scout at that time. And we had David Trask. You know David Trask? Well, he was our scoutmaster, before. So, we went see him. Me and two other guys went see him for go look for job on the ship. Before he was our scoutmaster, then at this time, he was what? He became a sheriff, eh? Trask.

WN: I don't know.

PM: Sheriff. David Trask. Sheriff Trask. So, anyway, we went see him for work on the ship, Matson ship. So, he took us for go look for job on the Matson ship. Says, "There's no more opening." He said, "The only opening I get for you guys on the Likelike." The junk boat. So, we don't want to refuse him since he went through all the trouble, so we went work on the Likelike. Oh, that was the sorriest time of our life, boy. Oh, the junk boat.

WN: That was passenger boat, too?

PM: No, no. Only freighter. But they take people. Maybe five or like that. We get five people go to the island, like the other side of Hawaii or what. Because they go load up cattle, all da kine, to take, come here, see? So, anyway. She got sunk. (Chuckles) One trip, one other guy, one Chinese guy, went with us. Ho, he was sick going and coming home. Poor guy, boy. Felt sorry for him. Soon reach that dock, boy, I jump off the boat, going home.

(Laughter)

PM: Never forget that kind Matson boat. Not Matson, but the inter-island boat.

WN: You never keep trying to get on the Matson boat?

PM: No. But that's my fault because after I left the lighthouse boat, that's

when I had good chance. But I forgot all about it. Because all the people that goes to work on that Matson ship, they had to take their rowing--you got to get your rowing license and all that. And like us, we don't have to already because since we work on the Kukui, that's all we do is row. Go shore and all that, eh? Be easier for us to get on the Matson ship. Because all our training was on the lighthouse boat, eh?

WN: How was the food on the boat?

PM: The lighthouse boat is good. The food good. Government is good food. Because they get cook and everything, see? The inter-island one, the Hawaiian food, you eat (chuckles), help yourself. Just like when we go Molokini, all the coral. Then, you go up to the lighthouse, eh? And over there, plenty 'opihi, you know. Ho, the 'opihi. All crawl on the shore, boy. When you look, all yellow, eh? Nobody live on the island, you see. Beautiful.

WN: You used to pick?

PM: Oh, yeah. Soon as we finish our job, when we come down, then we pick. Because while we going up and all that, you got to finish your job, see? Because you take the full one up and bring one empty down. (Chuckles) And the empty one just as heavy as the full one, eh?

WN: (Laughs) That's right, yeah? Only gas.

PM: Only gas, yeah. (Laughs) Oh, shucks. What a life.

WN: How many of you on one boat carrying the gas tank?

PM: Most time we go, it's about four. Four or five, with the mate.

WN: And how many tanks would you carry up in one lighthouse?

PM: Some, six. Some, four or five. I think if they take five, they take five sailors, you see. If six, they take six. So, you only take one and go, eh?

WN: You don't take two trips?

PM: No. They figure one time is enough. By the time, shee, the guys are tired. More or less they know how long a tank will last. How many of them tanks will last before the next time they come service again, see? You know what I mean?

WN: How long would one tank last?

PM: That, I don't know.

WN: How often would you go to one island?

PM: To one island, maybe every other month. We go every other month. Because they shut off certain time and come on certain time, eh?

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 11-34-2-84

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Peter Martin (PM)

February 2, 1984

Waipahu, Oahu

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. Peter Martin. Today is February 2, 1984, and we're at his home in Waipahu.

Okay, in 1932, you started working for HRT, yeah? That's Honolulu Rapid Transit?

PM: Yeah, was Honolulu Rapid Transit.

WN: How did you get that job?

PM: Through a friend of mine. His name was Manuel "Kahuku" Rodrigues. At that time, he was working for the company, see? And at that time, was streetcars. They had streetcar. So, a friend of mine and I was at this Kalihi Union Park. The church---was in the front of the church, anyway. Was sitting, you know, talking story. And he happened to pass by with a streetcar. So, he saw the friend and I so he stopped the streetcar. Then, he called me. I went approach him. Then he said, "Ey, Pete. You want to work HRT?"

I said, "Chee, I don't mind."

He said, "Well, come down tomorrow." So, he said, "Come down tomorrow. We looking for baseball players."

So, the friend of mine, he say---his name Edward Ayau. Eddie. We call him "Eddie." He said, "I want to work, too." (Chuckles)

So, that's how. Finally, the both of us went down the next day. And we got the job, work HRT. At that time, that's when they were looking for baseball players because HRT wen enter that Commercial League, see? They started Commercial League. Through this Manuel "Kahuku" Rodrigues--he was a pitcher.

WN: Baseball or softball?

PM: No, skinball. The hardball, they call "skinball." That's how we started working HRT.

WN: You didn't have a job at that time?

PM: No, I wasn't working at that time. So, we got the job. That year, first year we went HRT, we used to wear suit. We get uniform, you know, go to work, eh? So, we used to wear uniform. And you go through a whole year without an accident like that, then they'll give you a uniform or give you the money to buy a uniform, you see. That's in payment for doing a good job without an accident. So, that's how we went in, to play baseball.

WN: So, the streetcar, what did you do on the streetcar?

PM: At first, I went as a conductor. And a friend of mine, he went as a motorman. You see, that time, used to be a conductor and a motorman.

WN: What did a conductor do?

PM: You see, like us, well, we collect money from the passengers that get on the bus. We collect money and we ring it up. We have a cord. See, one cord was for ten cents and one, that time, was around seven cents and a half or something like that. And so, when we collect the money, well, we pull the cord down, and it register, see. Have a meter up in the front of the inside of the bus. Inside the streetcar, rather, anyway. At that time, the streetcar, you board on two sides of the streetcars. People get on, on the left and on the right. Later years, then they closed one side and they only get on the right always. And they closed the left. Because at that time, later years, was lot of cars, you know, automobiles. They were afraid of people getting off and on, eh? Was getting crowded.

WN: When do you pay? When you got on the streetcar?

PM: Yeah, when you get on, you sit in the car. Then the conductor come up and collect from the passengers. So, usually, you mark who get on. Some, they wear tie, or some, blue shirts. That's how you remember who get on or what. If not, you'll have a hard time, you know, yeah? Especially when a big crowd get on one time, see?

WN: Yeah. So, you wait for them to sit down, then you collect from them?

PM: Yeah, give 'em a chance to sit down. Then you collect from them. Then you register.

WN: Where was this cord that you pull?

PM: Was hanging up from the front to the rear. Because usually, this streetcar, when you go to the terminus, end of the line, then just

like a trolley. You have to put one trolley up, then pull the other one down. And then, you come back this way, see?

WN: You mean, when you have to turn around?

PM: Yeah, turn around.

WN: What is a trolley?

PM: A trolley is same thing. On the trolley buses, only one operator instead of two. They have just one operator. He operate and he collects the money.

WN: But that's not what you had in the beginning?

PM: No, no. Beginning, we had a streetcar. That's the streetcar. That is operated with a handle. They have a handle, see. Click, click, click, click.

WN: How did they pay? With money or with token?

PM: No, tokens. They had tokens. During that time, they had tokens. No, excuse me. At that time, was with money. But usually, they buy tokens, too. You can buy tokens and all that. So, make it easy for the company. Instead of making too many changes and take time and all that.

WN: When you pulled the cord, it was one time for a certain . . .

PM: Yeah, just one time. Because get two cord. One for ten cents and one for, maybe, I said seven cents or five cents.

WN: Who paid five cents and seven cents, and who paid ten cents?

PM: That ten cents is people, maybe they don't have a change or what. So, they just give you ten cents. So, you have to pull the ten cents cord. But that's how, lot of people before, lot of these conductors, they make a mistake. They pull the wrong one, and it register on the other one. Let's say, on the token one. And they have this kind inspector. They catch the conductor doing that, then they think he stealing or what. That's how, some of the guys, they lose their job. They send these inspectors or what do you call that? These guys go out checking these conductors whether they stealing money from the HRT or not. That's how lot of guys lose their job. Especially when this extra cars go out to pick up schoolchildren.

WN: Did schoolchildren pay less?

PM: Yeah, they pay less. Say, if they pay five cents. A few of the conductors got fired through that. Lot of them, they don't ring it. They don't ring it up. So, they call these guys, just like

stool pigeons. And they turn you in. Just through that, you know, by mouth. You know what I mean? They don't show you pictures or what.

We started two-man car, then later on, then we had that trolley. The one-man car. That's when one man operate. Was kind of hard.

WN: That's when you became a motorman?

PM: No. In between, while I was a conductor, well, they tell you if you want to break in as a motorman, it's up to you. So, there's lot of guys that break in as a motorman. They figure the motorman is much easier because conductor, lot of headache. Because at that time, before, we used to make change. We had a changer hooked to our belt here. Maybe, say, it's ten cents. You ride for ten cents. So, naturally, the people that come, they give you maybe quarter, half a dollar, one dollar. We used to have lot of problems with our passengers. I don't know if they try to pull a fast one on us or what. They come in the morning, they give you twenty-dollar bill, you know. The company don't give you the change. You have to bring your ownself. You see, to make changes.

WN: Did they make you do that?

PM: No, because you bring your own change. No, at the start, they used to give us fifteen dollars. At the start, fifteen dollars. They used to give us fifteen dollars for change. But was lot of humbug, because you have go to the cashier, get your fifteen dollars. Bumbai at the end of your day's work, when you come back, all the money you collect, you turn it in. Then you got to give the fifteen dollars back. Some of the guys, they shortchange the company, this and that, so on the blackboard, chee, this guy, so much, so much shortage, eh? If you go over the limit--let's say, maybe ten dollar limit, over the limit shortage--well, they fire you. It was kind of strict.

WN: Did that happen a lot? People got fired?

PM: No, no. Very seldom. Because people, usually they make up, some of them. That's the privilege the conductor have when he becomes a motorman. Because he's used to making change with his changer. You get the point? Whereas, the motorman, he using the steering--what you call that?--operating that wheel and all that, he don't use the changer. So, naturally, it takes a little time. You get a little slow. While us, we so used to using that changer, we don't have to look. We know where's the quarters, dimes, nickels.

WN: What did the motorman do exactly?

PM: No, he just drive. At that time, they had bell. The ten cents bell and we had another bell. To give two bells. You got to ring two times for the bus to go. You know when the passenger get on and all



that, you have to ring two times--ding, ding. That's the signal for the bus. The driver start the streetcar.

WN: That's when you collected all the money?

PM: No, no. Even the car start, then you go collect. Keep on going, keep on going. Because you got to be on time, too. That time.

WN: So, after the streetcar goes, then you start collecting the money . . .

PM: Collecting.

WN: Then you ringing the bell . . .

PM: The same time, yeah. Till the next stop, maybe the streetcar stop. Then, you wait until the people get on. When they get on, then you ring the bell. Then the motorman start the streetcar. Keep on going. That's how. Keep on going, keep on going. Then, in case you want to stop the streetcar. Maybe something happened. You just ring one time. You pull the cord one time. That's just like for emergency, you know. Two times, go. One time is for emergency.

WN: As conductor, you would sit down or you would stand up . . .

PM: No, you stand up. Stand up all the time. That's the only thing about the motorman. The motorman just sit down.

WN: You said that when you started, they had streetcars, right?

PM: Yeah.

WN: Had one conductor and one motorman.

PM: Right.

WN: When did they change to trolley when the motorman was both motorman and conductor?

PM: When they change to trolley? Oh, you mean, the one-man car, the trolley?

WN: Yeah.

PM: Chee, I forgot what year, though. (Pause) I forgot what year was they changed to trolley, though. I know the year when they shut down, but when they changed 'em, I don't remember what year, though. I never found out about that. I should have found out about that.

WN: When you became motorman, it was still two-man?

PM: Yeah, two-man. Still two-man.

WN: How did you drive the thing? How did they thing run? How did the thing go? What powered the streetcar?

PM: They have just like a motor box. They have a motor there, box motor. And they have just like a steering wheel, and they have points. See, they have about eight points. They go one, two, three, four . . .

WN: On the steering wheel?

PM: No, on this. Just like a motor in the front where the motorman is, you see. Have a mark over there, then they designate one, two, three, four points. Then this other side get five, six, seven, eight. Eight points. You start one, two, three, four. Then, you got little faster, then you go five, six, seven, eight.

WN: Eight is the fastest?

PM: Eight is the fastest.

WN: It's like gears, then?

PM: Yeah, just like gears. That's what it is. And then, when you want to stop, well, you have to turn off the power, then you got to put on the brake. (Chuckles) Hand brake. You got to put on the brake to stop.

WN: Had doors, too? Open, close doors?

PM: Where?

WN: For passengers to get in. You know, like on the buses, they have doors now?

PM: On the one-man car had. But on the two-man car, you know, I told you, they go out on the side, eh? So, two-man car. Because before, they used to get on, two sides, then they cut off. Only one side. You get on one side, and they put a bar on the other side. When you going this way, well, you know what I mean? They change. Lift this bar up. The other end, lift the other bar up and bring the other bar down.

WN: Oh, when you turn around, end of the line?

PM: Yeah.

WN: And then, where does the motorman go?

PM: The motorman, he just change around. They get the motor on two sides of the streetcar, see.

WN: Oh, they don't turn around.

PM: They don't turn around. Not like in 'Frisco. (Chuckles)

WN: And the one-man car is what? How did they turn around?

PM: No, the same like that, but they get the trolley. They get trolley this side and trolley this other end. Trolley two sides.

WN: What was the route of the streetcar? Where did it start and where did it end? And what street . . .

PM: On King Street. From Kaimuki all the way to Fort Shafter.

WN: So, exactly where was the end of the line by Fort Shafter?

PM: Fort Shafter. Chee, I don't know.

WN: By the Yamane . . .

PM: Past Yamane. Shafter.

WN: Fort Shafter?

PM: Yeah. But later years, then came by Yamane.

WN: And it went straight down King Street?

PM: Straight down King Street, all the way King, go to Kaimuki.

WN: What part of Kaimuki?

PM: By. . . . What you call that? That's Tenth? Not Tenth. Go to by Wilhelmina Rise. By Wilhelmina Rise. All the way up there.

WN: Straight then.

PM: Yeah, all the way straight there. Then, they had streetcar going up Liliha Street, Nuuanu Street.

WN: So, say, if you lived in Kalihi-Uka, up the valley, how would you get to Kaimuki?

PM: Wait. Kalihi Valley. I wonder if Kalihi Valley had now? (Pause) Kalihi Valley. (Pause) Chee, I don't think so Kalihi Valley had.

WN: So, you think they had to walk all the way to King Street?

PM: (Pause) They never did have. Used to walk.

WN: They had tracks, then?

PM: Tracks, that's right. They have tracks, yeah. They had tracks.

WN: So when the thing turned around and you folks came back the other way, how many streetcars were there running on the same route at the same time?

PM: Oh, shucks. Shee, I never did figure that, too.

WN: But more than one, though?

PM: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

WN: But if you're going one way, how does the other one come the other way?

PM: No, two tracks. No, wait. See now, you get me going. No, we had switches. There's certain part where you switch off. At the certain time, you got to be at that switch. You know, certain time. And if you ahead of time, you have to wait. You have to wait till the other streetcar come back. Just like those switches double, eh? One this side, one this side. At that time, you have to get out the streetcar, and with the crowbar, you got to turn the switch to come on that rail.

WN: Where was the switch?

PM: Oh, certain places. They had in Kalihi, they had in Palama. They had in by HRT. They had down at the stadium, that time, the Honolulu Stadium. That, because they need 'em. Because when they have games like that--you know what I mean--and they get all the extra cars, eh? And Kaimuki. All different section--Moiliili, they all have switches.

WN: The streetcar was one car or was it like a train?

PM: No, one car. Yeah, one car. But they go by time. Certain time, you got to be at that switch. So you can switch off or whatnot, see? Almost like the train, you know, with switches and all that. I never thought about that (chuckles) till . . . .

WN: So the switch would change the tracks? You mean, you. . . .

PM: Like from this way, you can go this way, see? Then, you can go straight this way. But the next car, have to turn 'em, because you on a different route now, you see. That's why you have to use the bar. But later years, when they had the one-man car, well, they had the electricity from using the trolley or the line.

WN: Oh, up above?

PM: Yeah. So you can use through your gadget. When you operate your car, where you can throw the switch off or on, see?

WN: Oh, from the car?

PM: Yeah, from the car. You don't have to get off, see. From the trolley.

WN: That's lot of humbug, then, before?

PM: Oh, yeah.

WN: To get out of the car and operate the switch.

PM: Oh, yeah, the streetcar, before. Yeah. But that time, not so bad. Because when you young, not so bad. Only the older people, kind of hard, eh? But easy to get off because no door. All opening. The only thing, like us, we got to watch the kids. Some of them, you know, they jump off and on, off and on, off and on.

WN: Yeah, that's right. How did you stop them?

PM: That's why, you got to watch 'em. You got to watch them. They might get hurt. Chee, to make accident report take you quite a while, you know. And you got to get witness.

WN: Did people try to sneak on?

PM: Oh, yeah. Plenty times. Especially school kids. Maybe some of them spend all their money for lunch, or buy this, buy that. They come on the car. Especially when you catch 'em. Say, "I no more money. I pay you tomorrow." (Chuckles) We feel sorry the kids. Me, I feel sorry. Few times, I give 'em the money, see? But some conductors, they ring 'em off. (Chuckles) They don't give the money. They either ring 'em off or something. They just like take it from the company.

WN: Oh. But going be short, though, eh?

PM: No, won't be short. (Chuckles) They'll make 'em up somehow.

WN: So, in one day, you work how many hours? Eight hours?

PM: It all depends. Some, seven. Some, eight. Some, they get broken hours. Maybe you work four hours now, and you come back, work about three hours. Or we get da kine extras, you know. School extras. Couple hours. This all go by seniority. If you get seniority, then a certain time, maybe every quarter or--first time was every quarter--they call it "sign up." Then they go by seniority. Number one, number two, come down, come down till come your turn. And what line is left, you want to sign, then you sign. The same time the line, they tell you what day off you get and all that, and how many hours. How many hours the line is.

WN: Where was the headquarters? HRT?

PM: The same [present] place.

WN: Alapai Street?

PM: Alapai Street. Right there. They used to operate on two sides. Now, only one side.

WN: So, you reported to work over there?

PM: Yeah.

WN: You just walked to King Street and got on the streetcar to work?

PM: Yeah, you report over there. Then, at that time, we used to go to the office over there, then either you pick up your money or whatnot. Change and whatnot. Pick up your change to go to work. Furthermore, you got to find what instructions they have or what for you for that day or what, see. And the same time, you have to look on that--they have a blackboard. Like you know which one your run is, so you go to the blackboard. Then you got to find out what your streetcar number is because they all numbered, eh? Then you go to the barn and go pick up your car. Because they set the car so you can go and pick up your car, and just go right out. No blockage or what.

WN: So, they had tracks from the barn?

PM: Yeah, yeah. Go right out.

WN: What was your uniform? What was it like?

PM: Oh, we have a coat. First time, we had a coat and everything. Hot, though. That one was black.

WN: Did you wear tie, too?

PM: No, no tie.

WN: Black coat?

PM: Black coat.

WN: What about hat?

PM: And cap. We had cap. They had hard time find a cap for me. I had a small head, eh?

(Laughter)

PM: Oh, shucks. Have to put paper inside. Good thing had da kine seams inside. But later on, they do away with the uniform because hot, eh? People was complaining and all that.

WN: In one day, one shift, how many times did you go up and down from Kalihi to Kaimuki?

PM: Oh, sometimes five, six times. Sometimes six times.

WN: They had certain stops or you could get on at any time?

PM: No, they have special stops. Almost like now.

WN: About how fast did it go?

PM: Oh, pretty fast (chuckles). I think the fastest about ten miles an hour.

WN: That's the streetcar?

PM: Yeah.

WN: What about the trolley?

PM: The trolley faster, though. The trolley was faster. But when they have the buses was better.

WN: When did the buses come out?

PM: The buses came 1950.

WN: But you was pau working by then?

PM: Yeah.

WN: You quit work HRT in 1941, eh?

PM: [Nineteen] forty-one.

WN: And by then had buses already?

PM: Yeah, had buses. Had buses. I was talking about the trolley. They do away with the streetcar was 1942. (Pause) The trolley in 1950.

WN: So, after 1950 had bus, then?

PM: No, '42, had buses already. [Nineteen] forty-one, had buses already.

WN: Oh, had buses and streetcars?

PM: Buses and trolley. Because most of the buses, they was using 'em, like the outside. Like go Manoa, like that. Outside branches.

WN: But the main route down King Street was still . . .

PM: The trolley.

WN: So, actually, in the nine years that you worked for HRT you worked on the streetcar, the trolley and the bus?

PM: Yeah. The last one was the bus.

WN: Buses didn't need tracks, eh?

PM: No. That's one thing good about it. (Chuckles) Yeah, '41, that's when HRT went on a strike, 1941. February, '41. They went on a strike one month. At that time, I was working on a trolley. No, wait. Yeah, February '41, I was working on the trolley. Then I signed up on the bus. I went on the bus in March.

WN: After the strike?

PM: Yeah. March to December.

WN: What do you remember about the strike?

PM: One month. (Chuckles) Our headquarters was right down Alapai Street. Right there. Right across, you know HRT? Little further down. We had one of our members was living there. So, we was using his yard as get-together, hold meeting. That's when we organized the union. People had free lunch. The union used to deliver. You know, deliver groceries. Groceries in the morning. We had two trucks. One go towards Kaimuki and one towards Shafter. With rice, bread, can goods, all of that. Deliver to the homes. They paid the house rent for the people, the union. Yeah, was good.

WN: What union was this? What was the name of it?

PM: Chee, I forgot already. (Pause) Only that one year (chuckles). Because the same year, that's the year I went out.

WN: That's right. So, while you were working HRT, you were living in Kalihi?

PM: Yeah, living.

WN: Where were you living then?

PM: At that time, I was living right in the same place. Right in the back. You know where the church I was telling you about? I live in the back there, see.

WN: You were married by then?

PM: Ah, '41. . . . Yeah, I was married. [Nineteen] thirty-three.

WN: You got married '33. How did you folks meet?



PM: She came from Hilo and she stayed with an aunt in Kalihi. That's why they used to come over the park, Kalihi Union Park. That's where I get to meet her. Then, she used to go watch me play barefoot league. (Chuckles) We got together.

WN: So, the team that you played for, the HRT baseball, what was the name of that league. Was the City-Wide League?

PM: No, this, the hardball, this was the Commercial League. The Honolulu Ironworks, Hawaiian Pine, Hawaiian Electric. That's the Commercial League. All the big commercials. The softball was City-Wide League. Softball.

WN: You have to be employee of a company to . . .

PM: Yeah, to play. That's when the other team, they had Ted Shaw. The guy came from the Mainland with the colored team, eh? He was a good player. Johnny Kerr. Then the Commercial League, they have volleyball, basketball. HRT hired lot of Palama boys. You know, basketball, volleyball. Palama boys was good at that time. Lot of them. So, they had Tom Hugo. The Naauao brothers. One died, one still living.

WN: They hired you folks more for playing baseball?

PM: Sports. Play different sports.

WN: How much did you get paid at HRT?

PM: Oh, before. Hardly nothing. Just like every year, they raise you one cent.

WN: One cent?

PM: Yeah, only one cent every year. Till we had---then we had the union, see? When we had that union. . . . You know, funny. You get all these young kids, they don't want raise. I mean, they don't want the company. . . . What do you call that already? Raise or something, anyway.

WN: Benefit?

PM: Yeah, benefit. Because benefit the old-timers and no benefit them. So, they didn't want that. So, the old-timers, they lose out. What you call that? Pension, yeah? Pension. They didn't want that because they figure maybe they won't stay that long.

WN: I see. So, the old-timers would benefit . . .

PM: Not too much old-timers. Mostly all young people. And they voted against that. So, when time for these old people, the old-timers, for retirement, they get hardly nothing at that time. Some of them guys, they retired, they only get \$1,000. They been there forty,

thirty-five years. No make sense.

WN: You were young at that time, too, yeah?

PM: Yeah. That's why, that time, when they call me for go Pearl Harbor, I told my wife, "Shee, I think I better go." (Chuckles)

WN: Who called you to go Pearl Harbor?

PM: No, I wen fill in application. My cousin was working there, see. He was trying to get me two years before that to go work Pearl Harbor. But you know when you work for one company [HRT] more than seven years, like that, you don't want to quit, eh? And the pay wasn't so good either. Finally, they call me. So, I worked. No, I filled in application after two years. Then they called me right away.

WN: What year was this?

PM: This was in '41, in December.

WN: December '41? Was this after the bombing or . . .

PM: No, I went December 1. (Chuckles) They bombed December 7.

WN: So, on December 7, what happened?

PM: December 7, well, I was at home. I was going to go to church. That was a Sunday, eh? So, I was going to church. A neighbor of mine, he was a federal marshal, see. So, early in the morning, he went to Pearl Harbor. I don't know why he went to Pearl Harbor, but anyway, he came home. He told me, "Hey, Pete! They bombing Pearl Harbor!"

(Chuckles)

I told him, "Yeah?"

"Yeah! Say, I think you better get ready. Maybe pretty soon, they going call you, I think."

And sure enough, on the radio: "All Pearl Harbor workers be ready. We'll let you know when we going to call you." So, waited about almost one hour. Then they announce, "All Pearl Harbor workers, report to Pearl Harbor."

So, my friend took me Pearl Harbor. Took me by the gate. That's all he can go, see. Cannot go in the gate. So, they have trucks. People jump on the trucks, then they take you to your shop where you working and all that. In the meantime, the Japanese plane that was strafing, they run out of bombs, eh? They was strafing, see?

WN: What is "strafing"?

PM: You know, they were firing at the bus as it go along the road going to the shops.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: Okay.

PM: So, the guns was zigzag all the way in. Nobody got hurt, anyway. We got in there, went to the shop. Stayed in Pearl Harbor. I stayed there four days, four nights. Couldn't come home, couldn't telephone. So, my wife, she doesn't know what happened, eh? Cannot telephone out.

WN: What did you do? What kind of work were you doing?

PM: We fought the fire. The ship was on fire in number one drydock. But I never carried no bodies. Some other people was carrying bodies. Mostly sailors was carrying dead bodies. So, we had a destroyer in number one drydock and two other ships. Two other smaller ships. So, we stayed there, fought the fire, and the plane flying over. Flying over, shee. But by the time, I think they run out of bullets already, so wasn't too bad. We had these American planes chasing 'em, too. By that time, we had American planes, you know.

WN: Were you scared at all?

PM: Oh, sure. But like us, we there fighting the fire and everything, and our big boss there hiding under the steps or something. Yeah. The poor workingman, shee. Either they carrying body or stopping fires. Some shop caught fire, you see. Stopping the fires, this and that. And that's all day, all day. All day, all night, too. That's the number one drydock. Our shop is close to the drydock, number one drydock.

WN: When you say "your shop," what did you do? What was your main job?

PM: Oh, odd jobs. Well, at first, I used to go out paint. Paint the ship, bottom of the ship. Sometimes we paint inside. All depends. But mostly, bottom.

WN: You painted the ships on the bottom when they were in drydock?

PM: Yeah, in drydock, when they drain all the water out and all that, you see. Then they sandblast the bottom. Clean 'em up and all that. Then, we start painting the ship. Not only brush paint, but we use hot stuff on the bottom. Hot stuff and all that.

WN: What is "hot stuff"?

PM: The stuff you have to cook it. Cook it and all that. Then you spray 'em. Just like pitch or tar, like that. But this, we use a spray gun. They have a hose and everything. You spray the bottom. They call it "plastic." Hot plastic. That's what preserve the bottom of the ship. They get the red and white color--two colors. Then, bumbai, later on, they had me watching. I was watching the paint storage. That's where we store all the paints. I was in charge of that about couple years. Then they got me to come in the shop. Take care all the equipments. Repair, take care all the equipment. And same time, instruct new people that comes in to work and all da kine what to do with this kind new equipment we got and all that.

WN: Working at Pearl Harbor, did you get a lot more than working at HRT?

PM: Oh, yeah, sure. (Chuckles) For being on December 7, all da kine, they gave us a certificate. Just like for being under fire, you know. (Chuckles) So, I got mine. Same time, I was working in the shop, so I made a few suggestions. You make suggestion, if they use it, they give you so much, you know. In money, eh?

WN: Oh, bonus?

PM: Yeah. So, I put 'em, five or six. So, I got paid for six suggestions. They give me that, and then same time when I retired, they gave me my retirement paper. They mentioned about the suggestions I made and all that.

WN: You also did the maintenance, too, and repair?

PM: Yeah, that's what it is, the maintenance in the shop. That's why, the new people that came in, I had to instruct them how to take care, this and that. Certain instruments, like that. Or tanks. Or that hot stuff, I tell 'em what we use, the machine.

WN: You have a pension now? You living off a pension, Pearl Harbor?

PM: Yeah, yeah.

WN: You worked from '41 to '66? You retired in 1966?

PM: [Nineteen] sixty-six, yeah. That's a long retirement. (Chuckles) Shee, we had one--not in my shop, one other shop. This was in November, and this guy was going out in December. He never reach December, he died. Poor fellow. He worked in the yard forty-three years, too. Never enjoy his retirement.

WN: You retired when you were sixty-two, yeah? Sixty-two years old?

PM: Yeah.

WN: How old are you now?

PM: I'm seventy-eight.

WN: So, what have you been doing in your retirement?

PM: Ah, mostly around the yard here. (Chuckles) Take it easy. Traveling here and there. My wife, she likes to travel, eh? But she retired, too. My oldest boy got sick in Kauai, so she retired. We went Kauai. He was kind of pretty bad, so we went Kauai.

WN: When did he die?

PM: Seventy-six. And my youngest boy, 1980. That was staying with us. That one, he was single. Never get married.

WN: They were both teachers, yeah?

PM: No, this young one, no. This one didn't go to school. He was in the Air Force. After his time was up and all, he came home. So, we was figuring we go send him college. We figure, give the two boys college education. So, when he came out, somebody told him about the Air Guard, so he went to the Air Guard. But I told 'em, "Ey, you not going school? You not going college?"

So, he said, "Maybe I go work one year and see how it is."  
(Chuckles) He went in Air Guard, he stay. He didn't want to go college after. So, that's where he was all this time. Air Guard. He likes it, eh?

WN: How many years ago did you move here to Waipahu?

PM: Now going to fifteen years now.

WN: How did you feel about leaving Kalihi?

PM: Oh, (chuckles) kinda hard. You know, we stay there long. You don't want to leave. But I made a good move. Well, it was too close to the bars. Too many bars around there. Get hard time reach home. Sometimes, one, you passing by, "Hey! Pete!" (Chuckles) Calling me.

"What?"

"Come in here!" (Chuckles)

WN: They calling you to come in the bar?

PM: Yeah. (Chuckles) You look at them today, oh, they look terrible. And they little younger than me. More young. So they look so sickly. They drink too much.

WN: What are your feelings about Kalihi? You lived there almost all your life, yeah?

PM: Yeah, oh, I like Kalihi. Plenty guys are born and raised in Kalihi. Look all these musicians. They always talk about Kalihi. The Isaacs'. Plenty musicians. Most of them musicians.

WN: Lot of athletes, too?

PM: Yeah. Hiram Kaakua. "Black Grange." Yeah, I never been there quite a long time now. I get a good friend. He lives up the valley, though. His name Joe Cravalho. And he's always calling me. (Chuckles) He tell me, "Ey, Pete, when you going call me? Every time, I'm calling you, calling you." He just called me the other night. "How you feeling?"

I said, "Good."

He just wen rest for quite---over one year now, he never drink. He has a sore leg, gout or something like that. So, he have to quit drinking. And that guy, he like his drink, too. He always call me. I used to go his place, too.

WN: He lived up in the valley?

PM: Yeah, he get the big keg, draft beer. (Laughs) Nice guy.

WN: So, how you feel about your life when you look back at what you did? You would have done anything different?

PM: I don't think so. I'm satisfied. I had a good life; I'm satisfied. Never was in trouble. Had all kind fights, but I never get into big trouble. You know what I mean, eh? That's why, my two boys, I used to tell 'em, "Don't hang around down the corner." I said, "You go up Fern Park." Up there, better boys. The kids up there better.

WN: Okay, well, thank you very much, Mr. Martin.

END OF INTERVIEW

**KALIHI:**  
**Place of Transition**

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