

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: David Souza, 78, retired wharf clerk

*"The people in the valley already is different. More homes. The homes are crowded today. You not even safe on the street today. Before, you walk on the streets. Today, everybody get cars. Everybody speed . . . Whoever seen this valley change, I seen."*

David Souza, Portuguese, was born February 7, 1906, in Honolulu. His father, a former storekeeper, died when David was three years old. The family then moved to Kalihi Valley, where David has lived ever since.

He attended schools in Kalihi Valley and Kalihi Waena and graduated from St. Louis in 1926. During this time, David participated in community- and school-sponsored sports.

After graduating from St. Louis, David worked as a wharf clerk for the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company. He remained there until 1952. He then became a wharf clerk for Theo H. Davies and Co., Ltd. He retired in 1971.

David and his wife Mary, whom he married in 1937, have two children. He spends much of his time tending the yard around his Kalihi Valley home. He is also an active member of Our Lady of the Mount Church.

Tape No. 11-8-1-83

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

David T. Souza (DS)

December 19, 1983

Kalihi, Oahu

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. David Souza. Today is December 19, 1983, and we're at his home in Kalihi Valley.

Okay, Mr. Souza, can you tell me when you were born and where you were born.

DS: I was born on February 7, 1906. Up by Dole Park.

WN: Dole Park is where?

DS: Punchbowl. Then I moved to Aiea. My father worked at the T.H. Davies grocery store. At that time, I was three years old. When my father died, then we moved to Kalihi Valley. Nineteen nine.

WN: What was your father doing for Theo H. Davies?

DS: He was a storekeeper. In the counter. Taking charge of the grocery store.

WN: What store was this?

DS: Aiea. Davies grocery store.

WN: Was that the name of the store?

DS: I don't know the name of the store. I was three years old. I hardly remember him. I remember him when he was in a coffin. I hardly remember him growing up.

WN: What about your mother? What was she doing when you were a child?

DS: She was home taking care of the children. The oldest boy was born 1901. So when my father died 1909, he was nine years old. The other boy was (born in 1903). My mother had a child 1901, 1903, 1906, 1908, (1910). (When) my father died, my mother was (three months')

pregnant. Six [months] after he died, the girl was born. So, was five in the family. One boy died (in 1908) as a baby. Then, my other two brothers died, left only my sister and I.

WN: So, after your father died, you folks moved to Kalihi?

DS: Kalihi Valley.

WN: Why did you move to Kalihi?

DS: To live next to my mother's sister. My mother's sister was living right next door. So, my mother bought the place from old Chinese people. Big, Chinese house. And lived there. Then, she went out to work. She wash clothes (for) different people--Thurston Avenue--to bring us up. Then, vacation time, I (went to) pick up horse beans to sell.

WN: What kind of beans?

DS: Kiawe beans. For cows. (Then we'd sell them to) make a little money. My brother did the same thing. Three of us. We gave our mother no hard time. I went school up the valley. From the valley, I went to Kalihi-Waena, third grade. Up to eighth grade. I graduated in 1922. (Then) I went to St. Louis (College). I graduated '26. Four years, high school.

WN: What was the name of the school that you went to up in the valley?

DS: Kalihi Valley School. (At) that (time), I was a young child. Then, I went to Kalihi-Waena (School).

WN: You went Kalihi-Waena from third grade. Did you have to go Kalihi-Waena? Was there a reason why you went to Kalihi-Waena?

DS: Yeah. Because the school (in the valley, the teacher's husband) shot the wife. She died. So they closed the school.

WN: That was private school? Preschool?

DS: Government school.

WN: You said your mother did laundry?

DS: Yeah, wash clothes. (Took) the bus to Thurston Avenue. That's by Punahou. Wash clothes about twice a week. While she (was) washing clothes, I cleaned the yard (to) make a little money.

WN: You went to different houses to clean yard?

DS: No, only one house.

WN: How much you made?

- DS: Cleaning yard? Hardly anything (chuckles). Those days, dollar was a dollar. Today, dollar isn't worth nothing. Those days, things was very cheap. Of course, the pay was small, too.
- WN: When you sell the beans, who did you sell to?
- DS: To the dairies. Up here had a dairy they call Caspino. They had cows. We sell 'em to him. Fifteen cents a bag. (Laughs)
- WN: How heavy was one bag?
- DS: Hundred pound bags. (Laughs)
- WN: Hoo.
- DS: Fifteen cents was big money, those days. Pretty big money.
- WN: How long took you to fill up one hundred pound bags?
- DS: Oh, those days, kiawe trees was loaded. All you had was kiawe trees. You know where Kam[ehameha] Shopping Center? That was all Kam School property. Was all kiawe trees. That's where we picked up the beans from. Those days, tot of kiawe trees, all loaded with beans. You pick about ten, twelve bags a day.
- WN: So, where Kam Shopping Center is now, had all kiawe trees?
- CS: Kiawe trees.
- WN: And up here in the valley, too?
- CS: Yeah. Had plenty trees. Back here had trees. Then, of course, summertime, I worked cannery. I worked Hawaiian Pine[apple Company]. I lift up sugar from the ground to the conveyor. Goes upstairs to the machines, eh? Twenty-five cents an hour.
- WN: How many summers did you do that?
- CS: Worked every day, summertime. Those days, the cannery was cheap. The girls worked for twelve hours, twelve cents an hour. We worked for twenty-five cents an hour. Those days, big money was twenty-five cents.
- WN: What did you do with the money that you earned?
- CS: Gave (it) to my mother. She buys the food, buys our clothes. We helped her plenty. That's why, today, she's 100 years old. She's in a home now, but her heart is very strong. She has no heart trouble. Maybe she has a little pressure, slight, but her heart is working very good. Very, very nice. December 4, she made 100 years old. I'm seventy-seven. I'll be seventy-eight on February 7, 1984.

WN: Seventy-eight.

CS: Seventy-eight. I was born 1906.

WN: So, besides the kiawe beans, and the laundry, and the yard work, and the cannery, did you have any other means to support the family, make money?

DS: No, no. Clean yard and pick up beans summertime. Every dollar counts. We worked hard. My mother was very nice.

WN: Did you pay rent, too?

DS: No. My mother bought the place. When my father died, he belonged to the San Antonio Society. They left some money for him. With the money, she bought the house.

WN: How did you get to school from here? From Kalihi Valley to Kalihi-Waena [School]?

DS: Kalihi-Waena? Walk. Down to Kalihi Street through the taro patch. Before, they had a taro patch where they have houses now.

WN: Where was the taro patch?

DS: Before you get to Likelike [Highway] and School [Street]. That section was all taro patch. We go down to Gulick Avenue. From Gulick Avenue, walk right down to Kalihi-Waena School. The corner of Likelike and School, that was all taro patch right up until the service station by the corner. We go through the taro patch, we go right across (and) hit Gulick Avenue. From Gulick we go right up to Kalihi-Waena School. Kalihi-Waena School was on Gulick Avenue. So, we go right down. Walk back the same way.

WN: How long took you to go from . . .

DS: Ah, that, I don't know. We leave home early, we walk down. Was very good walking. All, everything walk, everything walk. We go to the showhouse, the Kalihi Star Theater. King Street, used to be this old Star Theater. People all used to walk down Kalihi Street (to the) theater. Come back at night, walking home. Those days, the roads (were) safe. Your homes (were) safe. Not today. Today, you got to lock your house when you go out. Those days, everybody was friendly. Everybody knows one another. Very, very good.

WN: The taro patches that you walked by, who owned those taro patches?

DS: Chinese. Chinese fellow (named Tam Hoon). Now and then, you see a little mudhen shooting out. One of the little animals, the mudhens?

WN: Mudhens?

- DS: Yeah. They shoot out. You can see 'em, the mudhens, in the taro. Those were very good days. Oh, well, big bunch of us walk, not only one or two people. About twelve, fourteen of us, all get together, we walk home. Those days, we had a bus up here. Owned by Santana and Fernandez. The old nickname "Mascoot."
- WN: "Mascoot"?
- DS: Yeah, "mascate," in Portuguese, eh? Was Fernandez. He had one truck. And Santana (had one). They make about two trips in the morning and two trips (in the) afternoon. From here, they go right down to King Street. They go to (town) and park on (Kekaulike) Street. Then they stay down maybe, I don't know how many hours, then they (drive) home. Then, (later) they go down again. I think they made four trips a day. I think two in the morning, two in the afternoon.
- WN: This was private?
- DS: Private people.
- WN: But you didn't catch the bus. You walked, huh?
- DS: I used to walk to Kalihi-Waena School. Then (to) go to St. Louis, I took the bus. At that time, already had bus (service). In 1922, they already had buses. So, we took the bus to school. But we used to walk home, because I used to run track, four-mile relay team. So, (Bill) Castanha and I, we used to walk home from school from River Street up to Kalihi Valley. Just to walk to train for running four-mile relay team. We used to do a lot of walking. Then, we used to hunt wild pigs.
- WN: Where?
- DS: Every Sunday, right up in these mountains. Every Sunday. We leave home six in the morning or eight o'clock in the morning. We hunt three mountains. The last mountain, you can practically see Kaneohe side. We get back home about eight o'clock at night.
- WN: Had lot of wild pigs up here?
- DS: Yeah, plenty. I never used to pack 'em. (Bill) Castanha used to pack 'em. He can pack pigs, boy.
- WN: What do you mean, "pack pigs"?
- DS: Put 'em on the back. See, we kill 'em out there; we put 'em (in a bag).
- WN: And you carry 'em down on your back?
- DS: Carry 'em down the mountains. No cars. Like people hunt pigs now, they get cars. While us, was always on foot. Real hunting. There's

about six of us. Only two had guns. The rest had knife. We (don't) trust everybody with gun.

WN: How you hunt pig with knife?

DS: Well, they poke the (pig's) neck. We take dogs. We get four dogs.

WN: Oh, you shoot 'em first?

DS: When the dogs bark, you know there's a pig. We run toward the barking. Then, (one of) the two guys shoots the pig. They kill 'em. Then, they poke the (knife into the) neck, bleed 'em. Then, bring 'em home. Skin 'em.

WN: You used to do that?

DS: No. I used to carry a knife just for fun. I never did poke the pig. We have certain guys that really good on the job. I used to enjoy more the hiking. I used to enjoy. Lots of times, I used to wish we don't get no pig. Sometimes I used to pack pig, too. If they catch more than four, I pack.

WN: These mountains that you used to go up, have they changed at all?

DS: No, never change. Same old valley.

WN: They still have wild pigs up there?

DS: I don't know. I haven't gone for a long time. So I don't know now. After that school, it was too hard, (so) we quit. After we get older. The other boys quit, so we quit. I was more of a follower. I like my hiking. Oh, I used to love it.

WN: What else you brought with you besides knife when you went hiking?

DS: That's all. I still get (my) knife inside.

WN: What about water, like that?

DS: Oh, water, right in the mountains get water. You'll be surprised the water up there. Had the streams. But we took water cans, too. In case there's no water, we drink from the cans. I rather drink from up there. Very fresh water, clean.

WN: You folks used to sleep up there, too?

DS: Yeah. If there's a holiday on a Monday, we sleep. We go Sunday morning, we sleep Sunday night. We come back Monday morning.

WN: Where you folks used to sleep? You had tent?

DS: There's little caves. If there's no holiday, we go Sunday morning

(and) we come back Sunday night. Very good days.

WN: So, you used to bring the pig home, skin 'em, and then what?

DS: Then we split the meat. Everybody gets a piece of meat.

WN: Do you split 'em raw . . .

DS: Yes.

WN: . . . or you cook 'em first?

DS: Up there, sometimes, they used to cut the pig in half. If too much (of a) load, we cut 'em in half or we cut 'em in pieces. We all bring (a) piece home. (If it's a) small pig, one person can carry 'em. If it's a big pig, we cut 'em. We split 'em. Everybody bring one piece. You can't bring the whole pig, that's too heavy.

WN: How you used to cook 'em?

DS: Well, my mother used to put 'em in the keg. What do they call that keg made from that porcelain? My mother used to salt the meat. The meat taste very good because (she) take (the) bones off. You cook with the bones, you taste the mountain taste of the fern. You take the bones off, you get the taste but not so much the taste of mountain fern. We clean the pig up the mountain. Bring 'em back all cleaned already. Just clean the inside. Then, come home, we take the skin off. That's why we take knife with us, to poke the pig. And if it's too late, if it's too dark, we cannot clean. We bring the whole pig home. We do it (at) home. Not me, the other boys used to do it. I never did do it. I carry knife just for looks. Every time they went, I was with them. I never refuse one hunting day.

WN: Were the kids older kids?

DS: Oh, yeah. All working people (men).

WN: Older? Older than you?

DS: No. Some older, some younger. We had about five of us. Very good days. I used to love my sports.

WN: Did you play sports at Kalihi-Waena School?

DS: No. I was taking up a little boxing, I quit.

WN: When did you start boxing?

DS: In school, about seventh grade, eighth grade. I just started in a little gym. I quit. I didn't like it. I don't want to get busted up.



- WN: (Laughs) How come you started in the first place?
- DS: Because a (friend) told me to go with them and box, train. I didn't take sports in Kalihi-Waena. I was more on my studies. Then, when I got to St. Louis, I took up the Thundering Herd (barefoot football team). I started Thundering Herd, I think, in 1922 or '23. I think I played two years (for) the junior team, 130 pounders. Then, from there, I went up to the 150 pound. After that, I quit.
- WN: How did you come to join the Thundering Herd?
- DS: Through Kalihi-Waena. Benny Waimau was the coach.
- WN: He organized you folks?
- DS: He was our coach. And Mr. DeCorte was manager of the team.
- WN: Manuel DeCorte?
- DS: Yeah. He was a schoolteacher. Athletic schoolteacher in Kalihi-Waena. That's how I joined, through him. He was (from) Kalihi Valley. His daughter was born (in) 1928 when we played (the) championship (game) against the Jackrabbits. We beat 'em. He said, "Boys, we must win this game because my daughter (has) just (been) born." She was born New Year's [Day].
- WN: Tell me about that game, what you remember about it. The championship game--New Year's Day, 1928, right--against the Kahului Jackrabbits.
- DS: We went up Kahului 1927 (to) play Christmas Day. It rained so much, Kahului Field was soaked with water, we couldn't. So we came down (one) week after, played New Year's [Day] at Honolulu Stadium. And Knute Rockne was the referee.
- WN: How come he was referee?
- DS: Well, he referee the game. He was down here at the time. Knute Rockne.
- WN: Yeah? Do you know what he was doing here in Hawaii?
- DS: That, I don't know. I know he refereed the game. And then, we beat the Jackrabbits, 13-7. I got knocked out. I found myself home. They brought me home.
- WN: How you got knocked out?
- DS: They hit me over the nose. They bust my nose.
- WN: Who busted your nose?
- DS: I think was Sally Akita.

WN: He was the running back, eh?

DS: I was lineman. He was backfield. Anson Rego was (on) our team. Frank Anahu, I think, was our quarterback. Well, I was a guard. Next to me was Coito. The other end was Peter Lopes. The center was Vicky Vierra. The left guard was Jiro Sato. Left tackle was Mel Enos. Then the end was Charlie Bernard. Backfield was Anson Rego (and) Frank Anahu. Chuck Luck. He died, too. And I forget the one who was the other backfield. That (was) our junior team.

WN: Albert Adams [another interviewee] was on that team, too, eh?

DS: Albert Adams, yeah. He was on line, too.

WN: So, who else was in the league?

DS: Oh, we had Olympic team.

WN: Olympic team?

DS: Yeah. Punchbowl. We had Kakaako.

WN: Kakaako Sons?

DS: Kakaako team. And we had the, let's see, Kalihi, Olympics, Kakaako-- I think was Palama, too. Palama had a team. It was four teams. I only played, I think, one or two years for the seniors, then I quit. Then I start playing baseball for City-Wide.

WN: The junior league was 135 pounds, yeah?

DS: Hundred thirty.

WN: Hundred thirty? What if you were one pound overweight?

DS: You had to go run 'em out. You had to make 130. Before every game, you weigh yourself. But when we played the Jackrabbits, we didn't weigh.

WN: How come?

DS: The Jackrabbits, 150 pounds. See, they play in Maui, once they make the 130, they go up to 150.

WN: Oh, the weight limit was different . . .

DS: But down here, every game, we had to weigh ourselves. Like I was always the fellow who always used to run. I (was) always three or four pounds over. I had to make 130. By the time you get to the game, you (are) tired.

WN: How come Oahu was 130 and Maui . . .

- DS: Maui, once you weigh yourself, you pau. Because over there, I don't know. They were heavier than us. Because they didn't play against our 150 pounders, the Thundering Herd. Only Honolulu. We played Jackrabbits, our junior team. So, Maui, Kahului, I don't know how they run their team. But they were heavier than us. They were bigger boys.
- WN: You guys still beat 'em?
- DS: But we beat 'em. We had the speed.
- WN: Where was the game played?
- DS: Honolulu Stadium. New Year's Day. I wonder if it was a Sunday or Friday. I don't know what it was. But New Year's Day, 1928. Two o'clock.
- WN: Who used to come watch the game?
- DS: Oh, (a) big crowd. Sports, those days, was very good. And we only had one sailor hat, one sweatshirt, sailor moku pants. That's a blue dungarees. That's all we had. And the shoes.
- WN: You wore shoes?
- DS: We were barefooted. Not shoes. When you play baseball, you wear shoes.
- WN: How many players played on one team? On one side? Eleven?
- DS: Same like now. Four backfield. Seven line. But those days, you get licked. They wasn't strict like now. You can put shoulder pad if you want, but I had no shoulder pads. That's why, there was a boy that had collarbone broken. But most of us, hardly anybody use shoulder pads. All sweatshirts. And that's rough game, boy. Those days, you get punched. They won't penalize you like today. Today is very strict. Any little thing, they penalize you. Those days, you hold. Well, when you hold you get penalize too, but referees was better than now. When we were in barefoot league, I played, I think, two years junior; I think I played two years barefoot seniors. They called it "seniors." Then I quit.
- WN: You called it "seniors" because you were getting older or because you . . .
- DS: I tell you. We had the junior league and the senior league. Senior league was 150 up. The junior league was up to 130.
- WN: So, it didn't matter how old you were . . .
- DS: They don't care how old you was. Just the weight.

WN: Your weight, I see.

DS: Weight counts.

WN: And where did you folks practice?

DS: Right in Kalihi-Waena Park.

WN: How many times you folks practice in a week?

DS: Five days a week.

WN: After school?

DS: After school. Go home, do your studies. That was long ago, boy, 1928.

WN: Nineteen twenty-two, you went to St. Louis, yeah?

DS: Twenty-two.

WN: You were going to St. Louis when you played for Thundering Herd?

DS: Yeah, I was (at) St. Louis.

WN: How come you didn't play for St. Louis?

DS: No, I didn't turn out. I was more in studies in St. Louis. I ran track, though.

WN: The track was for St. Louis?

DS: St. Louis. Four-mile relay team. I ran track for three years. Sophomore year, I started running. Freshman, I wanted to study. Sophomore, junior, senior, three years.

WN: Where did you have your track meets?

DS: Punahou Field and Kamehameha Field. Kam used to have a good field. Kam School was right across the field.

WN: Across where?

DS: Where the museum is.

WN: Bishop Museum?

DS: Yeah, all that place was all Bishop [Estate land]. Museum and Kamehameha School. Well, we used to run Kamehameha Field or Punahou Field. They call it "Alexander Field."

WN: Yeah.

DS: That's right. The two fields. Football [was played at] Kam School, Punahou School, [and] Moiliili [Field]. Then I was a cheerleader, '25, '26.

WN: For St. Louis?

DS: For St. Louis.

WN: You had a nickname, huh?

DS: Yeah. "Souzie." I was well liked, too. Then, (we ran) around the island. I forget what year was that, around the island. Fourteen men relay team. Started from Palama Settlement, up to wishing well, up to the Pali, end of the Pali, go below. I think we get to Waialua, the old Waialua Road where pine trees. Up there to--where is that Army place?

WN: Schofield?

DS: Schofield. Down to Wahiawa. Kipapa Gulch. That was my route. [From] old Kipapa Gulch, the old road, down to Waipahu Junction. Three and a half miles. Uphill, downhill.

WN: So, fourteen men. Each man runs about . . .

DS: Some run five miles, some run six, some run three and a half. Depends on hills and the going down. Level road, four or five miles. Walter Gouveia took the longest. He took the Kahuku stretch down to Waialua. That was six miles. He took the longest. The other one got from Waialua up to the pine trees, that was about three or three and a half miles. That's all [up]hill, eh? Shorter miles. Depend on the climbing. Of course, we had friends with cars following us in case, they pooped, they knock out. You fall down, get out of wind. They pick you (up) on that car. They follow you, though. Make sure you don't get hurt, see?

WN: When you finish your run, you get back on the car?

DS: Get in the car. That's why the car follow.

WN: And you raced against other schools?

DS: No, was City-Wide. I just remembered, I think was three leagues. I just don't remember who's the other two leagues. Well, getting old, you know, forget.

WN: So, this is Kalihi?

DS: Yeah. Well, we had (a) Waipahu boy with us. I was Kalihi. We had all kind.

WN: So, you had football, track . . .

DS: I played football.

WN: Anything else?

DS: I played baseball. I was (a) catcher. Underhand and uphand. The big ball. Softball, they call it, but fast ball. I played basketball. I ran track. The one thing I didn't like was fishing. There was no action, only wait for a bite. I used to like action. Hunt wild pigs. Go beach parties, overnight, boys and girls. Nice, clean sport. Nobody had any trouble. Just like sisters and brothers. I belong to the Kalihi-Kai gang. Beach parties. I belong the Pauoa gang, beach parties. I belong Kaimuki gang, beach parties. I was practically every Saturday night, out. Parties, dancing. I was very, very athletic, very, very clean. Not one person could say that I did anything wrong. So, I was well liked. Good old days.

WN: Like when you played baseball, that was with the Kalihi team?

DS: Up Kalihi Valley. We had a four corner league, they called it.

WN: Four quarter?

DS: Four corner.

WN: Four corner league. Why they called it "four corner league"?

DS: We had the old man's league. We had young boys. Four teams took the names. I was with the middle-aged boys, then I got into the old man's league. Then we played baseball for winter league. They played on the Makiki Field. That had different leagues. You get Kaimuki, you get Punchbowl, you get Kakaako league. You get all kind winter league. I was very attached. I was very, very in sports. I like my swimming. Oh, I used to like swimming.

WN: You swam, too?

DS: I used to like my swimming. Today, I hardly swim. Nobody goes out. You can't go out with young people to the beach. Old people don't go nowadays. If they go, they only stay in the sand.

WN: When you folks went beach parties, what beach did you go?

DS: We used to go most down Kailua. Kailua was our favorite place.

WN: Any beaches around here, near Kalihi . . .

DS: I used to go to Sand Island. Then, I used to go Waikiki. Had a pavilion there. I think its still there. Waikiki. Then, we used to go down to Kokohead. There's a beach down there, too.

WN: Who used to organize the parties?

- DS: Well, we get together. Anybody call. "Oh, we go, we go." We used to go Waimanalo, too, swim.
- WN: So, was this mostly Portuguese?
- DS: No, all English. All Portuguese people, but all speak English.
- WN: Most of the Portuguese living in the valley would do these things together?
- DS: In the valley, we had some part-Hawaiians join us in sports. Part-Hawaiians and Chinese. Some Puerto Ricans. Up here had very little Filipinos at that time. Now, we have most majority Filipinos.
- WN: So, most of the Portuguese that used to live over here, where did they move to?
- DS: Some went to the Mainland, some died. Some went to Nuuanu. Down the country. I've stayed up here all my life. Since I was three years old till today.
- WN: So, besides the sports and the hunting, what else did you do to have a good time here in Kalihi?
- DS: Work for the church.
- WN: What church?
- DS: Our Lady of the Mount. We were the Holy (Name) Society. We do lot of work for the church. Not carpenter work. I'm no carpenter. But making bazaars, raising money for the church. I kept myself busy.
- WN: Did they have any kind of celebrations up here, like Holy Ghost Festival?
- DS: Every year, August 15, (we have) the [Our Lady of the Mount] celebration. People from all over the island come to our celebration.
- WN: Where? Where did they come?
- DS: Right to our church. Oh, from Waipahu, from Kaimuki, Palama, all over the place. Some used to come from Maui--the Sardinhas.
- WN: You mean that was just your church? Or August 15 was all . . .
- DS: Only our church. Our Lady of the Mount. August 15.
- WN: What did you call the celebration?
- DS: August 15. Nossa Senhora Do Monte. That's in Portuguese.

WN: What does that mean?

DS: Our Lady of the Mount. Even now, we just had one. Now, the celebration not big like before. We only had the church services. Go up to the hillside, to the crucifix. The statue up there. We have our benediction up there. One evening. Sunday evening. Go up there, come back to the church, then we go to the church hall. Have little drinks and eats. That's how we celebrate. Before, we celebrate Saturday, Sunday. Walk right around Kalihi Street, down to Kalihi-Uka Park, come right around. Today, it's just Sunday night, go up to the statue, go back to the church, go to the hall, that's all. Like before, we had bazaars. No bazaars now. No selling nothing. Big difference.

WN: You had a parade, too?

DS: Yeah. We had a parade. Those days, was on the road. Today, only celebrate from church.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: About how many people would come out from the community?

DS: Practically the whole valley. Those days, the whole valley was interested.

WN: You mean, not only Portuguese but the other groups?

DS: All nationalities. Even some people from outside--Punchbowl, Kakaako, all used to come. We had lot of outside people. It was a big, big celebration. To me, it's the biggest celebration in the islands. Our Lady of the Mount.

WN: Who used to organize the church celebration?

DS: Members. I cannot name all because I might forget some names. But it was members themselves, get together. Our Lady of the Mount Society, they call it. Still active yet. Down Monte Street. It's connected with the church, but it has its own officers. The church want any help, they help the church. They take the name of the church. They do donations for the church. Like now, we have a graveyard. Not under the church name, but it's under the Lady of the Mount Society. We don't do anything against the church. We all with the church. It's a Catholic organization. It was formed way back in 1900s. Nineteen one or 1899 or something like that.

WN: Were your parents members of that church, too?



- DS: Yeah. They were all officers. Then I was a officer from, I think, 1921 to 1930. I was financial secretary.
- WN: Did the church sponsor sports activities, too?
- DS: No. They have the kids sports. Like now, they have the catechism. Well, they have their own teachers. But in sports, they were more of a kids sports like. Whether they play their own, I don't know. I never was. . . . My sports was all outside. We had strong, strong church festivals up here. Ho, you'll be surprised, boy, people from outside come to our parish. Oh, they had big parish, too. Cathedral.
- WN: The one in the valley, Our Lady of the Mount. Was there any in the lower Kalihi . . .
- DS: Kalihi Kai, I know, they had big one, too. They had their own. Kalihi Valley, we had our own. Punchbowl had their own. Punchbowl was a big one, too. Well, maybe they were bigger than ours, I don't know. Oh, they were big. Kakaako had a big one, too.
- WN: Did you folks go to the other celebrations?
- DS: Yeah, we used to go to Kakaako. We attend theirs like they attend ours, too. We attend Punchbowl, they attend ours. We go Kalihi Kai, they attend ours.
- WN: So, each church, each branch had their own . . .
- DS: Their own celebration.
- WN: . . . day?
- DS: Their own day, yeah.
- WN: And what, throughout the year?
- DS: Throughout the year. Kalihi Kai had theirs. We had ours in August. Kalihi Kai, I forget what date. Punchbowl had theirs.
- WN: Did they call that the Holy Ghost Festival?
- DS: No, we call ours Our Lady of the Mount Festival. Holy Ghost was Punchbowl and Kakaako and Kalihi Kai. They call Holy Ghost. We never call ours Holy Ghost. We call ours Our Lady of the Mount Festival.
- WN: How come you didn't call it Holy Ghost?
- DS: I don't know why. That's why, they all big. Maybe theirs bigger than ours. The Holy Ghosts. They're bigger than ours. But to me, ours was big. Kalihi Valley. Down Monte Street where they used to

- have a hall--Lady of the Mount Hall. The whole back, up from the ground to the hillside, all booths.
- WN: Booths. And what did they have in the booths?
- DS: Sell different things. Games.
- WN: Has the festival changed over the years?
- DS: Oh, yeah. It died down.
- WN: About when do you think it died down?
- DS: Ah, that, I can't tell you. Punchbowl, I think, still get the parades. Kalihi Kai kinda died out, too. I think Kakaako kinda died out. I think the only active one now is Punchbowl.
- WN: You think it died down because there're less Portuguese in the area?
- DS: Yeah, yeah. To me, the population. Kalihi Valley, the nationalities all changed. They don't work together. Like before, all Portuguese worked together. Now, you got to work with different people, hard. Big change. Kalihi Kai, same way. The Portuguese are dying, they moving, they not getting together. Outside people coming in, not working together.
- The people in the valley are very nice. You ask (for) help, they help. But [today] most of them is busy working. Today, everybody got to work to run the house. You can't stay home. Like the olden days, mama stays home, papa works. Mama take care the children. Today, mama works. The children stay home by themselves. That's why hard. You tell people come help. "Oh, I cannot do. I'm working." When you plan parade, procession, like that, it takes about a week or more to plan. Not only one or two days. It's hard.
- WN: The Portuguese that lived in the valley here in the old days, what kind of jobs did most of them have?
- DS: Carpenter. Road [work]. Used to be old American Factors. They used to have the trucking people. Trucking dry goods, all that. Like [Theo H.] Davies, had dry goods trucking. All those truck drivers. Work in the grocery store. Bus drivers, all this. All different works. Hard to tell.
- WN: Besides the church celebrations, were there other things sponsored by the community that you folks did?
- DS: No. Oh, politics, that's all.
- WN: How did they campaign in the old days?
- DS: Pep rallies. In the Kalihi-Uka Park. Certain night, everybody

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goes there. Big crowd. The biggest celebration was our festival, August 15, church festival. Outside of that, we used to have a small one December 8. Immaculate Conception. That was the small one.

WN: What changes have you noticed in the valley? I know, this Likelike Highway came up, what? When?

DS: Ah, forget. The people in the valley already is different. More homes. The homes are crowded today. You not even safe on the street today. Before, you walk on the streets. Today, everybody get cars. Everybody speed. Big change in the valley. Whoever seen this valley change, I seen. The way they drive, ho. Nobody go twenty-five, thirty-five [miles per hour]. They go forty, forty-five.

WN: You know, as we look out here, I can see the Kalihi Valley Housing, yeah? Before that housing came out, what was there before?

DS: Taro patch. (Chinese) owned. I forgot who was the owner. And pigs (owned by Japanese).

WN: Pig farm?

DS: Pig farm.

WN: Who owned the pig farms?

DS: I don't know. I forgot the name.

WN: I mean, Japanese?

DS: Yeah. Pig farms. Two sides. Had taro patch, too, but most piggery. Then, the Samoans move in. The people changed. The people makes the valley. The valley was a beautiful place. Still beautiful, but the people. They're very nice people, but all for themselves, sometimes. They aren't so friendly like before. Big difference, the valley.

WN: What about stores? Where did you folks get your groceries?

DS: Used to have the store down below, two stores. One store now used to be the KC Market. One across, one at KC. There's only one store now. Grocery store. And used to be one up here, but it's closed up. So, we have KC Market, that's all. Then, you have the shopping centers.

WN: But what about when you were growing up?

DS: We had two stores up here.

WN: Oh, just the two stores?

- DS: Two stores. Then they made Kapalama. They call it "Kam Shopping Center." That's the one. Then you have the different shopping centers. Now, we have one store right here now. Doris Market. That store been there quite a while. The people who used to own that place had cows [on the land]. Then, they sold it. They build a store. How long ago, I don't know.
- WN: And who owned the stores around here? I mean, what nationality?
- DS: Chinese. Most Chinese.
- WN: You went to St. Louis, yeah, 1922? St. Louis was on River . . .
- DS: River Street. It was called "St. Louis College."
- WN: Why did they call it St. Louis College?
- DS: Well, they had no college in Hawaii. They only had Punahou, Kamehameha, McKinley High School, and HMA--(Honolulu) Military Academy. So, St. Louis College. How it got the name "college," I don't know. Now it's a high school.
- WN: St. Louis College was called "college," but it was actually high school?
- DS: A high school. Only name was college. It was four years high school. Then, from there, you go to Mainland or University of Hawaii.
- WN: You said you used to catch bus from Kalihi to St. Louis College?
- DS: St. Louis, yeah.
- WN: Where did you catch the bus?
- DS: Bus stop. Nineteen twenty-two, we had bus already. They had bus stop.
- WN: And that bus used to take the kids going to St. Louis?
- DS: No. Go to town. Then you go to King Street. We go to King Street, walk up Beretania. St. Louis College was (on River Street).
- WN: What about the kids that went McKinley? How did they go to school?
- DS: Bus, too. But McKinley, my days, it was on Beretania. You know, the old school.
- WN: McKinley?
- DS: Yeah. The old. By that. . . . Used to be the old. . . . What is that? You know where McKinley is now? The old school was (on)

Beretania. Now, it's down King Street. By the . . . What do you call that park?

WN: Thomas Square?

DS: Thomas Square, yeah. You know Thomas Square?

WN: Yeah.

DS: Above. The corner. McKinley, I think was Beretania by Thomas Square. The building still there. That used to be McKinley High School. Then, they moved down. They made a new one down King Street.

WN: What about the policemen in the valley? Do you remember the policemen?

DS: No. They used to ride around, that's all.

WN: But you weren't in trouble, so you wouldn't know, yeah?

DS: Nah, I wouldn't know. They were good policemen.

At our young days, we did more walking than riding because we had hardly no rides. Not everybody had a car. You got to get money to own a car, olden days. Most people walk. Today, everybody (has) a car. You pay so much every month.

WN: Okay, so then, in 1926, you graduated from St. Louis, yeah?

DS: [Nineteen] twenty-six.

WN: You started working for the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, yeah?

DS: [Nineteen] twenty-six. Until '52. Fifty-two until '71, I went to T.H. Davies. Steamship Department.

WN: So, 1926, you started working. How did you get the job?

DS: Inter-Island called the school. They wanted two clerks. And I was one of the clerks (picked). I didn't look for the job. They called the school, so the school sent me down.

WN: How come they sent you down?

DS: I don't know. I was picked. I worked in the office four years in the Davies office as a clerk.

WN: What you had to do?

DS: All paperwork. Checking up all the papers that come from the waterfront

to us at the main office. I check it, and post it, and type it. Make it a book form like. Then, go back to the waterfront already fixed. Ready for the freight (clerk) on the ship to get his cargo (papers). Then, after that, I worked waterfront. I receive cargo, deliver cargo. That's all I did. From seven to four [o'clock].

WN: How much you got paid?

DS: Ah, that is personal. I don't tell nobody how I get paid or what my pay. That's personal. But cheap pay, though. But money was big, those days. How much I started, how much I finish up, only me and the wife knows.

WN: Okay. Well, all right.

DS: Those days, the pay we have was big money. Today, it's peanuts. Then, in 1950, Inter-Island closed up. Hilo Navigation took over.

WN: Hilo Navigation took over Inter-Island Steamship Company?

DS: Yeah. From 1950 to 1952. Fifty-two, they closed up. They went to airline. Hawaiian Airlines. Stanley Kennedy was a big shot for Hawaiian Airlines. And he was bigshot for Inter-Island. So he favored more the airlines. So, they went to airlines. They closed up Inter-Island. Then, Davies hired me. I went to work Davies. I worked as a freight clerk. Receive, deliver. Then, when they load ship, I tell the stevedores where to put the cargo. But I'm no stevedore, I was a clerk. Then, I retired. I worked there for nineteen years.

WN: Was there a difference between working for Davies and working for Inter-Island?

DS: Yeah, big difference.

WN: Like what?

DS: Inter-Island, you only handle the islands. Davies, you handle the world. You handle China, Philippines, Australia, Europe. Worldwide. Mainland.

WN: Inter-Island was mostly cargo?

DS: Cargo and passenger boat. When the passenger [service] closed up, I don't remember. Well, Inter-Island, they were still carrying passengers until they liquidated, 1952. They stopped. That's when they stopped. Right up to '52.

WN: You said you moved from the office--when you were working Inter-Island--you moved from the office to the . . .

DS: To waterfront. Pier 13.

WN: The waterfront. You worked in the office there?

DS: I worked in the office and the ground, both.

WN: What were you doing over there?

DS: I worked in the office, typist. That's what I did down there. Inter-Island, main office, I was typist. I went waterfront, Pier 13, I was typist.

WN: Were you a member of ILWU [International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union]?

DS: Yeah. We joined in. . . . I don't know. Nineteen. . . . I forget when was, we joined it. I was in the union.

WN: Do you remember that 1949 longshoremen's strike?

DS: Yeah, I was working for them. I had to strike, too. We was all union.

WN: Did you picket?

DS: No, I just stayed at the waterfront. I picket the waterfront, that's all.

WN: That was a long strike, eh?

DS: Inter-Island, I just stayed the Inter-Island wharf. That's all. I never go out to no other piers. Just to Inter-Island. Inter-Island lasted till 1952. Those strikes was very calm. Very nice. Not like today. Today, they yell. Those strikes in those days was very nice. Nobody get hurt. The bosses, the union heads, was very good. Not like today. Today, the whole world know they striking. They very, very bossy.

WN: Today, eh?

DS: Those days, the union heads was very nice. They mean business, but good way. They work with the companies. Today, they buck the companies. Big difference.

WN: So, while you were working as a wharf clerk, like 1937, you got married, yeah?

DS: Nineteen thirty-seven.

WN: How did you meet your wife?

DS: I don't know. (Laughs) Maybe (we went) to her father's place playing cards with some friends. Every Saturday night. That's all. Then, we got acquainted. Then, as usual, we (went) dancing.



WN: Where did you folks go dancing?

DS: Up at community hall. We had a hall, Lady of the Mount. Had dancing every Saturday night.

WN: So, how long did you know her before you got married?

DS: Oh, quite a long time.

WN: And then, you have two children, yeah?

DS: Two. Girl and a boy. The girl was born 1943, the boy born '45.

WN: So you had to support them, yeah?

DS: Oh, yeah.

WN: Did your wife work? Was she working?

DS: No, when we had children, she wasn't working. When the children went to high school, she went to teaching--substitute teacher. Public schools. Kalihi-Uka, Kalihi-Waena, and Likelike.

WN: But while the kids were growing up, she wasn't working?

DS: No. While they were babies, she wouldn't work. She was (a) very good mother. Very good. The children came first. I do the working.

WN: So you retired in 1971 from Theo H. Davies, yeah?

DS: February 1971.

WN: So what have you been doing since you retired?

DS: Working. In my yard. I work for nobody else. My own yard. Help my daughter, help my son. Help [with] my daughter's yard (work). I was offered jobs. I wouldn't take it. I was sixty-five years old when I retired. You got to be sixty-five, you get retirement pay. I get my retirement pay, same time with my Social Security. So, I didn't want to work outside. I figure I made enough to support myself. So, I was offered jobs, but I wouldn't work. I was offered jobs to clean yards, I wouldn't work. I figured that I cannot please people. When you work for people's yards. My yard, I do what I want. So, I never did work outside. Paint my house. All my work. Kept myself busy.

WN: As you look at Kalihi, what are your feelings about Kalihi?

DS: All spoiled. Not like olden days. To choose from now and the olden days, I go back the olden days. Today is all different. Oh, big difference.

WN: You know, in about thirty years, young people will be reading about your life in a book. What do you want them to remember or to know about Kalihi?

DS: I don't know. People were much more friendly. You help one another. You go out together. Today, everybody for themselves. They all working. They cannot help it. They haven't got the free [time]. Like with the olden days, everybody was free. Today, everybody works.

WN: So, in the old days, people had more time then?

DS: More time. You help one another. Today, they cannot. They work at night, they sleep during the day. There's big, big difference. The people is different already.

WN: You think Kalihi was different or special from any other place?

DS: I don't know about any other places. But Kalihi Valley changed. We didn't have the people we have today. The crowd. The number of people. It was a small community, was very friendly. They friendly now too, but (not) like before.

WN: And what about you? How would you want young people to think about what Mr. Souza was like?

DS: I cannot tell. I don't know. Opinions are different. That's why I say, I go back to the old days. If I was to come back to these days, I wouldn't. I wouldn't like it. In the olden days, I liked it. The people itself is different. Their ways of acting is different.

WN: If you were to live your life all over again, would you have done anything different?

DS: No, from school till I retired, I go back to the old days.

WN: So, you had your sports, you had your hunting . . .

DS: I had my sports.

WN: . . . your church.

DS: I had my friends. I had my church. My friends was all good. Lot of 'em died, my good friends. I have friends, but not like the olden days. Different kind of friends. Today, you help one another, they expect favors. Olden days, no such thing as that. Everything was really, really good.

WN: Well, before I turn off the tape, you have any more last things you want to say?

DS: No. (Pause) All I can say, I married a beautiful, wonderful wife.

She's very good. I think she can't be beat. Good cook, good worker. Very nice. Next year, I'll be forty-seven years married. And that was my first wife and my only wife. And if she was to pass away, I don't think I would get married again. I don't think I can find one like her.

WN: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Souza.

END OF INTERVIEW

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

**Vol. I**

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