

Bernice Rogers #71
April 15, 1985

Q: Mrs. Rogers, were you working in 1941?

A: No, it was in 1942 that I applied for a job in Pearl Harbor.

Q: What were you doing on the day that Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: It was on a Sunday morning and we thought when we saw the planes coming over to Hickam and Pearl Harbor, we thought it was a practice actually; they were practicing. And so we didn't think anything of it and then someone passed by and my uncle came back from Hickam. He works there and he was the one that told us that Pearl Harbor was being bombed by Japanese.

Q: What was the reaction of you and your family when...

A: We were scared! Part of us... it was hard to believe! And then when we turned on the radio and listened, then we knew it was true. And so it was frightening. It was hard to believe that anybody would come over here and do this to us. You know, considering there isn't very much on this Island that anybody would want.... except Pearl Harbor.

Q: Did you have small children at that time?

A: Yeah, I had three children at that time, and we had to have them registered, identified, fingerprinted, and uh...

Q: Where did you go to have them registered?

A: At the... oh, we had several places open for that. We had to have identification papers made out for us, fingerprinted and everything, gas masks. So the children had to have that too.

Q: Even the little ones?

A: Even the little ones. And then maybe in...

Q: How could they get a mask to fit on a little baby?

A: Yeah, it wasn't exactly... it was sort of like a... I wouldn't say it was a safe one. It wasn't a mask. The boys had... my little boys had just fitted for their little face, but her, it was sort of like a bib.

Q: Uh huh. That just sort of wrapped around her?

A: Yeah, I knew it wasn't very good, but she would use mine if something did happen. I would know how to handle it, yeah.

So 1942, when they asked for workers at Pearl Harbor, because most of the men were being drafted, I applied and I didn't think I could get in! I really didn't think I could get in. So I went there

and it took us a whole day just to apply for that job! There were lots of women there and I guess maybe for everybody who came in to apply, especially females, I have a feeling they didn't trust females. They have their reason for it even though we were Hawaiians, Filipinos, Portuguese, Oriental girls couldn't come I think.

Q: Oh really?

A: So none of them showed up.

Q: Oh, I see.

A: Yeah. I just remember now.

Q: What kind of job was it that you applied for there?

A: I applied for... the opening was for classified laborer, because I'm not a pipefitter, and I couldn't go into being a shipfitter, you know, and there was no opening for that anyway. They wouldn't trust newcomers like females coming in doing that. I don't think so. They were kind of particular. They'd give you the once over and look at you.... it took us all day just to apply for a job like that!

And then, when my application did go in, I was hired. I went through a whole bit of another... my name sent to Washington. They usually... I don't know what they did, and they found out my name is not Bernice, it's Beatrice, in Washington. So I had to go up to Capt. Payne's(?) office and go through the whole thing again, like uh... they were treating me like a spy. I think that's what my dad said. That's what happened because the two names were different. That's all. That's about the only thing. It was frightening too because like uh... they were treating me like I was doing something wrong; until I had everything cleared up, it was O.K.

Q: Do you want to get the phone? (pause in tape) So what kind of work were you doing there at first?

A: Classified laborer. We would do sweeping, or cleaning up too, you know, or taking inventory of the things that come in, or whatever we have left over in the warehouses. It was a big job really and we were all new, so we don't dare make mistakes in...

Q: Was it all women in your crew?

A: Yeah, about six or seven that's all, and another crew in another warehouse would be about that amount, six or seven women. And they even had women who drove trucks! Now I wish I had a drivers license at the time. It would have been fun to drive those little Navy trucks, from shop or to.

So I was in Supply Department. There were two different departments, and so Supply was the one that usually had all these things that most of the Navy ships needed, you know. Industrial Department was different. It was in shipfitters and machine shop, and ...

Q: How long did you work as a laborer there, classified laborer?

A: For only 7 months. It was a lot of fun because no responsibility. Anyway, working as a under storekeeper was good too, because you had to know when these things come in. You have to know where they are, and what ships have to have those certain materials, you know. So that to me was an important job, yeah. Some of our battleships was coming in, you know, had to have these certain things, and the Supply Department took care of it, and we just had to make sure that we never made any mistakes. So most of the things that went out to them was with stock numbers. We had to be very careful about things like that. So it was very good though. It was like us learning... it was like us going to school again, yeah, because you don't dare make a mistake. Because if they get out to sea and you issued the wrong material, something could go wrong out there.

Q: Sure, yeah.

A: So... but working there was a good feeling, like you're helping. Of course we had Bob Hope and Arty Shaw, and these men who... these people who came in to entertain us too. It was nice to have something like that for a switch you know, during our lunch hour. But outside of that, I remember at our warehouses we had machine gun on top of the warehouses, and I used to want to go up there and look. I'm nosey anyway. You know we would look at it, and they would show us, most of the Marines are the ones that handle that. So we had hands off. We were never supposed to go up there and look. We didn't know at that time though you know. So there's a lot of things we learned working there.

Couldn't have any affair there; that's what they call a relationship. I am getting tired of that word "relationship". You can't use the word "affair". (laughter)

Q: Well it means the same thing right? (laughter)

A: Same thing but it sounds nicer... "affair"

Q: Uh huh.

A: (conversation with someone entering house regarding phone call and other related conversation)

Q: Well, you know it must have been a little bit strange and unusual to be one of a small number of women there among so many men.

A: Yeah, I'm beginning to think about it. Uh, it was very nice because people stared at us. And at 22 years old, yeah, I used to wear size 8 dresses, so it wasn't so bad. (laughter) And I think it was really... well, it's nice to be admired by people! I mean uh...

Q: Sure!

A: At that time I didn't realize how nice it is, now I'm beginning to appreciate it. Now that I'm older. I should have

um... nope, wasn't a very nice person. All I did was go to work and go home. That's all I did. Until we had, for entertainment for the Navy people like us, we had a Pavilion built in Waikiki where Queen Surf Park is now.

Q: Oh yeah... yeah.

A: It was called, 'The Breakers' and so once a month we had dances there and that was where the fun is for all these people like us. You know, that's where the fun is, because if we didn't have fun like that, we would probably crack up.

Q: Sure.

A: ...Because, yeah that wasn't... I'm surprised I could at my age, at 22, that I could take that kind of job. I didn't realize. I remember coming home tired.

Q: It must have been especially tough for you with three small children.

A: Yeah, I had my mother and dad (thank God for them), and my mother and dad is legally divorced already. And so my mother and dad were heaven sent, because when I would get home from work at about 4:30 or 5:00, I couldn't breathe, I couldn't sleep, I couldn't eat, I would just cry and fall asleep. That's because this is new to me, you know. The work is not hard, I'm not afraid to work hard, you know, physically, but mentally it was a great deal of strain on me. So I would just cry myself to sleep at night and my dad would be massaging my feet and my mom would be massaging my back, and I'd wake up at 4:00 in the morning, take a long bath, to back to work again. So that, maybe because I was too young or... no I don't think so. I'm supposed to be strong. (laughter)

Q: Well, you sound like you're a strong person.

A: Catching the bus. I remember getting on the bus on Hotel Street. Sometimes I would go that way and we would board this great big bus, and the bus would go all through... no lights. There were the yellow lines right in the middle of the street, so the bus driver would stay on this side, the other one would stay on that side, and they would go by the yellow line; a yellow paint on the street you know. Going through sugar cane fields all the way, there was no... that airport was homes. They had a tract there; a lot of homes you know. All homes just falling apart, but there's a lot of people there too.

And then getting to the gate we would have to show our ID, and so we always wore it you know, with your picture on it. And most of the Marines were sort of friendly. I used to be scared of them because they would just look at you (laughter). We're getting an idea here. But now I'm thinking, they're just being funny I think; but I used to be so scared of them. "You got your gas mask?" you know, and I would show it to them. Just the sight of them used to scare me, but I got used to it. Maybe they had to be that way.

But I got along nicely with most of the Navy boys because we were almost about the same age, you know, 22, 23, 24, and some of them were good dancers, you know, and they were a lot of fun.

But my dad used to encourage me to go on dates with them, you know. And I think I was too... maybe it was good that I was that way, because my children I had. I always think too much of that and my mother and dad said it wasn't so bad.

But going to work was a great deal of strain and I eventually got used to it after 6 or 7 months. Then I got to love it, and so when they asked for overtime, I stayed, you know, because we always had a Navy truck or a bus to take us home, and usually they don't want the women to work late. But once in a great while they needed our help you know. So I stayed. I used to volunteer to stay because it was O.K.; safe in numbers. And besides we had a Navy Chief who was a real sour puss, so it was good. (laughter)

Q: Took care of you?

A: Yeah, made sure that we got on the bus and got home safely (laughter). You never had to worry about... it's worse now! During the War time it was the nicest place to live on this Island.

I remember getting home late and I had to go to my grandma's house sometimes and I get off the bus on Queen Street. It's dark already, with my gas mask, and the military base was right there in the park, right in the heart of Kakaako, and those military boys were there.

Q: What kind of base did they have in Kakaako?

A: It was an Army base, right in the... uh, where American Factors(?) is right now. We had military bases all over. They were small ones but, God this was a nice place to live in during the War time. Now it's not safe. True.

So now I'm with child abuse center and I'm responsible for a 14 or 15 year old girl living with me. I make sure she comes home right after school and I sit here and wait for the bus until she gets home safely. That's who I'm with now. So it's... But she...

I gotta tell you... and at night when we used to go to bed, you could hear the military trucks all night long. I don't know where they're going, what they're doing, but they must be doing something right.

Q: Working 'round the clock.

A: You could hear them and sometimes it's kind of frightening. Then, we were told to build our own bomb shelter.

Q: How did you do that?

A: Uh, we had someone dig a hole in the ground and put some boards over it or cement on top. I remember, and cover it with some kind of cement... oh, burlap bag, that's what it is. But we hardly ever used it. I remember teaching my dad how to go down there, and he's big, so I always made sure, "You just go down there first and then the children will follow you." I used to have to tell him, because I'm not home you know. And he said, "Ho, that's a (cannot understand)" He said, "It's my time to go anyway."

My father's a well known man, Captain John Brown, on the Islands here. He was a step-father, but I loved him. He was

more like my own father. I shouldn't say step-father.

So that's maybe... and everywhere military people. Even when we went to town shopping, there was no Ala Moana Shopping Center. And us being working girls, we used to come in on Fridays, go to the bank to deposit our check or something, or ... everywhere there were military men.

They would whistle, or you know they would be across the street, or they would whistle at us and some of us would... We were told not to say anything, because these boys are here for short while, and they call you. "It's not going to hurt you; just wave back." I said, "No, we don't wave back, because they walk across the street!" (laughter) So we don't wave back.

And so a lot of them used to complain about being on this "Rock". They call this Island, "rock" and I used to get mad because they call this Island "rock". But that's O.K., and he said the girls were unfriendly, they were goofy looking, they didn't have pretty legs and all kinds of things. And I thought it was real funny. I don't blame him for saying that.

The girls were unfriendly, you know, and maybe there was a reason for it. Maybe because we were all working, and there were a lot of nice girls too, because my two sisters were married to military men and their marriages were very happy so I'm not against that. That's where I met my husband and here we are. He was my boss.

Q: Oh... (laughter)

A: So, I got to learn the ropes about being a storekeeper. You know that way I got to be real good, because he was a workaholic. Workaholics, they don't fool around when there's work to be done, you know, so it was nice to have a man like that around. I mean there's a time for play and a time for work. That's what all our bosses should be like, you know because there was so much to be done. Some people took it lightly. But I must have been awfully serious, because they told me I was a real sour puss (laughter.)

Q: (laughter)... That's hard to believe.

A: You know, but I loved dancing, and on our day off you know, we would get together... all the girls would get together, "Let's go to Pearl City Tavern." I said, "Pearl City Tavern! You mean we're going to walk right in with no escort!" "Don't be so naive! Of course, five of us!" "How we going to pay for our drinks?" " Well, you pay one round, I pay one round, you pay... don't let anybody pay our rounds." and that's how I got to learn about going into places like that. I thought it was fun. I thought it was fun to go like that because most of the Navy boys were quick dancers, you know, and they were at Pearl Harbor, and in Pearl City Tavern.

Q: They must have done a good business over there.

A: Yes. But I tell you, when it was time to go home, we got into a group and we went home together. So whatever girls made dates with whoever they happened to make dates with, they went out some other time. I'm sure they did. Because see, used to talk about it. (laughter) It's O.K!

But the Navy boys were good dancers. I remember that so well. And we used to go to Royal Hawaiian, you know, some of us went by there because we were with Navy USO. And so we always had chaperons, which is...

Q: So that was sort of like to go to the dances and ... put on by the USO?

A: Yeah, this was for the Navy and at the Breakers and at Royal Hawaiian. But at Royal Hawaiian Hotel I remember I said, "Why is it that only officers can come and stay here?" I shouldn't have said that. See at that table, and everybody was going...

Q: (laughter)

A: They went like that you know. And I just had one drink and I became that way and it's not like Bernice to talk like that. "What's wrong with our enlisted men? I mean they could come here too! Why shouldn't they come here? Why is it officers only? It's not fair, because they go out and fight too." You know, I'm thinking of the underdog and I always do anyway. I still do.

Well there's a reason for it because this guy is trying to explain to me and he's a Navy Lt. I know he's a pilot. He's real nice and gentle about it. He said, "Well, we can talk about it later on tomorrow when I come by and pick you up for lunch." I said, "Who's going out to lunch with you?" (laughter) Oh boy, I'm so ashamed when I think about it. I feel embarrassed now that I think about it.... stupid of me. "I want to talk about it, I'll pick you up for lunch." "O.K., you bring the lunch. I'm not going to stand in line to talk to you." O.K., he brings the lunch, we sit in the truck and we talk about it. He says, "There's a reason for it because these boys are only here for a short while, that's why they have Royal Hawaiian Hotel." (laughter)

Anyway, oh there were a lot of... my brother-in-law was in the Army and he was stationed at Armstrong, and I remember that he had to leave sometimes all of a sudden and my sister would want to know why he's leaving so suddenly. "Well, I can't tell you." (an unclear response to this quote) There's a reason for it you know because this is War time and he can't tell here where he's going and that's not so good you know. You don't like that. I know I wouldn't. But he had to leave.

He was an Army Sgt. and then I had another one too and he was in the military also. So you can imagine my grandmothers place. There was a lot of military men with Army trucks that used to come in because see, my two brother-in-laws lived there and so that was nice. Some of the boys were boisterous after they had a few drinks and the sad part of it; we couldn't buy any liquor. Uh, no maybe it was good, and everybody had to had some kind of card. They had to get it at City Hall, in order to buy one quart of liquor a week.

So I used to get a card just so my brother-in-law could get a quart you know because his friends would come over and most of the military boys can't buy any. I don't know why! So that was that.... and so they used to uh, restrict on foods, certain types of food but that's O.K. too.

Q: You had ration cards?

A: Wait a minute now, I can't remember that. But I know there were a lot of things that we couldn't have, such as soap, toothpaste, you know, and... but I don't think about that there was certain foods we couldn't have. But we learned to do without. It was fine. I know I never squawked about it because we always had fish. We could never go fishing though because the whole Island had barb wire around the beach.

Q: Oh...

A: And so sometimes we'd get together and we'd want a beach party. We'd have to have permission from two different military people. I don't know whether... I think it was the Navy and the Marines, because we used to have this paper made out and we had to have our names written down, you know and for us to go to the beach and have a beach party that day. Then someone would open that uh... those barb wires would be great big coils like that. Were you here at that time?

Q: No.

A: And so there was no way you could get over it because it was high, you know. But they would do it for us because we worked for the Navy and we'd stay for two or three hours, just for swimming. Oh that was much nicer; nobody on the beach. Oh that was fun you know. And of course when we got through there was always someone there, you know, military men who had to... because they had barb wire that would have to be closed and opened again to let us out. So that was fine. I'm beginning to think it was really nice to run along the beach and nobody there. We'd just go swimming way out at sea, and take your bathing suit, and swim naked, and I mean nobodies looking! (laughter)

Q: Sure!

A: And put it back on when you go back. That was fun. And we worked for the Navy at that time so we were lucky; always had to carry an ID.

I remember taking a girl home after a "black-out party" for our boss one time, and we were late so it's after 10:00, and we were stopped. That was frightening too, you know, because they were going to take us in, and that wouldn't be so nice because see, if you get into trouble like that you can't go back and work in the Navy Yard, and I didn't want to lose my job you know. So, he was pretty nice though, when we had a civilian. We had a MP, two MP's, and we had a civilian policeman and he was the one that took care of us; not the MP's. If it was the MP's it would have been... See, one of our girls in our car (she was a good looking Hawaiian girl, well known hula dancer) she answered back. You know, she got sarcastic, and they fined her \$25.00. They didn't fine us. They just put in our card about uh... there was something on that, on my ID card. I don't know what it was saying, that I was out on "black out night". And I would have to go and take it to Capt. Payne, my Capt. and show it to him, and he would say, "Oh, that's nothing!" It was so nice. I loved him for that, to erase my ID, so it wouldn't look so bad for me. So

it was real nice of him now that I'm thinking about it.

Anyway, she was fined \$25.00 and had to go down and pay for it. We thought it was funny. She didn't think it was though.

Q: When she had to go to court, was it Military Court?

A: She didn't have to go Military Court. Oh, wait a minute, yes! Oh! That's why she didn't come to work for three days! It was right on Bethel Street, because... How did you know about Military Court?

Q: Some other people told me about it.

A: Yes! She paid that \$25.00 fines and she had to go Military Court and then see Capt. Payne three days later. Yes. And she just hated... and yet she smiled (cannot understand). You know she just hated him for it. I told her, "No, you shouldn't have said anything." I said, "It's cause you had two drinks that's why and because you had two drinks, that's why you got sassy. Because it's not like you to talk like that." She said, "I don't care. They think they own the Island." You know, she starts saying... I said, "No, not really. We're lucky to have them here. You know, I think so. My dad thinks so, and he's a big German man."

And I had to help my dad too because he's a foreigner. He left Germany when he was 13. I had to have papers made out for him, you know, because he left Germany when he was at the age of 13. Never went back. And his German name was Nouheimer(?). So we had to make those papers out and go through a whole lot of red tape to protect my dad. And he had to tell me where he had been and what countries he went to, until he came to the United States. He decided to carry the name John Brown when he became a Capt. of one of those ships (I don't know which one. He gave me a German name. I don't remember) and he landed over here. He got to like the Islands and stayed here. So when someone wants to know about him (sometimes I get a call) I tell them to go down to the Library of Hawaii. His whole history is written out there, because I helped him make it out. They tape recorded it and it's over there. So it's something nice, even about my grandpa.

My grandfather, Hawaiian side, there's a whole lot of history about him too. I'm so proud of him because he um..... oh, there's so much he did for the Islands. Of course we're not going to talk about it but there's so much he did.

Q: Was he still working during the War?

A: My grandfather? No, he wasn't around. I'm sorry, he died already. He wasn't here. But it seems I spent so much time with him and with my step-father that it seems two different cultures, you know. How'd you like living in Kakaako, and my mother gets married to Capt. Brown and we go up Diamond Head live. Two different ways of being brought up.

Q: Was your step-father Capt. Brown, was he working during the War here?

A: No, he had given up that sailing and he worked at Aloha

Tower. He was the one that uh... you see most of (??) came to the Islands did not come by plane. Most of it came by ship and because he was so good at identifying ships who were out at sea, this job was given to him, you know, at Aloha Tower. And of course he was a Harbor Board inspector too. You know, ships that came in from different countries like China, Japan, places like that, he used to be the inspector there. So he had a very important job, I think. Now I'm beginning to realize how important it was. At that time I didn't care.

And they built a nice home right beyond the lighthouse, there's a little park there that's called Koolei Park(?).

Q: Oh yes.

A: Uh huh. Our home was situated right on top there, uh huh.

Q: Oh, that's a nice place.

A: Yeah, and there was no other homes there. So to move from Kakaako which is very different from Diamond Head, and being transferred from Pohukaina School which is in the heart of Kakaako and we speak Pidgin you know. I mean, the kids they were smart down there, but when... we just... our English I think was really poor. But when in Rome do as the Romans do, so in Kakaako, I had to speak that way.

O.K., I went to Diamond Head live. There was a whole different bunch of kids (the Dillingham boys, Magoon boys, Kelly boys, you know). I said why they brought boys. Always. And there was a famous artist who lived right next to Natatorium. The name of that place is still there. There's a beach there that still holds his name. Right next to the Natatorium there's a little beach there I'm sorry, cannot remember. He's a well known writer before. I'll bet I'll remember after you leave. anyway, he's very nice to us kids you know. He would sit down and tell us stories.

And the polo field used to be right in Kapiolani Park, so I got to like polo playing. But you gotta like it when your kids are understood, and of course the Dillingham boys were in it. Now polo playing is at Mokuleia and I would love to go over there and watch and nobody cares for polo. Nobody I know cares for that. Say what's that. I don't understand. It's a fun thing. The only thing I don't like there, the horses get hurt. That's why I cry when I see it. And so for a long time I haven't gone to see it. I would not like to see the horses... I don't care if the rider gets hurt. He can break his neck for all I care, but the horses... the horses.... I don't like to see the horses get hurt. What are we talking about. We supposed to be talking about what it was like during the War time.

Maybe if I had been married to a military man I would have had more information. I remember my sisters being married to military men, so they could purchase things at the commissary, and civilian people did not have it so they could not have things like toothpaste and soap. Those were the two things.

And outside of that it was nice that.... we probably had the nicest military boys come to think of it. We never had rape cases like we have now, you know, and those boys are probably my age now... 66, 65. And I have a hunch a lot of them come here as tourists to visit this place again

you know, and they probably go out Pearl Harbor and uh... show their wives what the Islands were like before uh, and explain to their wives what the Islands were like.

So it brings back memories for some of them, because I know when they have services up here for Ernie Pyle, that was a sad thing to watch, because a lot of men remember him you know. And now they're my age and they stood there and just cried. That was a very touching thing, to be there and to watch. And my son-in-law works there, so I go there when there's special events like we had this Easter Sunrise services. That would have been nice to see, and we usually walk about 4:00 in the morning, walk there, and the place is packed full of people. Now that's something nice to do, and if I was most of these tourists I would come here around Easter time and attend the services there.

Q: Yeah, that's a big one.

A: They have a big one. It's very, very nice. Now the services start when the sun rises and it's so touching, the songs they sing. You can't help but cry. You know, I'm not very religious. I am in certain way. I know that there is someone there who's taking care of me because I wouldn't be here today you know. But, to be over religious is not very good in some ways because then they become fanatics then. And then you get too carried away and you become one-sided, I think. Because sometimes I see some of my best friends have become that way you know. I don't want to condemn them but it's better to not... if you do get in to it and you go a little too far, you lose your bearings I think and then you become, oh, we're better than they are, you know. And when you get to that point, forget it, you just lost something. But now I'm preaching.

Q: That's alright.

A: You can erase this part yeah? But ask me something...

Q: Well, one thing that sort of, that I was sort of wondering about, you know, about your children and how did they take the whole thing. Did they understand what was happening about the War? Did they understand what a War was? And how did they... see, I guess what I'm getting at is all this influx of military must have sort of disrupted life a little bit and I was just wondering how the little kids took everything.

A: My oldest son, he took it pretty hard. He used to... he was about 6 years old going to school and he would be with my mother and father most of the time because I'm at work. He always used to say he was sick. He didn't feel like going to school, you know. And that wasn't too good. So he tried to hide it. So they explained things to him. You know, when you hear "BOOM", you don't know whether "TACK TACK TACK" you hear that. Now the boys are practicing. They're trying to ... what they're doing, you know, when you hear machine gun all over the Islands, is they're working to see if it works. That's why they do it. They're not shooting at anyone. See, I used to have to explain to my son about that, because we'd hear "TACK TACK TACK TACK". You hear that. I said, "There's no one out there. It's just the Marines.

They're oiling up their machine guns and they have to see if it still works. That's the only way I can explain to him. There's no one out there. There's no enemies knocking. Because it's dark and when you hear something like that it is frightening, yeah.

So my son, one son used to be here and the other son used to be here, when I used to sleep at night, come home from work. My little baby girl (name??) used to be on the cushion; didn't feel anything. But my two sons, I was always home at night with them. Because the grandparents can take the place, can be there in the daytime, but I don't think they can take my place at night. So I should be there. So it didn't affect them, no, not too much. Maybe they with Grandma and Grandpa most of the time. They were not put in daycare center. Those are the children I heard later on, that became... some of them did not uh... could not take it; some of them.

Q: The ones that were in the day care centers?

A: Yeah, that were my childrens age. Because I heard some of them became "off" a little bit. It affected them when they were young. And so in some way, maybe because they were in daycare centers. That has something to do with it too, because if you are not close to someone you related to, you not going to believe this lady, this caretaker who's talking to you. Children are not that stupid. I don't think so. You can look at them and lie, and they know if you are lying to them... some. They seem to have a built in kind of a... they look at you and they go.... and then there are some who will believe. So it's just different personalities maybe.

Q: Well, I can't think of any more questions.

A: Yeah, I should have brought my sister (name?) here. Now that one is with military. But I'm sure I already told you most of what I ... Anyway, it was scary and not to be able to... we use to have to put this great big black paper on our window, just so we could turn our light on in the house. But the lights we had is dim, you know. So that we used as blackout, and gee.... We had to go without a lot of things and that's what the people here should learn, really.... to go without things. Because now I look at it, we have too much. We really have too much, and the children are materialistic. O.K. that's all I'm going to say about that (laughter). Um.... how old are you?

Q: I'm 40.

A: See, one of my sons. You could be my son.

Q: (laughter)

A: See, isn't that cute. I've got one who was born in 1936. You were born in 1938.

Q: Me?

A: Yeah.

Q: I was born in 1944.

A: You're a '44 baby. Oh, O.K. Victor, (when was Victor....) he was born in '45. So Victor is 39. He was born... oh, you're a War time baby. Oh, that' cute! (laughter) There were no diapers too. I remember a lot of women who had babies...

Q: Oh, it must have been hard... because they didn't have Pampers or anything then.

A: No. (laughter) Not at that time.... You have a baby?

Q: Yeah, I had one.

A: Oh so you know about Pampers! (laughter) That is so cute! (laughter)

Q: So, things like diapers you couldn't get huh?

A: No, couldn't get diapers. So when Victor was born in 1945, there was a military wife whose baby died when she gave birth and so she put an add in the paper, uh you know. Now these military women can get everything from the baby carriage to the crib to the baby diapers... so we got all those things for Vic in 1945. And everybody said, "How you got those diapers?" It's because her baby died. It was a black woman and her husband was stationed at Hickam as a flyer. No, no... he wasn't a flyer. He work co(c)pilot, anyway, on board those planes that come in and go out. You know (laughter) Pampers. No, we never... our babies never had Pampers. We used to have to wash the diapers... oh, I didn't mind. It was easy.

So when I moved. It was the hardest thing to find a home to live in.

Q: Oh yeah, I imagine rents must have gone up and everything huh?

A: And this property, this land here is Hawaiian Homes Land. I guess you know about it. And uh... I've been here for 36 years. I can't believe it. Wait now, Victor is 39. No, I've been here 38 years. God, was it that long ago. And so when I bought this home it was a tiny little brand new home. This was a bedroom, that was a bed room, that was a bed room, that was a living room. That section was not around. That bed room, bathroom, bedroom, and kitchen. It was a tiny little house and the door was over there, and there was two stairway, a stairway that goes down and the kitchen was downstairs. But I didn't care. I didn't care. I thought it was cute. I just loved it. So we were lucky to get this place.

Q: There's a long waiting list now for Hawaiian Homes Land.

A: Yes, even Dr. Sasaki he lives above Tantalus, that's a high income, and Dr. Sasaki he lived there. He just sold his home. He says, "Don't believe it. Don't you believe that's a higher

income. Those guys eat sardines because they have to pay for their home." (laughter) That's what he said. Dr. Won said that too. Maybe there's something else that you want to know?

Q: Well, I can't think of anything else.

A: Yeah, I'll probably think of something else but it will be uh.... Anyway, I left in 1944. I left the Navy Yard because I was going to get married, and I'm sorry I did leave. You can't just leave. You have to have a good reason because it was still during War time.

Q: Oh really?

A: Uh huh. Can't just walk out and say, "I quit." My reason had to be... I had to have a good reason. I couldn't say I'm getting married again. No way. That's a poor excuse. So I had my children and that was the best excuse. I used my children. Anyway that was true. I wasn't lying. My husband just thought that I should take care of my two children. My mother and dad were older; they shouldn't be doing that. So I left in 1944. If I think of something can I call you and tell you?

Q: Sure.

A: O.K., leave your phone number here. Thank you...(tape ends)