

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW #452-1

with

Etsuo Sayama (ES)

February 3, 1992

Kapalama Heights, O`ahu

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. Etsuo Sayama on February 3, 1992, at his home in Kapalama, O`ahu. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Okay, why don't we begin. Mr. Sayama, why don't we start by having you tell me when you were born and where you were born.

ES: I was born in Honolulu, July 25, 1915, on 1220 Nu`uanu Avenue.

WN: Okay. Tell me what your parents were doing over there.

ES: Oh, my father [*Shosuke Sayama*] was a barber, and my mother [*Etsuyo Muraoka Sayama*] was a housewife at home, because three children, yeah.

WN: Mm hmm.

ES: That's the extent that I know about him because he died [*in 1922*] when I was so young. And of course, my mother, when she cared for me, did all kind of work. But this is subsequent to coming back from Japan. She worked as a housemaid and then she also worked at the—there was a tailor on Beretania Street, Fujii, you know, and she worked there as a—I guess the olden days, all Japanese they learn *saiho*, which is seamstress, that kind of stuff, so she worked there. And then, she was pretty good cook, so she used to work at *okazuya*, you know, catering service like that. So she had a hard time too, doing all kind until she remarried.

WN: Your father's barbershop, do you remember it at all?

ES: No, I don't. Of course he died when I was six, so I should know something, but hard to recall. I don't even recall his face. Last weekend I went to my box out here. You know, I move so often, all my stuff is boxed. So I took out [his photo] just to see, get a perspective of the history. So, my only image of him is the picture. You know, I have it here if you want to take a look at my mother, and then I mounted our passport picture when we went back to Japan [*in 1922*], you know, right in the same page.

WN: You happen to know why your parents—how and why your parents came here?

ES: Oh, I have no idea. No idea. And I don't know how they even met. I guess matchmaking, yeah. They must have been matched. If my mother's cousin (Mrs. Hatsuyo Hashimoto) was living, I

could have asked her. But when I tried to ask her, she was deteriorating already. (She was) the cook at the Robinson's family, you know. She's just like another mother to me, see. And her daughter was also with us. And (Mrs. Hashimoto) lost her husband too. But she didn't remarry and the two girls [*were*] with her. So three of us [*were*], just like fatherless three kids, you know. So we got really close together. (Previously) they lived in Japan (much longer), they knew more about it than I did. See, my Japan experience as a child was just one year. So . . .

WN: So you went there because your father had passed away when you were six years old.

ES: Yeah, right.

WN: Now, I understand he passed away during the flu epidemic?

ES: Yeah, that epidemic from World War I went around the world. So I guess by the time it reached Hawai`i, we were in '22, 'cause World War I was, what, 1917, '18, those years. So that's what (Mrs. Hashimoto) told me. Not only him, see, lot of people (died), you know. So must have been sort of an epidemic. [*Shosuke Sayama died in 1922.*] Not in Hawai`i, maybe, but it started off as an epidemic and it just spread, I guess. [*An influenza epidemic killed an estimated 20 million worldwide, 548,000 in the United States.*]

WN: Now, why is it that your mom went back to Japan and took you folks?

ES: Well, I guess, with the income gone, she figured she cannot support three kids. And of course her parents were concerned, too. I think my mother's father [*Kikutaro Muraoka*] came over [*to Hawai`i*] too, I'm not too sure. And he stayed in Kaka`ako. That's one thing I remember, Kaka`ako, you know. What stage of the (period) he came, I don't know. But I guess they must have recalled them, so three of us went back. And then, I think they had some kind of immigration law at that time, and there was a stipulation that you had to come back within a year, or they were going to come out with an [*alien*] exclusion law [*1924*]. You know, this racial stuff was coming up already at that time, see. So she decided to come back, and she felt out of place, you know, going back and forth to (both) grandparents' place. So naturally she didn't have enough money for all three kids. So I, being the eldest—my older sister had died earlier—she said well, she'd take me over [*back to Hawai`i*], and then left the two kids with (her) grandparents.

WN: In Japan.

ES: Japan. And the girl died the following year, I think. But my brother survived and grew up [*in Japan*], went to school. And I don't know, I think he made it through high school, then he got a job with the Manchurian railroads, so he went to Manchuria until World War II broke out.

WN: So you were the only child that came back with your mother.

ES: Yeah, right.

WN: Do you remember your one year in Japan at all?

ES: Only a smattering. I know where the school was, because every time I go back to Japan, I try to visit the area. Then when my oldest granddaughter over here became eleven, I think, I took her to Japan to show her where I went to school. Well, first grade, so you know, not too much, but two things standing up in my mind. That when you are singing, you know, they call 'em

shoka. Music class. I don't know if in America we had that kind, see. And to take the test at the end, the teacher plays organ and then you gotta sing the song, you know (chuckles). You know, (only) one year old and you don't know the language too good, try to sing a song, yeah. But I guess I did all right. And then one more thing was the math. They really drilled you in math, you know. And I'm really thankful for that, because after that, because of that math, every time I take test, I get good grades, you know. And that helped me. That's why I think I told you once, after I came back, I had to repeat English school, first grade. So I had three years of first grade. And then, subsequent to that, they let me skip—not skip grade but, only half a year each time and I made up for all the lost time, see. And I think math really helped me. And then another thing they had is what they call *shushin*. I don't know what you'd say . . .

WN: Morals, yeah?

ES: Yeah, yeah. You know, they really stress that, see. And I guess over here you don't have such a thing, you know, grade school. So those three things really stuck with me as far as Japanese education is concerned.

WN: Way different from what you had at Kauluwela School?

ES: Oh yeah. Oh well, Kauluwela, I don't remember. I think I just went there to play mostly. (Chuckles) Well, after I came back [*in 1923*], I was kind of old, so I gradually picked things up. And I was looking at my album, and I saw myself, I guess, I was maybe, third, fourth grade pictures, you know. Then I start recalling, oh yeah, we had some older guys around because we were put in this experimental school. Kawanakoa [*Experimental*] School started off as an offshoot of Royal School. You know, Royal School was the school before for the elites, yeah, the monarchy and all that. And I guess we were surplus kind of kids (chuckles), you know, come from Japan, you know. [*Elite*] people were predominant and we were shifted. And when they made the first shift, they borrowed a Japanese[-*language*] school at [*Honpa*] Hongwanji [*Mission*], on Fort Street, you know. They don't use the building in the morning, so we went there. And that gradually became bigger and bigger, and then they built the Kawanakoa [*Experimental*] School. So I started off, partly at Fort Street, I mean Royal, but we went to Fort Street, and Fort Street School became Kawanakoa. So I sort of summarized my education. Grade school was Kawanakoa.

WN: So when you came back from Japan, where did you folks live? Same place?

ES: No. I was rereading what I wrote for my kids, and [*where we lived*] was where Chun Hoon [*Pharmacy*] is (now and our home was) right across. [*The Hungry Lion Coffee Shop now occupies the Chun Hoon Pharmacy site.*] Another relative from Japan had lived there, so, you know, they had kind of a big house, and they had lot of room. I guess, was sort of a one-floor type [*of*] apartment. Then, only me and my mother, so we didn't even need too much. So we stayed there. Then good thing, my mother's younger brothers came over [*from Japan*]. I think one came over first, and then the second one. But they had rented a place in Pauoa. So from there, I went to [*live on*] Pauoa Road. You know, I was telling you, close to the Iidas' (home), yeah. And we stayed there several years, and then I think he called his younger brother, so I had two uncles staying with us. But unfortunately, the older one passed away. So he [*younger uncle*] was the breadwinner for all of us. My mother was just doing incidental kind of work, see, not a permanent job. No more skills at all. So after he passed away, you know, no place for us [*to live*], so I think my younger uncle went back to Japan, and my mother and I came back to Nu`uanu Street [*i.e., Nu`uanu Avenue*]. Only a few houses away from where I was

born. There was a small alley, and there was a upstairs apartment, so we lived there. And my mother finally went to work as a maid for the Robinson [family]. And I was left alone, so *kaukau* and everything, the next-door lady used to take care of me. So I was, you know, just by myself living on. Because she [mother] would go to work early in the morning and then come home in the evening. And then I think at that time, she switched to that seamstress kind [of work], on Beretania Street, the tailor's shop. I don't know what the sequence was, but I came back to there.

Then my mother, somebody wanted to make go-between, match her with somebody. I have the picture, she looks pretty young, you know. So as I told you, the Kimura family in Waikiki was related to my mother's side too. You know, Japan-style, all the relatives try to help each other, because *shinrui*. So the Kimura family said, "Oh, there's a man working." Mr. Kimura was a sort of head waiter at Moana Hotel. And Mr. [Matsuki] Tamura was working under him, and he [Kimura] said, "Oh, he's [Tamura] a conscientious man," you know. And goes to the Japanese school board and all that kind, so he's reliable, I guess. And so they matched them. Hindsight, I think they made a mistake because they lived together on Beretania Street near the art academy [i.e., *Honolulu Academy of Arts*]. You know, a rented place I guess, for one year, and they took me to Mr. Kimura's house in Waikiki, so I lived with that family. You know, I guess maybe hard to merge one time, yeah. But when I live separately like that, without my mother, my thinking came different, you know. That was childhood, so I don't how much it affected me. But I never can call him, "Father," you know, "Otosan." 'Cause I don't remember calling my real father, "Father." After they got married and they stay by themselves, funny thing, they came back to Nu`uanu Street again, when I joined them. And there was a lane from Nu`uanu Street, Kukui Lane, that wound its way out to Kukui Street. So we lived on the second floor there. I think when they moved, he [Matsuki Tamura] started working for a [telephone] cable company. And when the war [World War II] broke out, he was alien, so they laid him off, because he was carrying cables and going to post office, like that. Doing utility office work at the cable company, see. So that's when I came back to Nu`uanu Street again.

So I told you I get lot of affinity for Nu`uanu Street. And right in the same block, you know.

WN: So you spent most of your childhood at, around Nu`uanu and . . .

ES: Yeah.

WN: . . . Kukui area, yeah?

ES: Yeah.

WN: Why don't you tell me about it? Like, for example, what kind of families lived over there?

ES: Well, when I was born and lived there, before I went to Japan, was mostly Japanese people. And then, after I came back [in 1923] and went back to that area, Japanese people. But when I went to the Kukui Lane [in 1930], they had big tenement houses across from where we lived. Was a mixture, all kind [of] people. But our camp was predominantly Japanese. And the stores, you know, like I can remember B. K. Yamamoto [Hardware Store] at the corner [of Nu`uanu and Beretania streets], and the Inukai Bakery. And then I can remember Tanabe Store, and then there was a plumber over there—oh, [Naoyuki] Hara, plumber. You know Ernest Hara?

WN: Yeah, yeah.

ES: His parents used to run Hara plumbing. And then came Teragawachi Watch Store. And then . . .

WN: These are all on Nu`uanu.

ES: Yeah. And then next to that was Hirota Florist.

WN: Hirota?

ES: Yeah, Hirota Florist. (One son) was a real good friend of mine. And next to that was a Chinese, sort of sundry store. And next to that was a shoe store. And the reason I remember that, I used to go there for read [*news*]paper (chuckles). And the man, he used to buy *amaguri*, you know that roasted chestnut? He used to always give me. So, you know, that kind of people that really treat you nice, you kind of—I stayed. And then next to that one, a restaurant I think, Abe. The Abe family used to run. And then next to that, there was another lane going towards what we used to call Tin Can Alley. Schubert's Cyclery. I don't know if you know Peter Schubert. He was a good cyclist. Then there was the lane, and right across that was Shirai *shoten*. And next to that was a barbershop.

WN: Now these are all . . .

ES: All Japanese, you know. Practically.

WN: All on Nu`uanu. This is all on Nu`uanu Street.

ES: All Nu`uanu Street.

WN: All on the `Ewa side? Going on the `Ewa side.

ES: Yeah, yeah. So I'm going up that way, see.

WN: You're going toward the [*Nu`uanu*] Valley.

ES: Yeah. Toward Kukui Street, until Kukui Street, I thought I'd give you (chuckles) what I remember.

WN: So, you're telling me all from Beretania . . .

ES: B. K. Yamamoto to Kukui Street.

WN: Okay, B. K. Yamamoto is on the corner of . . .

ES: Corner, yeah.

WN: . . . Beretania and Nu`uanu.

ES: Yeah, right, right.

WN: So you're going `Ewa side of Nu`uanu, going *mauka*.

ES: *Mauka*, yeah.

WN: Okay.

ES: Okay. So had Shirai Shoten. And they had grocery store, food stuff. And then they had a liquor store. Next to that was Uyehara, I think, barbershop. And next to that is Iwanaga Hardware Store. And next to that was Nakano Candy Store. And next to that was Suzuki, I think, they used to have a restaurant. And next to that was a butcher shop. I forgot who was running, but I know that the butcher, his name was Sone. He used to go bicycling and he used to form a baseball group. And then, finally, at the corner [*Nu`uanu and Kukui*], was a florist, Chinese people. Pang See, or something like that, was running that. (Years later at) that corner we were (operating) Rainbow Sweet Shop at that corner.

WN: You folks?

ES: Yeah, later on. This is way later. And across the street from that, that Hawaiiya Liquor Store, you know. And I think he's [*owner*] living in Big Island now. He had a liquor store, and next door to that, used to be a tailor's shop. And then Sera Shoten was there, too. The Sera girl, the girl that married one of the Sera boys, I think had [*stores in*] the Ala Moana Shopping Center and Kaimuki side, later on. And then, from there, if I can remember, Sera Store, and then had another barbershop. And from there on, I don't remember too well, because, you know, was getting out of my distance, and not the kind of place I go to (chuckles).

WN: Did they have like a Club Garage over there or something?

ES: That was on the Kukui Street side. Hosoi Mortuary was over there. And they [*Club Garage*] had parking for everybody, plus the fact that, I think the place, they use 'em for athletics too, you know. Because some boxers developed over there.

WN: Oh yeah?

ES: Yeah. Herman Hosoi was a good boxer. Hosoi Mortuary, the president. He passed away but his family had good boxers. That is across on the Kukui Street side. And this side had parking and a billiard parlor, and a *furo-ya*, you know, Japanese-style *furo*. But beyond that, I don't know too much.

WN: So people that lived in that area, what, most of them worked in those stores and things?

ES: Right, right. And then, in the back, they have place to sleep like that. And two floors, see. So like the Shirai people used to live on the upstairs floor. And the others, like the candy store people used to live in the back, you know. Two stories, home in the back. Mostly like that, they didn't commute, you know, to go, they just lived there. Like B. K. Yamamoto, I think, they must have had another place. I don't know [*them*] too well. I used to play with the boys, baseball. There used to be a lane back there. And lot of cottages. So the ones that could afford may have lived in those cottages, you know. I can visualize the fellow, but I forgot the name. The father used to own lot of cottages there. And we used to all play together, so. And around the corner, Hakubundo [*Book Company*] used to be there. And that's where (Matsumoto) Lane ran down all the way to (another lane).

WN: Now when I was growing up, you know, this is after the war and everything but, they had, like, Beretania Follies. I don't know if you remember that.

ES: Oh yeah, yeah.

WN: Beretania Follies. But that wasn't there when you were growing up there, right?

ES: That was towards Tin Can Alley, we used to call 'em. I don't remember that kind of stuff, 'cause, you know (chuckles). Afterwards, of course, yeah, I know all about that, see.

WN: Yeah.

ES: And some of my friends, you know, (came from) that side, because, as I said, my mother used to work for that tailor. The tailor was almost three stores away from Tin Can Alley, see. And . . .

WN: Tin Can Alley, now, what—where did it start?

ES: From Beretania Street. And then came out Kukui Street.

WN: So that whole block?

ES: Well, just a small area.

WN: Was it Chinatown, including Chinatown?

ES: Well, Chinatown was across from Beretania Street.

WN: Oh, *makai*.

ES: Yeah.

WN: Oh, so you're talking about *mauka* of Chinatown.

ES: *Mauka* of Beretania Street, yeah. In fact, I don't know if Tin Can Alley passed Maunakea [*Street*], or was part of Maunakea, you know. 'Cause as the streets got repaved and changed the configuration, I kind of lost track.

WN: 'Cause little further toward `Ewa was the Nu`uanu Stream already, right?

ES: Yeah, yeah, yeah. We call that River Street, yeah?

WN: River Street.

ES: Back there they had a Chinese[-*language*] school too, you know, later on. Mun Lun School. There used to have Island Paradise School there. They used to use that place in the morning. So when my kids grew up, I was living Nu`uanu and Kukui Street. The closest [*school*] was Island Paradise [*School*]. So, as I told you before, I like to give them the best education possible, so I sent them to private school. Because Island Paradise was started by [*Reverend Ernest H. Hunt*], he used to be *bon-san*. So I respected his philosophy of education. So I sent all my kids to Island Paradise. That's why, my kids, not one of 'em went to public school.

WN: Now, Tin Can Alley, was that someplace where you folks didn't go, as kids?

ES: Well, we had friends there. You know, a lot of fishermen used to live there. So, in fact, that corner of the alley, they used to supply fishing supplies like that. You know, when the sampan come in and they need food and all that. And I think some of that people there were fishermen. And December 7, I think [some] lost their lives. I don't know if was a particular family there, but, you know, fishermen come from certain place in Japan, they all know each other. So they congregate, see, and they make a camp and live around there. So that's how those things grew, and I guess they make their money or move out and then the other people come in. And that place becomes a place for prostitutes and porno kind [of] stuff like that, you know.

WN: Was it that way when you were young?

ES: I don't remember, as I said, I didn't frequent that place, see. I stuck to this side. The playground was across from B. K. Y[amamoto]. Not the corner, But where the present parking and the housing are on Beretania Street, between Pauahi and Nuuanu. That used to be a playground. We used to call 'em Beretania Park. And when we cannot play there, we used to go `A`ala Park. And do the fishing in River Street (chuckles). All around there.

WN: What you used to catch in the river [*i.e.*, *Nu`uanu Stream*]?

ES: `O`opu and get [a]holehole, you know.

WN: Oh yeah?

ES: Yeah. And you know underneath the bridge? We used to put two hooks, see. The upper one we used to put `opae, let 'em swim. And then the [a]holehole would come out, go for that. And we get a bigger hook underneath, and we stuck 'em. Then you get plenty fish, because, you know, they not by the mouth, you stuck any kind of place.

WN: Oh, oh, I see, you jerk it upward.

ES: Yeah, and then you stuck.

WN: Stuck on the [fish's] body.

ES: Yeah. That's how we used to catch plenty [a]holehole.

WN: 'Cause I guess, it's right near the ocean. Brackish water.

ES: Yeah. Towards King Street already, see. And of course on the upper side was so shallow, and not much, you know. But they get `o`opu, and then we used to call 'em *kamasu*, I think, barracuda. Barracuda used to come up to feed on that kind [of] small fish. And they used to stay, but we don't know how to catch barracuda.

WN: What did you call the barracuda?

ES: *Kamasu*.

WN: *Kamasu*.

ES: Yeah.

WN: Oh, I never heard that before.

ES: Yeah, *kamasu*. I guess a Japanese name for that fish. And then eventually I—this is way later—I came friends with a fellow, Chinese boy, that used to live across from where Foster [Botanic] Gardens is [today]. And he bought a boat, so I used to go out with him on the rowboat, before we could afford a outboard motor, you know, we used to row out. And then we go out there, out of Honolulu Harbor, we used to drift and then catch the *moana* [moano], and in season, catch *aji*, *akule*, yeah. And then *papio*. And then we got smart. Used to have a buoy, see, coming in to [Honolulu] Harbor, so we tie a rope [to the buoy] and then we used to put down all kind of bait, throw 'em out and sometimes the big fish will catch 'em and they caught themselves. So when the buoy start shaking (chuckles), we row the boat and we used to catch pretty good, you know. And then out of Sand Island, there's breakers. And we used to catch balloon fish. And the balloon fish, we used to bring 'em to teahouses, to sell 'em. You know, they got a good cook that knew how to slice 'em, otherwise it's poisonous, see.

WN: Which teahouse?

ES: I don't remember. The guy used to do because his father used to be selling fish at Maunakea Street, you know that fish market. So they had the connection. 'Cause me, I going only for the joy of fishing (chuckles). Young-kid time, well, that was my biggest joy, fishing.

WN: So, bamboo pole?

ES: Yeah. You don't need too many equipment as such. So when I went Japan, I used to go fishing. Well, back of my grandfather's house was a ocean already. His house was in Shin Minato, Minato means “harbor,” and Shin means “new.” So when the tide comes up, come right up to his house, you know, the stone wall. I used to go fish over there too. And when the tide goes out, we used to go dig clams, you know. So I was brought up in that kind of fishing. So I really gravitated toward fishing. Plus the fact that the boy, Fujii family that had the tailor shop, he liked fishing. Takao I think his name was. We used to call 'em Taka-*chan*. He used to take me along. He was little older. And funny thing, you know, when he grew up and later on I met, I saw his name down at the Kewalo Basin—I forgot the name of that big company that has all kind of fishing supplies and the boats and all that. He was connected with that.

WN: Still there now, you mean?

ES: Yeah, I think so.

WN: Oh, McWayne [Marine Supply].

ES: Yeah, he was connected. So I guess he was in the fishing business right through life.

WN: So where exactly did you go fishing? Right down off River Street?

ES: Yeah, those places, more towards King Street, though. Then as we grew older and had the boat, then we used to go outside and drift outside of Sand Island for certain kind of fish, and then we drift towards Ala Moana for *papio* and, you know, bottom fish mostly. *Moana* [moano], yeah. And you catch the other kind, you know, the green, slimy kind. What do they call that? We throw 'em away, but, you know, Hawaiian fish. I forgot the name.

WN: Green, slimy fish?

ES: *H*

WN: Oh, *h*

ES: Yeah. And when we lucky we catch *menpachi*. So, outside Ala Moana side was really good, but that's a hell of a way to row, you know. And then come back time too, when you go against the tide, you get tired. Once we got the outboard motor, wasn't so bad. So, up to then, I really went out fishing. But after that, well, when I grew older, played all kind sports down at the Nu`uanu Y[MCA, *Young Men's Christian Association*], see.

WN: So, mostly Japanese living and some Chinese, you said.

ES: Yeah.

WN: Can you think—anybody else?

ES: Had other kind [of] nationality, though, because sometimes I used to go peep from second floor. That kind, they get little drunk and then the womanizing kind, you know, going on in the camps. So I know had other kind [of] nationalities, but we don't associate with them. You know, our parents strict about that, see. So we just stick to the Japanese people that we know. And I forgot to tell you on that—I described Nu`uanu Street on the `Ewa side, but on the *Waikiki* side, started with Iida *shoten*, yeah. Beretania and Nu`uanu corner, and then had the [Noboru] Asahina, dentist right there. And then had garage or something.

WN: Yeah, I think that was Club Garage.

ES: Yeah. And then, right at the corner of Kukui Lane was Shimizu Photo. And down below used to be Kishimoto Grocery Store. And from there on, kind of hazy, but I know had the—was it Minatoya or something? Restaurant, you know. They moved to Pauahi or Maunakea side, or whatever. And had florists. We had quite a bit of florists on Nu`uanu Street. That girl, I forgot her name. But she was a nice-looking girl, we all had eyes on her, that's why I (chuckles) remember the place, more coffee shop kind. And then we had a garage. And then I think eventually Nu`uanu Congregational Church was at that corner, Kukui and Nu`uanu corner. And across the street was another service station. And then as I told you, on Kukui Street side, they had that mortuary, Borthwick Mortuary. Borthwick is still around there. And then that saimin stand and the lane, and then the Mun Lun School. And that [*Cherry Blossom*] Saimin Stand is the one that the [*U.S. anti-aircraft shell*] fell. I told you, December 7, [1941].

WN: Oh yeah, yeah, we can talk about that. But that was on Kukui, yeah.

ES: On the Nu`uanu and Kukui corner was—this (*Waikiki-makai*) corner was the church, Nu`uanu Congregational Church, until they moved up toward School Street. And then from School Street they went up to Pali Highway side. But across the street from the church, on Kukui Street, was that service station and then Borthwick Mortuary, and then that [*Cherry Blossom*] Saimin Stand. And beyond that, going up, I don't remember too much on the *Waikiki* side of Nuuanu Street, until it reach Vineyard [*Street*]. There was a stream on Nuuanu and Vineyard. Gee, what happened to the stream? Must be still there, somehow. Or did they divert it towards River Street? I don't know how they diverted that water, but used to be a stream, you know. And Nu`uanu and Vineyard—oh, there is a clinic, yeah, that Chinese medical clinic.

WN: Chock-Pang [*Clinic*]?
 ES: Yeah. Right around there, on the Vineyard Street side, used to be a stream. But I don't know how . . .
 WN: Probably still there.
 ES: Yeah, maybe underground, I don't know.
 WN: So besides fishing, what else did you have to have fun as a kid?
 ES: As I said, I gravitated toward Nu`uanu Y[MCA]. Not too much as a youngster, because my mother, you know, it cost money to go Nu`uanu Y. But as I grew older, I didn't want to go *furo-ya* too much. You know, bathhouse. So Nu`uanu Y used to be my (chuckles) bathhouse. And then, of course, when we became high school age, we used to have Hi-Y clubs over there. We used to have all volunteer leaders, you know. So that's why, later on, I volunteered for this Triangle Club. All these fifty years, I'm still their leader. We meet informally now. But we finally wound up as an investment club. But that's how it is to operate in Nu`uanu Y, you become a member and you grow up, and then you become a leader for another generation. And like Nu`uanu Y used to really serve us Oriental kids, because Central Y was *Haole* YMCA. And they moved, of course, to near Ala Moana now [*on Atkinson Drive*], but before they were Downtown, you know.
 WN: Where Downtown?
 ES: Oh, where all these buildings coming up now. Alakea and Bishop—no, Alakea and Hotel Street, that corner. Right next to that [*Hawaiian*] Telephone Company. They had a big building there.
 WN: So, not far from the armed forces Y [*i.e., Army-Navy YMCA*] then.
 ES: Yeah. Armed forces Y was further down towards Richards Street. And Nu`uanu Y was Fort and Vineyard. Sometimes we used to go to Central Y, but the membership there was more *Haole* people. Now, I don't know, but, you know, those days. And Nu`uanu Y was Oriental. So . . .
 WN: Did Central Y have better facilities than . . .
 ES: Oh yeah. We used to go there, go shoot pool, you know, billiards, like that. Nu`uanu Y didn't have that kind [*of*] stuff, see, mostly just gym and the swimming pool. And later on, they had the tennis court. So I used to play tennis. And they built the handball court. But I'm really thankful for Nu`uanu Y, though. When I grew up, they had a campaign to—they had to relocate, I guess, and they got a new building. So I even went out collecting money for Nu`uanu Y. Just like now, you know, they have the after-school care, you know.
 WN: A-plus?
 ES: Yeah, A-plus. Well, that was A-plus to us, those days. But don't have to pay, see. And all volunteer work. And Christmastime, the leaders nice enough to give us candy and things like that which we couldn't get at home. You know, Christian idea of giving, giving of yourself. That's why I remember some of those leaders, too, to this day. Of course when we came Hi-Y,

the Miho family, Katsuro Miho, the old-time lawyer, he was one of our advisors. We had lot of nice people. And of course, that organization eventually gave me my trip to the Mainland. Which was a big change in my life. (Chuckles)

WN: Okay. You were living, more or less, as like an only child. Only mother, without a father.

ES: Yeah.

WN: What was that like? For example, what kind of chores did you have to do around the house?

ES: Hardly anything though, that I remember. Because my mother would come home at night and do the things, you know. And then we don't have yard, nothing, we just get our two-room apartment. Nothing much to do. And then, for eating, the next-door lady would feed me. Or later on, I used to just feed myself. *Nokorimono*, what they call. Even now [*i.e., today*], over here. (Laughs) They [*Etsuo Sayama's family*] get up late, so I get up early. Lunchtime, they not home, so I just use the microwave. So I'm used to that kind [of] living. The bare necessities, you prepare. No more the throwaway kind [of] stuff.

WN: So after school was *pau*, you just went to Nu`uanu Y.

ES: Nu`uanu Y, yeah. Of course, Japanese[-*language*] school first.

WN: Oh, where was Japanese[-*language*] school?

ES: Up [*Honpa*] Hongwanji [*Mission*]. Fort *Gakuen*, yeah.

WN: So, Fort Street and then . . .

ES: Yeah.

WN: . . . Nu`uanu Y was on Fort Street also.

ES: Fort Street, yeah.

WN: Which is all walking distance.

ES: Right, right, yeah. But when I came older was a chore though, from McKinley [*High School*] to . . .

WN: Oh.

ES: And when you come from *chugaku*, from intermediate [*school*], you have to wear suit, you know, Hongwanji.

WN: Yeah?

ES: Yeah, so, you know, you try walk from McKinley to Hongwanji, wearing coat like that, so you carry the coat, you know. That's why . . .

WN: Tie too?

ES: Yeah, coat and tie.

WN: This is for Hongwanji Japanese[-*language*] school?

ES: Yeah.

WN: But McKinley didn't have that [*policy*].

ES: No. That's why was a chore!

(Laughter)

ES: So when I had a good excuse to quit, I told my mother, "Ey, I going University [*of Hawai`i*] now, I cannot go Japanese[-*language*] school." Because university, like chemistry lab, and all the labs conflict, see.

So she said, "Okay, you don't have to go Japanese[-*language*] school."

So I never did graduate high school Japanese[-*language*] school.

WN: Okay, let me turn the tape over.

WN: Okay, so most of the things were walking distance. Did you ever have to take the trolley, streetcar?

ES: Oh yeah, we used to. But those days was cheap, I forgot, nickel or whatever. And then, those days, (chuckles), sometimes when you think the collector coming, you just jump off. (Laughs) You know, steal a ride. But another way, like I remember some of the richer families downtown, especially when I used to go McKinley, and then the University [*of Hawai`i*], like Hoichi Ogawa I really remember because corner of Beretania and River Street, they used to have a pharmacy. He eventually became a pharmacist. And then he had a pharmacy in Kapahulu side. But I think he sold that. But he used to have a car, so, I get a ride with him in the morning, then I don't have to walk down. Otherwise we had to catch the trolley to go to school. But most of the time, we tried to walk, though. And even when I was down there, and I used to work [*Libby, McNeill &*] Libby cannery, we used to walk all the way to Libby cannery. Follow the railroad track, you know, certain place. As I told you, I never owned a car in my life, so (chuckles) I had good training. (Chuckles)

WN: Oh, in your whole life?

ES: Yeah.

WN: You never owned?

ES: Yeah, every time I buy the car, I used my credit for my kids' car. They needed a car, yeah? So I buy 'em for them. Because you know, when I used to live on Kukui and Nu`uanu Street, to rent a garage, cost more than the apartment we were living in.

WN: How much did you pay rent for the apartment?

ES: Oh, I don't recall already, but was way down, boy, really cheap.

WN: Who was the landlord, by the way?

ES: Chinese people used to be landlord. That's one thing, the Chinese, smart, that kind of stuff.

WN: So Chinese were the landlords and the tenants were mostly Japanese?

ES: Japanese, yeah. Of course, we had a sprinkling of Chinese too. But they were, I don't know how many years ahead of the Japanese in coming to Hawai`i, but they were one step ahead, so to speak. Even now, when you weigh the wealth, the Chinese got 'em. Per family income, like that. They all in the higher plane. That's why when I used to go YMCA, I used to admire Chinn Ho. He was on the board of trustees. And I used to hear about his doings. So that gave me the impetus to study on my own, you know. And later on I even worked part-time for a stockbroker, to learn the trade. That's why my friends trust me and we form investment groups, like that. When the boys came old and they went on their own, architect, real estate, like that. But we always meet together, you know, how things are. Oh, you making money, and this and that. So I form an investment group. (Laughs)

WN: So you went to McKinley High School. While you were going to high school, did you have any idea of what you wanted to do?

ES: No, no idea. Well, I had one idea, but it was unattainable, 'cause when I was Kawanakoa [*Experimental*] School, Miss Beveridge, she used to be . . .

WN: Kathryn Beveridge?

ES: She was related to the manager, or something, of Waimanalo [*Sugar Company*]. Oh, she was a real nice lady for me.

WN: She was at Kawanakoa, right?

ES: Yeah.

WN: Yeah, yeah, yeah, okay.

ES: And she told me to go to law school, be a lawyer. So that was my first ambition. If UH [*University of Hawai`i*] had a law school, I would have gone there. But when I went McKinley [*High School*], no more law school, in Hawai`i. And to go over to Mainland is out of the picture, you know. Then a math teacher there, Mrs. Wilson—as I told you, I like math—she said, oh, she can get scholarship for me to Colorado School of Mines. And that's when I hesitated because those days, we didn't have counselors as such. So when somebody tell you to go school of mines, you think you gotta go learn mining engineering. And, see, come back to Hawai`i, no more mines, yeah? (Chuckles) So I said, “No, I don't think I can,” But if I had known that that school, besides that, had all kind of curricula, I may have gone, but I doubt if my parents could have afforded me transportation, like that. You know, that's an expense. And then, you go over there, you gotta find a place to live. You cannot afford dorm money, maybe, and you gotta work part-time. So I did the next best thing, I thought, well, living in Hawai`i, you can't go wrong with sugar industry. So I took sugar technology [*major*], which was my biggest mistake.

WN: Why?

ES: Well, the prejudice.

WN: Oh, we can get into that when you started work at Waialua [*Agricultural Company*], yeah?

ES: When I was young at McKinley, they not gonna provide counseling. It's up to your parents or somebody to tell you these things. Like, now, we do it for our kids, but those days, nobody to counsel us, so you would take the best possible, and I never had plantation life, so I didn't realize the different [*pay*] scale between *Haoles* and the Orientals, like that. So I said, "Oh, I'll go take [*up*] sugar tech." And there was another fellow named Shigeo Okubo, he and I were good friends. He was really smart too. And later he went to Johns Hopkins [*University*], got his Ph.D. And even after he graduated, he was teaching—an instructor at UH. You know, math like that, engineering. He and I said, "'Ey, let's go take sugar tech."

I said, "Okay."

Dumb. We didn't know any better. We took sugar tech. When we went to UH, we had to register for something, see.

WN: Yeah, so backing up, what was McKinley like?

ES: Oh, McKinley was good, though.

WN: Was [*principal*] Miles Cary there?

ES: Yeah, Miles Cary was there. And I used to belong to good clubs, that's why I had good playmates, you know. Like McKinley—MCC, they call 'em, McKinley Citizenship Club. Of course, that was co-ed, but that was sort of a do-gooders club for the whole school. Any kind of event. And I was in the chemistry club 'cause I like science. So, you know, chemistry students are all good in math, and that kind of student, so I had good friends. In fact, later on, my friends from there wanted to join Nu`uanu Y—this is when they were young men already. I invited them over. And I was already in my own young men's group, so we formed a group and they called themselves Newtonians. Sir Isaac Newton.

(Laughter)

ES: That's how steeped they were in science. And then of course, National Honor Society, I was a member too. So I had good environment of friends that wouldn't lead me astray. And no more car, so what the hell, we not going to date anybody, like that. Some of 'em, well, I guess they were dating, but I didn't have car, so I cannot afford dating. That's why, I guess, eventually I got married to our next-door neighbor.

(Laughter)

ES: Girl.

WN: Did she go to McKinley too?

ES: Later, yeah. We were five years apart. So when I was graduating UH, she was going McKinley, I think. But of course, when I first moved over and she was a neighbor, they had five girls. That was my first contact with the. . . . Of course, by then I had a half-brother. But

girls in the family, I never had, you know, in childhood. So I used to really mingle with them. I didn't realize I was going to get married to one of 'em.

(Laughter)

ES: I guess you could have gone astray all kind of ways at McKinley High School. We collected everybody in town, go to that one high school. Didn't have Farrington, didn't have Roosevelt. And Punahou [*School*], we cannot afford. And St. Louis [*College*], well, the Chinese people used to go St. Louis. I had some good friends, but they all went, good ones anyway, went St. Louis.

WN: Which was still `A`ala Park side? Or was it already . . .

ES: By that time, yeah, I think was `A`ala Park side, yeah, College Walk. And then eventually it moved [*to its present location*].

WN: Yeah.

ES: So I had two good Chinese friends, but they went St. Louis.

WN: And how did you get from your house to McKinley?

ES: Walk.

WN: Walk?

ES: Yeah. Or get a ride from, as I said, Mr. Ogawa. Hoichi, you know. He had a car. His family was kind of well-to-do, so I used to bum ride. And then from McKinley, go to Japanese[-*language*] school, walk.

WN: And then from Japanese[-*language*] school, you went to the Y?

ES: Yeah. And then sometimes I'll take a bath there and then come home. But if not, I'll come home and then go there just for bath, but before that, I used to go swimming. (By then we) were in Hi-Y and Young Men's Division, then we used to go into all kind of sports, especially basketball, we used to enter the Japanese basketball league. And when I grew older and I could afford, then I bought tennis racket, and I used to play for class C, city-wide tennis, like that. But certain kind of things, I couldn't, because my leg was weak. I'm half crippled, you know, one side. So, like swimming, my kicking not so good, so you know what they make me do? Well, backstroke is not bad but I used to be good in plunge. All you do is plunge and then the farthest you go, you the winner, see. (Laughs)

WN: Oh.

ES: That's what we used to call plunge, you know. I used to do that. So lot of my activities, I got hampered by my leg. You know, one side short. Who really helped me was Tommy Kaulukukui. He was little bit back of me, you know—or was he ahead of me? Anyway, he came from Hilo side, and he was a good athlete. And he had a sort of a limp too, you know. And he was just like me, one side leg shorter and smaller, I think. So I said, “Well, if the guy can become All-American,” (chuckles). You know, you heard of his UCLA [*University of California, Los Angeles, exploits*], yeah. Kick-off, he run all the way.

WN: Yeah, 103 yards.

ES: Yeah. So I said, "I can do." But I never played football, though, that's too rough for me. But one thing I regretted I couldn't do because of my leg, was judo. When I was going Japanese[-*language*] school, we had a good judo group. And I couldn't take judo because they kick the leg. So my mother said, "No, you don't take judo, because of your lousy leg. You might be crippled for life."

My cripple was hardly noticeable, see. Unless I tell people, they don't know. But if I look at my picture, standing, you could see the leg is small. And then, after I grew up, and got particular about clothing, my wife had to hem one side, about half an inch, or five-eighth of an inch shorter. But I couldn't afford that kind corrective shoes and all that.

WN: What kind of jobs did you have? Did you have any jobs during high school?

ES: High school would be just summertime.

WN: Cannery.

ES: Cannery. Because [*attending*] Japanese[-*language*] school wouldn't permit us to go work after school.

WN: So, while you were going McKinley, you know, obviously you were doing really well, gradewise and everything, so you knew early on that you were going to go on to college?

ES: Nah. I didn't think, because from my group, hardly anybody went, you know. I was amazed. But as I told you, my stepfather was—when he was working in Waikiki, he was affiliated with that [*Waikiki*] Japanese-language school in Waikiki. So I guess he was the type, even if he was a waiter, and [*was an*] immigrant from Japan, lot of people used to go to him to have him write letters for them, you know. And he used to read things to them, like that. So I guess he must have been a pretty well-educated man. That's why Mr. Kimura, I think, told my mother about him, so she got married. But that's one thing, he didn't object to me, you know. If I wanted to go university, he said go.

I said, "Well, you know, *gessha*, tuition."

(Telephone rings. Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

ES: So then he said, "Well, go work your way."

Then that's when I start working. And that's another reason why I quit Japanese[-*language*] school, I had to go work.

WN: While you were at UH?

ES: Yeah.

WN: So, where did you go work during UH time?

ES: Those days, they used to have WPA [*Works Progress Administration*], [*President Franklin*]

Roosevelt's idea. And at university, they used to have a farm out there. So between classes, I used to go water and weeding like that, you know, experimental plot. 'Cause I'm in sugar tech, so I don't mind doing that kind. But that was my ruination though, in my grades. You know why? I didn't have to take, like geometry and calculus, but I took, because I liked math, as I told you. And my calculus class was right after—I work in between classes—watering the place. So I go there, I start sleeping, you know, and my mind is not clear. You know, do all the manual labor and come back to class. That's why, I didn't—that's my only D, I think, university (laughs). And C was physical ed, my leg not so good. But otherwise I had pretty good grades in university too. Otherwise, I guess, they wouldn't have taken me into Phi Kappa Phi [*honors society*], when I graduated.

So I worked there, and then, that wasn't enough, so Sundays, I used to be yardboy at the—during the workdays too, but Sunday especially—Church of the Crossroads, on University Avenue. Those days, they didn't have nice building like that, you know. They used to have a small pavilion, open pavilion, and every Sunday I have to go early, open the place up and set up for Reverend [*Galen*] Weaver to get started. So that was another type of work I did. And what else? Of course cannery was the main one, income.

WN: Still going there for summers.

ES: Yeah, summertime. And I had no connection with getting other good part-time jobs, see. So whatever was available. But that three things, I really worked hard at it. And then, later on, I don't recall, but partially, I think, I must have been doing some government-subsidized kind of work at YMCA. I got more involved over there. I got to know more the people and—that's why, when I graduated, they felt sorry for me, no more job, so they give me janitor job. And you know who was the secretary then? Hung Wai Ching. You heard of Hung Wai Ching, yeah?

WN: Mm hmm.

ES: He was a strong backer of Orientals, you know. Even during the war, he helped out. And Hung Wai said, “Sayama, you don't mind doing that kind? I can let you work for Mr. Arakawa,” the head janitor, see.

I said, “Oh yeah, anything to supplement my income.” And of course, that was after I graduated, and I said, “Chee, I get nothing to show for graduating university.”

WN: Well, why couldn't you find a job?

ES: Nobody would hire me. As I told you, the prejudice.

WN: Were you one of the few Orientals in sugar tech?

ES: There were fifteen of us [*graduates*]. Ten Orientals, five *Haole* boys. The five *Haole* boys all were given student-in-training at HSPA [*Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association*] experiment station. And the ten Orientals, not one of us got job on the plantation. And I was the only one, eventually I got on. But before that, I work as janitor, only few months, though, but I hustle like hell to work on the plantation. I said, “Chee, I went to school for nothing.”

But the other guys, they were just as bad. You know Katashi Nose, you see his column in the [*newspaper*], on that ham radios?

WN: Yeah, yeah.

ES: Yeah. And he was a [*college*] teacher. He was with us. Sugar tech.

WN: Katashi Nose.

ES: Yeah. And then, I forgot his name, but I think he passed away, something Ho, he became a doctor later on.

WN: You folks tried to get jobs with plantations?

ES: I guess so, I didn't ask personally, because we were scattered. But Koji Ikeda, that's another fellow. In fact, he took my job at Waialua [*Agricultural Company*] plantation. You know, I told him about it, and he said well, he's gonna try. And they hired him because he was same class with me. And of course, when I quit the plantation, Mr. [*John*] Midkiff [*manager of Waialua Agricultural Company*] told me, "You gonna be blackballed. You won't be able to get a job on the plantation, so you gonna let your education go to waste?"

I said, "I don't care."

WN: Okay, so, okay, we're talking about 1937 when you started for Waialua plantation. How did you get that job?

ES: Well, my mother's cousin was a cook. Her relative was working at Waialua plantation. And Mr. [*Mark*] Robinson had plenty land in O`ahu Sugar [*Company*], you know. So he was connected, you know, old family kind. Missionary family. So he had connections. But that too was a plus for me, see. But I think the most important thing was, for some reason, the agriculturalist there [*Waialua Agricultural Company*] was a Japanese. I forgot his name. I can still picture him, but later on I found out he was a protégé of the Atherton family. So he was head agriculturalist there. You can't imagine, you know, those days, a nisei being a head agriculturalist. So I said, "If he's gonna be my boss, I will have a chance." And of course, he hired me because of my being a nisei too, I think. You know, because all the *Haole* boys are student-in-training, they not gonna work for plantation. They gonna bide their time until they get a good position. And the Mainland *Haoles* come, they won't hire 'em for sugar, they hire 'em for diversified agriculture, see. Or they would work Castle & Cooke, which is a parent [*company of Waialua Agricultural Company*].

WN: So the job that you got at Waialua was more of a lower level . . .

ES: Yeah. Sort of, you know, assistant to him in paper. We did experimental work with potato and other agricultural products besides sugar. But sugar was the main thing. But they were breaking me in, see. But the way they broke me in, got me mad. Because I was made partner with a guy from Mainland. His specialty was potato. But he was working for Castle & Cooke Downtown, but all the people that work good-level position Downtown, they had to go to plantation and go through exposure starting with *ho hana*. And drive mule, spray poison, and you cut cane, and you *hapai ko* to the train. We had to do all that.

WN: You had to do all that?

ES: Yeah. 'Cause schoolwork doesn't mean anything to them, as [*much*] as practical work and the appreciation of what the other laborers are doing. That's breaking you in, sort of, you know.

But the only gripe I had was that guy (who had) education in potato was getting his monthly salary from Castle & Cooke. Me, I was getting piecemeal pay. You know, I was working with a laborer. You work *ho hana*, you get paid by the line, see. And then they keep track. And christ, a city jack like me cannot keep up with that kind. And because I was living in the dormitory, I can't even barely make dormitory money. So I get nothing to take home to my parents.

WN: You had to pay to live in the dorms?

ES: Yeah.

WN: In Waiialua?

ES: Yeah. Of course they feed us too, see. So if I was a plantation boy and my parents were on the plantation, not bad, but I gotta go there. And this was before ILWU [*International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union*] was formed. And there were niseis on the plantation and other people, that had those things in mind already. It was fomenting. So if I had continued with them [*laborers*], I think I would have been (chuckles) one of the leaders of ILWU. 'Cause later on, I had an opportunity to vent myself by attending a conference. New Americans Conference run by Reverend [*Takie*] Okumura from Makiki [*Christian*] Church. And at that time [*1941*], I vented out all my experience, for the sake of future niseis, you know, who gotta work on plantations. Because they cannot touch me, I was in federal civil service by then, see.

WN: So the *Haoles* that were—that graduated with you from UH that got the internships, where did they end up, usually?

ES: Oh, plantations, high. I think some of 'em practically almost reach managership, depending on what family they come from. Family connections meant a lot, those days.

WN: And the ones that came from the Mainland, were they college graduates too?

ES: Oh yeah, yeah. You know, aggie, as I said, the fellow knew his potato, see. But they hired him, not for the plantation, but that was just to expose him. And they did white-collar job Downtown, Castle & Cooke. And the living conditions were all right, but dormitory, you know those days, I guess depending on the lady that running the dormitory, but she used to use Spam for anything, you know. You know, they talk about Spam now, yeah, I used to get sick of Spam for lunch. We used to get that two-tiered kind *kaukau tin*?

WN: Yeah, yeah.

ES: Yeah. Rice underneath and *okazu* on top? Every time Spam, or Spam with something, you know. And you try eat that every day, you get sick! So you know what I used to do? Oh, get the other people when I was working in the field. I used to go exchange lunch. Those Japanese boys will bring *okazu* from their home. They tired of that, I guess. But they like the Spam, so we exchange. That's how I used to lunch.

WN: Because lot of those Japanese boys [*already*] lived out there [*Waiialua*].

ES: Yeah.

WN: They had their families there.

ES: Yeah. They made *bento* for them, see. So we used to exchange lunch. And then, weekends, I like to go home. I no more car. I cannot pay fare. So, as I told you, Nu`uanu Street had this candy store. The man used to go once a week, around the island, distributing [*i.e., delivering*] candy. So I used to wait for him come Waialua, and I will ride him all the way to town, stay with my folks. You know, Saturday, Sunday. And then Sunday nighttime, I used to go down Pauahi Street and they had this kind [*of*] jitney that goes, you know, you carpool and then everybody pay their share, then we go back to Waialua.

WN: Oh, must have taken long time to get back out there.

ES: Yeah. I know they had O`ahu railroad [*O`ahu Railway & Land Company*], but I didn't think, you know. And then, the scheduling was such. And I heard of the carpooling, and I used to pay my way, pay my share of the gasoline or whatever, so was cheaper, I think. So that was my weekend. So, you know, wasn't the life for me. My *kaukau* no good. Weekend missing. And the pay was such, you know. I said, "Ah,"—I think lasted around six months, yeah, I forgot how long I lasted. (Laughs)

WN: How did you feel being a college graduate working amongst, you know, people that—some people didn't even go high school.

ES: Well, that was only in the beginning.

WN: Oh.

ES: Yeah. Then I was working under Mr. Kawahara. Sam Kawahara was the boss. He had education. And then, some of the other office people were all high school graduates. All statistical stuff, all kind [*of*] experiments. So I didn't mind, because they know more about plantation and sugar than me, even if I get my B.S. [*Bachelor of Science degree in sugar technology*], because they lived on the plantation, see.

WN: Right, right.

ES: Kameda brothers. I don't know if you know them. They were working in that place too. Some [*employees*] used to invite me to their home, you know. But I couldn't get used to with the plantation kind of life, you know, plantation work. As I said, that was the biggest mistake I made when I chose that profession, university. But no counseling.

My second choice was taking commercial bookkeeping, you know. Because I like math, see. So business math is duck soup after taking all that scientific math. So I should have gone in that. I would have been way ahead. 'Cause later on, I got into financing, stock market, and all that. Insurance. In fact, I don't know if I told you. I don't even list it. YMCA people told me, "Oh, why don't you go into insurance salesman?"

Brainard & Black, I think they recommended me, but I said, "Well, let me think it over." And I went down Honolulu Business College, and they had a real estate class, just to take license, you know. And Nils Tavares, the attorney general for State of Hawai`i was the instructor. So I figure, well, if I go to that class, I going cinch pass, yeah. (Chuckles)

So I went Honolulu Business College for two, three months. But in the meantime, I got the civil

service call from . . .

WN: From Hickam [*Field*].

ES: . . . Hickam [*Field*], yeah. Well, I think I was there already. I forgot which came first. But I quit the Honolulu Business College early, though. But . . .

WN: You quit Waialua in 1938, right? Yeah, May '38 was when you quit Waialua. You know what I want to do? I want to stop right here and then continue from that point on, next time.

ES: Oh, okay.

WN: Okay.

END OF INTERVIEW