

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW  
with  
**Winston Lum**

August 10, 2007

BY: Arlene Ching (*italicized*)

Winston Lum was born in Honolulu in 1942 and moved to 'Aiea when he was five years old. He and his wife Lynette Lum raised their children in 'Aiea. He can trace his family's presence in 'Aiea for fifteen generations. His wife and daughter Kehaulani were at the interview.

A.C.: I'm Arlene Ching and I'm with Winston Lum and his family at the 'Aiea Intergenerational Center. Alright. Um, Winston, um, would you please tell me your name? Your full name?

Winston: Yes. My name is Winston Kelina Lum.

A.C.: And you were born in what year?

Winston: I was born in 1942 at Honolulu, Hawai'i, specifically, Kapi'olani Hospital.

A.C.: Do you recall your parents telling you, you know, the fact that you were born in a hospital, was there anything, was it typical to (be born in a hospital)?

Winston: Yeah. During my generation.

A.C.: Because it was wartime too.

Winston: It was wartime, and uh---

A.C.: And so there's blackout. Did they have to drive the vehicle with the covers on the lights? Did they mention that?

Winston: Yeah. They mentioned that to me. But, uh, I don't know how they got me to the hospital. I always thought it was the stork! (Everyone laughs)

A.C.: When you were born, was your family living in 'Aiea?

Winston: They were, uh, actually, we were residing at two places. Kalihi and 'Aiea. (I) believe it was somewhere about 1943, my parents leased the property in 'Aiea. And so, we moved back to Kalihi and roughly, in 1947, I was able to come back to 'Aiea but we still had the home in Kalihi.

A.C.: Where in Kalihi?

Winston: Right in central Kalihi. Factory Street. North King Street and that's my dad's family's property.

A.C.: So when you're saying your dad's family property---your father's name is Hung---

Winston: Hung Heong Lum.

A.C.: Lum. And um, so, he was a homeowner of a home?

Winston: In Kalihi.

A.C.: And it was a home with a business, or just a ---?

Winston: No. Just a home.

A.C.: Um-hmm. A home on Factory Street.

Winston: Right. That home was actually purchased by my grandfather, his dad. It was handed down to him. He was the number thirteen. Thirteen in the family. And, except for one uncle, whom he had to pay, the rest all signed it over to him, with one stipulation that he would have to maintain the family shrine in the home. My grandparents were Buddhist and after they passed away, it was his responsibility to maintain the shrine. Which he did, until---if they were alive, they would have been ninety years old, at which time, (he) took the shrine out and had it relocated to the Nu'uaniu Chinese temple.

A.C.: So the shrine had its own room? Or was it in a bedroom?

Winston: It was in the living room.

A.C.: And was there certain ceremonies or rituals?

Winston: Yes. Every morning, we would have to---there were teacups. We'd have to put new tea and then, light candles. Every evening, we'd have to do the same thing. Put tea again and then candles. And on special occasions, like birthday or Chinese holiday, we would then put food on the shrine.

A.C.: Your father was the second generation to maintain it?

Winston: Actually, my father was the first generation, because the shrine was for my grandparents, and so it was his older siblings that had this condition for him, that he maintains the shrine.

A.C.: And he was the thirteenth.

Winston: He was the number thirteen, the youngest.

A.C.: So there were thirteenth children. He was the youngest. The youngest boy and the youngest. Oh. Interesting.

Winston: Um-hmm. And every, April, we would go up to Manoa and *Ching Ming*. And our responsibility before going up there, we had to fold the Chinese money. And, uh, there was certain way we chose, you know, you could only do it during daylight hours. And even for Chinese New Year's, you could clean house, but it was only during the day, daylight hours. No whistling, after dark (Laughs).

A.C.: That must have been a big gathering then, if there were, you know, twelve aunts and uncles too.

Winston: Up at Manoa? Well, our family, our immediate family, we had the responsibility of, you know, to fold the money. My cousins or uncles or aunts wouldn't come over, so we spent weeks! Basically, it was my brother and myself because my dad didn't get involved too much.

A.C.: Not the money folding.

Winston: Yeah.

A.C.: That's what kids are for!

Winston: Yeah. And, uh, there went our Saturdays. And Friday evenings. (Laughs) Fridays, actually.

A.C.: So you can still remember how to fold money and you could show your granddaughter how to do it.

Winston: Um-hmm. Yes. But when we did go to Manoa on Sunday in April. Actually, out of the thirteen, not all of them came, because some had not followed the church's tradition. In fact, my dad, he honored it, but he wasn't---what would you say--- he wasn't really engaged in it, because when he embraced Christianity, the Christian faith, then he was saying, you know, why are we doing this because this is Buddhist. And I said, we're doing it, not because we're not Buddhist but because we're honoring our grandparents. I had to keep telling Dad that. But as, you know, they were ninety, he said, this is a Christian family so we'll go with that. But occasionally, we still do fold Chinese money. In fact, when my dad passed away, and my mom, we had fireworks. Firecrackers and we did the Chinese---

A.C.: You did the Chinese ceremonial thing.

Winston: Yeah. We may not have done it right but we did it according to the way we were brought up and I wanted my grandchildren to kind of keep an introduction into what it was, you know, the ceremony. After my number three uncle passed away, and he was twenty plus years older than my dad, after he passed away, then the family stopped going to Manoa.

A.C.: So, is anyone keeping that tradition alive? One of the bigger Lum *'ohana*?

Winston: Probably just my cousins from my number three uncle, because most of them, I'm sure, they don't

A.C.: But while you were growing up, it was observed and, um----

Winston: Regularly, yeah.

A.C.: Regularly. When you're talking about folding money for weeks, that's--- I've seen the money burned in the big, you know---

Winston: Yeah. Weeks of work in a few seconds.

A.C.: (Laughs) But then the food was so good afterwards, you know.

Winston: Right. And, uh, the nice thing about the food was that, uh, my uncles and aunts who did go to the grave, they would, everyone would make a dish and I enjoyed it because, after the ceremonies at the cemetery, we would return home and we'd have a family get-together and we'd eat at home. We wouldn't eat at the cemetery. We would eat at home. That was very nice. And because I was the oldest child of the youngest son, I probably had more exposure to all of my cousins than most of them did.

A.C.: So you really enjoyed the benefits of having all the cousins---

Winston: Knowing cousins, um-hmm.

A.C.: Yeah. So growing up, first in Kalihi, do you have memories of living in the house in Kalihi?

### **Rural 'Aiea**

Winston: Oh yeah. Actually, I have more memories of Kalihi than 'Aiea because I resided in 'Aiea when I was a young boy. I enjoyed 'Aiea. My brother and sister were much younger than I. My brother is five years younger than I. My sister is six years younger. My youngest brother is twelve. He never resided in Aiea. And for my children too, I wish they had the exposure I had growing up. Having to get up, not because it was,

you know, it was a lot of work when I grew up. But thinking back, it was, uh, a nice time learning, uh, you know, life. I would have to get up every morning before going in, going to school and milk the cow and the goats.

A.C.: I'm trying to envision this. You had cows on your property?

Winston: It was still a rural area. So we had actually a farm.

A.C.: Well, your daughter mentioned that, of course, before the sugarcane came, it was cattle farm ranching took place. And that, it was quite understandable, you see all the *kiawe* too and how dry it was, um, uh, not all your neighbors had cows, right?

Winston: No. We were probably the only one in the area because we were the only one that had that big piece of property. Although it had a spring, there were some sections that had---it was dry. And my dad, you know, he always liked animals and he always envisioned going into commercial business. But whatever we raised for commercial purposes, he gave it away. (Everyone laughs)

A.C.: So, a Chinese, but very Hawaiian heart!

Winston: Oh yeah. My dad was, he was big-hearted man. In fact, I remember a pig that I raised from, you know, baby, and uh, until he was a hundred and seventy pounds. And one day I came home from school. No pig! You know, the pig pen was empty and I asked my dad, "Where's the pig?" He said, oh, his friend is having a luau and he needed a pig, so he gave the pig away. You know, that kind of, maybe that's why I'm kind of turned off on eating kalua pig. (Chuckles) I eat it but you know---

A.C.: (Laughs) You raised it!

Winston: Right. He had the same idea about, not so much about the cows. You know we raised it because in those days, getting milk, you know, stores weren't close by. So we raised it for the milk. And the goats. He raised for the milk and for the meat, again to sell, but he never sold any. We had hundreds of rabbits! No! Not one penny came in from rabbits! (Laughs)

A.C.: (Laughs) He had this great idea. But on the other hand, his friends had a reliable source of meat!

Winston: Yup. That's where everything went. But you know, my dad, he was such a generous man.

A.C.: Where did he get all the feed? Was there a feed store? Or did you get it from the general store?

Winston: Actually there was a feed store. It was all the way down in Mo'ili'ili. So

we would have to go every Saturdays. Go pick up the feed and it came in, like about hundred-pound sacks. Of course, we had feed on our property for our cattle. We had grass. We had *kiawe* beans. And it was my duty, after school, to pick the *kiawe* beans for the cows and my dad would give me a potato bag. Fifty-pound potato-sized bag and I would have to fill that bag before he got home. And he worked at Pearl Harbor so he didn't have time. So I would have to fill that bag before he got home. And I remember him telling me that he didn't want any dirt in the bag, which meant that I had the beans by hand. And I didn't realize that, until years later, in fact, I was an adult already, why did my dad make me pick this bag of bean by hand instead of raking it up, you know? He was using it as a timetable because he knew exactly how long it would take me to fill that bag before he came home. (Everyone laughs) So he didn't want me to get into mischief and so he, you know, that was my duty. And then, in the evening, after school, I would have to take the milk that I milked in the morning and then put on the stove and we would heat it up. Pasteurize it.

### Freshwater Spring

A.C.: So uh, you had a lot of jobs (chores).

Winston: Yeah. Feeding the chickens. Feeding the ducks, I mean, I'm sorry, the rabbits and uh, the goats. And we also had, uh, we raised taro on our property. We raised fruits. Bananas. We raised watercress. Ung choi. Lily root. Those didn't take too much care except for the taro.

A.C.: Who would harvest them?

Winston: We would have----some, um, men that would come in and do it. I remember watching them. And the water was quite deep in the spring. Or maybe because I was quite small so it seems quite deep. But I remember they would go down and go under the water and bring up the lily root. And most of these men that went in were Oriental. Japanese. Chinese. I don't remember if my dad gave it away or he paid. I don't remember seeing anybody giving him any money for it. So he just, probably just, gave it away.

A.C.: Hmm. Yeah. Wow. You were mentioning that the mud was so deep, but was it really deep and almost like quicksand?

Winston: Yeah, there were some areas. Right. There were some areas that the, um, the spring wasn't that deep. You know about, maybe little, come up to your knee, but there were certain areas where it was quite deep. The water would come up to your chest. And the type of soil there was so muddy, that it was like quicksand.

A.C.: Was there a smell for that?

Winston: No. Actually, it was clean because it was flowing.

A.C.: So it wasn't brackish then.

Winston: No. It was just---Clean.

A.C.: Was there a name for this spring?

Winston: I don't remember. I don't remember. There probably was, but I don't remember.

A.C.: No one in the family referred to it with a name?

Winston: No.

A.C.: And could you visibly see the spring water bubbling from the surface? Or was it in a pond or a pool, and you just knew the water was down there?

Winston: Yeah. You could see it bubbling in certain areas but you could also see the water moving like in a current and uh, so you knew that it was always fresh.

A.C.: So that's what today's kids in 2007 would say is like Sumida Watercress Farm, where you see the streams of water?

Winston: Yeah. In fact, at Sumida (Farm) there's one section you can see the water bubbling up.

A.C.: Changing the subject for just a minute with the water, nowadays we're always interested in knowing about the migratory birds that come and actually live in what's like a wetland environment. Do you recall that there were ducks that weren't native to you know, Hawaii, or other birds and they would come in certain seasons and then---

Winston: Occasionally, we see ducks. Not too many ducks, but I don't recall seeing too many. I don't recall any birds. Any other birds. There might have been. But I don't recall.

A.C.: Then, going back to this. Did your father have this dream "I'll raise my kids with farm, in the farm"?

Winston: No. I guess maybe my dad was a city boy and you know he wanted to find out what the country was like. And he actually, he really was a country person; he

enjoyed the country. He enjoyed animals. Well, dogs. He loved hunting. That was his passion, hunting. Especially, in 'Aiea area. 'Aiea Heights. Kalauao. Pearl City area. He loved hunting.

A.C.: You mentioned he had a nickname.

Winston: Yeah. His nickname was "Buck." And uh, actually---

A.C.: You know why?

Winston: Well, it was---all of my uncles names, their first names, they're Chinese names. So they all started with "Hung." Hung Yeong. Hung Cheong. Hung Chung. So, one of my uncles was named "Buck" and I don't know why he got that, how he got that name "Buck." And then, because my dad would always tag along with him, then he became known as "Small Buck." And that was, you know, when the family referred to him, he was always "Small Buck" and my uncle was "Big Buck!" (Laughs)

A.C.: (Laughs) Okay. The youngest one would be the "Small Buck." By the way, what did your father look like?

Winston: Well. No. He's pure Chinese but he was very nice-looking. Very nice-looking man. For a Chinese, he was good-looking.

A.C.: (Laughs) Okay. So your family moves here in 1947. It's around the time when Honolulu Plantation was closed and it was one year (after) the strike.

Winston: Right.

A.C.: And your father was working at Pearl Harbor all this time, moves the family here and you're starting school.

Winston: Yes.

A.C.: And there was no kindergarten at that time? Or was---

Winston: No. There was kindergarten. But kindergarten wasn't compulsory. So I started in the first grade.

A.C.: At 'Aiea School.?

Winston: 'Aiea. And I was the only one from my family that went to 'Aiea. You see, because, we had that home in Kalihi, my mom actually stayed in Kalihi with my younger siblings and she would go back and forth. But basically, she stayed in Kalihi. So it was my responsibility to take care of the animals while my dad was at work. Then he would, after work, he would---he would uh, come back to 'Aiea. Well, prior to '47 and in '47, when we moved down, then it was still my responsibility. My brothers and sister were too young to help. Uh, but I remember when in 1947 when we celebrated--- My brother was born in '47. I remember his one-year birthday. We had a luau for him and everything, except for the fish, the cake, (and) the long rice---all came from the land.

A.C.: Wow. Winston, you were only like five or six years old, and you can remember that!

Winston: Yeah, because I had most of the responsibility. So we had an orchard. We had a number of orange trees on the property also. That where we got the juice for his birthday. We had the taro, the luau and then the chickens. I remember the chickens, you know, going with the chopsticks and cleaning up the chicken after you kill the chicken. The pig, we had---

A.C.: So it was really a working farm. I mean, you slaughtered the animals there?

Winston: Uh-hmm. We did everything right on the property. And then, when we got to the fish products, because my family was fishermen, we got the fish products.

A.C.: Um. And when they had this party, in those days, was the first birthday party just for the family or did the community also come?

Winston: It was for basically, family and friends. Some of the neighbors came from 'Aiea, but it wasn't really open to anybody.

A.C.: How would you do that? I mean, you didn't have enough tables and chairs

for everybody. Did people bring their own or---

Winston: No. We set up tables for people. Yeah, I remember we had tables on the porch.

A.C.: Planks?

Winston: Yeah, just planks with paper. You get a long plank and you know, that's your bench. But everybody just made do and sat on the ground if they had to. Sat on the floor but it was very, very nice.

A.C.: Yeah. You worked very hard but family knew how to celebrate the special occasions too. Honored the traditions. Hmm.

Winston: Right.

A.C.: So, what, if you and your father were living at the house and your mother was going back and forth, was there times where just the two of you would take of your meals?

Winston: Oh, there were times, yup, two of us. And there were times when I would take of the meals because my dad was either working late and uh, I remember cooking on the old kerosene stove. Yeah. I remember my first meal I cooked for my parents. Rice. From the pot. And corned beef. Canned corned beef with onions. That was the first meal I prepared for them.

A.C.: (Laughs) The quintessential Hawaiian meal. But on the kerosene stove.

Winston: On a kerosene stove. And we had an outhouse. We had no, uh, indoor plumbing except for the kitchen so our bathhouse was on the outside. We had no hot water. We had just all cold water.

A.C.: No hot water. Wow.

Winston: Um hmm. Actually, the bathroom, where we took the bath was just a shed. A shed. It had, uh, one side of the shed they had a big opening but if there was a picture

window, which we didn't have, you know, you'd be looking out at your neighbors, taking a bath. (Laughs)

A.C.: (Laughs) But you're just this kid wearing shorts!

Winston: Yeah.

A.C.: Ahem. Did your cousins, since you were saying you were kinda close to your cousins from your uncles and auntie's family, were they also having this rural kind of lifestyle?

Winston: No. Basically, it was my dad and I. I did have a close relationship with my cousins on the Chinese side, so whenever we'd get together, it would be in Kalihi. And most of them lived in Kalihi, so, that's, you know, we'd get together in Kalihi.

A.C.: Where you'd play stickball and not have to do chores.

Winston: Right. Chinese New Year's there. We'd clean the house. Clean up before and my dad; he would prepare a feast on the eve. Chinese New Year. And after dinner, my mother would start making the jai. It wasn't my dad. It was my mom that did the jai. And then New Year's Day, that's all you ate. Nothing else. Nothing American. Just that and rice. No seasoning at all. Now we use oyster sauce. At that time, just that and it was just bland. And then the day after, then you'd get another feast. I'd enjoyed that because then, my dad and my aunts would cook. But my mom. She was a stickler. "No! You eat jai on this day." So when my wife married. She was so hungry. I don't know if dad said, "Go up the street. Go buy hamburger." (Everyone laughs)

Lynette: I sneaked out of the house!

Winston: I know it definitely wasn't my mother.

Lynette: I think I went to get the hamburger and he squealed on me! I remember he told them (lowering her voice) "She went to get the hamburger." I got a lecture from Auntie Helen. But you know what? I cook it today. When my dad and mom got sick. I ended up being the one that's making the jai.

A.C.: Oh. All those ingredients. That's a lot of preparation. Soaking all the different things.

Lynette: Well, what's more important is where you buy it. That was important. Where you go buy it. Once you learn that, the rest is easy.

Winston: We still keep up with that. Even now.

A.C.: Well you know, traditions are passed down by food, you know, obviously and celebrations. Doing things like, you know, the family shrine. Um, so when you started school, 'Aiea School, what was your day like for school? You'd do your chores, and you'd get dressed because you wouldn't be wearing the same clothes that you'd be feeding the animals—you know.

Winston: Right.

A.C.: And then you'd go to school.

Winston: Go to school and, I forgot what time, but, you know, my dad; he had a timetable. He didn't tell me, but, you'd get home and then, do my chores and he'd be home by four.

A.C.: And then what would happen after four? Would he be doing chores too?

Winston: Then he would take over and do certain things.

A.C.: And then supper was going to be made? Or you did that later?

Winston: Yeah. Well, when we moved back, my mom, uh, most of the time, she was there a lot. I shouldn't say most of it---She was there so she made supper. And when she wasn't there, because she'd go to Kalihi, then either my dad or I would have to cook. And uh, then it got to the point, when, eventually, I started spending more time in Kalihi. But I still went to school in 'Aiea. So, I would have to catch the O.R.&L. (Oahu Railway and Land Co.) bus down by O'ahu prison and come---go to 'Aiea Elementary. Go to the farm. Get the animals. At that time, because of that, then my dad would go early in the morning. He would do the milking and I would go in the afternoon, and then take care of

the animals until he came. I can't remember how long that lasted but I remember the O.R.&L.---H.R.T. (Honolulu Rapid Transit) at that time---They stopped in Red Hill was as far as they went. But the O.R. & L. went all the way to, I know, it's Waipahu or Wa'anae.

A.C.: So you'd catch the bus, go over Red---from near the prison, go over Red Hill, come down Red Hill, and then get off near the (plantation) store?

Winston: No. Um, O.R. & L. stayed on Kamehameha Highway.

### **Aiea School**

Winston: Stayed on Kamehameha Highway until they got close to---uh, I can't remember how they got up to 'Aiea Elementary but they would drop us off---oh, drop me off right there.

A.C.: Were you the only one getting off to go to 'Aiea Elementary?

Winston: Uh, actually, of students, I think I was the only one. But I remember my second grade teacher caught the bus. Miss Kaulukukui. She lived in---I think she lived in Kalihi too. But she didn't catch the bus the same place I did. And so I would catch the bus, go down to the farm, and if my dad had to work overtime, then I would have to catch the O.R.&L. on Kam Highway to go back to Kalihi, which meant that I had to make sure I didn't forget my token to catch the bus.

A.C.: Yeah. Did you take a school lunch with you too?

Winston: Uh, no. 'Aiea had great---'Aiea had great lunches. (Laughs) 'Aiea Elementary had great lunches!

A.C.: What kind of things did you have for lunch, Winston? Fried rice?

Winston: Uh, well I remember---I remember the Spanish rice. They would have in the morning. They would have snacks like graham crackers, orange juice or milk. I remember that. They would have all different kind of plate lunches. At that time, if I remember, it was only fifteen cents.

A.C.: And did you get to work in the cafeteria on occasion, too?

Winston: Yeah. Once in a while, we worked. But not on a regular basis.

### **Mikalemi Camp Changes**

A.C.: So, uh, you know, at that time...you could hear the whistle blowing for the workers, for the work starting. There were cane fields surrounding parts of the town. What was your feeling about that? Did you feel like you were coming out in the country, as you were commuting? Did you see changes, like fewer fields, as you were growing up?

Winston: Yeah. I saw more houses and then, uh, I saw development coming. As an example, right across from---on Nalopaka (Place) when I grew up, there used to be a ranch, a horse ranch above us. I remember as development came in, then the houses came in. Away went the horse ranch. And in fact, there used to be a hill in front of uh, on Nalopaka Street and I remember them coming and grading the hill and houses, all houses. There's only one portion at the end of Nalopaka where you can see that there's a hill area. In between there, it's all been graded.

A.C.: So, was your father told, he needed to stop having, you know, so many animals, or was that a voluntary choice?

Winston: No, at that time.

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE

Winston: He was able to---

A.C.: "Grandfather" in the pedestrian walkway from Kauhale Street to Kamehameha Highway.

Winston: But the problem was that spring, because it was hazardous to the houses that were coming around, coming up around our area. And, uh, I forgot to mention this earlier that, in our property, we used to have a plank. We used to have planks that people

could walk on, to get from 'Aiea town to Kam Highway. And uh, this was not something we had to do. It was something that we just allowed our neighbors to walk through our property.

A.C.: Mostly people coming on, from Nalopaka? Or from Kauhale?

Winston: Kauhale. People from Kauhale. And Mikalemi coming down that way to Kam Highway.

A.C.: Because the road actually doesn't go all the way into Kamehameha Highway, so you'd have to cross through property---

Winston: Right. So, I'm sure they----Right. This is all pedestrian traffic, and uh, we didn't own all the way to Kam Highway so I'm sure that our neighbors did the same thing as well. You know, the Laus and the Hos letting people walk through their property. And so, once a year, we would close off the walkway just to show and maintain ownership. People understood.

A.C.: What time of year was that?

Winston: I can't remem---there wasn't any set time. It was just that once a year, we had to do it. So whenever, we thought, "Oops, it's getting close to the year;" that the time we did it.

A.C.: Was it your job to pull up the planks?

Winston: Oh no! We didn't pull up the planks. All we did was posted a sign.

A.C.: Oh! Oh! You left the planks there. You just---

Winston: We left the planks there. And we, uh, we didn't put a chain across the planks. We put a rope across the plank and we put a sign up that the walkway closed for the day. By owner.

A.C.: Yeah. (Laughs) Okay. So your younger brothers and sister, were they able to also enjoy this, uh, lifestyle, you know, living on the family farm?

Winston: My brother immediately below me, my younger brother was too young. But they never did what I did because they were too young. They were like, three or four at that time. Most of the responsibility fell on me.

A.C.: So how long did you continue doing this commuting? Where you would spend the night at home in Kalihi but catch the bus to 'Aiea, go to school, do the chores and go back home?

Winston: Probably about two years. Maybe. Somewhere around there.

A.C.: Do you remember the strike? In '48 (Actually 1946)?

Winston: I remember the strike. I remember of the strike, I remember especially the rice. Everybody was---they were restricting rice. People were hoarding rice. But it wasn't too bad for us, because we still had the taro. So if we ran out of rice, we just had the poi. (Everyone laughs)

A.C.: How was the poi made? Was it made in a big container?

Winston: Big container on the, on the kerosene stove.

A.C.: Uh ho! And then the scraps would go to the pig?

Winston: Right. To the animals.

A.C.: Nothing got wasted. Yeah. So did you prefer poi to rice? Or vice versa?

Winston: I think, I prefer rice now maybe because of the hard work I remember!  
(Laughs)

A.C.: And was it one kind of kalo?

Winston: You know. I was too young to remember. I just---I remember we had only

two types. One was purple. The stems were purple. And one the stems were white. And I remember the purple one, we had to strip it, the skin and cut off the tip of the leaf before we cooked it. My mom said that if we cooked it, as is, you get the itch. So we had to strip it. I think my brother helped me but again, it was basically me. We would make uh, beef stew with luau leaves. Never made laulau.

A.C.:            Hmm. Yet you had pigs! Yeah.

Winston:        We had a lot of dogs too.

A.C.:            (Laughs) Did the dogs kind of adopt you guys or your dad? I mean---

Winston:        Well, because my dad loved pig hunting, the dogs were raised as pets but they were also pig, you know, you raised them for pig hunting. And um---

A.C.:            Interesting. Your dad would bring home pigs, too, that he had---

Winston:        Yeah, caught. Baby pigs. Raise them. But the dogs knew. Once the pig was in the cage, they wouldn't be barking at the pigs. Yeah, now, uh, going back to a question that was asked previously about my family, uh, coming down to 'Aiea. That was the Chinese side. Everything was basically done in Kalihi. As far as for my Hawaiian side, they were very seldom would visit because on the Hawaiian side, my mom had a very small family. I had only had two cousins on my mom's side and uh, my grandmother and my uncle lived on Big Island. So, you know, only occasionally, we'd see them when they come to visit or we'd go to visit them. My aunt with my cousins and my uncle lived, her husband, lived in the Punchbowl area. They very seldom came down here. (Tape stops)

A.C.:            Okay. I'm asking Winston about uh, the fact, they gave the right-of-way to people to go down to Kamehameha Highway through their property. I mentioned that in the thirties, um, people I interviewed have mentioned people having BB guns and shooting at the kids if they didn't want them going through the rice fields. But by the forties, there weren't any rice fields. So uh, you mentioned even though your father was a hunter himself, he didn't have a BB gun.

Winston:        Yeah. He never had a BB gun and he never allowed any of us to have a BB gun. He was just a big-hearted man. He may have been---when you speak about the thirties, may have been the tenants living on the property, but it definitely wasn't my

grandfather. He didn't live in 'Aiea. He was living in Kalihi as well. We were not part of the sugar company family. My family got the land from crown lands and we just happened to be in the midst of the sugarcane community. When Oahu Sugar (Honolulu Plantation) was about to close down, they sold property to the employees. My dad went to ask if he could purchase some property because we lived right in the area and they allowed him to purchase some of the land that we live on now. It used to be---the shape of the land on the bottom was like a long rectangle. It was like a rectangle. When you came on the top, it was like a triangle. It was kind of an odd shape. He wanted to make it all a triangle; I mean a rectangle. Eventually, he did, by purchasing a portion.

A.C.: And have street access too, because you were landlocked.

Winston: Yeah. We were landlocked in, so there was no way cars could get down from either side because the lower portion of the property closest to Kauhale Street, there was a ditch. The plantation ditch. It had water in there, as well as the swamp, no, the spring.

A.C.: But no bridge.

Winston: No bridge. And on the upper portion, there was only a pathway that we could walk down to our property. So he would have to park his car on the top, where it now Nalopaka. We used to have a lot of kiawe trees up there, so it was like our garage. That's where the beans I got, you know, (to feed) the cows and walk down to our home. So, from the home to the car, where it's parked now, it'd be close to seventy-five yards. It was quite far.

A.C.: Wow. And steep.

Winston: Downhill. Going downhill.

Lynette: Didn't you tell me that he gave them, gave somebody permission to build Nalopaka Place?

Winston: Yeah. He gave, yeah, uh, later on, when they wanted to con---

A.C.: In the fifties? Or before?

Winston: Yeah. And in that area that we're talking about, where I grew up was Stable Camp. My ID, I remember my ID, I think I still have it, has my name and it says "Stable Camp, Aiea."

A.C.: You mean, your—

Lynette: School ID.

Winston: No. It was Territorial.

Lynette: During the war.

A.C.: Because everyone had to have an ID during World War II.

Winston: ID. Right. Um-hmm. And even after World War II. You still had a Territorial ID card.

A.C.: My. It said "Stable Camp." And your daughter was mentioning, that she dug up in the yard, there would be pieces of iron.

Winston: Bottles. Bottles and you know, coming up from the ground.

### **Aiea School in the 1940s**

Winston: Broken bottles. (Laughs) I was asking you, too, about going to school, 'Aiea School, because you didn't live on the camp. Some of the camps had an ethnic identity. And very much so, because cultural traditions were being passed on by the Japanese camp, the Puerto Rican camp, and the Filipino camp. But um, when you'd go to school. What was like going to school with kids, which included plantation workers' kids?

Winston: You know I don't have any bad recollections. It was very nice.

A.C.: No. Did you speak pidgin or did the teachers say---

Winston: Oh yeah. We all spoke pidgin. We all spoke pidgin and we all got along.

A.C.: Yeah? Good teachers? Not too strict?

Winston: The principal was strict! I remember he had a paddle. When you'd get out of hand, boy, you'd go into his office and he'd either whack you on your hand or butt!  
(Everyone laughs)

A.C.: You'd only had to go in the principal's office once to know---

Winston: Oh yeah.

A.C.: Okay. Do you recall the principal's name?

Lynette: I remember my principal's name was Mr. Dyson.

Winston: And I remember my first, my first teacher. Her name was Mrs. Ching.

A.C.: Really!

Winston: Yeah.

A.C.: And you said the second grade teacher was Mrs. Kaulukukui.

Winston: Miss Kaulukukui. I can't remember---I think the third one was Mrs. Fujimoto. I'm not sure.

Lynette: Do you remember Miss Pauole?

Winston: No.

Lynette: Because I remember the elementary school used to be this way. Then they

had a hallway coming this way. The administration building was here. Then they had a hall, a study hall here. Then they had a building come up this way. A really odd shape.

Winston: Um. The intermediate school was also on the same grounds as the elementary but it was---there was a big open field between the two schools. I don't know---

Lynette: At that time, they didn't have. They only had elementary.

Winston: The big field. We never got problems with intermediate, uh, personnel. But that's where the freeway goes through now.

A.C.: The intermediate school area?

Winston: Yeah.

A.C.: And did you go to intermediate school (there)?

Winston: No. I only went to the elementary.

A.C.: And did you finish fourth grade? Fifth grade there?

Winston: Third grade.

A.C.: Third grade. So, kindergarten to third grade. I mean, first grade to third grade. So three years. First grade. Second grade. Third grade. Okay.

Winston: I remember being in a country setting. Oh you know, when you needed things, either you had to do it, or the nearest major store, which was Muraoka Store was in Kalihi. Because I remember when Christmas, uh, we had the school play and I was a tin soldier. One of the tin soldiers. We had to get a red shirt. Well, you couldn't buy a red shirt in 'Aiea, so my mom had to---we had to go to Muraoka to get a white shirt and then, red dye. She had to come home and she had to dye it. (Everyone laughs)

Lynette: That's Grandma. Grandma would do that.

Winston: And I needed a rifle. A wooden rifle. And there was no place. Not even an Ala Moana Shopping Center. So there was no place you could get it. So my mom had to do the best that she could. She made a wooden rifle for me to use. But the irony was, because everyone's rifle looked different! (Everyone laughs)

A.C.: You didn't quite look quite like a spit-and-polish team!

Winston: I remember mine was lo-ong and some were short! So, I think they finally decided for the march, we would march tin soldiers without the rifles.

A.C.: You know, earlier, if I could go back to something. You were mentioning your father hunting. Your wife had mentioned that at your father's funeral, someone had come up to her that in Kalauao, that there was trail that was called "Buck's Trail."

Winston: Yeah. Could be. But in all the years with my dad, he never mentioned it. But he was like that. He never talked too much. You know, on December 7, he volunteered and went back. He wasn't working. He went back to help at Pearl Harbor. He didn't get the recognition but he said, he didn't need the recognition because he knew what he did. He felt good about what he did. He was that kind of person.

Lynette: He had a key, yeah, to the gate?

Winston: Oh yeah! And then, um, you know, a lot of times, you go hunting. You had to go through Oahu Sugar. Cane lands and so, there's only two ways you could go in. Either you could sneak through the cane fields. Or you need somebody. My dad didn't know anybody. But finally, he went up to see a Mr. George Richardson. Mr. Richardson was in charge of the security. He explained who he was and what he wanted to do. He impressed Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Richardson said, well, he wants to go hunting with my dad once. And so he did. Then, he saw what my dad did, and he was so impressed, he gave my dad a key. I think he was the only person who had the key, who could go through the sugarcane. Whenever, we caught pig, he would take a piece and give it to Mr. Richardson. And the irony is, years later, one of Kehau's friends, that was his grandfather.

Lynette: Who was that, Kehau?

Kehau: Kaala. Because of the mill, we came to know each other.

A.C.: Well, this will be a nice story to end the interview with---thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW