

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
with
Jo Ann Inoue Lee, Suzanne Lee and Robin Wong

Daughters of
Hamilton Robert Kupper

July 29, 2007

BY: Arlene Ching (A.C.)

A.C.: Today is July 29, 2007 and we're at the 'Aiea Intergenerational Center with Robin Wong, Jo Ann Inoue Lee and Suzanne Lee. We're here to talk about Hamilton Robert Kupper, their father (who was) very well known in the 'Aiea community. I'm going to ask them to talk about their father, his life, and his work here in 'Aiea town.

Hamilton Kupper's Courtship and Marriage to Jane Abarao

A.C.: And so, Jo Ann, your father first met your mother here in 'Aiea. Your mother is an 'Aiea girl. Can you tell me how your father and mother met?

Jo Ann: My mom was a waitress at Pete's Place. It's a restaurant. And my dad was in the military. He would frequent Pete's Place for dinner and my dad met her. She would wait on him and you know, obviously, they struck up a conversation, and then, the rest was history. (All laugh) And they had you! (Looking at Robin) (All laugh) And Dad never left the islands.

A.C.: What did your mother and father look like, at that time?

Suzanne: Oh, my dad was good looking! I mean, all the way up to the end.

Jo Ann: We have a lot of pictures of him, when he was younger. And, he looked like an actor. No exaggeration. Tall—(All the sisters chime in), dark and handsome!

Robin: He was a really good athlete. He played baseball for the Navy, and one year, he made the All-Star Team.

Jo Ann: He was on the All-Star Team, and he was supposed to play for the pros, but he had a knee injury. He was a very good ball player. He was a second baseman for the Navy. Excuse me, first base. First base for Sub Pac.

A.C.: So, what brought him here to Hawai'i? He enlisted in the Navy?

Jo Ann: Yes. And he was stationed here. He did tours to Japan, for six months. On the submarine, the U.S.S Wahoo. He was an engine man.

A.C.: And, when he came here to 'Aiea, and was going to this restaurant, Pete's Place, was he stationed at Pearl Harbor?

Jo Ann: Yes.

A.C.: And he would drive? Or take the shuttle from the boat?

Jo Ann: I'm not sure. I don't know.

Robin: Maybe he caught the taxi in. (Everyone laughs)

A.C.: Well, tell me about your mother Jane? At that time, she was raising---

Jo Ann: Raising all of us.

A.C.: How big was your family?

Jo Ann: We have an older brother. And at that time, it was my older brother Mike, myself, Suzanne, three of us. And she was working as a waitress.

A.C.: Raise the family during the day, and then nighttime, work at---

Jo Ann: She would work during the day also. It wasn't day and night but some days, she worked during the day. And I remember some, during the night.

A.C.: And what kind of food did Pete's Place serve?

Jo Ann: One side, it was a lounge. And the other side was like a family restaurant.

Suzanne: Something like a Spencecliff type of restaurant.

Robin: Oh, it was mostly like a Flamingo (restaurant), maybe? (The sisters agree) Just American food.

A.C.: You sit in the booths---

Jo Ann: Yes.

A.C.: Did your father try to sit in your mother's area?

Robin: I think he did that. I think he mentioned once, he knew where, what area she waitressed, and so, he would make it a point to be in that area, and go and see her.

Jo Ann: Our mother was very attractive too. She was a glamorous type, our mother. She was very glamorous until the day she died. (All laugh) She'd always have her makeup on. Every single day, she would wear makeup. Never went without makeup until the past few days before she passed away.

A.C.: And so, um, your father proposed to her? He already knew he was going to have this instant family?

Jo Ann: Yes, yes.

A.C.: And about how old were you, when all of this happened?

Suzanne: Gee, I must have been, like three, yeah? Three or four?

Jo Ann: So I was maybe, about---I remember being older!

A.C.: In school already?

Jo Ann: Yeah, I was in school. Was it late elementary years? All I know, was one day, I was walking up 'Aiea Heights Drive, and I saw my mom and my dad, coming down from the hill, and they turned around and they waved at me, like---they waved at me. And that's when they were going to get married! (Laughs) I think they just got married!

Suzanne: Where was I?

Jo Ann: I don't know. (Everyone laughs) I wasn't with them.

Suzanne: You were watching me? I was three years old?

Jo Ann: But that was the day that I knew, they got married.

A.C.: So, they got married, like, in a civil court, not a, you know---

Jo Ann: No. They got married privately. Because I don't remember being there---present, when they got married.

A.C.: So, when you remember them waving at you, and you waving back, it was like---huh?

Jo Ann: Yes. "Hi"? (A.C. and Jo Ann laugh) "Where are you going?"

Suzanne: A lot of times, he was on the submarine, too, because he was still in the military.

Jo Ann: He was still in the military. He retired after he married to my mom.

A.C.: So then, she became a Navy wife, but he was serving his duties.

Jo Ann: Right. He would be away six months at a time.

Robin: Mom had her family here. He didn't uproot us. We stayed here and he did all the traveling, so it was nice that we always had the family together, in one area.

A.C.: And still with your grandparents? It's unusual, with the military; you didn't have to go station to station.

Jo Ann: Right. But our grandparents were already deceased. They died pretty young, on my mother's side.

A.C.: So, you mentioned the family store. Who was running this?

Aburao Store and Aiea Appliance Store

Jo Ann: Aburao Store? It was one of my aunties that were running the store. And then after, there was Aiea Appliance right next to it, an appliance shop. And my uncle, Kenji Tokuno, he had that store, Aiea Appliance.

Home on 'Aiea Heights Drive

A.C.: So, um, you lived in a home that was a plantation home, up in 'Aiea Heights.

Jo Ann: Heights Drive.

Robin: Right across from the sugar mill.

Jo Ann: Between the ballpark and the sugar mill. On 'Aiea Heights Drive.

A.C.: And what kind of home was it?

Jo Ann: Plantation home with a bath and outhouse. It was a two-bedroom. Two bedrooms with a living room, and a separate kitchen.

A.C.: And it was electrified but you said, outdoor outhouse.

Jo Ann: Yes.

Robin: With a ditch running continuously.

Jo Ann: Right. With water running underneath. And we had kerosene stove.

Robin: With a huge pine tree in the front. Remember? One of those big pine trees.

Jo Ann: (It had a lawn) With Japan grass.

Robin: Dad cut the tree down.

A.C.: And who were the neighbors, above you and below you?

Jo Anne, Robin or Suzanne: The Sakumas, to the right of us. The Miyashiros, to the left. And behind us, was the Sakai family.

A.C.: And the same kind of home? Plantation home? (All agree) Did you have yards in-between?

Jo Ann: Yes.

Robin: But did you have fences?

Jo Ann: No.

Robin: One has, like, an avocado tree, in-between.

Jo Ann: Our neighbor had a macadamia nut tree, believe it or not.

Robin: We had a common mango tree---

Jo Ann: And behind our yard, I was just mentioning it to them, that we had a grape vine. And we had grapes! Green grapes that was sour as can be! But, people don't believe we have a grape vine in the back, and I remember seeing grapes hanging.

Robin: You could have had a vineyard! (Everyone laughs)

Suzanne: A winery!

Jo Ann: Very sour! I don't know if it was there when we moved there or what, but I don't remember my folks planting it or anything.

A.C.: Jo Ann, do you know if the home was there, I mean, that your mother and father were renting it?

Jo Ann: I think there were renting it and they had an option to buy it. And then

they bought the home. (Their father, their mother's first husband had worked for Honolulu Plantation so housing was provided.) Then because he was working for the mill, then, the home could be lived in, because mill family, you know. I think so. I may not be correct in that, but I think so. But then, they later purchased the land. Then, people started to, um, build new homes, so we built---my mother folks built a Hicks Home with my (step) dad, Hamilton. New home. Three bedrooms. With a bathroom.

A.C.: You mean, until that Hicks Home was built, you all still used the outdoors toilet?

Jo Ann, Robin or Suzanne: No, no. Later on, they made an extension to the house, and they built a shower and a toilet in the house. We had a place where you could put your washing machine.

(A.C. asked about all the siblings, and they describe the circumstances of their baby brother, who died shortly after his birth in 1959.)

Suzanne: But he came home.

Jo Ann: What happened, was, my dad, yeah, he did come home. At that time, my dad was stationed in Japan. He was on tour for six months. And what happened was, when the crewmen heard what happened to our brother, they all chipped in and flew my dad home. And when my dad came home---our brother's name was Don; he passed away the next day.

A.C.: So, Robin, you were born in Tripler (Army Hospital), too, and your father served twenty years in the military, and retired, about what year?

Jo Ann: It would have to over forty years, because, that's when Dad went into the taxi business.

Robin: I want to say (he retired in) 1964. We have a coffee table that we still have, and it was gift when Dad retired, a *koa* table, and it has his retirement date on it. So I can look at that. And his papers too. I think it was 1964.

Pete's Taxi

A.C.: Let's get to your mom, too. Did she continue working at Pete's Place after (she married their dad)?

Robin: After, she stayed home. I think after she had me, she stayed home. (All discussed that she worked at Pearl Lounge and Bekins.) I was in grade school, and she worked at night. And so Dad and I would have dinner together in the evenings, and sometimes, Dad would take me down to the lounge to say "hello" to her. And we'd just meet briefly, and then, he would take me home.

A.C.: In his taxi?

Robin: Yeah.

Jo Ann: Was he driving taxi then?

Robin: Yes.

Jo Ann: You were born in '57.

Robin: I believe he was. When I was attending Alvah Scott (Elementary) School, I would tell him, "Dad, don't drive up to the front of the school. Just drop me off before you get to the front!" I used to be embarrassed that my dad was driving taxi! (All laugh) And so, "Don't go to the basketball court! Drop me off before!" But he would take me to the court, and drop me off. And then, um, so I remember that. That was in grade school.

A.C.: I'm going to ask, what his taxi looked like in those days. But just one more thing. With your mother working in Waimalu---this is a question I'm curious about. She never worked down in town, or, a lot of women would work at the pineapple, you know, cannery, because of the seasonal work.

Jo Ann: Not her. (Laughs) She was more restaurant, waitress, bartendress, yeah.

A.C.: Did she drive herself? She would have a car?

Jo Ann: She would only drive very short distances. She would not drive into town. She would not venture out of 'Aiea-Pearl City. She used to come to Pearl City to pick up my daughter because she and my daughter were like, peanut butter and jelly, you know. That was the extent of her driving.

A.C.: Robin, when your father would drive you to school in the taxi, what was the taxi like?

Robin: I remember him having a blue taxi, and I think it was a Plymouth. He would change cars every so many years.

Jo Ann: It always was a big sedan, because it was a taxi.

A.C.: So, the taxi was located right down in this area where we are now ('Aiea Town Square).

Jo Ann: Next to the ('Aiea) stream there. Because Pete's Place was right around here.

A.C.: So it was on the streamside.

Jo Ann: Adjacent to the stream, was where the taxi stand was. Right below Moanalua Road.

A.C.: And did he have it painted, saying there was a taxi?

Jo Ann, Suzanne or Robin: There was a sign. Pete's Taxi.

Robin: There was a corrugated roof. With the poles. And where two cars could park.

Jo Ann: Old beat-up recliner. (All laugh)

Suzanne: TV.

Robin: A TV and a refrigerator.

A.C.: In an open-air garage?

Jo Ann: But they used to lock it up when they left.

Suzanne: They had a box.

Jo Ann: With a locker.

A.C.: So people could drive by or walk by, and they could see, if the car was there--Not hidden from view.

Suzanne: You could come down the hill, and see if the taxi was there.

A.C.: And was it like the same kind of set-up all those years, until they moved to the Kenji Tokuno side?

Jo Ann: No, no, before that, they relocated---you know where Kuroda Service Station was?

A.C.: Where Wendy's (Restaurant) is (on Moanalua Road between Uahi and Laulima)?

Robin: Um-hmm.

Jo Ann: He was on the side of it. He had a small setup, just him. Initially, on the 'Ewa side of the stream.

Robin: Then, he moved to, across that road, right there. The side road, right here (on Laulima Street).

Jo Ann: Right here where Wendy's is? Kuroda's was there? He rented part of Kuroda's property. Then, after Kuroda, um, broke down their service station, then he moved here.

A.C.: Okay. Three, mainly three locations.

Suzanne: Still in 'Aiea.

A.C.: So when your dad retired, in 1964, did he already know that's what he was going to do?

Jo Ann: I think he was just originally helping a friend. Butch.

Robin: The original Pete's Taxi wanted another person to help him.

A.C.: So there was more than one taxi driver?

Jo Ann: At that time, there were two.

Robin: It was my dad and Mr. Fujisaki. And he really started Pete's Taxi. And he had been driving years previously.

Jo Ann: And he was a good family friend. We became very close to him.

Robin: And he asked Daddy if he would to drive. And Mr. Fujisaki lived near, um, up 'Aiea Heights in that area, and um, there was a store up there with Omiya (Family). And the lady that ran the store, her name was Betty Huddy, and he used to see Betty. They were a couple. And Butch, we would call him "Butch" and he would cook breakfast for her every morning. He had a hotplate at the taxi stand, and he would cook breakfast and take it up to Betty at the store. And so, it was a ritual, my dad said, because, they were both there at the taxi stand.

A.C.: How early in the morning are we talking about?

Robin: He would start work, I believe, like, at 5:00 or 5:30.

Jo Ann: In the later years, he would go in real early. When he started working by himself, he even put longer hours, because it was only him (working). And he would just accommodate his customers, like nobody else would.

Robin: He would go to the airport, maybe 4:00 in the morning.

Jo Ann: When we would have family dinners, he'd say, "Oh, I got go home early. I've got to get up to take "so-and-so" to the airport. They're going to (Las) Vegas or whatever."

Robin: Or sometimes, he wouldn't even make the event, because he said that he'd have some appointments and he couldn't make it.

Jo Ann: Yeah.

Robin: And if someone had to go to the hospital or go to dialysis or something like that, you know, because he had all planned out in his planning book.

Robin: Did he carry around a book with him?

Jo Ann: He did, he did. He carried an appointment book. People would call and make appointments that they wanted to be picked up, a certain day, a certain time.

Robin: Steady customers.

Jo Ann: His steady customers. There was this one lady; she lived down Nanakuli side. I don't know if it was once a week, or once every two weeks, he would pick her up, drive her all the way to Castle (Medical Center), and then from Castle, he'd take her all the way home.

Robin: He'd wait. Yeah. Wait for her and take her home.

Jo Ann: And you know, when she passed away, she had my dad named in her will. She left something for my dad.

Robin: He was really important to her.

Jo Ann Even his customers that he had, just within the few years, they were unable to walk from the house to the taxi. He would carry them, and when they got to the clinic, he would carry them from the car to the clinic. And when they were done, he'd put them back in the car. He had a customer, I don't remember what customer it was, that he would walk her up, sign her in, right up, at 'Aiea Medical (Building), because she had difficulty. He'd do that. He'd just go out of his way. Unbelievable.

Robin: And I think what made Dad really special was that, he really had compassion for people. He really, whether he saw them walking home, and he knew they didn't fare money, he'd stop and ask them, "Hey, do you need a ride?" or even if he was in traffic, you know how the taxi meter would run when you're in traffic? He would just turn it off ---

Jo Ann: And he wouldn't charge them.

Robin: He wouldn't be the customer. He said, "Don't worry about it."

Jo Ann: And when the traffic would move, he'd turn it back on. (All laugh) He'd even bring some customers home to us, to help them out with whatever problems they may have. Bring them home, give them some place to take a shower, and put clean clothes on.

Robin: That's right. And remember, this customer, and he was staying at 'Aiea Rest Home. He used to come visit at the taxi stand, and Butch and Dad knew him. When Butch passed, well, anyway, he would go, Dad would bring this customer home sometimes, and actually give him a bath. I don't know if this customer had any relatives that would come and visit, but he brought him home a couple of times and gave him a bath. This other customer, she had a domestic fight, and she wanted to go to Blaisdell Park and it was night. She was with her little boy, and Dad said, "No, I can't drop you off there at night." So, he brought her home and my mom was, like, "OK, who is this?" Through that meeting, Mom would see that lady at the Pearlridge Shopping Center, and Mom became good friends with her. It was a special bond, because we met her through Dad bringing her home. She was so grateful for that.

A.C.: In their time of need, his customers were really fortunate to have his kindness.

Robin: Yeah. He would do their shopping even, for them.

Jo Ann: When he had the stand with "Butch"---we called him "Butch"---customers would call and they would say, "Can I have the "Portugee" man?" (All laugh) They wanted him, you know! "Can we have the "Portugee" man?"

Robin: What did they call him?

Jo Ann: "Ham." His nickname was "Ham." But a lot of people called him "Pete" because of "Pete's Taxi."

A.C.: They didn't know his first name.

Robin: So if people ask for "Pete"?

Jo Ann: Oh, "(Pete) speaking! (All laugh) Even on his cards, you know, his get-well cards, "Dear Pete, blah-blah-blah." (All laugh)

Robin: "Dad, why don't you say (something)?"

Jo Ann: "But it's not important!" (Laugh) There was this one lady. He would always pick her up from Times Market. She'd have ice cream with her. When he got

caught in traffic, he'd call Times Market. You see, Times Market would always call my dad, for customers. Times Super Market? My dad would call Times Super Market, and tell whoever answered the phone, because he knew all the cashiers. "Can you tell Mrs. So-and-so that I'm running late, so please put her ice cream."

Suzanne, Robin or Jo Ann: "Back in the freezer! "

Jo Ann: Because he knows she's waiting for him, outside the store.

Robin: And it'd be melting! He knew she'd buy ice cream all the time.

Jo Ann: Um hmm. When he'd pick up customers with groceries, he wouldn't just drop off on the street. He'd go in the driveway, open the door, carry the groceries out, and put it down inside the door.

Suzanne: That's why they asked for the "Portugee" man.

Jo Ann: And he would go out of his way. No one else would.

Robin: And there was this one really special customer. I mean they're all special to Dad but up to the time he died, when her husband passed away, Dad took her to the morgue. Dad stayed with her throughout the whole time. He'd ask, "Oh, would you like me to stay with you?" And she'd say, "Yes." And Dad did. Then, he took her home. Even when he had cancer, the husband was dying, and Dad would pick them both up, and take them to the hospital. He would carry him. So, he really took care of her until, up to the time, she would come to the hospital to come and visit. She had just wonderful things to say about him. He followed through on things. He would buy her apple turnovers and just take it up, because he was in the area. Things like that.

Jo Ann: And this special customer. She said, "Jo Ann, there were only three men in my life that I loved. One was my father. One was my husband and your dad." And she said, "Please don't get me wrong" when she said, that there were only three men in her life. Even my dad's mechanic, George Hokama, he said, "I'll never meet a nicer man than your dad in this lifetime. When we try to do --- I always think about, "Dad would have wanted it this way." So, he had such an imprint on us! What to do. The right thing. You know, we would think, "This is what Dad would have done." So we're in doubt of something, I would, anyway, think back on him. How he would have handled it. Yeah. When he'd greet them whenever they walked up to the door. Whatever he'd say, "Hello! How are you?" or he was always so cheery and up to the time that he got ill, and passed away, whenever we went up to the house, he'd say, "Hello there! What's up sweetheart?" Or, what did he tell Baron? Baron and Anson, with the same kind of greeting, you know.

Suzanne: He'd stand up and always meet them with a hug.

Jo Ann: And whenever he'd left the family dinners, whatever, he'd hug all of us.

When we'd have telephone conversations, he always ended the conversations with "I love you." At work, when I'd say "I love you, too," the secretaries would say, "Who are you saying that to—I love you too?" I'd say, "My dad!" They'd say "Aww, how precious" you know. Always ends the conversation with "I love you." He was very affectionate. Very affectionate. Very. He'd show affection and gave a lot of affection.

Robin: We'd say "Dad! You should quit driving already. We're worried about you!" "I'm driving slow." (I'd think) "Yeah, you're driving slow." Whipping the corners. (All laugh)

Suzanne: I used to work at the police department. I used to tell him, "Drive slow now." (He'd say) "I'm driving slow. I'm driving slow."

A.C.: So up to the time, he stopped working, was he always driving the big sedans?

(All): Yes.

A.C.: And never changed to a van, or you know---

(All): No. No. No.

Jo Ann: He stopped working when he was diagnosed with the cancer. That was last year. Then he decided, yeah, he's going to retire.

A.C.: So he worked all the way, up to then?

(All): Pretty much. Yes.

Robin: He was always worried about his customers.

A.C.: Was he semi-retired?

Robin: No.

Jo Ann: He was slowing down.

Robin: He took Sundays off. He used to work seven days.

END OF SIDE ONE

Robin: And maybe, all right. And afterwards, it was just (him).

A.C.: Okay. And when did he, like, work solo?

Jo Ann: After Fujisaki passed away. Cancer. And then, I think, for a short period of time, there was another driver. But it was only for a short period.

Robin: Actually, he had two drivers. One was a Filipino man. A small man. To see if they could work that schedule out. And then, a Korean man. His name was Lee. But really, because of his personality, the way he took such a personal interest in his customers, it flourished because of him. It continued.

Robin: And he enjoyed talking to them. So when we'd meet people, they'd say, "You know, I feel like I know all about you" because--- (the customer would say) "What a wonderful family he has." He had all the grandchildren's pictures in his taxi.

Jo Ann, Suzanne or Robin: In the front. Pictures in the car. In the taxi. In the dashboard. Great grandchildren.

Robin: Or he'd pull out a picture and go, "This is my daughter."

Jo Ann: So people felt like they knew us when we met them for the first time.

A.C.: (Discussion about the onset of his illness) How did the customers find out?

Robin: He called some of his customers.

Jo Ann: And you know how word-of-mouth spreads, right, in a small town? So, then people---one lady would call and she'd cry on the phone, (and) say, "I miss you." You know. There was a customer who was on dialysis that my dad would take every week. Finally, the customer told my dad, that he's going to stop taking dialysis. He doesn't want to continue. So my dad told him, you know, if this happens, within a couple of weeks, you're going to die. He said, "That's what I want." So he stopped and he went into hospice. I didn't know, but my dad went to visit him everyday, and he would read "The Lord's Prayer" together. And in fact, when he died, the family asked my dad, if he would come up and say "The Lord's Prayer." And my dad did.

A.C.: Your father's faith---was it something that was obvious?

Robin: Yeah. He was a Christian. I remember him taking me to church in grade school. We always practiced "The Lord's Prayer". He always did that so.

Jo Ann: In our family, when we grew up, until this very day---to find out the truth, to find out if we were fibbing or lying or anything, the "Code of Honor" in our family (was) you'd ask the person, "Word of Honor?" And you'd have to tell the truth if we asked you that! And to this day, we do that with each other. If we asked a question and I'd say, "Word of Honor?" You cannot lie.

Robin: But you wouldn't use it a lot. Yeah, if you needed to, you would ask that question.

(A.C. asked if the taxi schedule was hard on their family, especially their mother.)

Jo Ann: And they used to look forward, when my mom was still living, they looked forward, coming to family dinners, get-together. We did that often.

(All): We do. Sundays. Every holiday.

Robin: So he wouldn't be driving then.

Jo Ann: But some holidays, he did work. I think, a couple of times, Thanksgiving. Of course, we'd pack a plate for him.

A.C.: Well, you had mentioned about his taxi driving and the family, you know, you never felt like you were stepchildren. You were all one family from the start.

Jo Ann: He always gave people the benefit of the doubt. He was never judgmental. Never. You know, all though the years, he never, ever raised his voice at us. He never did.

Robin: Not even spanked us.

Jo Ann: He always talked to us. He never raised his voice to us. There were only—I think I can count on my two hands, that I heard he and my mom arguing. We never--- maybe in the later years, but prior, most of their married years, we never saw them fight or argue. I think later, my mom got a little cantankerous (All laugh) but as growing up, never did see them, argue. And he never, ever did raise his voice to us. Can you imagine?

A.C.: You said he didn't like to go to Las Vegas. He felt that 'Aiea was home---

Jo Ann: He'd always say, "Why do you want to leave this most beautiful --- "The air. Look at the clouds! Look at the mountains!" He'd just appreciate. He'd go out in the garage and he'd say, "What a beautiful day!"

Robin: Or if there a nice sunset? He would call us on the phone and tell us, "Take a look! Look outside! Look at the sky! It's gorgeous! Appreciate it!"

A.C.: So, if your mother wanted to go on a trip, like to Las Vegas or something like that, then she could do her own thing?

Suzanne: She did. She went with us. He didn't.

Jo Ann: I think the only time he took a trip, was when he went to see his mom in

California. He surprised her. That was the only time they took a trip. In the fifty years, I think only once.

A.C.: But I don't think that people understand that this (driving a taxi) is very appreciated, you know, kind of profession.

Robin: It is. Of course, when you get older, in high school, a lot of my friends knew my dad, right here in 'Aiea. So, we used to say, "We can't cut class! We'd see (your) dad on the road" or whatever. And um, you know, in later years, we loved the fact, that . . . you wanted to drive in a taxi. You wanted to go to school that way. To show you could go that way, afford it! Things change.

A.C.: Did he take you to the prom in a taxi?

Jo Ann: No! But it was a different story with my daughter, when she was going to Alvah Scott, grade school. She couldn't wait for my dad to pick her up, because my dad would pick her up every single day from school and drop her off at my mom's in Pearlridge.

Robin: They would go buy ice cream.

Jo Ann: And have a snack first! She'd come in the car. He'd lean over on the side. He's got a box of chow fun for her. He'd always have some kind of goodie for her!" And he had a great sense of humor. On April's Fools Day, he'd always try to fool us. On one April's Fools Day, I will always remember, we were all sleeping in the morning, all the curtains were closed. He'd stand at the front door, and say "Oh my goodness! It's snowing!!" We'd all jump up and run to the front door. "Where, Dad? Where, Dad?" And he'd say "April's Fools!"

Robin: And he'd have us all going.

Jo Ann: Always, April's Fools Day, he'd do something like that.

Robin: And he'd catch us. He'd work up, couple days before, you know. Once, he said, that---we had a dog, a Pomeranian, and April's Fools Day, he went out to the patio and said, "Oh, my gosh, Gigi had puppies!!" But prior to that, he was telling us about "Didn't you notice that Gigi's stomach is getting a little fat?" He'd set you up. So the day would come. We'd run to the door and we'd actually believe it! To the point, he'd turn around and go, "April's Fools!"

Jo Ann: The snow was the best! (All laugh) "Where, where, where?!?" "April's Fools!" That's the kind of humor he'd have.

Suzanne: Well, what used to eat us up, was when he used to drop us off at the airport. All Oriental, yeah? "Bye, love you!!" (Kissing sounds) We're kissing the taxi

driver, yeah! “How come they’re kissing the taxi driver?” (Laughter) I used to look around and see what people’s reaction was. (Laughter)

END OF INTERVIEW