

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
with
Marguerite Lee Peach

March 26, 2009

BY: Arlene Ching (A.C.)

Mrs. Marguerite Peach grew up near 'Aiea Landing in the 1920s. Her father Alfred Lee managed the U.S. Navy pump that supplied fresh water to Pearl Harbor and the family home was on the pump property. Her mother Marguerite Hills Lee was a postmistress of 'Aiea Post Office for a brief time. Marguerite was born in 1916 and attended Kapalama School, Central School, Roosevelt High School and the University of Hawaii. She married John Peach, who retired from the Federal Aviation Administration and passed away in 2001. Mrs. Peach was interviewed at her home in Kane'ohe.

A.C.: It is March 26, 2009 and I'm Arlene Ching. I'm going to interview Mrs. John Peach, Marguerite Peach, Kaneohe, Hawaii at her home in Pohai Nani. Well, tell me about your mother.

Marguerite: My mother was born in California in Riverside in 1897, and the family had gone up to California to learn the soda water trade.

A.C.: The Hills family.

Marguerite: The Hills family. My grandfather had married Lizzy Swiggert. That was her name, believe it or not. Lizzy Swiggert. His brother married another woman, Belle something-or-other. I don't know what her last name was right now. I do know it somewhere. And uh, then they all came back together, in 1897 when my mother was (an) infant. They settled, I think, on Vineyard Street near Emma. And that's where my mother and my aunt grew up, along with the rest of the Hills kids.

A.C.: Was it a big family?

Marguerite: Oh yeah, it was. I mean, William had, I think, four or five children. My grandpa and grandma had only the two girls.

A.C.: And how close in age were they? Your mother was Marguerite.

Marguerite: Yes. My mother was Marguerite. She was born in 1897 and her sister was born in 1899.

A.C.: Oh boy. Now how did your parents meet? Your father was Alfred Lee.

Marguerite: Alfred Lee. I have no idea. I think my dad lived in what was called "Peck's Alley" which was right there in, right off of---

A.C.: Vineyard?

Marguerite: Right off of Vineyard. I think my grandma moved there, and uh, he came along to live there too.

A.C.: Did he learn the lemon---you know, the soda works?

Marguerite: No. Not my dad. My dad came in 1902 when he was nineteen and his--- He went to work for Dillingham on the railroad. You know, they built the railroad to accommodate the---they knew it would be a help to be able to move all that sugar by railroad. So they were smart enough to go ahead and build the railroad. They built it all the way to Kahuku and then to La'ie. I understand; I'm not sure, but I think they kept on going on around to, uh, oh dear, that---

A.C.: To Haleiwa Hotel, for sure.

Marguerite: Oh well. Oh yes. That's past. Haleiwa Hotel is before, is in Waialua.

A.C.: That's right. Before Kahuku.

Marguerite: Kahuku is beyond that. And La'ie is beyond that. And then, beyond that, was all land run by---owned by---Hmm. What was his name? The king, King Kamehameha III gave it to him---this haole. Castle I think. One of the Castles. I'm not positive but I think so.

A.C.: Did you ever ride the train?

Marguerite: Oh gosh! Yes! When we moved to 'Aiea, my dad didn't want us to go to the Aiea School because they didn't speak good English.

A.C.: It wasn't an English standard school.

Marguerite: No. They didn't start those 'til later. So he insisted that we go to an English standard school. And I had started at---from Kaimuki---

A.C.: Because you lived on Third Avenue in town in Kaimuki.

Marguerite: Right. And we caught the streetcar and went to school in Central Grammar, what they called Central Grammar. It's now Central Intermediate. (Discusses various schools)

A.C.: But even though you lived in 'Aiea, (your parents) wanted you to go to an English standard school?

Marguerite: That's right. So we had started in Lincoln. That was the first English standard school they opened. That's where we went.

A.C.: Now you had a wonderful memory when you were living in Kaimuki, of seeing Duke Kahanamoku and his brother in your living room.

Marguerite: They came---they lived---they came to see us when we lived there. They lived in Waikiki someplace. I think, I heard, Kalia Road but that was pretty far away from where my parents lived.

A.C.: Now, just backtracking a little, when were you born, Marguerite?

Marguerite: 1916.

A.C.: Okay. So when you have this memory of a very tall Hawaiian man in your living room, you described it so nicely. How old do you think you were?

Marguerite: Well, I was standing in front of table about this---

A.C.: Up to your chin. As a child.

Marguerite: How high would you consider this?

A.C.: Maybe like this table here. Maybe, two to three feet.

Marguerite: Um-hmm. My head was above it. You know. I was looking up at Duke. My! He was a handsome creature! (Laughs) At that age, I thought, he was---you know!

A.C.: You had a lot of visitors to the home and you mentioned that your father built this wonderful home.

Marguerite: My father and mother knew so many people. It was amazing how many people they knew and uh, I can't even begin to tell you how many people they knew. We'd go visit them. Wonderful places. Big, huge two-story buildings with porches all around. I remember going to one house that got two skyscrapers on it up on Lunalilo. But this house and yard were huge. I loved to go there because they had a playhouse for kids that was two stories high. I know. A two-story play house with all kinds of stuff in it. (Chuckles) What a place to go! Another place we used to go to was the Cooke's house on Old Pali Road. They had a two-story brown-shingled house. They had a

marvelous play place under the stairs. They had a toy closet under the stairs and we used to love all the wonderful toys. They had a little railroad. They had a little rail cart on the rail that went back and forth down the hill to the swimming pool.

A.C.: On the property, they had a conveyance that would take people up and down the hill?

Marguerite: No. Just kids!

A.C.: Just kids. Wow. (Laughs) I would have loved to be a kid. So you looked forward to doing these visits with your parents?

Marguerite: Oh, really. Really. It was wonderful! (Laughs) Oh really.

A.C.: Then your parents entertained also.

Marguerite: Yeah. Um-hmm.

A.C.: So how old were you when you moved from your home in town?

'Aiea in the 1920s

Marguerite: Nine. I was nine when we moved to 'Aiea (in 1922-23) and dad had already been working there, so we'd visit before we moved there. And the Navy built us a house. And uh, it was still uh, sugarcane fields down behind us. And uh, they'd bring the—uh—the---they had railroad tracks and, uh, cars, but they had mules. Mules.

A.C.: Was there a stable camp near your home?

Marguerite: No. The stable camp was up on our---was up above us by the old, uh, old hospital. It's all been cleared away now. I mean, they put that road; they put the highway through there.

A.C.: The Kamehameha Highway?

Marguerite: And down into 'Aiea. I wish I had a map.

A.C.: You know, what I, uh---as you're describing it, I have some idea, because what's left, now of the hospital, is part of the cemetery.

Marguerite: Yes! That's right. (Laughs) I remember, when we were little, I guess you might say, my mother didn't keep so close track of us.

A.C.: And this is you and your brothers.

Marguerite: Yes. And whoever else happened to be there. And we'd go up. Say for instance, there was going to be a funeral. And the Filipinos always had a band. Well, I don't say they all did, but I remember the band. And they'd get out and they'd have a parade and the body was in the parade.

A.C.: You mean, from the church, they would ---

Marguerite: Wherever it was.

A.C.: Wow!

Marguerite: And uh, they would go along in the parade, and of course, we kids would join! (Laughs) And we'd follow them up to the cemetery. Then everybody would line up to get their pictures taken, us, along with them. (Laughs) And they'd take the cover off the coffin.

A.C.: Off the bier. All right.

Marguerite: Take a picture and there were the little Lee kids standing out in front along with the other kids! (Laughs) Oh dear, we'd have such good fun. So then, of course, they would bury the body and so forth. But, uh, during the year, they'd have festivals and they would leave food for uh, for uh, I guess, the person who'd died.

A.C.: You mean at the cemetery.

Marguerite: At the cemetery. And I never did it, but my brothers would sneak up there and swipe it! (Laughs)

A.C.: Well, you're hungry and it's not being eaten!

Marguerite: And they were little kids, and they would do things, you know. My mother would have had a fit if she knew it. (Chuckles)

A.C.: Well, your home that was on the Navy property---what kind of a house was it?

Marguerite: Oh, it was a nice house. The Navy built it. (She mentions she has pictures)

A.C.: No. That's fine. What you showed me, gave me an idea of what your family looked like. We had a good talk at that time.

Marguerite: Well, we had lots of relatives. They always visited. We'd have a nice

time. And of course, we'd go swimming in the water down there. We'd eat the clams. In those days, it was cleaner water (Chuckles) than it is now. You wouldn't eat that stuff today.

A.C.: You could eat the clams and clamming season would come---

Marguerite: And the crabs. And the crabs, they had Samoan crabs. Those are the big ones. The Hawaiian um, fishpond was there too.

Kahakupohaku Fishpond

A.C.: Which pond?

Marguerite: It's not there now (Kahakupohaku). The Navy filled it in.

A.C.: Was it closer to Pearl Harbor? Or was it on McGrew Point?

Marguerite: It was in Pearl Harbor.

A.C.: It was in Pearl Harbor. Um-hmm. What do you remember about it?

Marguerite: Well, it was a big fishpond. The Chagamis had a house right there. (The Chagami home was on the same road past the pump station on the other side of Kahakupohaku fishpond.) And uh, over on the other side, the Masudas. Is it Masuda or Matsuda? I'm not sure which it was. And uh, they took care of a Japanese shrine in there. Of course, the Japanese would go and uh, have their services there.

A.C.: Was the shrine a building? Or was like a little wooden—

Marguerite: I don't know. It was a little---

A.C.: It looked like a little temple?

Marguerite: Yeah.

A.C.: Along the shoreline?

Marguerite: No. It was up, closer---let's see, the pool, the fishpond was way out here. And then, there was a flat place here where the Masudas lived, and the shrine was there. And then, this hadn't been dug away like it has been now. It's been removed, but there was a place where they dug and put the railroad track in behind.

A.C.: Okay. So the railroad track was higher up and then---

Marguerite: Not too high though. It was pretty---

A.C.: Along the shoreline?

Marguerite: Along the shoreline and then it came by and stopped by the 'Aiea train depot and picked up passengers. And actually, when we first moved there, there was a Japanese store, a two-storied building where they lived up above and they had their store down below. And then, they stopped there for passengers. Then they'd go on around, by, uh---

A.C.: McGrew Point?

Marguerite: By McGrew Point. You have good memories. Then, on to Waiau and places like that. But I never went over there until much later.

A.C.: Can I ask one more question about the fishpond? Was there someone taking care of it?

Marguerite: No.

A.C.: It was just a like a pond at that time.

Marguerite: Right.

A.C.: Did you ever see people, uh---

Marguerite: Fishing? No. I never did. And uh, gosh, it's a little complicated there. But the train came in from Honolulu over here and through that little area where they had dug it out. It was a double track. Then they came on down, still a double track, until they got to 'Aiea Station where they picked up people. Then it kept on being a double track, as I recall, it was never a single track where I knew it. And it, uh, kept on going on around to Waiau. That's where they had uh, it's a water area where they raised---

A.C.: Sumida? No? What did they raise?

Marguerite: You know. Watercress. Yeah. Yeah.

A.C.: That's Kalauao.

Marguerite: But before you got there, over here by us, there was a --- there were taro patches. Small rice paddy and that sort of thing.

A.C.: So there was---so you still remember rice paddies and taro farms?

Marguerite: Uh-huh. Um hmm. Not very large.

A.C.: Waiau side of the train depot?

Marguerite: Yep.

A.C.: Okay. Was there—this was not on the coastline but more inward.

Marguerite: It was close. Close. It was just on the other side of the track.

A.C.: Was it on the 'Aiea Stream? There was stream that came down from the uh, the mill. It would end up between McGrew Point and the train depot.

Marguerite: That's where the water was. From those. It went into there.

A.C.: Okay. Then after that, after the rice fields and the taro, um.

Marguerite: They took those out.

A.C.: Yeah. Yeah.

Marguerite: And they planted and that's when they put the road in.

A.C.: Okay. The road. That's right. Because that was there before the road.

Marguerite: Yup.

A.C.: The train was there first.

Marguerite: Yes. And they did---they only took the road up to that.

A.C.: Up to the depot?

Marguerite: No. It wouldn't have passed it. It wasn't by the depot at all. It was up there.

A.C.: Oh. And you're saying, like, on the other side? Um hmm.

Marguerite: It was there. And uh, the road that uh, Forty Niner's (Restaurant) on now, was the road up to the main part of 'Aiea Plantation. The other one was there. Because the hospital was up there. The old hospital. And the cemetery.

A.C.: From what I saw, too, the hospital was pretty big. It had a building that sort of went like this, and there was big area where the hospital was on, and the cemetery was this area over here. And I know there must have been a road to the hospital.

Marguerite: From that side.

A.C.: It was from that side.

Marguerite: Yeah. It wasn't from this side at all.

A.C.: So where was the stable camp in relationship to the hospital and to the road? You want (a pen)---here. (Marguerite gets a pen and starts drawing in A.C.'s sketchbook)

Marguerite: The railroad station was here. The railroad, double track, and the road came down here. This was a hill. Quite steep in here.

A.C.: And is that the road that you would use to be able to go back?

Marguerite: We would use this.

A.C.: So if you were there when you were nine years old. You were born in 1916. So we're talking about the 1920s then. Oh. Okay.

Marguerite: And uh---let's see. The station was here and then there was a road that came down and there's a parking space around here. This was the road. The train. Double track.

A.C.: So where was the---how far away was the landing from the station?

O.R.&L. Passenger Train

Marguerite: Right here. The landing.

A.C.: Okay. I always thought there was a different train depot for the Navy coming off the landing.

Marguerite: Uh uh. (No) They used the regular Dillingham railway.

A.C.: So I can see why if could have been selling sandwiches to the sailors (Laughs) if they're coming off from the boat.

Marguerite: We had our own little sandwich stand right in there. And there was, let's see, this road came here and down into here and then it stopped here. But it went across the track over to the Chagamis.

A.C.: Oh. The Chagamis were on that side! You're talking about closer to Pearl Harbor.

Marguerite: No. Right there. And this is the landing.

A.C.: Uh huh. And is there enough room to show where the fishing shrine was?

Marguerite: Oh yes. It was out here. This would go up here like this. And then there were a few houses up in here. On the right.

A.C.: So who were your closest neighbors? Do you recall the names of the families?

Marguerite: Von Segern. And the Chagamis. (Arlene asks her to spell it.) V-o-n. That's a separate word from the other. Then it's a capital S-e-g-e-r-n. They pronounce it Seren but it's spelled S-e-g-e-r-n.

A.C.: Okay. All right. And did they have children?

Marguerite: Oh yes. But they were all grown.

A.C.: They were all grown. So tell me about catching the train to go to school. It would be you and your brothers?

Marguerite: And neighborhood kids. Some neighborhood kids. They collected kids all day long from 'Ewa, Waipahu, Pearl City and then.

A.C.: The passenger train would have kids going to school from the different plantations?

Marguerite: Yes! Yep.

A.C.: Was it a special train just for kids? Or you'd get on the same trains with the dads going to work?

Marguerite: Oh yes. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

A.C.: About what time in the morning was it?

Marguerite: In order to get to school on time. Whenever it started, you know.

A.C.: So there was enough time. Of course, you'd catch the train. Then you

would go to the main station downtown?

Marguerite: The main station across from 'A'ala Park.

A.C.: Right. That beautiful depot. And then there'd be buses?

Marguerite: No. Streetcar.

A.C.: Yeah. You'd catch the streetcars and they you'd go to your school.

Marguerite: Um-hmm.

A.C.: So you went to Central? Lincoln?

Marguerite: No. Not from there. That's was when we went to Lincoln.

A.C.: And then, where did you go to high school?

Marguerite: Roosevelt.

A.C.: Roosevelt. There you go. In those days did you have a dress code?

Marguerite: You mean, uniforms? No. We had our regular clothes. So anyway, we went to Lincoln first. And then, as time went on, they put us over in school groups. There's more and more kids went to it. And so, they had to put what they called Lincoln Annex. And that was a bunch of buildings that were in the Episcopal Church, St. Andrew's. They had the lower grades in St. Andrew's moved up to the boys' school in Nuuanu, um, Iolani. So they had those vacant buildings in the Episcopal church so they made what they called Lincoln Annex. It was a public school then.

A.C.: Schools were getting crowded.

Marguerite: And then, it kept growing so much larger that they had to build a school in Kalihi for us. Everybody that lived in 'Aiea and Waipahu and everything, went to what we called Kapalama School.

A.C.: Was it on School Street?

Marguerite: No. It was on---

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE

Marguerite: On the property---

A.C.: We're talking about Kapalama School.

Marguerite: It was built on the property that belonged to Kamehameha School. And Kamehameha moved up on the hill. See?

A.C.: So then, you're in that area in Kapalama going to a brand new school.

Marguerite: Yes. Brand new school. Right close to Bishop Museum. I guess you might say it's on School Street.

A.C.: Now the streetcars went as far as School Street and such. Did you still continue catching streetcars to go down to the main depot?

Marguerite: You know they went down King Street until they got to Kalihi, if I recall correctly. Then they'd turn up Kalihi, and go up Kalihi Valley. And so, we'd get off on the corner of School and Kalihi and walk over. Yeah. It wasn't very far.

A.C.: But what grades was this at the Kapalama School?

Marguerite: It was first grade to sixth.

A.C.: And after that?

Marguerite: Well, after that. They had the old school that belonged to the training school for teachers. Normal School. So new teachers moved out to there I guess. I don't know where they went. Maybe McKinley. I don't know.

A.C.: Now did you go school thinking "When I grow up, I'm going to be...in this kind of profession?"

Marguerite: No. I wanted to be an architect. So anyway, when we---I was late in the afternoon. I purposely was late, quite often, because I wanted to go to the library. They had a big library on King and---

A.C.: The Library of Hawaii?

Marguerite: Sure. And they had a big, big area upstairs set aside for architecture. They had Wren's St. Paul in Great Britain and I'd pour over that drawing by the hour until I figured out how they put it together. Because they had the drawings, see. But they were flat and I was trying to figure out how to raise those and where did they fit together. And I figured it out and I was ten years old. (Laughs) So I decided I wanted to be an architect.

And you know, when I got into junior high, they wouldn't let me take mechanical drawing because I was a girl.

A.C.: So what did you do?

Marguerite: Huh? Well, they said you can take bookkeeping and typing and shorthand. And I wouldn't have anything to do with those. I took orchestra! (Laughs)

A.C.: What did you play?

Marguerite: String bass. (Laughs) But if they had mentioned orchestra, I wouldn't have taken that either.

A.C.: You kinda have a mind of your own.

Marguerite: I guess so!

A.C.: When you told me, when you were young, your father used to take you around. You got to see a lot of things, a lot of people. You had an interesting childhood. So I can see why you would think, if I wanted to be an architect, well, Okay! I want to do that. You told me you took a class at the University of Hawaii.

Marguerite: Yes I did. I took engineering drawing. But I wasn't very good. I didn't have the basics. But I had a great friend. Kaishi Maeda. He helped me out. Because of him, I passed the class.

A.C.: But at least, you were able to experience, you know, that kind of class, and go to class with people who did become architects.

Marguerite: Yes. Actually. In fact, when I left Honolulu. Well, it was a while before I went to California and I was able to get into classes up there in mechanical drawing and drafting. And I liked that a lot.

A.C.: Let's take a little break for a minute (Tape recorder is turned off)

'Aiea in the 1920s and 1930s

Marguerite: Portuguese family. Pregills. You know that name? The reason we got to know the Pregills, the boys were always down playing on the piers. They played with my brothers. They were nice kids. Nice kids. They also had a paper route. We kept in contact with... what was his name now? Anyway the last name was Pregill. Then there was the Smiths. His father was German and married to a Portuguese woman. He, boy, I believe he was in charge of the stables. Oh, I didn't show you where the stables are.

(Taking paper and drawing a map) All right. Hospital. This road went on up to 'Aiea. And, there were little roads, a little road down into the Japanese camp and that went up to...Let's see. The stables were up here.

A.C.: Were they below the hospital? You know how you were saying how, the gulch kind of thing. They'd be a little higher. Stable Camp was on a hill. On top? Right?

Marguerite: Stables were up here. A road went up here. Up on top. Yup. Stables were up in here.

A.C.: Did it have mules and horse?

Marguerite: I don't know about the horses. I know they had mules.

A.C.: What were the mules used for?

Marguerite: Pulling the cane cars. They couldn't take the little engines down on some of those hills.

A.C.: They didn't have trucks then?

Marguerite: No. I guess they had some trucks but not for transporting the cane too much. They had these tracks that went down. They picked them and take them to different places.

A.C.: So they laid it down when they needed to haul the cane?

Marguerite: That's right. This didn't last too long, because the Navy came in and they wanted to use this land.

A.C.: Behind you where all the cane was growing, you mean?

Marguerite: Yeah. And let me see, this was our house.

A.C.: Let's get back to it. Tell me about the house.

Marguerite: The house here?

A.C.: Yeah. I know you were telling me with pictures, but what was it like--- how many bedrooms?

Marguerite: Just a two bedroom, one bath house. Then, they discovered it wasn't big enough for our family, so they put in another half bath and another bedroom. So it was actually, another bedroom out here.

A.C.: Did you have a garage for the car?

Marguerite: No. That was all down here. Let's see. This had a very fancy entrance with gates. It must have had an entrance with gates.

A.C.: You mean, iron gates?

Marguerite: Yes. It had an iron fence clear around it. Around it here. My dad planted mango trees all over here. And this we built a driveway up to the house. And (She draws a house plan) no garage. Just small houses with supplies for the pump.

A.C.: Your dad was---was his job title, Pump Supervisor?

December 7th 1941

Marguerite: He ran the pump. He was in charge of the water supply that went to Pearl Harbor so when they had the war come out, someone had to be there. Thank God he was! But, the thing was, they flew over with the airplanes and they strafed all this area. My sister was out here, when they flew over and bombed the planes, bombed the ships in the water.

A.C.: In 'Aiea Bay on December 7th. And your sister's name is?

Marguerite: Mildred May. She watched them bomb. She watched the bomb go down the tower of the U.S.S. *Arizona*. She said it went down into the magazine where they kept all the-- (Quietly) And she said the ship just turned red all over, and just huge, it, you know, enlarged---it blew up. Of course the men that were inside; they all died. But evidently, some still lived. They were tapping, trying to get out. I guess they got some of them out. Then, Mimi, she came in. She was wondering what was going to happen. My brother and this friend, who was a sailor, had a gig, you know, what a gig is? It's a small Navy ship that they run around in.

A.C.: You mean, like a passenger ship, boat?

Marguerite: They ran it around in the water, and picked up the men.

A.C.: You mean, your brother and this sailor were in the boat, in the morning, and they were picking up people, survivors in the water and then bringing them to the pier?

Marguerite: They were bringing them to the pier and they took their bodies. Many of them were just bodies. Took them over. And they stacked them on the Navy property.

A.C.: You mean, behind the iron fence?

Marguerite: Yes. Behind the iron fence. You see, my mother's house up here, and all these bodies were here. And they started bringing in wooden crates just to hold the bodies. And my sister was standing here, watching all of this happening. She's sixteen. And, when she was standing there, she saw these hands going up from this body. And she called the marine, "This man's alive." And so, he went and got the man, and my sister sat down and she put this man's head on her lap, and he was dying. Can you imagine a sixteen-year-old girl holding a dying man? Oh God. Of course, there's not anything else to do but that, you know. They were piling the bodies on the concrete pier. And then, sailors and other people would come and take them to the yard.

A.C.: And how old was your brother then?

Marguerite: Oh, he was twenty. Twenty-one.

A.C.: And where were your mother and father that day?

Marguerite: They were there. My grandfather and my grandmother were there. Another aunt was there. Oh, and they had to get out because they were afraid that they were going to bomb the house. So they took Grandpa and put him in a car. He was bedridden. He couldn't get out of bed. They put him in the car, along with Grandma and Aunt Bee. We had an elderly aunt and took them up into the cane area where there was a hill that had a cave. And they grew mushrooms in that cave. Anyway, they put them in that cave where they'd be safe.

A.C.: Your parents? Or the Navy?

Marguerite: The Navy. I guess.

A.C.: Maybe up in the Red Hill area, you think?

Marguerite: No, no. Not that far away.

A.C.: Oh! Really? Closer?

Marguerite: Really, *kinda* close. And actually I think, probably right in 'Aiea. So they left Grandpa, Grandma and Aunt Bee there. My mother came back and stayed with my sister and Barbara. That was another girl who lived with us—with them. They had to hide too, because the planes were going overhead, shooting at everything. They were hiding in the honohono grass. They had long honohono grass there, and trees, so they hid there. And, I don't know all the things they did. I wasn't there.

A.C.: Where were you?

Marguerite: Tantalus. Yeah. I was on Tantalus. My husband was the Navy Yard. So anyway---

A.C.: He was already working, or when the bombing started---

Marguerite: No. He had been trained to do special jobs. They had sent him to the mainland. He was what you called a "leading man machinist" and he and another fellow went to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds to learn special things. Evidently, it was all secret. The Navy didn't want anybody to know that they were being trained. They were trained because they didn't know what the Japanese were going to do. The Japanese had been going and invading all these different islands and taking them over. Well, they figured that's what they were going to do at Pearl Harbor too, so that's why they brought all those ships to Pearl Harbor.

A.C.: Your husband was a civilian worker but the Navy was training him with war skills in anticipation of---

Marguerite: Well, actually, something to do with the big guns. A lot of different things.

A.C.: So once the war started, was he then working there? A lot?

Marguerite: Yes. Well, he wasn't at work though. He was upstairs. It was Sunday morning. Everybody was, you know, sleeping. So my sister-in-law was living at Hickam, and my brother sent her up to our house because he knew she would be out of the way up there. So she came in, pounding on the door in the morning time and she says, "We're at war! We're at war!" And John says, "Oh, come on." And she says, "No, we're at war." And he says, "That's crazy." So he got up. And she says, "Turn on the radio." And so he did. And the radio was blasting we're at war. So he says, "I gotta go." So he throws on clothes and left Tantalus and went to Pearl Harbor. His job, he said, that he was supposed to close the entrance to Pearl Harbor so no ships could get in. But he was already late. So there were two Japanese submarines inside. And uh, he was too late to do that. But, he had a lot of other jobs to do too. In fact, he was the one who was in charge of turning over the (U.S.S.) *Oklahoma*. They had blasted it and it was tipped over on its side? They had to get it up straight. That was one job. He didn't tell me all that he had to do. So anyway, living on 'Aiea Plantation was nice. We got to know a lot of people. Let's see---

A.C.: Do you remember any of the managers?

Marguerite: Oh yeah. We knew everybody. Because they'd have parties and everybody was invited. They always invited us because my mother knew everybody.

END OF INTERVIEW