

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Daryl Ke

Daryl Ke was born March 29, 1953 in Pāhala on the Big Island, where he grew up in a family of nine children. He attended Pāhala Elementary School and graduated from Ka'ū High School in 1971. During summers he worked at Hawaiian Ranch Company, where his father worked most of his life.

After graduating from high school, Ke went to Hawai'i Community College for two years to learn carpentry. He then worked as an apprentice helper working at various carpentry jobs. In 1975 he began working for Ka'ū Sugar Company (eventually called Ka'ū Agribusiness Company) as a fertilizer hand thrower. He worked various jobs there including maintenance worker at the mill, bagasse-loader operator, and finally powerhouse worker.

After the closure of Ka'ū Agribusiness in March 1996, Ke has been unemployed. He has since attended the University of Hawai'i-Hilo and studied agriculture, aquaculture and landscaping. He is married to Jessie Ke and has five children and eleven grandchildren.

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Daryl Ke (DK)

Pāhala, Hawai'i

November 30, 1996

BY: Holly Yamada (HY)

HY: This is an interview with Daryl Ke on November 30, 1996 at Pāhala on the Big Island at his home. The interviewer is Holly Yamada.

I'll just ask you when and where you were born. So we'll just walk you through your life, yeah.

DK: Is it on already?

HY: Yeah.

DK: Oh, okay. I was born March 29, 1953, Pāhala, Ka'ū.

HY: And what about your family, your parents?

DK: My parents, my dad [Frank Ke] was born Ka'ū, my mom [Lydia Ke] was born in Puna on the Big Island.

HY: And what did you father do?

DK: My father was a cowboy working for Hawaiian Ranch [Company] under C. Brewer [and] Company, [Ltd.]. My mom was a housewife raising up nine of us. There were four boys, five sisters.

HY: And what---where in the birth order are you? Which number child?

DK: I was the number three.

HY: Number three child?

DK: Number three oldest, the second oldest boy.

HY: So you grew up here, too, Pāhala.

DK: Yeah, yeah.

- HY: What do you remember about your family life? What kind of house did you live in?
- DK: My family life, we learned to do things equally. Learn to share things equally. But most of all, my parents—we live a hard life, but love was the first important thing. Keep love in the family.
- HY: And was the house provided for, for your family by your father's work?
- DK: Yes it did. And then we do other things. We go out and fish for our food on the table, we hunt for food on the table, we have garden, everybody do their part of the workmanship in the household.
- HY: And do you remember doing chores as a child?
- DK: Well . . .
- HY: What kind of work would you do?
- DK: As a child we learned how to do (chuckles) in-the-house chores. Like everything like a woman do, clean house, sweep floor, mop, wash, everything. That's [how] my life was.
- HY: Can you kind of describe what your house looked like? You know, the house that you grew up in?
- DK: Oh, we lived in a ranch home that is about five mile away from Pāhala. And those house, we live in a four-bedroom house. It's not big but it's small and comfortable. It hold all of us nine children and my mom and dad, that makes eleven in the household. We live a happy life. But like every family, you have your ups and downs, but we have more downs than up. Everybody share equally. We travel on jeep, we travel on trucks, we travel on cars. We do a lot of shopping away from our home, it's mostly in Hilo. That is about fifty-six mile away from the ranch, from where we live.
- HY: And did your father work for the ranch his whole life, then?
- DK: Yes, my dad did. After the service he came home, work for the ranch, he worked for the ranch for about forty-eight years. Then from the ranch, then the closure of Hawaiian Ranch, then he transferred to Ka'ū Agribusiness [Company, Inc.]. He work over there for two years, then he retired.
- HY: So was that in the [19]70s, then?
- DK: Yes.
- HY: Was it still Ka'ū---what was it [called]?
- DK: Ka'ū Sugar [Company, Inc.].
- HY: Ka'ū Sugar, and then it became Ka'ū Agribusiness [in the 1980s].

DK: Ka'ū Ag.

HY: What kind of stuff did you for fun as a kid? Do you remember having any recreation time?

DK: While growing up?

HY: Yeah.

DK: Growing up was mostly outdoors, hunting, fishing. That's my life. Going to school I played football. I made an all-star football [team] which I had turned down for go to O'ahu for college when I was . . .

HY: Now, why was that?

DK: Well, I had other things in mind. I was mostly---I wasn't a heavy drinker and I wasn't a smoker. And I love my music. When I drink I always play music, sing. I was always a happy guy, never did make trouble. Never did. People around Ka'ū, they know each other so they know me very good. I used to go out and entertain around the Big Island. We used to have our own band, musical band, we go around the island, play music.

HY: What was the name of your band?

DK: The Hawaiians. We had four Hawaiians, all big-looking Hawaiians. You know how Hawaiians look like. So we used to go play, sing. They ask us how much do we charge. So I tell, "Did you folks ever hear of the word, 'love'?"

And they tell, "Yes."

"Well, we play for love. Since you folks feeding us, since we travel so far, you folks bed us—" they rent hotel for us and everything, so we don't charge.

HY: But they take care of you . . .

DK: Yeah, they take very good care of us. They find place for us, they feed us, and the next day we travel on our own car.

HY: Now did you do that as a child or you did that as—more as an adult?

DK: As an adult. And when we go out and entertain, it was majority for little ones. And when we go out and entertain, we don't drink. Traveling, it's not our area so we don't drink. So it was basically mostly enjoy.

HY: So you mentioned that you didn't drink, but is that something that's a major recreation activity in Ka'ū? Is that what people do a lot?

DK: Well, every individual is different. A lot of people, well, they find time to drink. Some find time to do fishing, hunting, mechanic, *talk story*, you know. I was mostly like a homer [homebody]. I stay home and just stick to myself, keep myself busy. Which a lot of people do come to my place and ask for help. That I automatic stop whatever I doing. I help them

whatever I can. So get once like this: Japanese guy, this old man, he have five children. So he ask me one day at the working place—he call me Bruddah—“Bruddah, can I ask you a favor?”

I tell, “Yes, anything, if I can.”

Then he tell, “Yes, I know you know to fix a washing machine. Can you help me fix mine?”

I tell, “Sure. When you want?”

He tell, “As soon as you have time.”

So I told him, “If I have time today—I cannot promise—if I have time I come over.”

He tell, “Thank you.”

So I came home, check around the house and yard, oh, wasn’t much to do. So I jump in my truck, I went up to his place. Then he show me his washer. Then I tell, “Oh, okay, okay. I help you out.”

Then he tell, oh, just let him know what kind of a part do he need, then he can go buy.

Then I tell, “Oh, no, that’s okay. I have a lot parts at home.” When I go throw away rubbish people throw away washer. So I take out parts, I bring home. I make my yard look like junkyard, you know. So he ask me, okay, so I check his washer. Oh, it wasn’t much. So I repaired it and put it on. And he asked me how much will it cost for the service. So I tell, “Did you ever heard of the word, ‘with love’?”

He smile at me and tell me, “Thank you.”

I tell, “Anytime. You need help, your washer give trouble, just give me a call.”

So this was during the morning time. I work ten o’clock, I finish six o’clock in the morning, I went over his house that afternoon, after I got off, his little boy came over. Then he tell, “My mom and my dad and my whole family want to thank you.”

And I tell, “Anytime.”

Then he tell, “Are you willing to teach me how to fix?”

I tell, “Sure.”

“How much?”

“No charge.”

Then he tell, “As soon as I grow up to be a big boy, can I come over and learn?”

“Yes, you may.”

So I . . .

HY: So did you learn this kind of values from your family you think? Or how did you come to have that kind of values? Were you . . .

DK: I learn this one from my wife.

HY: From your wife.

DK: My wife, her always sharing. Always loving. Other people come over, they need help, she help. I see, you know. Like again, you live in a household, it rub off. So it come to me, okay. So like again, that one there [fixing the washer] I didn't bother about it. Money doesn't—I cannot be a millionaire overnight.

So within about week, ey, this little boy and his dad came over, then they bought a pan of cake. Then he tell, "Here."

Then I tell, "What is that for?"

"Thank you for fixing the washer."

So I turned around and told them, "I accept this, because this me and my family can eat."

So I bring home, cut it up and then call them, "Here, we go sit down and share."

They tell, "No, thank you." The wife had bake two. One for us and one for them.

"Oh, thank you very much."

HY: How did you meet your wife?

DK: To make a long story short, (HY chuckles) I was crazy for her.

HY: Did you know her from small kid time? Or did you meet her . . .

DK: Oh, no, no. As an adult.

HY: As an adult.

DK: Yeah, I met her.

HY: Did you know her in high school?

DK: No, no. She's from O'ahu.

HY: Oh, oh.

DK: I'm from over here. I met her over here.

HY: I just want to go—backtrack a little bit, back to your school.

DK: Okay.

HY: You attended what school, then?

DK: I attended Ka'ū High School, and Pāhala Elementary School. Then after I graduate in 1971, I attended two years in Hilo Community College under carpentry. And then after that, well, I begin working. Then after college—and like now, the company [Ka'ū Agribusiness] shut down [March, 1996], and whatnot—I been taking these courses by the University of [Hawai'i at] Hilo, Hawai'i.

HY: What kind of courses?

DK: I was taking agriculture and then I was taking aquaculture, and I was taking landscaping, and maintenance worker.

HY: Was that while you working or after?

DK: Oh, no, no . . .

HY: This is since you . . .

DK: . . . after the closure of the company.

HY: Oh, I see. Now, when you decided to go to carpentry school, what made you decide to do that instead of play football?

DK: It was an option for me. Um (pause) I had wanted to take police. So I took the—during my high school year, my eighteen year old, I took the police science. Out of 100 question I pass 'em with 99. I just had one wrong. A simple question that I made it a mistake. So I figured, oh no. I'm not in the mood for arrest nobody. (HY chuckles.) And I do believe everybody do make mistakes. So who am I to arrest somebody who make mistake while I, myself, who did mistake all my life? So from there I had an option to take carpentry, electrician or mechanic. I didn't take mechanic because growing up I learned from others. I learned from others who was willing to teach. So likewise I was willing to teach to the little boy how to fix washer and radio, and whatnot. So I didn't want to take mechanic, I didn't want to take electrician because I learn from others, again. So my only option, carpentry. The only thing I can build carpentry was dollhouse. So that's why I took carpentry, two years of carpentry. Then after that, just before my two years was up, there was a big strike, carpentry.

HY: So you were part of a union, then?

DK: No, I was going to school during that time.

HY: Oh, I see. Were you working also? Or just going to school?

DK: Strictly going to school. So just before I grad[uated], maybe a month-and-a-half, they had the big strike. That was in 1973, '74. They had the big strike. Oh.

HY: And how did that affect your opportunities for work, then, when you finished?

DK: Since they had the strike and I had grad[uated], people had hired part-time to go build extra room for their house, extension, build garage, make a closure of a house, finish the roofing, and whatnot. I went in. But I went in not as a journeyman. (Chuckles) Journeyman you have to go so many years. So I went in as a apprentice helper.

HY: And did you work in Hilo or did you come back here?

DK: Oh, all over.

HY: All over.

DK: All over.

HY: This island?

DK: Yeah. I not much of flying in the airplane. I'm a little scared ride in the airplane.

HY: Yeah, I know what you mean.

DK: Yeah.

HY: Okay, so I just want to go back to ask you a couple more small kid . . .

DK: Okay.

HY: . . . small kid time stuff. Now, what do you remember about the other kids in your community? Did you play a lot with other kids or did you play with your . . .

DK: Remember growing up---the people of Ka'ū is very, very friendly. When I was growing up it doesn't mean what color or what nationality or how you look. Everybody was brother-sister.

HY: So you saw all the different ethnic groups . . .

DK: Yeah . . .

HY: . . . they play together . . .

DK: . . . we mingle, we . . .

HY: . . . everybody knows everybody, like that.

DK: Yeah. As a child---even when I look up at the adults, every adult I look up [says], "Hello." They so friendly. [That's] one thing I love about over here. So we learn from the older one. Now, we are older, we teach our younger one the same thing. When you go out, learn to respect other people area, other people things, you know. If you no want nobody to damage yours, respect theirs. So growing up, that's how I was all my life.

HY: Did you speak Hawaiian at home or was it mostly English?

DK: My mom, well, we talk English. But there's times when we have outsiders come to the house and there's something strictly—our parents have to talk to us, they talk strictly in Hawaiian.

HY: So you grew up knowing the language?

DK: Knowing both, yeah. We know both. But being young and they talking to us, they talk Hawaiian to us, we talk in English to them. But as times go on, we learn.

HY: Okay, so going back up again, you worked for while—how long did you work doing some carpentry work after you graduated?

DK: That wasn't a really everyday thing. It was something like a on-off, on-off, on-off, or whenever someone need help. Other than that, just stay home. And then just hope for the best. I had applied for other place for job, and likewise, like everybody, just pray and hope that you be called one day. So out of the blue—I was home cleaning yard—the phone rang, and my mom called me. She called me in my Hawaiian name, Kalae. So I went in and answer the phone. It was the secretary from the office, IR office, they call that Industrial Relations, the office had called. Said, "Mr. Ke."

"Yes."

"Can you come down and take a physical?"

So the next day I came down, take physical. Thank God I had pass the physical. I was slim and not as—like this right now. Then took my physical. And it was very, very fast—it was something like within three days—I had call to come work. So I tell, "Sure." And so that first day I went to work. Normally any job you go, you have three months trial-basis period to see your work habit, how do you do when you working, like that. Thank God, it took me just one month, they hired me. And they told me I was the first guy for the company to get hired that fast. So I tell, "Oh, must be something I did."

He tell, "No, just the way you work."

There's times when you work—*talk story* is *talk story*, work is work. I always respect others. Be cautious [look out for] others, be safety. I was always safety with that. Being brought up to learn safety was my first priority. Safety go with you all over. Until today safety is always there. And so it took me month and then they call me into an office then they told me, "How did you do it?"

I tell, "I don't know, it just happen."

Then they told me, "Did you really like working?"

I tell, "We must work to live." Now is our turn to work. Like I told them—they was about my age, but they started before me—"We must learn to work since our older had supported us. Now is our time to learn what is living and one day, we will get married, we will have children. And we must teach our younger ones." That's how we starting.

HY: Did you ever think about working on the ranch, too? Or doing that type of work?

DK: Working on the ranch, I did work on the ranch. We have three months out of school, [during] summer. Then when I was in the ninth grade until I grad[uated], about four years during the summer[s], I work on the ranch as a ranch hand. So doing the ranch-hand man you learn how to handle horses . . .

HY: Yeah, I noticed you have a lot of horse [decorations]. (Laughs)

DK: . . . work the cattle. Yeah, work the cattle, fix fence, do just about everything a rancher should do. It was hard, but I really did enjoy. I really did learn a lot from the older one.

HY: Did you work with your father sometimes?

DK: There were times I work with my dad, there was times I work with others. And like usual, as young as we were, we hard head. All kids hard head. So the older one used to yell at us. Why? Because they want us to learn. And I thank them for yelling at us, for which I have learned a lot. I mean a lot. So now when have things to do, I can do 'em. You know, and when others ask me, how did I do 'em, I don't hide, and I don't judge. I just tell them, "This the simple way to do it." I help.

HY: Okay, then. After you did a lot different types of carpentry work and then you got—and then at what point did you start working at Ka'ū Agribusiness? What year was that?

(Dog barking in the background.)

DK: Pardon?

HY: What year was that?

DK: January 27, 1975 I started.

HY: [Nineteen] seventy-five. So there was about four years there between graduation . . .

DK: Yeah.

HY: . . . and before you were. . . . Okay. And what---can you describe what kind of work that you did?

DK: For?

HY: For the company, Ka'ū Agribusiness.

DK: Oh, Ka'ū agriculture. As soon as I was hired I was a fertilizer hand thrower.

HY: Is that just like how it sounds where you fertilize the crops? What does that . . .

DK: You put the fertilizer in a pouch, you carry the bag in the front of you, and then you walk from line to line, and then you throw fertilizer on the [sugar]cane. That helped the growth of

the cane. Okay, then after that I went to knapsack. That knapsack we carry poison, all different type of poison to kill the weeds in the cane field.

HY: How did you distribute the poison? By hand or. . . .

DK: No, the poison we have a . . .

HY: Sprayer?

DK: . . . sprayer, solo sprayer. That one there is all run by air, forty pound of air. Then the rest they fill up something like gallon-and-a-half to two gallon of poison already mix. Directly from the truck, they pump 'em in your tank. Then that one there we just walk and just spray that in the field. So that helped control the weeds growing in the cane field.

Okay, then after that I went to the stroller gang. Stroller gang we have a . . .

HY: Stroller gang?

DK: Stroller. That is a pay loader with two big tank. And you have a boom with all the hose and nozzle and the machine do all the pumping to shoot out all the poison. So your job is just to control the poison in the row and spray all the weed again. Then from there I went down to the Ka'ū Mill, and I was a maintenance worker. I do all kind job down there, and that was just for a while, something like about a month. And after that one month, then I went to the fireroom. And from the fireroom I work at the bagasse-loader operator.

HY: What is the fireroom?

DK: The fireroom, that is like the heart of a human being. That one there start everything before the whole mill can be run. That one does—that for send out all the energy, build up energy. Keep everything going. So my job is to load up bagasse—bagasse is the shredded cane, shredded dried cane—load it into the carrier. That one get taken all the way up to the boiler, and that one go all the way up into the furnace, then that one there you bring up heat in the water vapor. Inside they have lot of water, then the vapor is what run the generator. All by steam. So we have something like a reading in the fireroom is read 450 pound. But if you put your hand over it's hot enough to melt even one car. The fire is so hot, something like 6,000 degree. Okay, so my job was that one there. I work over there something like, about, eleven years.

HY: Did you have---do you remember who your supervisor was?

DK: Yes, yes. I remember who my supervisor was. My head supervisor was Paul Ah Yee, Sam Yamashiro, Elliot Marques. Very, very good. Elliot Marques. They all from over here, Ka'ū. And my head superintendent used to be Jim Cuddihy. He's a Caucasian from New York. I love him. He's a very down-to-earth man. It doesn't [matter] who you are or what you are. Everybody is treated equally.

HY: So you---did you feel that most of the workers shared your feeling, that everybody got along pretty well with the supervisors?

DK: (Pause) Well, like me, I used to get along with all the supervisor. Although I big and they call me vicious looking, but I learn to respect. So I respect them. When they come and ask me something, I tell, "Yes." But if I know that they're wrong, then I just tell them, "Ey, boss, I think we can work things out." And I wasn't the kind that yell, shout, act up. I was always a humble person. You must learn to *talk story* before you do things. That what make the job go easy.

HY: Did you feel that you were treated fairly, then?

DK: Oh, really, really. Then after the fireroom, eleven years, then from there I had apply for powerhouse. Then I went over there for two years, then the company close down.

HY: Explain what powerhouse is.

DK: Powerhouse, that's where we generate the electric[ity].

HY: Oh, that's the---oh, okay.

DK: So from the fireroom, they sending out all the steam to us. From the fireroom come down to the powerhouse, then from the powerhouse we are called the veins, the arteries. We distribute out to every area of the mill. Then they can start rolling. Without us going they cannot run. And without the fireroom I cannot run. So we all must rely on each other. So the fireroom is the heart, and powerhouse, where I was, I'm the artery, the vein, then the rest of the mill is the whole body. Then that keep everything going.

HY: What did you do in the powerhouse?

DK: My job was mostly reading. You have to read all kind of meters and make sure you have the right adjustment. You have to be on the alert at all time. And like down there, you work day, afternoon and night shift. And I wasn't a sleeper on the job. I was always up and going. And like they told me, the boss, the superintendent himself, he came down one morning about two o'clock in the morning. Other area of the mill had broken. He came to my side and he tell, "You know something? You the first guy I know work powerhouse that almost everybody in the mill come inside there and *talk story*. You no *talk story* with me like that."

Oh, like I tell them, "I don't chase nobody out that's why. They have just as much right as me to come in here. I don't own this place. I only work and take care the area." So they have right to come and sit down. And I more than happy I have them coming around.

So they tell me, "Why?"

"I hate to down here alone and talk to myself. So it would be nice if people come and *talk story*." So I really did enjoy over there.

HY: Did they train you?

DK: Yes, yes.

HY: Each of these different jobs they would do on-the-job training?

DK: Yes, every job that you apply, you always have someone train you. People that who had already worked the job, so when you go there they train you. Then soon you on your own they give you a limited time, maybe something like a month, three months or whatever, then soon as you fulfill that job they move out. They have another job for them. Then I take over. We have three person working powerhouse. Once upon a time it was two person a shift. You have three shift, two person a shift so you have six working men. Then when I got in there used to be one person a shift. So like they say, going be really hard for me. Both the other two guys that was working over there say going be hard for me.

So I told them, "Why?"

"Because you gotta go on your own."

So I tell them, "You folks *stay* on your own."

They tell, "Yeah, but it's hard for them."

I tell, "You know why is hard for you guys? You folks was already trained and used to two guys doing the job, two guys a shift. So one guy can do this while the other guy do that." So I was trained to do everything on my own. So doing everything on my own I have learn how to make a long story short. So that was real easy for me. I had started by myself. So it wasn't no problem. Didn't black out on me. What caused the blackout at the mill . . .

HY: When was this?

DK: Blackout mean everything electric, everything knock off.

HY: No, when---how often did that happen?

DK: All depend how the powerhouse worker do it.

HY: Yeah.

DK: Yeah. If you a powerhouse worker and you doing home project, you know, welding or doing something, you're not keeping your eye on the job.

HY: Oh. Did that happen a lot? Where . . .

DK: Yeah, with others. But when I was over there for two years it never did happen on me. Others, they start over there within one year time maybe seven, eight time they get blackout.

HY: Now, the people that were responsible for that, did they get scoldings?

DK: Yeah, if anything like that does happen, first thing you gonna hear, "Powerhouse." And they call, "Powerhouse." The manager live right above. And you know what I mean, eh, when something so exciting like that happen they not going to tell "Powerhouse," (with a soft voice). They gonna yell, "Powerhouse!"

HY: Yeah. (Chuckles)

DK: That the whole Pāhala can hear. The whole town can hear. So . . .

HY: Did people get fired if they got—or did they get to keep their job?

DK: Well, talking about [getting] fired, very, very seldom. That's really something that really disgrace the company. But other than that, a lot of supervisor is really up and up. They call you on the side then we *talk story*, you know, you and I [the worker and the supervisor]. Then when I finish telling you what you did wrong, you back and continue in your job. Then when I walk away, other people going ask me, "What happened?"

"Nothing *wen* happen." Yeah. That's not for them for know. That's between you and I. And there's a lot of supervisor [who] have to keep record [of a worker's wrongdoing] And they do keep their records good. Since you have help me out a lot, eh, yeah, no record.

I was at the time—I go to work, I come home, I sleep four hours, they call me back emergency.

HY: Oh.

DK: Yeah. I work, like, six o'clock in the morning until six o'clock in the evening. That is about twelve hours. I just reach home, take off my shoes, my wife call me. Telephone.

I answer, "Yes."

"Ey, we have an emergency. You can come back?"

Then I tell, "When?"

They tell, "Right now. Really emergency."

I tell, "Sure, sure. Just let me *da kine* grab something for eat."

They tell, "Okay."

They go stand by, and that means they go watch the job. That means somebody emergency call, so they stay there. Our boss cannot stay there all the way; they have other things to do. So I grab me a little something to bite, go to work. My wife tell, "Oh, I go bring down something after that."

"Oh, okay."

So I reach down there, they tell, oh, if I can stay till two o'clock in the morning. So you know, already mind *stay* crisscross already. And then I tell, "Well, okay, okay. This cannot [be] help[ed]. Emergency nobody plan, it just happen." So I stay over there. I work till two o'clock in the morning.

Then I come home, they call me, "Ey, you can come out?"

It's something like about 5:00, 5:30 in the morning. Then I look, wow, I just slept only about

three hours. Then they tell, “Ah, no can help. Emergency.”

“Ey, I go.”

(Dogs barking in the background.)

So when I go to work, I just keep myself awake. I no take no drugs to keep myself awake. I no need that. I never did do 'em. That's why the first time I started with the company they ask me if I drink. So I tell, “Yeah, I'm a social drinker.” Then they ask me if I take drugs. I tell, “No.” Then I ask them, “Why?” And they tell, oh, my eyes all bloodshot. Then I tell, “You folks like know why my eyes like that?” To make a long story short, when I was going to college inside Hilo, we live in the country area, but when we go to Hilo it's like a city. You know, wow! So many things happening. So, wow! Why should I sleep? (HY laughs.) Stay up all night, *talk story* with friends. You meet new people, so you do a lot of *talking story*, play music, drink a little. Then you look at the time, wow, it's 2:30 in the morning.

“Oh, what time you start school tomorrow?”

“Seven o'clock I start Hilo Community College.” Carpentry we start at seven o'clock.

“Wow, seven o'clock? You better go sleep.”

“Ah, that's okay it's only one day.” So from that one day come like tomorrow, and the next day, next day. “Ah, that's okay. I can handle.” So that's how I had ruin my eye. So I went to the doctor they said my vessel is busted. It can be correct[ed] but how sure they can be. . . . So I just decided, no.

HY: I don't think I asked you how you got that job in the first place.

DK: Where?

HY: With the company [Ka'ū Agribusiness]. How did that happen that you got that job?

DK: I was first started with the company when I had applied. You have to make a resumè. So within my resumè . . .

HY: Did you know people that helped you get your job? Or did you know family that let you know they were looking for people? Do you remember how you found out about it?

DK: Well, not personally but just that those people that had checked my record, their son and I are good friends. And they know what I do because when---part of growing up I live at the ranch. So, yeah, you know, [sometimes] they want to go fishing. So since I know so much about the mountain area, hunting and whatnot, I teach them [how to hunt]. They don't know. I teach. I willing to teach. When they go down to the beach area, they closer to the beach from where I live, so they ask me if I like learn how to fish.

“Sure, why not?”

They tell, “Ey, that's a good trade. You teach us how for hunt, we teach you how to fish.”

meat?

HY: Yeah, yeah.

DK: Yeah, barbecue, like that. Like, the ranch we do buy cattle like that. And ranchers, always five dollars. That's all *da kine*, six hundred pound. Any ranchers. You have be the ranch worker [to buy at that price]. So our dad used to buy something like five dollar a month, or ten dollar. That's two a month, because we have a lot in the family. So when we go out our parents make sure we take something. Don't go empty-handed. So since we didn't have much in monetary, the food was the best we can do. So we bring a lot of smoke meat or we bring pork butt, and whatnot. We used to raise animals, and whatnot, commercial pigs. So we bring down then that we share with the household. We didn't go empty-handed.

So those kids and I came friend and *wen* grow up and graduate and then when we go apply for job, their parent, their dad know us. They know from young time. So that's how we get in. "Ey, this good boy, this one here. He work hard." Because when we come out don't be a lazy bum. [Don't] just go out sit down and let everybody be the slave and you the king of the house. No. We go over there, do our thing, clean yard, help them clean yard. Their parents yell at us. They yell at their kids, why not us. So that's how I got that job. By knowing people.

HY: And how long did you work at the powerhouse?

DK: Two years.

HY: So this would be about, '86 or ['8]7, something like that?

DK: Huh?

HY: Nineteen eighty-six or seven? Around there?

DK: Nineteen ninety-four.

HY: Oh, oh. Let's see, I lost a few years there. Okay.

DK: Actually . . .

HY: [You worked at] the firehouse for eleven years?

DK: Yeah, firerroom.

HY: Firerroom. And then . . .

DK: Get nothing but fire around you. Hoo, strong heat.

HY: There was some layoffs in '92, yeah?

DK: Yeah, a lot of layoff on there. And you know something about the layoff, a lot of us knew in time to come that the company would be closing down. So this person—I was working in the

DK: Yeah, a lot of layoff on there. And you know something about the layoff, a lot of us knew in time to come that the company would be closing down. So this person—I was working in the fireroom that time—this person [who lost his job] came over and *talk story*. Well, he didn't have much of a seniority so when he and I was *talking story* he drop tears. So I know how he feel so I—I used to call him, "Son." Anyone younger than me come my house and [they are] boys I call 'em, "Son." You know like all this boys over here. I call them, "Son." But the [owner of the] blue truck, that is my son, Roy. So all the other boys they call me, "Pops." I don't know why, out of respect. So I call them "Son."

So this little guy came up to me telling, "What I going do I no more job?"

Then I tell, "I know how you feel. One day I will take over your place. But if I'm not mistaken, I think you gonna be better off than me."

He tell, "No."

I tell, "Yeah. I'm working right now. I'm secure for right now. But since you are one of the first to be lay off. To me, I think you gonna be way better off in the future than me."

He ask me, "Why?"

So I told him, "By the time I get my layoff, you already get job. So by the time I go for find job, there's no job be filled. Because everybody is taking the job. So I myself will be hook like you. And I will just learn to be a nothing. And just learn to survive. Just be happy."

HY: Think I should stop here and flip the tape over.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

HY: Okay, so you were talking about your co-worker that was being laid off in '92.

DK: Yeah, so now, today . . .

HY: But you felt that you would—that he would actually be better off than you for being. . . .

DK: Yeah, he thought that I was gonna be more ahead of him, which I did for that period of time working, for that five years I been working more than him. But today, I look at him, wow, he's a really something. He's working at the golf course. He's a second hand golf course handler. He's working at Volcano Golf [& Country Club] course. And it just happen to me [the closing of the company] when I ask him, "How much you make an hour?"

He tell, "I making [\$]11.50 [an hour]."

I tell, "Thank God you really got something."

Then he tell, "You really made me realize that I was wrong after all. I was a nothing, but you really did prove that I would get ahead."

I tell, "Yeah. But look at us now." And this was during the summer when us went over there for the class, the golf course maintenance class, when I seen him. He's a Portuguese-Caucasian. So I tell, "I'm very happy of you. I'm proud of you."

He tell, "Thank you."

So, he's ahead so, ey, just keep on going. No give up. Don't turn around. No think of what anybody say. You just go. You have a family of your own now. He has two beautiful daughters.

HY: So at that time, did they lay off mostly people that were—didn't have seniority?

DK: Yes, that was your first . . .

HY: Was that how they determined who would get laid off?

DK: Yeah, they go---they lay off people by less seniority. And it's a gamble. Less seniority and ability; how much you know your job. Man A and Man B. Man A started one year, Man B started just today. And then within that one month Man B know more than Man A, Man A is out. But like again, you have the union [ILWU, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union]. So they do *talk story*. And then to me, I didn't think it was fair to take Man A out and leave Man B in. So I was a nobody for the company. I really nobody. But what really surprise me, for our unit over there in Ka'ū, the president for our union, the chairman for over here Ka'ū, come and *talk story* with me. And like I say, I'm a man of truth. And I won't say that I hate people that lie, because that's part of learning. Everybody do lie.

So he ask me question like, "Do you think Man A should get out and keep Man B?"

I turn around ask him, "You ask me that question. Now you answer me. Do you think Man A should go out and keep Man B?"

He tell me, "Yes."

Then I ask him, "Why?"

"Man B, he know everything."

I tell, "Yes, but what about Man A?"

"Man A doesn't know that much, but. He's slow."

So I told him, "We only human. We learn slow, we learn fast. We learn the right way, we learn the wrong way."

Then he ask me, "What do you mean? 'Yeah, us learn right, us learn wrong'?"

“You ask yourself your own question. Are you doing the right thing or are you doing the [wrong] thing?”

Then he tell, “Oh, that’s really something, no?”

I tell, “Yeah, it’s really something. So it’s like Man A or Man B. Are you right to think the right decision? Remember Man A started working long time. Would you like somebody to take you off your job and put a small guy [i.e., someone with less seniority] over there?”

He tell, “No.”

I tell, “Why? You are welder on the company.” He’s a welder. “Are you a fast welder? This is between you and I.”

He turn around, he tell me, “No.”

I tell, “You know why?”

He tell, “Yeah.”

I ask him, “Why?” He’s [DK is referring to the welder who is the union chair for Ka’ū] the type of person, he like to talk, but when time for him do his job, he sitting down. I tell, “There’s a guy have less seniority than you, you have something like twenty years seniority over him. Him, he get three years seniority. Who can do more welding job? That person or you?” I didn’t mention [to] him the name. But he knew what I was talking about.

Then he tell me, “Yeah, he can do more job than me.”

I tell, “Yeah, I just mentioned you.”

Then he tell, “Yeah, I only sit down or go around *talk story* or go hide from the boss.”

“Now you call yourself a head chairman? You the president? Now would you like to get Man A out?”

Then he tell, “Oh, yeah. That’s not right, no?”

I tell, “He’s a union member. Your job is for protect him.”

He tell, “Yeah, but the other guy union.”

I tell, “Yeah. Regardless, he started before.”

“Yeah.”

So, like him, he’s a hunter. So he used the term like, “I still get hard time what you mean. Just tell me like dog, hunting dog. Like now, I get one new dog, one hunting dog. Oh the good dog. But I get my old-timer. My old-timer, ah, he slow, he no good.” You know how people like to talk like that.

He tell, "Yeah."

"When you had your old-timer, you had your whole family home."

"Yeah."

"Who feed your family that time?"

He tell, "My old-timer."

I tell, "Well, the old-timer you have to keep. It doesn't mean because you have the new one now, the old one you put away. No. The old one he did his share already. Now let the old one stay home and rest. Use the young one. So it's like the company. Keep the old one. The old one started ahead. He know what he doing although he's slow, but."

HY: So the union president wanted to—he felt that it's okay to lay off the older ones . . .

DK: The slower ones.

HY: But even if they have seniority?

DK: Yeah.

HY: He was arguing for that?

DK: Yeah. So it's a gamble between the company and the union. So. . . .

HY: How do you think most of the workers felt about it? Or did it depend on whether they were—they thought they were gonna get laid off or not?

DK: To tell you the truth, when came to this layoff, it came like a friendly town to a angry town. 'Cause we was so close, and because I going out and you going take the job, I don't want to be bothered with you. So to me it was something like the company using the men. And, like, the closure of the company, there was a vote with a cutback. [The workers voted whether or not to take a cut in pay to prevent closure of Ka'ū Agribusiness.] The union workers for the company is to take a cutback in their pay. Like, I was making (\$10.37) an hour so my cut would come back something like about [\$]6.00 [an hour]. [*Honolulu Advertiser* and *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* accounts indicate a 15 percent cut.] To me, it wasn't something that I never like. It was something that if it was for one and for all, it's okay. I had talked with the superintendent them. So I asked them, "If you [not] going get cutback, you guys lucky."

Then they say, "No. You folks and us going get cutback. Everybody get cutback."

So I thought to myself, it's not too bad after all. Although we must learn how to distribute our cash since we ain't making that much. So I was more like I was for it. So when we had the ballot, if we want the company to continue with the pay cut, put, "yes." If you no want to take a pay cut, take, "no." Then the company close down. I had put it a "yes." After the vote we went back to work. We had two-and-a-half hours of meeting, stop work meeting, nobody get paid from 6:30 to 9:00 [A.M.]. Nine o'clock everybody to start work. So down the

we went back to work. We had two-and-a-half hours of meeting, stop work meeting, nobody get paid from 6:30 to 9:00 [A.M.]. Nine o'clock everybody to start work. So down the working place I have to start up my area. Distribute all the steam out, you know, the vein. Then after everything was running, that is about eleven o'clock, some of the people, electrician, journeyman and whatnot, boss themselves, they had come and they had ask me, "What you *wen* put?"

So I look at them, I smile, "Huh?"

"What you *wen* put?"

"What you mean, 'What I *wen* put?'" I just like play with him.

"For *da kine*, the vote one. 'Yes,' you *bin* like take the pay cut or 'no,' you no like."

So, "I *wen* put, 'yes,' I like take the pay cut."

They ask me, "Why?"

So I ask them, "What you *wen* put?"

"'No.'"

"Oh, you no like the pay cut?"

They tell, "No." Then they ask me why I like the pay cut.

"At least I know I going get job. Although the money gonna be small, but we gonna still get paid."

HY: You were afraid you wouldn't be able to get other work?

DK: Yeah. Then I ask, "What you had put?" They had put "no."

"The company close down, what we going do?"

They didn't say a thing. Then one of them, they tell me, "You know, you're right. (Sound of children playing in the background.) I never even think about that."

I tell, "Yeah." Like I am a family man. I think of my family first. Me last. Always me last. Always the youngest one first. The kids first, then our wife, then ourselves.

Then they told themselves, "You know, I never even think. I was so dumb. I was so confused. I was so lost." That's when you get the people mind working. "You know, I never even think about. . . ." This is supervisor themselves *bin* tell me that.

Then I tell, "No blame nobody. We only human. We have learned to use our own judgment. You have used your judgment the way you think it was right. And now you think it is wrong."

- DK: This one here, to me, personally, the way how I look at the meeting, it was more like on your own. But the union do the speaking.
- HY: And were they encouraging you one way or the other? Since they had---they had negotiated with C. Brewer [parent company for Ka'ū Agribusiness].
- DK: The union was, *da kine*, yeah, you'll keep your job. And it would be nice, the company run, take the pay cut, but when I went the meeting I was more a listener. I wait till when questioning time, that's when I ask question. But during meeting I never blab in between. "Oh, no, no, no. Why you no do this? Why you no do that?" You know local style, eh. I never open my mouth. Me, I good listener. I wait till the meeting finish. "Okay are there any questions?" Then I start raising my hand. Learn all the facts before you start asking question. But people was blabbing, blabbing, blabbing, and then everybody was yelling. It was coming out was—with something like profanity language. And, to me, to tell you the truth, I use those words. But there's always a time and place where I use that. I never use that home, in the front ladies, in the front kids. I never use those language. But when I'm among men, it's like a slang. To me, it's not a bad word, it's a slang that everybody use. It can be used in a good or a bad way, so. People was using those language at the meeting. But one guy use 'em, one other guy use 'em, constantly everybody use 'em. They was standing up, jumping, yelling, pointing finger, throwing paper cup, and whatnot. That one there is—you cannot get things done that way. And then I was glad that those people who had come to the powerhouse and talked to me they was one of the guys who didn't jump, yell, swear and whatnot. He just . . .
- HY: Were they other workers or were they supervisors that were talking to you after about your vote? Who were they?
- DK: Oh, supervisor and workers.
- HY: Oh, both?
- DK: Yeah. But when we have the union meeting, union is separate from the company. So them, they sit down, be quiet. Wait till questioning time is to be answered, then you answer. Then you ask so many questions you like. They answer you, like that. (Snaps fingers.)
- HY: Did most people know that this [the closure] was ahead of them? Like in '92 they started some layoffs and then—did they really think this would happen, or what was the feeling?
- DK: I don't know if all knew, but to me, I knew in time to come it would happen. Or I'm not a very superstitious person or I not a god or anything, but just that I had thought that ahead of time.
- HY: What made you think that?
- DK: Me, I think that industry today—sugar is all over the world. Hawai'i is so far away from the Mainland, and it's so expensive. Foreign country is so far from the Mainland but it's cheap. So why not I take it from the cheaper one than take it from the expensive one? So as I watch news, the stock market, as you go down the road, then you learn that other companies had closed down because other places had [tape inaudible]. So I put two and two together—they

news, the stock market, as you go down the road, then you learn that other companies had closed down because other places had [tape inaudible]. So I put two and two together—they can take from foreign country, why take from us? And ah, they say, “Good old USA, free country, peaceful country, help each other.” But like again, as you know, our government—why help other country when they cannot take care our own country? We have people in the slum, no house. Why worry the others? Worry of yours first. It’s like your household. Your household, your family come first. Then you learn to help others.

So that’s how I keep ahead of time. I knew it was gonna close. It’s not something that—it’s like a *da kine*, a gift to me, that from way before I know ahead of things. Not all, but what I want to know.

HY: Do you remember the day that it closed? Where were you?

DK: The company closed down?

HY: Yeah.

DK: This one is March 29, [1996].

HY: Do you remember where you were when you heard the news?

DK: The final day?

HY: The final day.

DK: Oh, where I was? Oh, on the job. I was on the job. But small area, easy to find out, eh. Everybody know ahead of time. And like over here is something like how—you remember the movie, *Peyton Place*?

HY: Oh yeah. (Chuckles)

DK: Or “Dallas” [television melodrama]?

HY: In the [19]70s?

DK: Yeah, yeah. What happen, everybody know. You no need no newspaper around here. That’s how small it is.

HY: So how did you feel?

DK: Well. . . .

HY: On that day.

DK: You know, to tell you the truth, the last day of the harvesting, there was a parade. Oh, there was many, many people. Media from O’ahu was over here, too, taking film and whatnot, to put it—to flash it on the TV. There was, oh, a lot of people over here. And just so happen I went down when I was watching how they came down with all the cane truck with all the

signs, as you seen on the TV. It was really something. I was really amazed to see 'em but with the honking of all the cane trucks, it's like good-bye. I know that it's good-bye. But I was watching, I turn around I watch all the other fellow workers. They was something like me, drop tears. What we going do, you know? As for me, I just tell myself, life must go on. No give up. Although we not gonna get paid, but we must learn to keep our head high. Never put 'em down. So, like me, I do everything I can.

So I had helped out other people, and like them, they tell me, how much [money for] fixing their car? I tell, "You and I in the same predicament, so let's learn to help each other, now." And I been out of job from March to today. And I was---we learn how to hang on to things, like that. It's hard, but one day, who knows? Yeah, maybe the good things come around. So I just take it like that.

And during that last day of that, *da kine*, the harvesting, I started work at two o'clock. So when I went to work my job, although other people tell, "Ey"—you know how the people talk—"Ey, to hell the job. Let 'em go. Just walk around the mill."

So I tell, "Eh, I had worked for the company for twenty-one years, and I had gotten paid from the company for twenty-one years. That had helped me with all my kids until my last one had finished high school. So I won't do those kind of a stuff. I thank the company that I had work to survive this time of period. So I will do my job."

So them, instead of—they go do their job which they didn't have to do much. But the supervisor come and tell them, "I want you guys to go over there and clean over there, go there and clean up over there."

So I had seven of them with me inside my area *talking story*. They bring their lunch, they open their lunch, they didn't like to eat. So did I. You know, just to get the lunch, oh, the lunch look happy. "Ey, nobody eating me today."

But when the supervisor came and tell them, they tell, "Do you have the feeling to work?" So him, himself, he sit down he tell me, oh, he have no feeling. So we just sit down, *talk story*. Spend the whole seven hours with me. So when I start at 2:30 to 3:30, everybody make their rounds, like that. Then about 3:30 all the superintendent, the mill superintendent, the mill engineer, everybody go home. So they end up my place *talking story*. So like the supervisor himself, he end up my place sitting down, *talking story*, dropping tears, hugging each other, you know. So we going greet you, "Aloha, ey, no trouble. I won't be dead, I'll be around. But just don't be stuck up when you see me, just wave. Just continue." So everybody doing their thing today.

HY: Did you consider taking up the option of ranching land or farming?

DK: No, I had . . .

HY: Did they [C. Brewer] offer everybody that opportunity?

DK: Employees had an option to take for ranching [fifteen] acres and for farming, five acres. We . . .

DK: . . . had something, that's a five-year free lease. So I have so many things I want to do, and I cannot be here and I cannot be there all at the same time so I didn't take it. I didn't take it. I think . . .

HY: Is that the case for most people? They turned down that option 'cause it's too hard to start?

DK: Well, the whole company had an option for take, but the amount of guys that took is no competition with guys who didn't take. People who take land is like a handful to those who didn't take. Some tell insurance [as the reason they decided not to take the option], some tell traveling time from here to there, they go spend more time over there, and what about your family. But there was one guy who had started ahead of time, he's a friend of mine, so I ask him, "How you doing, my cousin, with all your farming?"

He tell, what he make for sell break out even. What he spend come back. So just like a day-to-day basis what he making. It's not like something he sell ho, coming in the thousands. He tell, "No, just break even." What he doing, enough for buy him gas for go up work on the farm, so if I gonna do that, oh, I have no time for that. I have other things for do. Maybe I can work out things. But I'm interested in taking out lei making. I do a lot of crafting and whatnot. Then . . .

HY: Are you able to sell some of those?

DK: I never did start on it yet. I had pick up couple seed. This one here is called—is one African plant, is called bleeding heart.

HY: It's an ornamental plant? Or . . .

DK: Oh, no, it's something like a palm tree but it grows two times higher than the telephone post. Yeah, but it's a beautiful-looking thing. The seed inside is white but when you start cleaning 'em it take all different colors. Some come out like this. Yeah, *stay* come all different. Some pure white. Yes, all kind. So the craft shop in Hilo, Kona, they take those. And those tree is hard to find.

HY: So you're thinking you'll . . .

DK: Well . . .

HY: . . . plant maybe?

DK: . . . yeah.

HY: Yeah. What about the union? Did they offer any kind of support after the closing?

DK: Oh, the union dues—they had issue out to everybody who had been working for the company [so they will get] back their *da kine* [union dues] from what the union had distributed [collected]. It wasn't much but it was help. The monetary was a lot of help. We survive on those ones. Everybody had back something.

So like when I went over there, this one person had asked the union chairman, "Ey, why you

no give me back all my union due that I had paid for 'em?"

He tell, "Cannot."

"Why?"

"Oh, because the union *wen* go make party for this and that."

Then he tell, "Yeah, I never invited to one."

Then he tell, "That's not my fault, that's your fault."

That's the kind of attitude people get after that. But at the beginning when everybody working you just [say], "Hello, hello, hello." But when no company, nobody pay dues. "Oh, that's your fault, not my fault. That's your problem, not my problem." So that's how it goes around here. A friend is come like an enemy.

HY: What about health benefits?

DK: Right now, health benefit I have none. I did everything---whatever I . . . And we had from the company, what you call that, [severance] pay from the company. Everybody had. They had [calculated the severance pay] from the amount of time that you had work for the company. So like I myself had used that one there for medical, dental and whatnot. So I had used that one. You're not qualified if you have some kind of income or something in the bank or credit union.

HY: You're not qualified?

DK: You're not qualified. Because you have income.

HY: What about the community? Was there support in the community for you folks?

DK: Well, the support in the community was something like within the month of the closure of the company we have a big celebration. But a big celebration? What's there to celebrate when the company is closing? How everybody feel? Celebrate, everything was in Pāhala up at the park. But what about those people who live twelve miles away from Pāhala? Those people who live in Nā'alehu, if you been to Nā'alehu, that's about twelve miles away from here. Those people over there, some of 'em no can come over here just for go celebrate for eat, yeah. So it's like, it's not a celebration for *da kine*.

HY: What about church or---did any of the churches provide help or support?

DK: As far as I know, no. Over here is so small, the community is small, the church is so small. So small. It's something like---when it's the closure it's from the company, your severance pay is from the company, and monetary [returned dues] from the union, that's all. Everything you have to do on your own after that. If you have to go to welfare. . . . We did have after the closure of the company we had six months unemployment [insurance]. Then you have to do what you have to do.

HY: How has that changed your family life? Is it any different?

DK: No. The closure of the company didn't block me from anything. I love my family. I just keep everything the same. The only thing is different that I'm home every day, day in day out I'm home. When I was working there were times eight hours, twelve hours I'm not home. During the day, during the afternoon, during the night shift that you work from graveyard—10:30 at night to 6:00 in the morning.

HY: How many kids do you have?

DK: Five. Eleven grandchildren.

HY: Do your five kids live in the house?

DK: No, I have only one home here.

HY: Oh. I see all these kids. (Chuckles)

DK: The one with the little boy? Yeah, only that one. And my daughter, this one she live at the other end of Hilo, my boy live in Kona, one live in Hilo, oldest girl living down here. Only that small one stay home.

HY: What about the housing here? Is this a house that you had from. . . .

DK: I bought this house.

HY: Did you buy it through the company or separate?

DK: No, FmHA [Farmers Home Administration]. The land is only through the company. Then approval of your loan is from FmHA. So that's how we live our life over here.

HY: What do you think the main source of assistance is for you? Where do you find the most support? Is it family or friends or community?

DK: My family.

HY: Your family.

DK: My family, my family. I guess now the closure, everybody for themselves.

HY: Do you feel that it's changed the community, the way people talk to each other now?

DK: Oh, we still the same. Everybody is family because everybody at the—there's no rank, you higher than me. Everybody same. But there's another company over here, that's under C. Brewer [and] Co. but it's [Mauna Loa] Mac[adamia] Nut [Corporation]. There is some people that's working Mac Nut, some who had work long time, some just happen to get in. But the job, oh, is a killer. But that's them. But over here it doesn't have job for take all [workers]. Just maybe the most from those who got out from the plantation, maybe about ten. And now what happen to the other four hundred? So everybody making a living. Some is working Hilo,

some working all the way Kona. That cost time, traveling. But those people that's the one went out before me. I was one of the last guys. And I was the second to the last to guy to be out of the mill. I have to close down everything. After I walk out then the supervisor walk out. So everybody still the same. Now everybody know how we feel so nobody better than you. Everybody same.

HY: What do you think about the future?

DK: Well, I just hope for the best that they have something coming up. Like, once upon a time there supposed to be a hotel built down here about five mile away from here to the ocean side, Punalu'u. They wanted to build a hotel over there, they stop it. They wanted to build a space port right below Pāhala, Pālima, that is about three mile below here.

HY: Does it seem most people in Pāhala wanted those things? Or was mixed?

DK: Well, (pause) tell you the truth, Pāhala or Ka'ū, Ka'ū is a very, very big district, but population is small. But when come to something very important, meeting that is—you don't know where all the people came from. It just like ants, so many people. So for tell you the truth, about the space port, I was against it. They wanted to build it right below here. We have those trade winds always come this way. And whatever coming out of the rocket, the fume and everything, it's gonna—us the person gonna pass through. So I had disapprove on 'em. So have guys came out to *talk story* about 'em, so I had asked them if they can give me a guarantee in black and white that those fume won't cause any damage or health problem to humans, won't kill off our vegetables that we eat, won't kill off our animals that we raise. If they can give me "I guarantee" in black and white that it won't happen, and if it does then everybody, every single people in Ka'ū, has the right to sue them. They didn't want to answer me. So they told me why I asking that kind of question. So I tell them I prefer being right than sorry. I no want to see anybody getting hurt just for this foolish thing. Oh, they supposed to build a riviera. That is about, twenty-one miles away from here that's called Kahuku Ranch, they wanted to build a riviera resort down there. And then, maybe the beginning part of the year, had in the paper they wanted to build this ethanol plant in Ka'ū but they didn't tell what area this ethanol plant, if you ever heard of that. Ethanol, yeah. I thought I read it in the paper. It just keep everybody mind going. Oh, not too bad, the company closing down, going get something else coming up. So we just hope for the best. I just, well, take whatever comes. We just live a day at a time.

HY: Is there anything else you want to say before I stop?

DK: Thank you for coming.

HY: Thank you, thank you very much.

DK: That's all.

HY: Okay.

END OF INTERVIEW

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