## Juan Blanco Oral History Interview

- BRUCE PETTY: What was your father's name? And what did he do?
- JUAN BLANCO: My father's name Juan Taitano Blanco.
- BP: Taitano Blanco.
- JB: He was born --
- BP: Yeah, he's born --
- JB: He was born in Agat, Guam.
- BP: Guam. Okay.
- JB: In July, 19<sup>th</sup> of July, I think. July 1880.
- BP: Eighteen eighty. Okay.
- JB: He was a farmer. And a fisherman.
- BP: Farmer. And a fisherman.
- JB: [Bigger?] fisherman.
- BP: Okay. And when did he come to Saipan?
- JB: I don't know exactly, but I think he came to Saipan around the first part of the 1900, maybe 2 or 3 or 5, 4, I forget. I'm not sure, I'm not too sure, I forgot, I didn't ask that question to --
- BP: This was during the German administration.
- JB: Huh?
- BP: This was during the German administration, 19 --
- JB: When he come to Saipan.
- BP: Yeah.

- JB: Yes, that's right. That's right.
- BP: Okay, did he ever tell you why he left Guam for Saipan?
- JB: He came with his father, my grandfather, Domingo de Leon Guerrero Blanco.
- BP: De Leon Guerrero Blanco.
- JB: Blanco.
- BP: Okay. What was your mother's name?
- JB: Maiden name?
- BP: Maiden name.
- JB: Maiden name. Antonia Aguon Blas.
- BP: Aguon Blas.
- JB: Aguon. Aguon Blas.
- BP: How do you spell Aguon?
- JB: A-G-U-O-N.
- BP: Blas B-L-A-S.
- JB: Yeah. B-L-A-S I think, yes.
- BP: Okay. What were your earliest memories about life on Saipan if you look back to your early childhood? What do you remember? What are your earliest memories?
- JB: Well, peaceful. And although not very rich. Like today. People really -- good time really. Enjoying -- like my father for example. Because he doesn't have a lot of money, but he can always go to the beach (inaudible) get some fish. And the farm too. Producing many things to eat

(inaudible) Japanese buying so it's -- I say not very rich but mostly for Japanese, I got -- also benefited local people.

- BP: Local people benefit.
- JB: Yeah, benefited from their economy.
- BP: From economy.
- JB: Development, you know.
- BP: Why was it that you were allowed to go to school in Japan? Then go to Japanese high school upon your return to Saipan? And I ask that, because from everything I've read and from other people I've talked to, there was -- the schools were segregated in Japanese time. Do you remember why you were allowed to go to Japan?
- JB: Yes, the reason I guess why -- just incident. You know, this is what happened, the team of college professor or university professor from Japan, and student, you know (inaudible) student from each school, I think from Keio University, Waseda University, you remember the name?
- BP: Kyoto?
- JB: No, Waseda.

BP: Waseda.

- JB: Waseda University. This is a high -- very high, you know, high-rated school.
- BP: In Japan.

- JB: Yes. The Senshu University, they came in here.
- BP: Senshu?
- JB: Senshu.
- BP: Senshu.
- JB: Senshu University.
- BP: We'll correct the spelling.
- JB: Yes. Senshu University. I say again. Waseda University, Keio University, Meiji University.
- BP: Meiji.
- JB: Meiji.
- BP: Meiji.
- JB: Meiji University. And Senshu University.
- BP: These were college professors from these universities came.
- JB: Came here to tour the island and to get to see about what's going on. Because Japan, you know, took this island 1914 from Germans, okay, so they want to go through. And they came in as far as I remember in 1934 I think, 1934. So which was nine years after they took over. They want to come here to see what's going on.
- BP: Nineteen thirty-four, so that was --
- JB: Nineteen thirty-four.
- BP: That was 20 years after they took over.
- JB: Right.
- BP: Nineteen fourteen to 1934 is 20 years.

- JB: Yeah (inaudible) so when they came in they discover about this segregation in school. But they tour the school also. Native school.
- BP: Native school.
- JB: And the Japanese school. And how they impress. So they came to our school. Small island. And I think they wanted, some of them wanted one of us selected student to go to Japan, take them to Japan to attend school there. Just maybe on trial basis. So they (inaudible) I'm not too sure that they came to our school. They pass, spoke to our teacher, and our teacher selected me to go to Japan. Maybe from my -- I was kind of better than (inaudible) one of the top student at (inaudible) so they selected me to go to Japan. Also my father. My father. My father, although he was born in Guam, he came to Saipan in 19 something like (inaudible) or 1900. And Japan just came in in 1914. He was very good in picking up language. Japanese language. And he had a (inaudible) because of his ability to speak Chamorro and to speak Japanese. Had aptitude. So my father was very liked by Japanese.

BP: So he might have had some influence on your being selected.

JB: I think so. I think so. My father, yeah. So they came to ask my father about it (inaudible) selected. Ask my father's permission if it's all right (inaudible) Japan.

So my father agree after propose, consulting with my mother, they agreed to send me to Japan. So I went to Japan in 1934.

- BP: Were other Chamorro or Refaluwasch students selected to go with you at the same time or you --
- JB: No. I'm the only one.
- BP: You're the only one. How about later date?
- JB: Yeah, later date, there were -- I think there were couple I think. [Juan Bautista Blas?].
- BP: Bautista Blas.
- JB: Yeah (inaudible) die, he passed away last year. Last year? Was younger than me by about four years. And I think there were a couple of them, I think. Related to some sort of church organization.
- BP: Catholic Church?
- JB: Catholic Church organization. They (inaudible) went to Japan. Catholic. To be priests. Catholic priests.
- BP: Now okay. So what do you remember then about when you left your family and went aboard a Japanese ship for Japan? Do you remember your feelings at that time?
- JB: Oh, yeah, I was happy and unhappy both. I (inaudible) Japan. Took us seven day by ship to Japan, seven day.
- BP: (inaudible) remember the name of the ship? Something maru?
  JB: I don't know.

- BP: We can think maybe later.
- JB: Saipan Maru. Maybe (inaudible) I think Saipan Maru. No, not -- something maru.
- BP: You remember anything special about your trip on the ship there? Were you well received by the other passengers? Or did you have --
- JB: (inaudible) well received, but I was -- I got seasick.
- BP: Seasick.
- JB: The first two days kind of. But from the third day, oh, so much, I had (inaudible) seasick, and doctor was not comfortable take care of me.
- BP: So basically are you saying all you remember mostly about your sea trip to Japan was just being sick? Do you remember other things about the voyage?
- JB: Voyage yeah.
- BP: Did you make special friends on the ship before you even got to --
- JB: Yeah. Well, Japanese, everybody, all Japanese.
- BP: So you were the only Chamorro?
- JB: Yeah, only Chamorro. Maybe they don't know whether I'm Chamorro or not but I was (inaudible) college people.
- BP: Now did you have sort of an adopted family while you were in Japan? Or did you stay in a dormitory?
- JB: I stayed in a house.

- BP: With a family?
- JB: Yes, family. Family.
- BP: Do you remember their names?
- JB: One of the student. Mori. His last name was Mori.
- BP: Mori.
- JB: First name Atsusi.
- BP: Atsusi Mori.
- JB: Atsusi Mori.
- BP: Okay. There was a well-known Japanese gentleman in Palau, his name was Mori.
- JB: No relation. No relation.
- BP: No relation. Okay. Do you have any contact with your Japanese family today?
- JB: Yes. Yes. In fact he passed away. Mori passed away just last year.
- BP: The father of the family?
- JB: No, the father of the family die already.

BP: This was --

- JB: Yeah, the son. Son. Son who came to Saipan to pick me up. With the other people. He's older than me then, I think nine years older than me.
- BP: Nine years older than you. So now what do you remember about your school days in Japan? Were they exciting? Were

they frightening? Do you have pleasant memories or bad memories?

- JB: First two month I very much -- I missed my mother. I cry every night. Every night. I put blanket in my face. Cry every night. My brother Tony. My youngest brother. But in school. First day of course I had no friends. But the people, the teacher brings young kids, the student round me, and tell them to -- I was very much well received.
- BP: Well received.
- JB: Very much well received. They take picture of me. Be from Saipan. They thought I was black and like human eater, human flesh eater.
- BP: Oh. Cannibal.
- JB: Cannibal people (inaudible) [nayonodozi?] they call. Nayonodozi. Mean cannibal people who eat flesh.
- BP: They asked you that? Or they thought?
- JB: No, no, they told that me. So when they see, saw me, that I'm not (inaudible) they can (inaudible) see and they treat me very very well. Very very well.
- BP: And you still have friends today from your --
- JB: Yes, yes, yes.
- BP: You said you recently returned from Japan after a --
- JB: Yes (inaudible) Japan, yeah.
- BP: -- class reunion. Is that what --

- JB: Yes. Yeah. I went to school in Tokyo. I was given a little test, and passed that test. And (inaudible) same grade which I had in native school in Saipan.
- BP: Native school in Saipan.
- JB: Same grade. Same grade. Third grade.
- BP: Let's stop just a second. So you say the first two months were your most difficult.
- JB: Very difficult.
- BP: (inaudible) and after that?
- JB: Yeah, after that okay. But you see, that time Japan was very poor. They didn't have (inaudible) they had no heat actually. See, in August everything was okay. Because August was still summer, summertime. The climate is warm. But the month (inaudible) but October, November, I start to feel the cold. Cold weather.
- BP: For the first time in your life.
- JB: Right, yeah. And the town, the places I live had a little bit -- they don't have a heater.
- BP: No heater.
- JB: They just call hibachi.
- BP: Hibachi.
- JB: You know hibachi.
- BP: Hibachi. Coal.

- JB: Right (inaudible) coal, that's all. So oh boy, I had a hard time. Tried to bring up myself, see, because I'm not (inaudible) cold weather, my hand swollen.
- BP: It swelled?
- JB: Swelled, yeah.
- BP: Your hands would swell.
- JB: Hands would swell because of the cold weather. And the house (inaudible) house which I live, we have Mori (inaudible) Mori.

BP: Mori.

- JB: Mr. Mori. And his father and mother and me. For four people.
- BP: And did he have children too?
- JB: No children. No children.
- BP: Okay, so it was --
- JB: Mori. Mr. Mori. And the student, the college student. And me. And the parents.
- BP: Okay, so there were four adults and two students living there.
- JB: No. There are two adults.
- BP: Two adults and his parents.
- JB: No, two adult parents. His parents. Two. Father and mother.
- BP: The student.

- JB: And me and Mori.
- BP: Mori was the young boy?
- JB: Oh, he was --
- BP: Nine years older?
- JB: No (inaudible) he was nine years older than me. He was I think 19 years old (inaudible).
- BP: Okay, so it was him and the mother and the father.
- JB: And me.
- BP: And so there were four of you altogether.
- JB: Four. Yeah. Four of us altogether.
- BP: In a very small house?
- JB: Yeah. Not too big house, they have a store. They have a store.
- BP: A store.
- JB: Yeah (inaudible) store. They maintain (inaudible) store. And the store, they sell cigarettes.

BP: Cigarettes.

- JB: And senbei, [gen?] senbei. Senbei is Japanese cake, Japanese dry cake, Japanese cracker. Cake cracker.
- BP: Crackers.
- JB: Rice cracker.
- BP: Rice cracker. Senbei is rice cracker.
- JB: Rice cracker. Senbei. Yeah. Also I think some vegetable.

BP: Vegetable.

- JB: Vegetable. So I was told Mr. -- you know, Mori told me to help them. So I help them.
- BP: In the store.
- JB: I help them. No. In the house. Clean the house. So that time I -- they let me use the cloth. Clean. Cold water. And (inaudible) the floor.
- BP: Wipe the floor.
- JB: And that made me sick because my hand is swollen and --
- BP: Your hands would swell.
- JB: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I had hard time.
- BP: Had a hard time. Okay. And then but as time went on, you were there till 1939 you said. That correct?
- JB: Yes, 1930, yeah. Then after that, after Tokyo, I went Tokyo only two years. Tokyo. Then my sister came from Saipan also.
- BP: Which one was that?
- JB: (inaudible).
- BP: What was her name?
- JB: Elizabeth.
- BP: Elizabeth.
- JB: Elizabeth Blanco. She married to Gregorio T. Camacho.

BP: Gregorio.

- JB: T. Camacho from San Roque.
- BP: Okay, that's the uncle of Juan Camacho up on Navy Hill.

- JB: Yeah, yeah, no, yeah. Which Juan Camacho?
- BP: There's a Juan Camacho on Navy Hill. He works for the energy division of public works. He was telling me he had an uncle by the name of Gregorio Camacho.
- JB: Yeah, Gregorio Camacho, maybe, maybe. But Gregorio Camacho was a commissioner of San Roque. And also the department of education named the school in San Roque Gregorio T. Camacho School. That man and my sister got married.
- BP: Okay, but he wasn't Japanese.
- JB: No, wasn't Japanese.
- BP: Okay. So then --
- JB: My sister went to school. Went to attend nursing school. BP: Nursing school in Japan.
- JB: (inaudible) Japan. And that time Mori had already graduated (inaudible) graduated from college. And (inaudible) job in Palau. So Mori had to go. So Mori asked my sister (inaudible) my sister and, you know, if they can take me. So my sister got permission from the doctor, Dr. Narushima.
- BP: Who?
- JB: Narushima.
- BP: Narushima.
- JB: Narushima. Where my sister was staying. And took me to Shimizu City.

BP: Shimizu.

- JB: Shimizu City.
- BP: So that's after two years of going to school in Tokyo.
- JB: Tokyo. Then went to Shimizu.
- BP: Now where is Shimizu?
- JB: Shimizu is in Shizuoka. Shimizu is located between -- the middle between Osaka and Tokyo.
- BP: Okay. Then you went to school for two years in Shimizu, is that --
- JB: Shimizu, yes, Shimizu.
- BP: Did you study something special or was this just general --
- JB: No. Just intermediate school (inaudible).
- BP: And who did you stay with there?
- JB: I was living with my sister. My sister. And they had a big house.
- BP: Okay. So you were staying with a doctor there?
- JB: Yes.
- BP: A doctor. His name again was?
- JB: Narushima.
- BP: Narushima.
- JB: Narushima. [Kankichi?] Narushima.
- BP: Okay. Was that more pleasant for you then, having your sister?
- JB: Yes. Yes. Really pretty excellent.

BP: Did you still have contact with that family now?

- JB: They die already. Because they had no children. No child. No child. So they treat me as their own child. Own child.
- BP: Now you say -- okay, before we get to return to Saipan, is there anything else you remember about being in Japan? Did you have any special friend that you still have contact with?
- JB: Yes (inaudible) plenty. I got lot of picture over here (inaudible) communication. They come to Saipan also, see me (inaudible) from Tokyo, classmate is kind of not very much in --
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: Shimizu. Shimizu student still remember me. And every time come to Saipan, come from Japan, like that. Still invited to participate in reunion.
- BP: Reunions.
- JB: Reunion. In Shimizu.
- BP: Okay. You said you returned to Saipan in 1939.
- JB: Yes.
- BP: And that was for what reason you returned?
- JB: Reason is that at that time already Japan is at war. At war with China.

BP: In China.

- JB: The situation was very very bad. Very very bad. And very very tense. Very dangerous.
- BP: Dangerous for you?
- JB: Well, but my father (inaudible) my father (inaudible) information. And my father wanted me to come back.
- BP: Did you feel the Japanese treated you differently after 1939 when you were still there in Japan?
- JB: No.
- BP: So you didn't feel like you were in danger.
- JB: No, I'm not.
- BP: Just your father felt.
- JB: My father, my father, my father.
- BP: So you returned in 1939.
- JB: Nineteen thirty-nine, yes.
- BP: Okay. Now you said when you returned to Saipan though you were allowed to --
- JB: Go to school again.
- BP: Japanese school.
- JB: Japanese had a school (inaudible).
- BP: Now why was that? Because of your father's influence with the Japanese? Or --
- JB: No, carryover I think. The carryover. I wanted to go and they perhaps noticed my ability to speak. And so they

said, "Well." I was allowed to go to their school. The high school.

- BP: So did you graduate from high school?
- JB: Yes, I did.
- BP: And were you as warmly received at the Japanese high school in Saipan as you were in Japan? Or was there a difference?
- JB: Little bit different because in Japan they had no discrimination but here some sort of discrimination in Saipan exist. For example I was a top student. Top five all the time, really worked hard. Liked to study. But I discover that when I graduated in 1942 I thought I was (inaudible) honor roll. But I was not included.
- BP: Because you were not Japanese?
- JB: Yes, because (inaudible) I didn't know then, I thought I
  was going to (inaudible).
- BP: Honor roll. Just because you were Chamorro.
- JB: Yeah, from Chamorro. But in that time although I was required to carry Japanese name.
- BP: What was your Japanese name?
- JB: Kamiyama. Seiichi Kamiyama.
- BP: Seiichi Kamiyama.
- JB: Seiichi Kamiyama.
- BP: Seiichi.
- JB: Seiichi Kamiyama.

BP: Seiichi Kamiyama. We'll correct the spelling.

- JB: That was my name given to me by the school. I think that was required by school I guess to give me the name. I don't know why. But anyway when graduation came I was expecting to get honor roll but I couldn't. Because the teacher came to my house and told my father that very very sorry, it's policy of Japanese that I cannot get honor roll degree (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible) Japanese.
- JB: Because I'm not Japanese.
- BP: Did you feel that your teachers or your fellow students treated you differently as a student in Saipan than when you were a student --
- JB: The teacher very very nice to me. Very nice to me. All teacher very nice to me, except one I think.
- BP: Except for one.
- JB: Kind of a little bit different. Kind of really Japanese. Very discriminate. You know Japanese.
- BP: Because you were Chamorro. Only one teacher discriminated against you.
- JB: Right, right (inaudible) yeah.
- BP: But how about your fellow students?

- JB: The students (inaudible) okay. Everybody likes me. Everybody. Except that some Okinawan I think, they kind of -- that time Chamorro was treated third-class citizen.
- BP: Chamorro. Yeah.
- JB: Yeah.
- BP: Yes.
- JB: The first-class citizen are Japanese.
- BP: First-class.
- JB: Citizen. Japanese. Including Okinawan.
- BP: Okinawans were considered equal to Japanese.
- JB: (inaudible) they were treated first-class citizen. Secondclass citizen is Korean.
- BP: Korean.
- JB: Then we are third-class citizen.
- BP: Third-class citizen.
- JB: I was third-class citizen. But they received me very good. But sometimes they get mad at me if I am -- beat them. Sumo. I was pretty good in sumo.
- BP: You were?
- JB: Sumo. Wrestling.
- BP: Wrestling. Sumo.
- JB: I (inaudible) beat them, they (inaudible).
- BP: They didn't like that.

- JB: Like that. But generally I was treated very good. Very good. But I tried to be good too to them.
- BP: Was anybody in your family -- I can't remember if you said this or not. But was anybody in your family married to a Japanese?
- JB: Yes. Yes. Maria.
- BP: Your sister.
- JB: Maria, my sister. My sister (inaudible).
- BP: She was married to a Japanese?
- JB: Married to Japanese, yes.
- BP: What was his family name?
- JB: Kamiyama also.
- BP: Kamiyama.
- JB: Kamiyama. This Kamiyama, I got the name from school, and this Kamiyama entirely not related.
- BP: Really.
- JB: They just give me the name in school.
- BP: What did her Japanese husband do here in Saipan?
- JB: She's in Guam now.
- BP: No. But during --
- JB: Oh, Japanese time.
- BP: What did her husband do on Saipan?

- JB: This is very funny story. This guy Kamiyama was -- he was to -- he was the first child for the big Shinto shrine. Shinto shrine.
- BP: Now he was a first child? What do you mean by --
- JB: The first. He was the first male child for Shinto shrine in Tochigi.
- BP: Tochigi.
- JB: He was to take over the family. Japanese take over the family. They're given everything. See.
- BP: Oh. He was the firstborn son.
- JB: Firstborn son. Firstborn son. Firstborn son. And I think that he was allowed to come to Saipan to (inaudible) Saipan. Because they were thinking about putting up a branch over there, see?
- BP: A branch of what?
- JB: Branch of Shinto shrine. In Tochigi.
- BP: So his father was a Shinto priest?
- JB: Shinto priest. In Tochigi.
- BP: Tochigi is a town?
- JB: Tochigi-ken, Tochigi, this is north of Tokyo.
- BP: Is that a prefecture or a city?
- JB: Prefecture. City also. Tochigi City is (inaudible) Tochigi-ken (inaudible) city. And he came to Saipan (inaudible) look around and he saw my sister. The guy

Kamiyama saw my sister, and my goodness, my sister was pretty, I have to say. So --

- BP: (inaudible) look around. He saw your sister and they fell
  in love?
- JB: They fell in love. And he decided to stay here and marry my sister. He wasn't allowed to do that by his family but he stay here. He just give up his --
- BP: His position.
- JB: Position there. And the second born boy --
- BP: His younger brother.
- JB: Yeah. But he stay here. He stay here. This guy stay here.
- BP: Was he disowned by his family in Japan for doing that? Or you don't know?
- JB: (inaudible) they're against some Japanese to marry the local people (inaudible) but he got married. My sister. Got permission. Finally got permission. Then I think he worked for -- I don't remember but I think government.
- BP: He worked for the Japanese government?
- JB: (inaudible) still living in Guam.
- BP: He still lives (inaudible).
- JB: (inaudible) the other day. There was a newspaper (inaudible) there was (inaudible) newspaper the other day.

BP: Which newspaper?

- JB: Marianas Variety. About one month ago. Month ago. The oldest living (inaudible).
- BP: Oh, your sister (inaudible).
- JB: Yes (inaudible).
- BP: Oh. Her twin. She married Japanese too?
- JB: No, no, the other twin is married to Chamorro.
- BP: Okay. So both your sister and her Japanese husband are still alive today. And live in Guam.
- JB: My sister and Japanese husband still alive. Still living.
- BP: So he was not repatriated after the war.
- JB: No. He (inaudible) still there (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible) okay. My next question is then was anybody in -- okay. I asked that question. Was anybody in your family married to a Korean?
- JB: Yes. Yes. Yes. Augusta is married to Korean (inaudible) Korean but he actually grew up in Japan (inaudible) this Korean doesn't know how to speak Korean. But (inaudible) Korean. He know Japanese (inaudible) Korean stay there all their life (inaudible).
- BP: What was his family name? The --
- JB: Matsumoto.
- BP: Matsumoto is a Japanese name.
- JB: Japanese name. Yeah, that's Japanese name.
- BP: Do you remember his Korean name? Or no?

- JB: He doesn't (inaudible).
- BP: What was his first name? Is this Jose?
- JB: Jose.
- BP: Okay. Jose (inaudible).
- JB: (inaudible) [Yotaro?] Matsumoto.
- BP: Yotaro Matsumoto.
- JB: Yotaro Matsumoto.
- BP: Did he own a movie theater here?
- JB: Right, that's right.
- BP: They call him Jose I think.
- JB: Jose. Then he became Catholic. And he was given name Jose.
- BP: Okay, so he's Korean, he grew up in Japan. When did he come to Saipan?
- JB: I guess -- I don't know, I don't remember, but he married my sister sometime, I think 1948 I think.
- BP: Okay. Is she still here?
- JB: (inaudible) still living. Still living (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: (inaudible) 80 years old. Matsumoto already die.
- BP: Do you know of any other Koreans living in Saipan today who were here before the war?
- JB: No.
- BP: You don't know of any.

JB: (inaudible) a family (inaudible) Matsumoto, same (inaudible) Tinian.

BP: Tinian.

- JB: (inaudible) also Matsumoto (inaudible) Korean also. Matsumoto. Korean Matsumoto. But they are not related. But not on Saipan (inaudible) not related. But the family still in (inaudible) already passed away.
- BP: But there are some Matsumotos there now still living in Tinian? Or that was before the war?
- JB: Before the war, I don't know, maybe he die over there, I don't know.
- BP: I'll check into it later. Okay. After Japan invaded Guam and the United States was at war with Japan did the Japanese have any special job for you because of your language skills, knowing Japanese and Chamorro? What did you do during those (inaudible).
- JB: (inaudible) I was graduated from (inaudible) school in 1942, December 1942, I was going to get a job in the military department in Saipan.
- BP: The army or the navy?
- JB: I believe army (inaudible) call civilian -- you call civil service.

BP: Civil service.

- JB: Civil service (inaudible) civil service. But my teacher told me (inaudible) my teacher always told me (inaudible) I don't know why (inaudible) Mr. Yoshida.
- BP: (inaudible) Yoshida, he was a teacher who helped you.
- JB: (inaudible) my father. He (inaudible) the status (inaudible) work there (inaudible) Japanese law I think. Japanese law (inaudible) government discriminate (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: Salary. You cannot -- never be able to get same salary Japanese. He discover that. So he came with Nanyo Kohatsu, it's a sugar company. Sugar refining company.
- BP: Sugar. Nanyo Kohatsu.
- JB: Nanyo Kohatsu. It's biggest company at the time (inaudible) Saipan.
- BP: Sugar company.
- JB: (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: Sugar company (inaudible) hire me. So the sugar company (inaudible) good boy (inaudible) so I worked for them. And --
- BP: What was your position?
- JB: (inaudible) same treatment by Japanese.
- BP: But were you a manager or --

- JB: No, I worked for staff.
- BP: Staff.
- JB: Yeah. My (inaudible) regular company staff. Management trainee. Management staff.
- BP: Management training staff.
- JB: Training staff. So the salary same, I was treated no different from others. I got (inaudible).
- BP: Did you continue to work --
- JB: So (inaudible) I stayed with the sugar company. I stayed there. I worked for them. All the way until American --
- BP: Invasion.
- JB: Invasion. Therefore at that time they didn't touch me, in my sugar company, because I was over the sugar company there, and the rest of the young men like my age are drafted to go to Guam to be (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: Something like that. But not me. I was entirely --
- BP: Exempted.
- JB: Exempted. And stay with Japanese.
- BP: When did you first learn that there was a war between Japan and the US?
- JB: In Saipan (inaudible).
- BP: Was it like the day Pearl Harbor was bombed?

- JB: (inaudible) before that. I read the newspaper all the time, you see, and I knew this tension existed between Japan and the United States. But (inaudible) Indochina. Indochina (inaudible) Japan has an interest there in Indochina (inaudible) oil, thing like that. But from what I understand American prevented Japanese to do that. To put their hand in Indochina. And that started the war I think essentially. So I still remember that Japanese ambassador went to (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible) United States.
- JB: Yeah, went to United States to have this --
- BP: Negotiation.
- JB: Price. Negotiation. And all of a sudden (inaudible) bombed Pearl.
- BP: Pearl Harbor.
- JB: Yeah. Pearl Harbor bombing.
- BP: Well, when did life begin to change for you and your family? I mean was there some period where you were treated differently by the Japanese when it became more difficult to travel or food became scarce? When did -- was there a certain year or date that you remember when things -- like were you forced to -- you had a home. Let's put it this way. Where was your family home in Saipan? Was it in Garapan or Chalan Kanoa?

- JB: Yeah, our house (inaudible) in Garapan.
- BP: Is in Garapan.
- JB: But we were chased away by military.
- BP: What year?
- JB: I believe 1940 maybe, 1941, '41 I think.
- BP: Right after hostilities began.
- JB: Right (inaudible) 1941.
- BP: So when Japan --
- JB: No, no, I'm sorry, 1940 -- yeah, 1941, '41, '42
   (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: Forty-two.
- BP: So --
- JB: We were chased. So we had to move to Susupe.
- BP: Susupe.
- JB: Yeah (inaudible) building.
- BP: The (inaudible) building.
- JB: (inaudible) our property (inaudible) Camp Susupe
   (inaudible) our property.
- BP: So Camp Susupe was on your family property.
- JB: Yes, yes, yes.
- BP: So that was like your ranch then?
- JB: Yes, ranch (inaudible) ranch, yeah.

- BP: Okay. So that was 1942 then. Things started to change for your family. You're forced out of your home (inaudible) ranch. Were you forced to leave that area too?
- JB: Yes, forced. My father and mother and my brother (inaudible).
- BP: Okay. But were you forced to leave your ranch in Susupe at any time?
- JB: Oh, no, no.
- BP: You stayed there?
- JB: (inaudible) stay until 1944 (inaudible) away to the (inaudible) cave.
- BP: The caves.
- JB: Yeah. I was with the Japanese.
- BP: You were with the Japanese.
- JB: Yeah. I didn't see bombing. I (inaudible) Japanese in sugar company. And we went to work on this airfield in Marpi.
- BP: In Marpi.
- JB: Marpi. Our company, the sugar company, took over this construction on (inaudible) from the military and I was sent to Marpi to (inaudible) airfield construction, the management.
- BP: (inaudible) management.
- JB: Yeah.

- BP: Okay. So were you there when the invasion started in Marpi?
- JB: Yes. Yes, I was there.
- BP: You were separated from your family.
- JB: Yeah, separated from my family.
- BP: Did you know Vicky's (inaudible) Vicky's father at that time?
- JB: I know him, but he wasn't there, I don't know.
- BP: He wasn't there. When did you have some idea that Saipan might be invaded? Was it just before the invasion? Or you didn't know that the invasion might come?
- JB: Actually propaganda. The Japanese. And I didn't believe it.
- BP: What did the propaganda say?
- JB: Propaganda say Japan is winning. Although I knew (inaudible) because Guadalcanal (inaudible) Guadalcanal kind of funny.
- BP: What seemed kind of funny?
- JB: Guadalcanal.
- BP: After Guadalcanal.
- JB: They lost in Guadalcanal. So --
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: (inaudible) Saipan because I been reading (inaudible) Japanese newspaper (inaudible) kind of question mark.

BP: (inaudible).

JB: Why they say that Japan winning (inaudible) American -they call -- they got the big ship (inaudible) like that. But soon as the Guadalcanal thing I just say.

BP: You're suspicious after Guadalcanal.

JB: Yeah. Suspicious.

- BP: Were any of the soldiers who were in Guadalcanal, wounded or otherwise, were they brought to Saipan?
- JB: I don't know.
- BP: You don't know.
- JB: I don't know.
- BP: Okay. So you were what age then in 1944, about 20?
- JB: Nineteen forty-four I was 20 but my birthday in August. Americans invaded here (inaudible) June, so I was still 20.
- BP: What were your first thoughts when the bombs started to fall? What were you thinking then? When Americans started bombing?
- JB: American bomb. The first air raid came in February. February. That was B-24 I think. B-24. I was in Marpi area (inaudible) construction of airfield. But that time we saw this air raid.
- BP: Did they bomb the area where you were?
- JB: (inaudible) bombed the area but a couple bomb came down. But (inaudible) 1944 I really saw the dogfight every day.

BP: Dogfight.

- JB: Every day. You know where we stay, we stay that area where the Last Command Post. Have you been there?
- BP: Yeah.
- JB: There our headquarter (inaudible) headquarter for sugar company.
- BP: Did you see any planes crash on (inaudible).
- JB: Yes, plenty.
- BP: I was reading there were two American airmen during the preinvasion bombardment who were shot down and they were captured and they were later killed. Do you know anything about that?
- JB: I think I heard about it.
- BP: You heard about it.
- JB: The American plane (inaudible).
- BP: Only Chamorro on Marpi?
- JB: Huh?
- BP: On Marpi you were the only Chamorro?
- JB: Only Chamorro.
- BP: Everybody else was Japanese.
- JB: Only Chamorro. Yeah. Only Chamorro. There was another Chamorro but [half-caste?].

- BP: Okay. So you say you were separated from your family then during the invasion. When did you find your family again (inaudible).
- JB: (inaudible) yeah, then we went with -- we ran away with company staff, management people. We stayed in the mountain, in a cave (inaudible) one month.
- BP: Where was the cave?
- JB: Kalabera Cave. Kalabera Cave.
- BP: Oh. Kalabera. Stayed in the cave for one month.
- JB: Yeah. Well, two weeks. We stayed two weeks. And we had to (inaudible) have to find another place. Not Kalabera Cave. There's another cave over there.
- BP: Near Kalabera.
- JB: Near Kalabera, that cave we stayed. But plenty Japanese there, 1,000. Sennin go. Sennin go. Sennin go means 1,000-person cave.
- BP: Okay, but that wasn't Kalabera.
- JB: That wasn't Kalabera. Next to Kalabera.
- BP: Now did you stay there until the marines came?
- JB: No. We stayed there two weeks. Then we on our way. Because Americans came.
- BP: Was anybody killed there in that cave?
- JB: Huh?
- BP: Was anybody killed? Anybody die?

JB: Plenty. Plenty.

BP: From what?

- JB: Oh, from -- first from air raid. There were (inaudible) there were big stone (inaudible) but first attack are from air. From air. My sister was also there too. My sister Concepcion was inside the cave. Also me. With company staff. And my sister was working for -- also for the military that time, Concepcion. And this -- but somehow the bomb came to, between cave and the stone go inside. I think one (inaudible) bomb came in and it killed people. A lot of people there. But we left there, see. After we left I understand it was occupied by Japanese soldier for a little while. Then Americans came. We ran away. We ran away.
- BP: That 1,000-person cave. Is that difficult to find today?JB: Very easy to find. I can go. I can show.
- BP: It's near Kalabera though.
- JB: Kalabera also. Kalabera also.
- BP: This cave is near Kalabera.
- JB: Near Kalabera Cave.
- BP: Okay. After you left Kalabera Cave where did you go?
- JB: After left cave I took my sister. My sister was there. My sister also survived.
- BP: The bombing.

JB: My sister who now in San Diego. Concepcion.

BP: She's married to an American?

- JB: No, Guamanian guy from Guam. But they live in California long long time now since (inaudible) anyway I took my sister, tried to find that Gregorio Camacho. And my sister back in San Roque now. Used to be Matanza.
- BP: Matanza.
- JB: Matanza. But we couldn't find them because they were chased out by the Japanese soldiers. Japanese soldier came to the area, chase all (inaudible) so we back again. We went back again to the Banadero (inaudible) find a place to hide. When we back (inaudible) that cave, American (inaudible) died, you know (inaudible) American has died.
- BP: (inaudible) soldiers?
- JB: I saw the soldier over there but they didn't see us. Myself and Concepcion are inside the cave.
- BP: Just the two of you.
- JB: (inaudible) Japanese around us. Lot of Japanese (inaudible) killed. Fortunately we did not. We are successful in hiding. So we stayed there (inaudible) my cousin came in. Matsunaga.
- BP: Matsunaga.
- JB: Matsunaga, he's my cousin.
- BP: What's his first name?

- JB: Manases. Manases Matsunaga. Manases Matsunaga (inaudible) Japanese name.
- BP: Matsunaga.
- JB: He died.
- BP: I have a Matsunaga here somewhere. I'll look that up.
- JB: He died (inaudible) he died. Anyway his father is Japanese. But he (inaudible) just came in (inaudible) I was told you were here (inaudible) really surprised to see (inaudible) we stayed together with them for a couple days. Then he left us. But we stayed there with my sister. I think we stay (inaudible) month.
- BP: (inaudible) month.
- JB: (inaudible) one month (inaudible) August, I think August.
- BP: So you didn't surrender until after the --
- JB: No, no, no (inaudible) July 15<sup>th</sup> (inaudible) July 15<sup>th</sup>. So when we didn't have anything to drink (inaudible) anything to eat. We had a lot -- we had many things to eat, because Japanese have lots of canned goods.
- BP: Canned goods.
- JB: Corned beef. All kind of luxury item. Military. But water is already gone. No water. All the time from being hand grenade. So --
- BP: The water cisterns.

- JB: Water cistern. Then sugarcane. Sugarcane is a good water source (inaudible) become alcohol, cannot (inaudible) so only source was to go to the river. Back there. There's a river there.
- BP: Talofofo.
- JB: Talofofo River. The Talofofo River, we couldn't go there anymore because it was surrounded by the American already. So we have no choice. So we surrender.
- BP: Where did you surrender?
- JB: By the river I think. By the river. By river. My sister taking -- there's a picture taken by my sister. Taken by the -- I think the US (inaudible) my sister was in National Geographic Society.
- BP: Oh, really?
- JB: Yes, issue of 19 -- I think August September 1944. Can find if you want.
- BP: If I can find a copy of that. Yeah.
- JB: Yeah, but I think that you can find -- I had a copy but someone borrow it. But my sister Concepcion was in that.
- BP: National Geographic.
- JB: National Geographic Society when we surrender.
- BP: How did you make your surrender? Just walked out with your hands?
- JB: Yes. Walked (inaudible) with a white (inaudible).

BP: What do you remember about the first Americans you met?
JB: My beard was that long. So they took my sister (inaudible) because my sister (inaudible) woman. And looks different from me. Big mustache. She's older sister. She's older than me. I think four years older. But Concepcion was (inaudible) so they took my sister away from me. They thought I was Japanese. So anyway my sister went (inaudible) I think (inaudible) military marine (inaudible) lot of marine there (inaudible) bunch of marine. So they took me away from my sister and put me with other Japanese and put me in Japanese camp.

- BP: In Susupe.
- JB: Susupe.
- BP: Where did they take your sister?
- JB: My sister went directly to my mother and father.
- BP: Okay. So she wasn't hurt in any way.
- JB: No. She wasn't hurt. She was (inaudible) but me, I went with -- they treat me as Japanese and put me in a Japanese camp.
- BP: Well, when did they (inaudible) that you were not Japanese?
- JB: I stayed there about two weeks (inaudible) two weeks. I
  tell -- I told them, "I'm not Japanese. I'm Chamorro. My
  father and my mother in that camp over there." So then I

forgot the name. I think a marine knew (inaudible) Japanese.

- BP: Gabaldon? Guy Gabaldon?
- JB: Never heard of Gabaldon.
- BP: He lives here.
- JB: Huh?
- BP: He lives here. You don't like him?
- JB: I don't think so. Kind of very skeptical. I don't know.
- BP: Very skeptical about him, okay.
- JB: (inaudible) I don't want to criticize.
- BP: No, I want to hear.
- JB: I never heard of this guy. Never heard of him. Anyway the Japanese who know Japanese -- the military who know Japanese is my friend Lieutenant Russell Stevens.
- BP: Russell Stevens.
- JB: Russell Stevens. He knew Japanese.
- BP: Was he American? Or was he --
- JB: American.
- BP: Nisei?
- JB: Not Nisei, American. I got a picture also.
- BP: So you remained friends with him after.
- JB: Yes (inaudible) also.
- BP: Is he still -- do you hear from him or is he still alive? Do you know?

- JB: I think he died already. He died already.
- BP: But you had contact with him for some years after the war? Or no?
- JB: I did, I did. I think Kansas. Like Bob Dole. Kansas. Anyway he's the one treat me good. But finally they -- I convinced them that I'm not Japanese, I'm Chamorro. So they send me to my home.
- BP: Okay. Did you lose any family members during the fighting here?
- JB: Fortunately no.
- BP: Everybody survived.
- JB: Everybody survived. Everybody survived.
- BP: Okay. Now after the fighting and the Americans took over, were you treated any differently by your Chamorro friends because of the special treatment you had received by the Japanese? Or --
- JB: I don't know. Maybe (inaudible) I tried (inaudible)
  Japanese. Anyway I was given a good job.
- BP: By the Americans?
- JB: I should say yeah, by American. Like for example first day, first -- I think the first one month I think I was given a hard job, labor to remove the ammunition from the caves (inaudible) a lot of ammunition left by Japanese. I helped.

BP: Carry it out.

- JB: I (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: Then I changed, I was promoted to the kitchen helper.
- BP: Now you were paid all this time.
- JB: Yeah.
- BP: How much did they pay you in those days?
- JB: Thirty-five cent an hour I think.
- BP: An hour?
- JB: No, 35 cent a day, I'm sorry.
- BP: A day.
- JB: Yeah, 35.
- BP: That's pretty good wages in those days.
- JB: Then I was promoted to kitchen helper washing big
   (inaudible).
- BP: Kettles?
- JB: Kettle. So that was my second job. Then (inaudible) Stevens, Lieutenant Stevens know that I speak, I know Japanese, and pretty good, speak English compared to other -- my (inaudible).
- BP: You learned (inaudible).
- JB: I learn English in during the -- during high school.
- BP: (inaudible).

- JB: Learn English. So I know a little bit of English and my father also speak English, see. My mother also speak English. So (inaudible) we have this American song I still remember (inaudible) my mother also went to Guam, went to school in Guam (inaudible) so Stevens know my ability to speak English also. So they selected me to be the manager of a handicraft shop. Handicraft shop. Handicraft shop is very very popular place for military.
- BP: Handicraft. Hobby shop.
- JB: Handicraft (inaudible) handicraft, to make (inaudible)
  things like that.
- BP: For the natives. Or for the GIs.
- JB: No, for GI, particularly for officers. Army officer, navy officers.
- BP: Leatherwork and woodwork?
- JB: Yeah, woodwork, any kind thing. I was manager so I had a lot of (inaudible) admiral, general.
- BP: Sounds like you did very well for yourself under both the Japanese and the Americans.
- JB: Yeah, I think so, I think so, yeah (inaudible) but the day -- right now I think I feel that maybe these people, they don't like me because (inaudible).
- BP: The who people?

- JB: These people (inaudible) like governor. The governor (inaudible) governor.
- BP: Governor Tenorio?
- JB: Tenorio (inaudible) Tenorio and Camacho (inaudible).
- BP: Why would they resent you? Why? Why?
- JB: I'm not the same party. Also I don't support them. I support nobody. I don't (inaudible) our family real small, you see. This island, mostly family (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: And if you not belong to them you better not say something, better not say something against them, because (inaudible) so I try to stay away from them (inaudible) speaker of the house in 1962.
- BP: You were speaker of the house?
- JB: Yes, I speaker of the house (inaudible) State Department.
- BP: Okay. Before we go to get into your going to the States and all that, I want to know how long did you have to stay in Camp Susupe before you started working for the US military?
- JB: Well, stay in Camp Susupe, and I was given job already. BP: So you stayed --
- JB: Next day, next day, yeah.
- BP: So you stayed in Camp Susupe but at night you had to stay at Camp Susupe, during the day you worked.

- JB: Yeah, that's right.
- BP: And now after you left Camp Susupe where did you move? To Chalan Kanoa?
- JB: Chalan Kanoa.
- BP: Okay. For you what was the most difficult part of this whole experience? Just the most difficult part of this experience, what was it? That was just during the fighting? Or after the fighting? Or what do you think was the most difficult part?
- JB: (inaudible) life.
- BP: During the whole period from the Japanese period until --
- JB: (inaudible) I don't really feel (inaudible) difficult part but the sanitary I think.
- BP: Sanitary.
- JB: Sanitary.
- BP: During the war.
- JB: Yeah, during the war. Then after the war. So many fly. I mean that was my really (inaudible) a lot of fly.
- BP: The sanitary (inaudible).
- JB: Sanitary (inaudible) we were put in Camp Susupe (inaudible) in Chalan Kanoa it was fence.
- BP: Fence.

JB: (inaudible) can't go out, but we sneak out. Joe
 (inaudible) you know Joe -- you don't know Joe Tenorio, he
 own -- he the richest man in Saipan (inaudible).

BP: He died.

- JB: Already passed away. We same age (inaudible).
- BP: I'm told that his wife is part Japanese.
- JB: Yeah, part Japanese, yeah.
- BP: Maybe I can -- do you know her?
- JB: Yeah, she lives (inaudible).
- BP: Maybe you could introduce me. I'd like to interview her if she'd let me.
- JB: Yeah, well, I don't know if she like that. But maybe I can call her. I can call her and find out if she would be happy to meet you, I don't know.
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: Give me your number and I call her maybe.
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: She -- we're not very -- because we are different party
   (inaudible) good friend though but different party and not
   so (inaudible).
- BP: Okay. Now once again forgetting that I'm an American asking this question, okay? But do you think that life was better during the Japanese period or the American period? Or were there good parts to both?

JB: To me Japanese -- well, about same to me. Same. But I think American time is more rich, more money.

BP: More money?

- JB: More money, more freedom. But life is spoil people I think.
- BP: Spoil people.
- JB: American system spoil people. Make a lot of people here not working. They're expecting (inaudible) handout. That's a very very bad point. I don't like that point. I really against that. And also American -- Japanese brought economy to Saipan. Although [only for?] Japanese. But this spill out. Spill out money, they benefited Saipanese. A lot of Saipanese, hardworking Saipanese, more happy I think that time. Maybe you can ask them. Then they're happier, maybe they're happy before, I don't know.
- BP: They were happier in the Japanese period.
- JB: Well, I should say -- yeah. Very hard to say but they're happy because they work hard, and they get money. But this American time they brought in education. Now of course that's good. Education. And brought in also politic.

BP: Politics.

JB: That's a bad, politics.

BP: That's bad.

JB: Divided the people. We used to be together.

- BP: The American system politics divided people.
- JB: Damn -- I'm sorry.
- BP: That's all right. Damn right.
- JB: Damn right.
- JB: Right. Yeah, this is a bad point. And the people here are not like American. Don't know how to cope with politics. Their biggest politics is family living. Family affairs. And family relation. That (inaudible) one point. Not enough education for how to handle politics (inaudible).
- BP: So you think the family orientation has had -- mixed with American form of government has been very bad.
- JB: Yes (inaudible) and also you see this politic too. Because this create -- well (inaudible) a lot of people (inaudible) this corruption (inaudible) then the governor (inaudible) if you don't belong to them you don't (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible) the American system of government brought to Saipan has created a lot of the graft and corruption (inaudible).
- JB: Right (inaudible) but good life.
- BP: Good life.
- JB: Better life than Japanese. Better life than Japanese (inaudible) more things. You can go say, you can say anything you want. Japanese time, no, you cannot say anything. You have freedom of speech. No. But over here

in United States US, under US, you can say anything you want. That's a difference.

- BP: I don't know if you this. You probably do know this. But your sister Josephine Akiyama was interviewed back in 1960 for a *Time* magazine article about Amelia Earhart.
- JB: Yeah, Amelia Earhart.
- BP: And as a result of the article a man by the name of Fred Goerner --
- JB: (inaudible) Goerner, yeah. Fred Goerner, yeah. I remember him.
- BP: -- came here four times.
- JB: Yeah.
- BP: Now do you think there's any validity to that story?
- JB: Any what?
- BP: Any validity? Do you think that was an accurate story? Or do you think --
- JB: Oh. Well, very difficult to say (inaudible) my sister say she saw it. She doesn't -- she's kind of outgoing. Outgoing lady. My sister Josephine (inaudible) riding bicycle and go around, go around. And sometimes get spanking for that. I remember that. But maybe my sister was correct. She saw something. I also heard about it also (inaudible) there's a white lady (inaudible) came to Saipan. I heard this (inaudible) during the Japanese time

when I got back from Japan about a woman (inaudible) lady. But I don't know how true (inaudible) because I didn't see that.

- BP: Does the name Francisco Galdan ring a bell to you? Did you know anybody by the name of Francisco Galdan? G-A-L-D-A-N. Never heard of him?
- JB: I don't know. I know Goerner, Fred Goerner, I know. I know Fred Goerner.
- BP: You know Fred Goerner.
- JB: Yeah, I remember that.
- BP: Okay.
- JB: Remember him.
- BP: Okay. You said you were speaker of the house between 1960 and 1960 --
- JB: Sixty-two, yeah.
- BP: That was still during the Trust Territory days, right?
- JB: Yes, the Trust Territory.
- BP: Okay. And did you leave politics after that or did you --
- JB: I left politic.
- BP: For what reason?
- JB: Because the Bank of America. I was a manager of the Bank of America same time, so Bank of America give me a bit of hard time.
- BP: A hard time?

- JB: Hard time and good time (inaudible) said, "Don't do (inaudible)."
- BP: They didn't like you being in politics?
- JB: I think so. They don't like me being -- they like me to be in politics in their favor (inaudible) do something (inaudible) but they don't want me to go in politics like for example like to make them (inaudible) them something. So I don't --
- BP: In other words they wanted you to be their boy (inaudible).
- JB: Boy. That's right. That's right.
- BP: And they didn't want --
- JB: (inaudible) the convenient to them, the Bank of America.
- BP: But they (inaudible) tell you how to do your job, you think?
- JB: Yeah, they (inaudible) sometimes, they (inaudible) sometimes. They said (inaudible).
- BP: (inaudible).
- JB: I quit. I really quit in 1962.
- BP: So you left in favor of your job with Bank of America?
- JB: Right, Bank of America (inaudible) made mistake.
- BP: (inaudible) you think it was a big mistake?
- JB: Mistake.
- BP: Why do you think it was a big mistake?

- JB: (inaudible) shouldn't stay with Bank of America. They -- I
  think that they -- they treated me okay. But (inaudible)
  the salary (inaudible) very very low. And they -- also
  they do treated us as second --
- BP: Class citizen.
- JB: Second-class citizen, see (inaudible) we are maybe --Saipanese are third-class citizen. They have this category one and category two. Category one is American. Category two is (inaudible) so category one American get very good benefit. Retirement benefit. Category two, we --
- BP: Doesn't sound much different than the Japanese.
- JB: Not different Bank of America. Not too. In that respect (inaudible) that part. Not so good.
- BP: How long did you stay with the Bank of America?
- JB: Twenty-six years. That was a big mistake in my life.
- BP: What do you think you should have done instead of staying with them?
- JB: Well, if I quit, I could have been governor maybe (inaudible) because people like me, you see, because I was two or three time I think voted most -- in that time there's no politics (inaudible) top getter. Vote getter.
- BP: Vote getter.
- JB: Yeah. Three time, two time, three time. So I thought I was a good chance to do something, you know.

BP: Yeah.

- JB: And maybe better now if I worked for the government, because government has -- CNMI government has a good retirement.
- BP: You don't have a good retirement (inaudible).
- JB: Nothing. Got nothing (inaudible) retirement from Bank of America. And Social Security. But I don't have anything with government.
- BP: Seems like you could take the Bank of America to court and discrimination.
- JB: I could. I could have. I could have because (inaudible) they -- I have separated with my wife in 1965. I was alone. I was a single man. Being single man, you know (inaudible) so finally (inaudible) some wife of [Joe Kense?]. Joe Kense. Bank of America's good client (inaudible) Joe Kense (inaudible) come to me and we sleep together. And Bank of America also (inaudible) I could have (inaudible) Bank of America to court (inaudible) that time they didn't have -- Saipan didn't have any lawyers to go to. Only about one or two lawyers. All tied up already (inaudible) at that time there was some lawyer, maybe I could take Bank of America to court.

BP: What did they do to you (inaudible).

JB: Well, they didn't give me -- they send me to Guam.

BP: They get rid of you?

JB: No, sent me to Guam to stay away from here, see. Then when they come back then they did not give me my manager job (inaudible) second man or third (inaudible) so that kind of thing. Anyway made mistake, Bank of America.

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