

Marie Crisostimo Oral History Interview

BRUCE PETTY: OK. What year were you born in?

MARIE CRISOSTIMO: Saipan.

BP: No, what year?

MC: Year?

BP: Date.

MC: March seventeenth, 1923.

BP: Nineteen twenty-three, OK. What was your father's name?

MC: Juan [d'Augusto?] Palacios.

BP: D'Augusto... Was he born here on Saipan? OK. And what did he do for a living?

MC: Oh, farming, raising cow, raising pig, chicken, goat. And some duck. And fish too.

BP: Fish?

MC: Fish.

BP: He did some fishing, too?

MC: No, no, he had...

BP: He had a pond? Oh, he raised them.

MC: He had fish. Just a few for our--

BP: What kind of fish was it, do you know?

MC: This is... I don't know what kind of fish. It is not tilapia, but it can go in the...

BP: Carp?

MC: Big eye...

BP: OK, now where was the farm?

MC: Here.

BP: Oh, right here, where we are now?

MC: [Chai Long?] was here and the father make home and raise shrimp and fish.

BP: He raised shrimp, too? Huh, OK. Did he do any other kind of work?

MC: No.

BP: When did he die?

MC: Saipan.

BP: No when, what year?

MC: Uh... Nineteen... seventy-five, I think.

BP: 1975, OK. So you didn't have a house in Garapan?

MC: Yes, we had a big house in Garapan, but when World War II... The Japanese military take the house, and we have another house here where we stayed.

BP: Did you have a cement house in Garapan?

MC: Huh?

BP: Did you have a cement house?

MC: Cement house.

BP: OK. What did they use your house for? For troops, for soldiers, or what? What did they do with it?

MC: They took it for the *departemente* (inaudible). I think for the soldiers.

BP: For the soldiers. OK. Well did you live anywhere near [Senchen Akiyama?] at that time?

MC: Senchen Akiyama, I think was to move to the farm.

BP: OK but your house in Garapan, was it near there? Right near there?

MC: Si, si. There are all Chamorros in Garapan city, before. All Chamorros. Eventually only one we had in Tanapag, that's it. And the Japanese town is in Chalan Kanoa.

BP: Chalan Kanoa, got it. And --

MC: Garapan is... We stayed together with Japanese.

BP: So the Japanese and Chamorro stayed in Garapan. But Chalan Kanoa is mostly Japanese.

MC: Some employees for the Sugar King who are Chamorro and them they have houses there from the company.

BP: So the sugar King railroad, did it run near here? The railroad tracks? Close to the beach, huh? Very close to the beach. I see, OK. Now how about your mother, what was her name?

MC: Juana.

BP: Juana?

MC: J-O... No, no.

BP: J-U.

MC: J-U-A-N-A. Juana.

BP: What was her maiden name?

MC: Tudella.

BP: So she was related to Esco, huh?

MC: Esco, my grandfather, he is my grandfather. Yes.

BP: How many children were in your family?

MC: My mother have, I think eight, but three of them died, and we grow five.

BP: So five surviving. How did the three die, from disease, or...?

MC: No no no. The other two is my mother's... I think the (inaudible) are weak, so they die in... in... Eight month.

BP: Oh, in the womb.

MC: The other one is already grown but is some kind of attack... I don't know what kind of disease, pneumonia or what. So the other one in World War II.

BP: He was killed?

MC: They die in the... Because she was baby, you know. So my mother had no water, no food, so no more milk. So my father give him coconut juice, coconut juice, and then I don't know, maybe she was... The coconut juice is good if over not so good because they say that if... Hard time when you drink too many coconut, you attack your (inaudible).

BP: OK. So...

MC: If you drink maybe one, that's good for you, but...

BP: So your mother didn't have enough food or water to produce milk for the baby.

MC: Oh, yeah, so when the World War II come...

BP: Well, now, you were in Guam, though, right?

MC: I in Guam, but when I come back, they tell me that. Because after I am married into ES, I stay in Guam, then I come back.

BP: OK. So where was your family hiding during the war?

MC: The war, my family is... The house is here, but when my grandma have a wedding for take care of the sister, and they go, he's married. And that time the whole family in Dandan.

BP: They were in Dandan.

MC: Yes.

BP: So they were not here during the fighting?

MC: No, so my mom moved there and took some clothing and everything because she's going to stay for a couple of days. So that afternoon, wedding afternoon, they attacked, the Americans, this island.

BP: The planes, or they invaded that day?

MC: The plane, a plane, and (inaudible) (coughs) the cannon, you know, from the ship? They attack. So my mother hide

my uncle and my grandfather from my mother. (coughs) And make a big shelter, a big shelter underground.

BP: In Dandan.

MC: When the attack the plane came missing, they're hiding all underground. So safe. But after three, four days we cannot go and take water or take a food because the cannon and the plane, that's incredible there. So we cannot go out because when they see you that bomb is going to drop you on the plane. So they're hiding. So at night-time, when the... I don't know how to say that... The ship do the light...

BP: Oh, they fired flares.

MC: Flares, see? So when that's not...

BP: Not firing the flares.

MC: They run away to take the coconut, because the cannon opened the coconut tree, they damaged it and it fell down, so my father take the coconut. So the coconut survive for two, three days.

BP: So they told you this, then?

MC: They told me about it. But [Chai Lan?] was there.

BP: She was a little girl, then.

MC: Oh my goodness, she was two years old, all that time, yes, maybe three, at that time. She don't know anything.

BP: OK. So what are your earliest memories? When you were at least a young girl you were living in Garapan, right? Were most of your friends Chamorro or were there some Japanese?

MC: Some Japanese. My eight neighbors and some Japanese stay on my house one side of the... They take one side and they stay there. I think they were friendly, and really, the Japanese, if your friend is really nice... Only I don't like for us the government. They give us only five grades.

BP: Five grades.

MC: They give me more education. And they are nice because my house is close to a government housing. Because I am close to the church in Garapan, so the government house is this side and my house is this side.

BP: Do you remember the names of any of your Japanese friends?

MC: Oh, I remember that my Japanese is... Name is...

[Yosijawa?].

BP: Yosijawa was one?

MC: She was my neighbor. With her family.

BP: So she was like a girlfriend, you played with her something, or what?

MC: The children, yeah. Sometimes...

BP: Do you know what happened to them during or after the war?

MC: I do not because I am gone.

BP: Oh, that's right. You never heard from them again. OK.  
And what do you remember about going to school in those days?

MC: Oh, I go to school but I got... A good study and everything, but so hard for me because it's not my language to speak Japanese and everything. And reading, writing, it's always, you know...

BP: Difficult.

MC: My father say, you go to school to know the Japanese language. So later on my father found out they be not much, but my mother said "Don't be cross, it's not fair because she's not own language." So my mother... I got bad hernia when I little, and the doctor they don't know what happened to me. Always take me to the hospital because every weekend I play hard and my hernia attack me. So I got bad time at the school.

BP: Were your teachers difficult with you?

MC: No no no no. Because I got first teacher exam lady, and the others, Mr. [Pangalin?], Henry's older brother, sister, teaching the Japanese time.

BP: Is that José?

MC: No, Joaquim.

BP: OK, he was a teacher then, huh?



MC: He was my teacher. After that, I didn't... I finished to five grade. So my mom started taking me to the hospital and said that "Doctor, every weekend I play hard" and "I don't know what's wrong with your daughter." So my mom said "OK, I take to grace this year." So after that my mom sent me to mission school. And that's the best for me until nineteen years old.

BP: This was a Japanese doctor?

MC: Yeah.

BP: When did you find out you had a hernia?

MC: The hernia? After Americans come.

BP: Oh, they found that out.

MC: They found out, and they give me operation.

BP: That was a higher hernia, up here? Or down low. Bowel?

MC: Umbilical.

BP: Umbilical, OK. So if you were to think back to your days before the war when you were a young girl here, what are some of your most memorable moments? What do you remember most?

MC: Most I remember my father used to every day go to the farm, and my mother stay home and watch us. But sometimes we go to the farm when we had not school, and we stayed two or three days in the farm. The Japanese asked my father to plant here, leaves to plant sugar cane, but my father

didn't want. Because food enough for him. He wanted to plant coconut, pineapple, banana, papaya, and... Many fruits here. Mango, grapefruit, orange, lemon. So some time my father, the business come for pineapple, orange and banana. So they're making money for that. But my father, they're making a big money is in cows.

BP: From his cows, huh?

MC: Because the sugar cane company come and buy a cow, is very expensive. Sometimes seven hundred yen in Japanese. Six hundred yen for a big bull to work for the farm. Because (inaudible) this cow is going to be... The need the cow for the *aladu*. We call it *aladu*.

BP: What's *aladu*?

MC: Like...

BP: Plowing?

MC: No no no. The cow pulls the... and there's the...

BP: Plow, it's called a plow. It's for plowing, OK. OK.

MC: So after that when World War II... Before that, my father has another farm. But another farm only coconut plant so they make my father selling that for corporate.

BP: And where was that?

MC: That's coconut.

BP: No, but where? Where was the other farm?

MC: In Chalan Kiya. It's close to [Dakos?].

BP: Juan Ida has a property there, didn't he?

MC: Uh-huh. But this side. So yeah, that's... Our neighbors that...

BP: Now what else was here? I always thought Tanapag was mostly Carolinians living in Tanapag?

MC: Yeah. But it's... Tanapag is Chamorro.

BP: Carolinians and Chamorros.

MC: But the population of Carolinians is in Tanapag. The Tanapag field is a big population for Chamorro. But not Carolinians.

BP: And north of Tanapag, up here, there's a lot of Chamorros. Were there any businesses up here? Were there hotels or restaurants?

MC: No, no, no, no, no. Only school and little store for Japanese. Because that time, the sugarcane workers shared a station here in (inaudible), in this place. They have housing for workers and somehow some workers, like my dad, he finally had to lease my house to work for the sugarcane people. Loading sugarcane. You know.

BP: So there's a lot of sugarcane around here.

MC: Oh my goodness. Around the island is sugarcane.

BP: Let me -- (interruption)

MC: After that, the Japanese attack the Saipan people's farm.  
So the Japanese raising the back animal for the coconut.  
Because the --

BP: They raised animals, huh?

MC: Animals, for the coconut, and all the coconut damaged.  
Because the Sugar King company, I think that one trick the  
Chamorro. So my father so sad for that, so cannot go  
anymore for corporate, so selling back to the owner, they  
buy the land, they ask if you want to buy back, I can sell.  
So the owner buy back, and the owner take to the sugar cane  
and they grow sugar cane.

BP: So they cut down the coconut trees?

MC: Some, yeah. They cut down the coconut tree. Here a  
coconut tree survived because all our leader in Saipan is  
brought to the government. This is like an awful and they  
abuse us.

BP: So the Chamorro leaders complained to the Japanese  
government?

MC: Uh-huh. So after that the Japanese government, they help  
us, and they give us, like... [malatai?]?

BP: Malatai?

MC: Malatai, they put in the coconut, they drink that.

BP: What's malatai?

MC: You know, that malatai, like a medicine medicine, that they put in the animal is almost size bigger than ant.

BP: Oh, OK. That's what was destroying the trees.

MC: They eat it all inside. Then so someone survived here, when they put malatai in it.

BP: What year was that?

MC: I think it was... 1933. My young... My brother, that time, is baby. So my father always take the malatai to here because we had the house in Garapan. And they sometimes take the medicine, I think it's powder, so when they take it here they mix it with water. Like...

BP: Like flour and water?

MC: Then after that, they take the instruction, how many water and how many... So they survive, some here, our coconut. But it's awful.

BP: But the Japanese actually introduced an animal with the idea to destroy the coconut?

MC: Because my father say, and some leaders say, the Japanese bring this bad animal to kill the coconut. Because we don't want to kill the coconut. Because the coconut is the best for this island. If you're hungry, you can eat. If you don't have oil, you can make oil. If you don't have vinegar, you can make vinegar. And this coconut tree... Even the babies, if the mothers die, survive from the young

coconut. Feed the baby and the baby's very healthy. Really top vitamin. For the baby, the young coconut... Oh my goodness, that's the best for them. And the coconut can tell you, this size for young baby, and this size for one-month baby, and this size for six-month baby, and this size for... you know, the young. They, all the people here, they know that.

BP: So depending on the age of the child, that would decide how old the coconut is.

MC: How old the coconut is. Right.

BP: Do they still do that?

MC: I don't know, but when my grandson's very weak, they say to the mother, that's a weak baby, and they said bring him. When I give every day one coconut the size for him, he's healthy.

BP: He gets better. So when you came from Garapan to the farm, here, in Achugao, did you come by the train, or did you walk?

MC: Walked? No, I never walked. I ride on the train and then my father have a cow car, we ride in the cow car, or sometimes we ride in the... Very easy for us. Morning train, afternoon train, evening train. Three times the transportation for us. So only when coconut supplies to

the house, they load it in the car and my father brings to the house.

BP: Did any of your Japanese friends come with you to the farm?

MC: Oh there are many Japanese that come to buy papaya, mango, and you know, this area. My father making a good money from that.

BP: He made good money, OK. Yeah, but did any of your Japanese friends from Garapan? Did they come with you on weekends to visit the farm? Or no. Do you think it was easier to make money during the Japanese period than it was during--

MC: My father can make easy money. Selling the cow they make big money. That's why they build big concrete house from that cow money and from that production of pineapple, orange. Because this land is top ten.

BP: Top ten. Very good soil.

MC: Very good soil. You can raise rainy season, dry season.

BP: So you grew rice here too?

MC: My father used to be rice, a little rice, for us.

BP: Do you think that your father, he found it easier to make money during the Japanese period than the American?

MC: No, when American come my father is back to farm, because he understand, he can grow and stand and make money, and even my mother. That time after World War II the Americans put for twenty-five cents a day.

BP: Not very good, huh?

MC: Yeah. But they are covered in food. They rationed rice, and canned goods. They rationed the people. So after that they raised the salary for twenty-five cents an hour. So we buy little clothing, and we buy shoes, or something like that that. Then they input the military to the municipal so that people were down there.

BP: Who?

MC: Municipal. Like (inaudible). So they have a municipal. So they have a... I don't know how to say that...

BP: A municipal council?

MC: No, no, no, no. The government --

BP: The Navy government?

MC: The Navy government, they put supplies for people to buy in the municipal store. So we go there and buy clothing and shoes. After that some Chamorro open business (inaudible)... some few Chamorro... Just a few.

BP: But your father made better than thirty-five cents a day as a farmer, didn't he?

MC: Oh my goodness. He made more than ten times thirty-five cents a day. My father is a... He knows how to plant. He planted plenty of coconut, and corn. He planted sweet potatoes. He planted taro, yam.

BP: Why didn't more Chamorros go into farming after the war?



MC: Because the farming is... Even if you don't have money, you survive for too, and sometimes you get money from that too. That's why the people they buy for the farm. The farm is the best on this island.

BP: Yeah but why didn't more Chamorros go into farming after the war? Seems like most Chamorros I talked to worked for the naval administration.

MC: This time you mean?

BP: After the war.

MC: After the war?

BP: Yeah, during the naval administration, why didn't more Chamorros become farmers again, why didn't they farm for a living?

MC: Ah, because at that time the farms is destroyed during World War II.

BP: Oh, the farms were destroyed?

MC: Destroyed. This island has burned. Nothing is left.

BP: But your father continued to farm here?

MC: Yeah, my father continued here and it's kind of... Rough, because nothing to plant. But then the government sent people, a few to the northern island and bring back the coconut to plant, to plant coconut here. So my father said, only four coconut or five coconut left after the war

in this place. So my father's in the farmer's association, and they take coconut and plant more coconut here.

BP: So all the coconuts we see today here was brought down from the northern islands after the war, huh?

MC: I think so.

BP: Did your father personally go to the northern islands?

MC: When she was... Walking at the... I don't know what the, CCA or some Mr. Brown handled that... Mr. Brown hired people for this and this, so my father ride in the... Not big ship like the... After that they have the ship to go to the northern islands. So one time, my father embark too. So they take I think two sacks only, the people cannot give in what they want. They are like you say, in cooperative.

BP: The Chamarros up north were not very cooperative, is that what you're saying?

MC: No, no, no. When you take the coconut from that island, you cannot come and take what you want. They are rationed, for this and this for you plant on your place.

BP: OK. Do you remember any big typhoons when you were... Before the war?

MC: No.

BP: Not too many big ones.

MC: We had a... 1927, when my sister born a little baby, Carmen. That's not Chai Lan. So my auntie came to stay

because the wind blow hard the door went and because she had a (inaudible). So she came to my house to stay and the lady neighbors. But it's kind of... Not so big typhoon. Few. Few of house. A few Japanese Shinto house blow, but Chamorro house is... I think nobody.

BP: What do you remember most about your father? Did he have time to play with you, or sit down and talk to you about things, or was he very busy?

MC: He was very busy man. And sometimes I go to the farm, he take me to the beach and he say "Swim, in the beach," and he take net and he throw the net to me and we swim the other side. Because you can swim on this side because there's fishing on the net. And sometimes my mom would play with us.

BP: She had the time to play with you more.

MC: Some time. But my mother too was a very busy lady.

BP: Do you remember, did she actually sit down and talk to you at times? Do you remember things that they said to you, or...?

MC: Oh, they made, my mom is very good as a parent. Every night before I go to sleep they say "You have to respect. You have to responsible, tomorrow, you have to do this and this and this and this." If you don't listen to your mother, they going to be punish you or take the belt and

spank you. And that's the best for us, and that's why us is, my age, many people my age, not trouble at all.

BP: You think it's different today?

MC: Oh my goodness. This is true. The Americans really protect this island and give us opportunity. Give us equal right and liberty and justice, but we don't know much for liberty and we don't know much for justice. Because in the Japanese time, the Japanese discriminated people and they never give education high. Only for the Japanese. This is true I think. The Japanese go to high school and everything, but the Chamorro only five grade. And I don't know if you finish five grade, because I don't know anything when I go to school. I come back home just playing, and... But when my mother send me to mission school, I learn a lot of thing. Good education. Top ten. Very good. They teach you all the things. So the Japanese don't want the mission to say, this is a high school, this is a grade school. Teach what you want but don't give it red. But my group, they coming... They starting high school, and someone starting college. They teach the typewriter, they teach you how to make music piano and music, and they teach you how to art, and you can be writing and you're going to be engineer.

BP: All at the mission school?

MC: No, the mission school, you know what, we lucky only the ladies go there. Not any men. So my brothers go to private school, but my father pay that. That's not big money.

BP: Private school by the Japanese?

MC: By the Japanese. But only the man or some ladies they want. But the ladies very lucky because they have the mission school. But the mission school, they can teach you many thing free. Learn typewrite, like a three dollar, or three yen, in Japanese. Even the piano play or music play, was free...

BP: So they taught you music at the mission school? During the Japanese time?

MC: Oh yes.

BP: And drafting and engineering?

MC: One of my old sister... She's a genius, that sister. Sister Angelica. I forgot the last name.

BP: Sister Angelica, yeah. From Spain.

MC: Sister Theresa she's a professional music and everything, but Sister Angelica knew everything.

BP: She knew everything, huh.

MC: I think the (inaudible) of the Spanish sent her to Japan to learn Japanese only two years, then they come back and

teach us (inaudible) the high school Japanese. Mathematics and everything, they teach us.

BP: Did you know there's a book about Sister Angelica?

MC: Oh my goodness. How! I got my collection book, my father make a box, and I put it there all for the geography, science --

BP: Oh, you still have that?

MC: No, the World War II, it was destroyed --

BP: No, but I'm saying there's a book today you can buy, a historic preservation, about Sister Angelica. It's a book about her life here.

MC: Oh yeah?

BP: I have a copy at home.

MC: I am glad. That you share this with me. They're selling that, or it's in the library, or...

BP: Yeah, well if you go to, you know [Simon?] Peters? He helped write the book I think. And you can go to the bookstores and I think historic preservation, the college, they have copies. You can get a copy, it's very nice. It's a very good book, very interesting about Sister Angelica.

MC: She's my teacher. And you know, I have many teachers. Sister Angelica, for the mathematics, for the health, many things. But Sister Theresa is music and piano, and the

others, Aquina, that's drawing, and [watercolor?], [Drapo?] and [mambotan?]. I don't know how to say this in English, but Sister Aquina, they teach us how to bordering alphabet, and how to, we say [drapu?], and (inaudible) three-step teacher.

BP: Yeah, I don't understand that. Well one of the sisters was killed during the war, you know. Did you know that?

MC: My sister?

BP: No, one of the sisters --

MC: Oh, oh. Sister. Nun. [Anobeyba?].

BP: Anobeyba. OK. Now there's a sister alive today...

MC: Which sister?

BP: She was a young sister...

MC: Remellio?

BP: Yeah.

MC: Sister Remellio. I know her.

BP: If you know Sister Remellio, she helped write the book about Sister Angelica. So if you know her, she can help you --

MC: She's my first cousin.

BP: Well then you talk to her, because she knows all about Sister Angelica and she can help get the book for you.

MC: OK. So... They really helped me. So after World War II, my husband and I are in Guam. So when they send us in Saipan,

my husband go in Guam to POW. So I come back from Saipan and I trying to find my job. But my interesting, I like to go out, and one of my mother's family said come and I send you to nighttime school and daytime you can help school or office work. But I said no, no, no, no, I like to go out to hear speaking speaking to find out. Because when I come back, already my neighbors they speaking a little bit English. And I say how they... And I said no, I go through the neighborhood, house to house, help the officer's wife clean and ironing. And they took me to the official club and clean and help those, and I say, you know, already the English language I like to say. It's weird but, let's go to the Navy commanding's place. So I go to Benton and talk to Mr. [Grayroom?] --

BP: Who? Talk to who?

MC: Mr. Grayroom.

BP: The (inaudible)?

MC: No, no, no. The brother. The older brother. She was I think organizing the orchestra for the people. So one of the pages told me come to class at night and daytime you can be to the school because you can teach at the school. I said no, no, no, no. Wait a minute. Because I like to find out to speak English because in the school it's very hard to me that I like --



BP: You like to learn on your own.

MC: So I go there, and I work for quartermaster and I work for the Navy housing, help the wife of the officer. I go to the Navy club and I help the captain and everything. So when the Navy move and the Army move, oh my god. I back to handicraft. So I know how... My... Yes, Juan Blanco is my first because I missed the alarm first and he is my second. I go there and I make things and I make something art to make more money. Because thirty-five cents an hour.

BP: A day.

MC: A day. And that time sometime I make more than twice of that. Because I take my wares through the houses and they have handicrafts selling.

BP: Now, back -- sorry. Back in those days, was anyone in your family married to a Japanese?

MC: My dad cousin married to the Japanese, and my dad niece.

BP: OK, now your father's cousin, what was his name?

MC: Tongawa.

BP: Huh?

MC: Tongawa. T-O-N-G-A-W-A, I think. Tongawa.

BP: His wife was Tongawa?

MC: The husband is Tongawa.

BP: Oh oh, OK. His name was Tongawa. And her name was...?

MC: Rosa.

BP: Rosa Tudella?

MC: Palacios.

BP: Rosa... Is she still alive?

MC: Oh, she's still alive.

BP: Palacios?

MC: You can visit her and talk because she's very kind, my father's cousin. Across the church, Chalan Kanoa church, the Japanese came to that place to the house that belongs to her.

BP: OK, now she speaks English?

MC: No, only Chamorro.

BP: Japanese?

MC: And Japanese. But the ladies taking of her, her daughter is there, they speak English.

BP: OK. And how old is she?

MC: I think she's older than me. Six, seven years. Close to eighty.

BP: Tongawa, OK. And what happened to her husband?

MC: Oh, he was old. I think three years ago he died.

BP: He died three years ago. And he was still here on... Oh, OK. And then you had somebody else was married to a Japanese?

MC: My cousin Sonoda.

BP: What?

MC: Sonoda. S-O-N-O, Sonoda, D-A.

BP: That was her maiden name. Or her first name.

MC: That's her... First name is Jesùs. Ayola.

BP: And he's dead and gone, or...?

MC: He's still there. The Chamorro House restaurant belong to him.

BP: Oh really. And his wife was Japanese?

MC: No, his father. His father is Japanese. His mother is my cousin. This guy. Sonoda, Jesùs.

BP: OK. So Jesùs Sonoda, his father was Japanese, and his mother, is a Palacios --

MC: Chamorro. Oh, she was an Ayola.

BP: Ayola. Jesùs Sonoda, how old is he now?

MC: I think he's... A (inaudible).

BP: So he doesn't remember much from the war.

MC: No no. After World War II, I remember. Because after World War II the sister came to the house and said Uncle, my sister died last night. They burned the baby and the baby alive but my sister died.

BP: OK, so Jesùs Sonoda, how old is he, then, do you think?

MC: After World War II, it's been close to fifty...

BP: Oh, so he was born after the war. Now what about his Japanese father?

MC: The father is passed away about... Together with him,  
because he's a good person, a good Japanese. Mr. Sonoda.  
He and Tongawa was a nice person, really.

BP: So if I go to the Chamorro restaurant in Garapan...

MC: You can find maybe ask him. Sometimes he is in the house,  
but sometimes always in the Chamorro restaurant.

BP: Oh, OK. OK. So do you remember much about these people at  
all?

MC: Oh yes. We grow up together.

BP: How about Koreans? Did you know any Koreans before...?

MC: Oh, before the war, there are just a few... Low Koreans.  
Low. Japanese, Okinawan and Korean. Number three. But  
just a few. Korean are the... Japanese took for the  
workers in Saipan.

BP: So did you know any Koreans personally? You didn't know  
them, huh? How about comfort women, did you know any  
comfort women?

MC: What comfort women?

BP: Well during the war, the Japanese forced many women,  
especially Korean women, into prostitution for...

MC: No, no, no, no. The Japanese they have mandatory for  
prostitute lady for their soldiers, for Japanese only. But  
not for us.

BP: No no no, but they used Korean women. They took women from Korea, took them to the Pacific, and... You don't know about that.

MC: I don't know about that, and I never heard, and I never see that.

BP: OK. So you didn't know any Koreans here?

MC: No, no, no, no. The Japanese have no hospitality for the lady for the soldiers, so every Friday they take to the hospital, and keep for the husbands --

BP: Where did they keep the women? For the soldiers? Where were they?

MC: Garapan.

BP: Garapan. This was before the war too, or...? Oh, they were. OK.

MC: Before the war.

BP: OK. Did you ever have any problems with the Japanese before the war in any way?

MC: The Japanese is really... They are respectable. But I don't know, because my father had friends with a few Japanese but they really respect my father. And my father told us we have to respect the Japanese because that time they higher than us. But only one thing, they discriminated people, they pay salary for small, they pay salary for high for the Japanese and they give high

education to the Japanese. And they give low education for Chamorro. And... Not like this time. But actual... That time the Japanese no allow people to drink whiskey or beer or anything. But the people... The northern Marianas is really, really a... peaceable.

BP: What?

MC: Peaceable.

BP: Peaceful. Uh-huh.

MC: But this time they are really... We appreciate that the United States they give us opportunity for equal rights and justice and liberty. But we don't know much.

BP: You don't know to use it, because...

MC: Right, because this time many young people, corruption.

BP: Corruption. I take it among government officials or what?

MC: No no no. They are... This time, parents wake up to find no money because after the war too, this island cannot make the money for this or this. So the parents go to work and the children is not so many attention.

BP: Are you talking about today, or just right after the war? Are you saying that both the mother and father, they go to work and make money and the children --

MC: No work.

BP: Since World War II. So even in the 1950s and 1960s, that was true?

MC: No no no. Beginning after the war too, we survived by the family, like taking care of my children and I go to the work. This time many people have many children and cannot, for family taking care. So...

BP: So you're saying now, in the 1980s and 1990s, the mother and father are working and nobody raises the children, nobody watches the children. That's a problem.

MC: The Filipina maid watches the children. They're very and not enough educated, the family.

BP: So the mother and father work and the Filipina maid raises the children, and that's a problem. OK. Did anybody in your family... Sorry, were you going to say something?

MC: Go ahead.

BP: Did anyone in your family, did they volunteer to join the Japanese military? Did they go to other places?

MC: They are not joining, they're forced!

BP: But some people did volunteer for the Army or the Navy. No? OK. Because I interviewed Henry Pangolin, and I know that he was forced to go to Guam like your husband. OK. Now, for example, if your husband had refused, what would have happened to them, what would the Japanese have do to him?

MC: Japanese?

BP: When your husband was recruited to be an interpreter. If he said no to the Japanese, what would have happened to him?

MC: That's foolish! They're going to kill you! That's World War II, that's the war. Even the U.S., if the military say come, forcing you eighteen years old to be a soldier, if you say no, what are they going to do. Put you in jail. The Japanese maybe leave you to die.

BP: How long did you know your husband before you got married?

MC: Oh, about maybe... Eight years.

BP: Eight years. So you knew each other when you were very young and then... So you're how old when you got married?

MC: Close to twenty-one years.

BP: Twenty-one years old. And what year was that?

MC: 1944, I think. No it is '43.

BP: 1943. So he went to Guam in 1942?

MC: No no no, he went in 1941, maybe, he go to Guam.

BP: Oh, before the war?

MC: Before the war. Before the --

BP: Well, see, the Japanese invaded Guam on December eighth, 1942. Now was he among the first Chamorros to go? Was he on the first pontoon boats --

MC: What? Nineteen what?



BP: 1942, Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, and on December eighth,  
1942, Japan invaded Guam.

MC: Exactly. Exactly.

BP: So now, was he... The first team of Chamorros to go to Guam  
were on a boat. Was he on that boat?

MC: No no no. After.

BP: How long after?

MC: Maybe one week.

BP: One week after. OK.

MC: Because I heard in secret... After, I heard... This is  
after. But that time, I don't know anything. Even my  
husband, they took him, I don't know what happened. So the  
guys, talk my husband, they're talking to me. "You know  
what happened, they take me to the boat and throw me in the  
ocean and this and this and this. But don't tell anybody."  
(inaudible). So we just... Really taking care and really  
honestly... Because when you...

BP: When you what?

MC: When you're alone in your bed, you will not be attack you.

BP: The Japanese?

MC: Yeah.

BP: OK. Did you know Henry Pangolin before he went to war?

MC: Oh, yes. With us grow up in Garapan. And he's a nice  
family because his father too is some kind of district

commissioner. And after that... [Bishop?]. his grandfather is bishop first. And I think Mariano is second.

BP: Mariano was his father?

MC: Father. And after World War II, Blanco runs for mayor. Then second for, I think... [Adan?]. Then after Adan I think it was George... Benevente. After Benevente it's a Blanco.

BP: So what do you remember most about Henry? Was he a good friend of yours?

MC: Oh, I remember him but it's kind of... My house is here and the house is in Garapan. And it's always when I have a (inaudible) for dead people, I see him always... He's a nice guy. It's a nice family and his father before him is a... district --

BP: Now did your husband and Henry know each other in Guam?

MC: Oh yes.

BP: OK.

MC: Maybe when you ask him, maybe he can tell you a little story from my husband.

BP: Because I interviewed Henry, he didn't mention your husband. I can go over and ask him.

MC: Yeah because he was... I don't know, Henry, what department. He was lucky.

BP: He was in the civil jail.

MC: See, but my husband, he was with the Chief of Police. So always the people come to him and the Chief says, "Beat them ten times," they have to beat them ten times. But Henry, after they put in jail they are finished. Just for secure.

BP: Yeah now... When you went to Guam, that was 1943, I guess? What do you remember about your years in Guam?

MC: Oh, I stay... The Japanese give my husband one house for employees, so we stayed there, and my husband got an eighty yen salary a month so we could buy food and everything to survive.

BP: Did you work there?

MC: No no no. The one time teachers asked me to teach the simple one grade to the school. But I cannot already, I vomit every day because I'm pregnant. So I want to help that teacher because one of the teacher I know from Saipan because she was my teacher for the Girl Scouts.

BP: Oh, she was a Japanese?

MC: Before the war, she's my teacher for the Girl Scouts. They say that... José (inaudible), she's my teacher. But I cannot. Maybe I can make more money, but ah. But really that time, that time, I am pregnant and in the morning I can barely moving.

BP: Now when your husband came back to Saipan to marry you, you were really surprised? Did you know then that he was in Guam, or...?

MC: I know, because the U.S. sent us, all the ladies, so...

BP: No, no, during the Japanese times.

MC: Oh, during the Japanese times.

BP: You say your husband went to Guam, and you say you didn't even know where he was, right?

MC: No, but after that I know because they come often.

BP: Oh, so he would come back to Saipan often.

MC: Some, before married, two times. The third time they married me.

BP: OK. So what did your husband tell you when he was sent to Guam the first time, and then he came back to Saipan to see you, what did he tell you about that?

MC: No, they are secret agents. Just after that, it's a little bit open. But first war, don't say anything, they're going to be...

BP: So it wasn't even safe for him to talk to you?

MC: After maybe, they go to Guam, and they settle down there. So we talk. They send me a letter.

BP: Who sent you a letter?

MC: My husband.

BP: He sent you a letter here?

MC: Uh-huh. And it say, "Maybe I come back and I marry you, and you prepare and think about it." So I cannot answer. I say no. So they... My cousin Atudela, I told him, I say, "Tell him, after the war, because I have no time to marry." So they came to my... From Guam. They talk to me, and to my father and mother and say they want to marry me. So my father say, "OK, you think about it, because this is a war. I cannot say yes. Maybe wait for next year." And my husband said "OK. We wait for the decision." And I said "Yeah, you better wait, because on my mother side and on my father side I cannot make a decision to say 'yes I'm going to marry you' right away." So that time was so difficulty for... You know.

BP: Because of the war?

MC: No no no, because of my custom. If you lady, you cannot say to your boyfriend, "I made a decision and it is no." You have to...

BP: Parents' permission.

MC: Parents' permission. So my father said, "Next year, when she come next year." And my father mad and he say, "It's January and you come so early, you ready to take..." You know at that time the parents are very strict. And that is very good. And my husband said, "What about..." And I said "No! My mother decide and my father decide so I will

follow that direction. I cannot follow your direction until after marriage." And so they talked to my father and he said, "Can you tell me the truth? What day and what month so I come back and I marry your daughter." So my husband say, "OK, you go, and maybe you come back after." So in May, come back and marry me.

BP: In May you said?

MC: May. Second. First time they came asked my father. And my father said "Next year." And the next year he come and asked my father. And my father said, "It's January, he moves so fast" (laughter).

BP: So you got married in May?

MC: I married in May.

BP: Were you ready to get married then?

MC: Oh yes, because my mother talking to me, she said, "What do you think?" I said, "I don't know Mom, I'm not planning to marry. I like to go back to school after war because I grow in the mission school. I don't know anything but go to school every day." So my mother said to me, "See, a soldier came here at three o'clock, take you tomorrow afternoon three o'clock." Many soldier take the ladies for soldier ladies. They practice you how to kill a fire, how to carry the ladder, and we do the pants and hats and like a soldier --

BP: So they actually took Chamorro women and trained them to be soldiers?

MC: Trained to how, when the war is burning the house or is burning --

BP: Oh, to be a fireman.

MC: The fireman. So my mother so worried because I have to go in the post in three o'clock. So when the soldier group or leader group came, for that time one, two, three, four... Fourth street. Our fourth street last in the line. So the group went for four streets and came and they told me to sometimes to (inaudible), sometimes to... So my mother said, "I don't know, you just think about it."

BP: So when they took you to (inaudible) on Market Point, they were training you to be a fire...?

MC: Yeah, how to carry ladder. How to carry tanga. You know, when the people say...

BP: Oh, on a stretcher.

MC: Yeah, that's kind of practice for war, but they don't make it. Oh my god, who's going to take a bucket of water when they already burn that place. This is a story, but it cannot make it the practice for war.

BP: Yeah. So you got married in May, and when did you move to Guam?

MC: That week, I think last May. Because my husband came the first or second or third in May, so I married the twelve in May... So after that maybe, I think the twenty or twenty-something, I go back to Guam. So then we stay for Hagåtña for three months, then move to Agat after that. After that move to Agat and then very bad situation because many case.

BP: Many cases? Of what?

MC: These people, some people hide it... Bullet or pistol. So the Japanese investigated and my husband, he interpreted, so it was very bad time.

BP: So he would come home and tell you? When he came home at night he would tell you about that?

MC: Yeah, because --

BP: What would he say to you, for example?

MC: He only said that, "Oh, these people. These people are makes sense. Because they want people, say these people they have pistol." And they're same Chamorro, and they report that, and when the chief and my husband they go to take him they give him a beating, and...

BP: So in other words, there were some Guamanian Chamorros that would come to the Chief of Police and say that other Guamanian Chamorros had pistols or --

MC: Yeah. And sometimes lie.

BP: They would lie. OK.



MC: Sometimes lying and maybe it's enemy or what they jealous for this and this and this. Many case like that.

BP: Now, did you have a difficult time? Because you were probably living with Guamanian Chamorros, right? In the same area.

MC: No, I didn't go and see any Chamorros. Just I go to my family, because my grandma's sister is in Guam. So always the son or daughter come visit me, and sometimes I go there. Only I go to see my family.

BP: OK, so you're afraid to visit the Guamanians?

MC: No no no no. No, I'm not afraid, but my habit is only close to the family, not to the other people. But someone is coming, friend good, that (inaudible). They're really nice people there. Many friend after that. Maybe after six month, they... Some day they say that I and my husband are this and this and this and this. But really nice. But I am happy, because --

BP: Were they nervous about knowing your husband, though? Were they nervous about him?

MC: Who?

BP: The other Chamorros, were they nervous about your husband?

MC: Yeah. Because all afraid for my husband some time because they know the Japanese street. And they are with my husband.

BP: But were you ever threatened, did you ever feel threatened when you were in Guam?

MC: I cannot understand.

BP: Threatened. Were you ever afraid when you were in Guam?

MC: I don't think so, not afraid. Just... Just some time, I'm so sorry for them, because the police is here, and my house is here. Some time I heard the beating, and the...

BP: So you could hear them?

MC: Sometime.

BP: OK. What do you know about George Tweed?

MC: George Tweed? The surviving one? I don't know him. I never know him. But after World War II, when my husband is in jail... And my husband's father is a Guamanian. He come to Saipan and marry to my mother-in-law. So my husband has family a lot in Guam. So when I go to Guam to be seen my husband, because he was POW, in jail, every New Year or every Christmas, before Christmas, I go to visit him and afternoon I come back to Saipan. So when I visit him, my grandmother's sister takes care of me. But those of the family of my husband they come. And she say, Don't worry, Mrs. Roberto, I [Mariquita Coco?], don't worry. So my husband family came and took me to see N Hagåtña, because my auntie is in the PT.

BP: PT Guam.

MC: The PT Village. Close to the Navy... Down the point there. So my husband cousin came, and took me to see Hagåtña, because very close the POWs in (inaudible), because at that time POW is on Agana Heights. So we go often to... Every Sunday, I see my husband.

BP: How about when the Americans started bombing Guam? Before the invasion they started bombing?

MC: I was in Agat at that time. So my husband and the Japanese take me to [Finna?]. So daytime we hid in the cave, because the plane bomb. So in the (inaudible) is not so bomb, but you know the place is... and the Japanese stay in the quarters. They bomb, bomb, bomb. They put down bomb and they destroy. So after that, we move to Talofoyo. When we move to Talofoyo, some lady Japanese assistant with the husband and assistant with the military to take care of the cow and animal. So they move too. Together. So they saw my baby already.

BP: Oh, you had a baby back then?

MC: Yeah, a baby already. Four month that time. So I carry the baby and I carry the little bit clothing and they help me, that lady help me. They saw... The lady told the Japanese police, she say, "Camp this lady with the children and the Chamorro, this baby is sick already." Because when I go to Mangilao, they already camp Chamorro there. So the

Japanese soldier pass, but the Japanese camp the Chamorro there. So the Japanese say OK, so my husband and the Japanese police and some soldier walk together back to Talofofu, and I stay in Mangilao. So when I stay in Mangilao, I saw my auntie there. From PT. Not PT that one... [Up lat?]. Saw my grand-sister there, they come to me and say... No, because the group of Saipan people over there, and they already said "This is your camp." So I stayed together with them... (interruption)

BP: OK, so you were saying about the Saipan people?

MC: Yeah, so when I go to Mangilao, I go there with the Saipan group. Because already some Saipan were there. So... When Americans surrender the island, they took all the Chamorro down to the inlet, down close to inlet, close to the cemetery. We stayed there. So after that we move to Agana Heights, so my husband and I can move in. September to December. Six month I don't know. Every say they come to the Saipan people taking the... man.

BP: The interpreters.

MC: Interpreters. So they take all these people. So every day when the truck come they pull down the people, there's no men there want to go. So honestly I'm so sorry and... They cry from the bottom of my heart, and I don't know what's wrong with my family in Saipan, and this and this and this.

So later on the MP came and said Saipan is OK. Tenyan is OK. Later on in Agana Heights. Maybe before the general area down there, maybe in December or November. They settle down in Saipan. So my baby is in the sickness, is always fever down, fever up. You know, she's catching pneumonia from the carrying around camp. So after that...

BP: Your baby survived?

MC: That time my baby... My husband came back on New Year.

BP: They captured him, or what?

MC: They surrendered him.

BP: He surrendered.

MC: With Mr. Camacho. Because they were together in that.

BP: Antonio Camacho?

MC: Mm-hmm. They were together. Because, too, Antonio Comacho is one, but this other one is Roberto Comacho. And they work together to hide, to find food, hide from American soldiers, hide from American Japanese, hide from Japanese soldiers.

BP: He was hiding from the Japanese soldiers?

MC: Yeah, because they taking care of yourself after the... Already the Americans came, so the Japanese they didn't know, so they were hiding inside the cave, outside the... Go find the... I don't know, but he's not so hungry, because that time is plenty food. They find the Japanese

supplies hiding underground. He find the many canned goods, canned beef, salmon, and so he take them and go carry them and hide them again.

BP: So he spent six months hiding in the jungle? Did he get in any fights with Americans or Japanese?

MC: They are not months because they already surrendered, you know to the Americans, so it's not so much, only they to the (inaudible) and find the Japanese soldier killed. My husband had to be very carefully for that.

BP: He killed Japanese soldiers, your husband?

MC: No no no.

BP: He had to be careful because the Japanese soldiers might kill him. Oh, I see.

MC: And Americans.

BP: And American soldiers as well, also. OK.

MC: He was at that time, when we stationed in the (inaudible) camp. Because the first bomb, of nineteen, in February...

BP: '44.

MC: '44. First time bomb in Guam. That time we hiding in the boonies. And there are some Chamorro come up from the hiding because he was trying to take him to jail because he was hiding Mr. and they were looking for the Japanese looking for him. But he was hiding in the jungle.

BP: What was his name? Do you know his name?

MC: I don't know but they say... Oh my goodness. So the people of the municipal report him. They're hiding in the jungle. So the Chief say "You better look in and find out." My husband goes and the Japanese police looking at him. Before the war. That's right. Before the war, in that first bomb in February 1944.

BP: '44, yeah.

MC: '44. So my husband and is looking around. So... Domina. The last name is Domina. I forgot... I forgot the...

BP: I have his name here.

MC: Oh.

BP: I did some research.

MC: Oh, so you take already my husband.

BP: I found copies of the trial, and it mentions the name of the man that was hiding in the jungle.

MC: And my husband. Then people come and report to the police. Because the American bombs come down and they think the Americans come in the jungle. And they took the brother-in-law and said, "Let's go kill the Japanese." And the brother-in-law, they don't want to, so they beat him, and -

BP: Whose brother-in-law?

MC: Domina. Domina. I don't know who--

BP: Oh, so the Japanese wanted to take his brother-in-law to find him? Is that what you're--

MC: No. When the Domina is hiding in the jungle and the American bomb Pearl Harbor in Guam, this come out and call his brother-in-law to go find the Japanese and kill them. And the brother-in-law they beat him beat him, so the people report to the headquarters. So the chief told my husband, "Go there." And they call in the telephone that one battalions of military from Pearl Harbor. Sumai. I think that's Pearl Harbor, or...

BP: Pearl Harbor is in Hawai'i.

MC: Oh no no, not Pearl Harbor. That's military base in Guam. I meant in Guam. So... They report the people on Upla, that a man has come out and they beat beat beat his brother-in-law for trying to kill the Japanese. And the Chief said, "You go up there and you show..."

BP: OK now, let's stop -- (interruption)

MC: So they beat, beat the brother-in-law most to death.

BP: Oh, Domina did. Beat his own brother-in-law. OK.

MC: So the people show them. The neighbors, they hide it and report to the headquarters in Hagåtña. So the chief of police in Hagåtña say, "You go up to Hagåtña, because I... I just go Sumai Navy Station to bring one battaliion to find out him." So when my husband in go down to the



highway, he has a think about it and he says "No, I'm not going in the shortcut place, because if the man see me maybe he's going to kill me." So they go in the boonies on Up Lat road to go down to the highway, because the highway here to Hagåtña is up right... So, he have a bad time, because some, like a high mountain, a little bit can go this way and there. Domina is come this way. And they brought two boys.

BP: Domina had two young boys with him.

MC: Because they forced them. They said, "If you don't want to come, I'm going to kill those people." So my husband is... When they see my husband they say, "You Japanese?" And my husband say "No." And they say, "You interpreter?" My husband didn't answer. So they know he is an interpreter and they want to kill him. My husband is full training the Japanese judo and all that, because he was trained in Guam. Always trained. So when they take out that pistol from his... My husband jump. When he jump and they have the pistol, that guys almost kill my husband then. So my husband put the feet to go down. And that guy go down and that guy so heavy and big, they took a little knife, or like almost a big knife, and they... So they --

BP: Your husband stabbed him?

MC: Yeah, so that guy cannot move. The car is coming close to the highway. And my husband run, and they find him, so the military take the gun and shoot the guy.

BP: They shoot him.

MC: Yeah, my husband, maybe when they take him to the hospital he survives. But the Japanese... But always after the war they say it was him who killed him, it was him who killed him. So put him in life in prison.

BP: Did you go to the trial?

MC: I cannot go because I am in Saipan. The trial, you cannot go there because it is a sad situation and nobody... I don't know who is the lawyer but I think they are the public defender or something that they give him, but he cannot defend. So he is in life in prison. So after eight years, seven years, the United Nations came to Saipan. And they said what plan, and what do you want, and one lady cry. And they say, "My son is in jail."

BP: What was the name of the woman?

MC: That's the Scholastica mother!

BP: That was Scholastica's mother?

MC: Because her brother too with my husband --

BP: José?

MC: No, Manuel.

BP: Manuel, OK.

MC: So they cry and they say, "My son is put up in jail in Guam. And he was not, for me, it's not his fault, because the Japanese forced him to take the job." And the United Nations say, "Wait a minute, I'm going to find out. And I cannot say, tomorrow I find tomorrow, but I will find out." So after that, six month, they send all the Manuel, Joao, Luis, Juan, Antonio, five people.

BP: Sent them home?

MC: Sent them home.

BP: Do you remember the name of the person from the United Nations? No, OK. Did you ever know [Agita?] Johnson while you were here?

MC: Agita Johnson is American lady.

BP: No, she was Chamorro, married to an America.

MC: I think I know her, Agita Johnson. I saw her in the store, talking to... Only I talking to Remedios. I don't know that name. She was kind of... A little bit my husband family. Not so close. But it's family. And the husband he said... Joanna. She was a big friend of his in Guam. (inaudible). Agita Johnson... I saw of her but...

BP: You need to speak a little louder, here. What did your husband tell you about his seven years in prison? When he came home. What did he tell you? Was he mistreated?

MC: He tell me they discriminated the Guam people, because they take him to all the dam, all the dam, all the house to house. And all the people say, "You monkey, you monkey now. You were all Chamorro before now you are monkey."

BP: When he was a prisoner they took him to people's homes, you say? Why?

MC: No, you know they give work?

BP: Oh, to work.

MC: To work in house to house. I don't know maybe in Sinajana or Agana. Some place.

BP: Was he ever mistreated by American guards? Did he say anything about being mistreated?

MC: No, the MP is really taking care really nicely. Some people say come, I kill you now. And they would say get out of here. Get out of here. They would come to make the Saipan people do some stupid or some bad work, but the MP were taking care. They cannot go in that gate. And they cannot... They call the (inaudible).

BP: Did he tell you anything else about those years in years?

MC: He was a lot in the sun, because they worked hard. Eight years. The Japanese... No news, no nothing. They didn't say anything for the people for eight years. So my daughter said, "Mommy, you can find a lawyer and report this and this and this and this." And I said... "Well, I

just... Eight years sad, I wait for my husband." And when he come back, we grow six children. And he is really nice person in the end...

BP: But you said you had a baby before.

MC: Our first baby, after that, he was dying already, but we loved him because already we in the camp.

BP: So you were in the camp?

MC: The baby die in the hospital. In Hagåtña.

BP: In an American hospital? Did the doctor say what the problem was?

MC: Yes, she said pneumonia. I just... MP told us... No, the Japanese priest over there, so the Japanese report to my camp in Agana Height, so send my husband with me to bring the baby. So the MP went with my husband to bring the baby. And I go to Pigo Cemetery, already ready to... They have cemeteries men to dig the place.

BP: The hole.

MC: So we put the baby down and we buried them and...

BP: So your husband was there with you that day. OK. Very difficult...

MC: Yeah, because someone die in the (inaudible), someone of my cousin baby, I think the baby four month or three month. He died in the (inaudible) So they put him down and run

away because the war is... You know. But I appreciate  
(inaudible).

BP: You appreciate what?

MC: I appreciate the come to the (inaudible). They come to the  
camp, then I take to the hospital, I take to the cemetery  
and bury.

BP: So the baby died in the camp?

MC: No no, in the hospital.

BP: Did very many people die in the camps after the war? A lot  
of people died. From what, disease?

MC: My camp? No no no. Only my baby that's--

BP: Now, during the bombing of Guam, when the American planes  
were bombing, did you see any American planes shot down?

MC: No.

BP: You didn't see any planes.

MC: Because when the plane is going whirr, you have to hiding.

BP: Did you hear about any planes shot down?

MC: Yeah, but I cannot say anything because I cannot see  
anything.

BP: Did your husband say anything about what happened to the  
pilots?

MC: Whose pilot?

BP: The pilots from the American planes. Did your husband know  
anything about what happened to the pilots?

MC: My husband, too, they're hiding in the cave. When you hear the plane whirr, they are hiding and you cannot see anything.

BP: Now what year did you return to Saipan? Nineteen...

MC: 1945. January. Sixteen, I think.

BP: Was your family in Camp Sasuke then?

MC: Chalan Kanoa.

BP: So they'd moved into Chalan Kanoa. In Saipan.

MC: Already in Chalan Kanoa. I stay here with my Mom and Dad in Chalan and my new... Carmen. Two sister and one brother.

BP: Were your parents really surprised to see you alive, or were you surprised to see them --

MC: No, because they report already before we come. I think... August, or September, October, they send me a list to Saipan. I know everything, alive only, somebody said your baby brother to die, and my mom already know I'm OK in Guam.

BP: So when you got to Chalan Kanoa, then, they told you what happened to them during the war?

MC: Who?

BP: Your family.

MC: Yeah.

BP: Do you remember what they told you?

MC: They told me that they stay in here. So my father drying many rice and one trunk. And my mother prepare one trunk and one cone.

BP: Trunk. One trunk?

MC: So... Like, that's a wooden trunk. The Japanese not come before for the wooden trunk.

BP: What trunk? Barrel, or trunk?

MC: That's wood.

BP: A wood barrel, or was it like a box?

MC: Like a trunk. I think it used to be used that for cement. Then we wash clean and dry and they use for dry food for...

BP: So then, that's when they went from here to Dandan?

MC: Huh?

BP: This is... I want to know what happened to them, though, when... When the Americans started bombing Saipan, before the invasion, how soon before that did they all go to Dandan? Didn't you say your mother and father went to Dandan?

MC: To Dandan. But after the Americans come, they take him to Sasuke in the camp. No more Dan Dan. After that, Dandan is military, of galley.

BP: Was there a lot of fighting around Dandan, where they were hiding?



MC: Yeah, the Japanese and American... Not much, I don't know, my mother said when she left Dandan she didn't see any American die or Japanese die. Because I think in the ocean many people die and back in the side of...

BP: OK. So what was your life like in those first few months when you came back to Saipan? Were they difficult, did you have enough to eat, did you start working...?

MC: No, difficulty to work because I tell you that Mrs. Regis come to me and she said, Malachita, you come to me and you start the English nighttime. And maybe daytime you can go to school and I show you the lesson plan for small grades and this like that. And I say, Mrs. Regis, I don't like teach children. That's not my habit. I like to go out and work to find out to speak English.

BP: OK. Let's see, where...

MC: So after that, just... My husband came from Guam and that time I'm working in the NTTU shop, because no more Navy housing, so I am working for the NTTU shop there, so when my husband came I just go to Mr. Tudella, I think she was sergeant of... Security guard in NTT here. So I say, "Can you hire my husband for security guard?" And he say, "Sure, because we need security guard. And I'm going to find out." So he took him for security guard, first time.

BP: What was his name again?

MC: Who?

BP: The person who hired your husband.

MC: No no. The person who hired my husband is NTTU. But one man, Francisco Tudella, he was, I guess, sergeant at that time, in the...

BP: In the police?

MC: Security guard. So my husband go there, and my husband is... I think, after two years, they give him a...

BP: Advancement?

MC: Yeah. Maybe in two months he's already sergeant.

BP: All right. So he was, like, a security guard most of his life here?

MC: Yeah, so my husband had one group for the unit, for the checks. So he got happy to find him a job. So after that, I was pregnant, I had a baby, I cannot go to work so I stay home, and I cry to myself how to survive because my husband only forty dollars a month, at that time, I think. So I only try to survive, and I try to sew wedding dress... When I walk in in the TTU, I see one Chinese beauty shop there and I say, teach me how to perm.

BP: TTU is Trust Territory...

MC: TTU is... Trust Territory... Kind of secret agent. They train the Chinese ship.

BP: Oh, they train the Chinese ship, that was the naval training unit.

MC: NTU. But is it NTTU?

BP: No, it was Naval Training Unit, I think they call it. It was a CIA...

MC: NTU. Naval Training --

BP: Unit.

MC: -- Unit. No, it was NTTU.

BP: Oh. Naval Technical Training Unit. Naval Technical Training Unit. That was a pseudonym for the...

MC: So the... My husband, taking the Chinese, driving...

BP: From Cagman to Martin?

MC: No, the (inaudible).

BP: (inaudible)

MC: Is (inaudible).

BP: Yeah, but they used to land, there was an air strip at Cagman. And the Chinese would land at Cagman.

MC: Maybe. But I don't know anything about it because my husband was working in the secret... NTTU was like a secret agent. So after that I just stay home and I dry my face to find the money. And after that I just make a very good money for wedding dress and permanent and haircut, and after that I learn the haircut --

BP: Did you learn that from Esco?

MC: No.

BP: Because Esco had a beauty parlor.

MC: Yeah, Esco too. But I don't know who's teaching Esco. But me in NTTU place, they have the shampoo and American employee and officer all that.

BP: That was up on Capitol Hill? NTTU? That was on Capitol Hill?

MC: No no no, that was here. On Lower Base.

BP: Lower Base, OK.

MC: And NTTU employees there, and commandings Mr. Patricks. I don't know the name, but he was commanding there.

BP: Patrick Something?

MC: Nuh-uh. I forgot at the last minute because the lady, the wife, worked with me in the tele shop here. So the tele shop here, the beauty shop here. Always there. I tell the wife, "I say, I'll ask the Mrs. Patrick, I'll ask the Chinese how to. So maybe I can come and..." And then Chinese so nice, they give me a book with instruction on how to haircut and it's very easy for me. So I just open my business for... After I stop NTTU, I open my business, a haircut and beauty shop. So...

BP: Where was that located?

MC: In Chalan Kanoa. Then my cousin, Dr. Palacios, told me you better stop your business. Because my baby have a

(inaudible) hair. My baby, when I feed them... You know I give some people haircut, and I feed the baby and they have the hair. And they say there's something maybe with the hair --

BP: Oh, allergic to the hair.

MC: So my cousin said, you better stop that, it's not good for your children's health. So I stop that and I went into sewing wedding dress. So there's very good money and really my husband help me with cooking and cleaning and sometimes I pay that two dollars a day for washing my clothes and ironing the clothes. And clean the house. But the cooking, the food me and my husband, no one cooked for us.

BP: You worked together, huh?

MC: So we survived for... Hard life.

BP: I hear many stories like this, you know. I hear many stories. Better times now, huh?

MC: I don't think so. Because you put life for... My children all grown, but I'm worried for this and worried for this.

BP: You're worried about what? Drugs, alcohol? Crime? Yeah. Why? Oh -- (interruption)

Go ahead.

MC: The Japanese here before, it's... They bring a lot of industry. And the Japanese in Japan very rich from this

island. There's sugar, I don't know how many times a day, is sent to Japan, and I don't what they do in Micronesia or what. Because the Japanese business is very tough.

BP: Successful.

MC: Successful. The Japanese have here a factory for carton, for cushion, for futon. They have factory here, they grow good cotton here, and they have factory here for their rice, and they have factory here for alcohol, and a factory here for coffee. Factory here for tapioca. Many more. Maybe I don't know, but I know they have money, and their business are successful from Saipan. Even the ocean, even the land. That's why we so sad on this island. This island is a gift God give us. We so rich from the land, we so rich from the ocean. But now we gonna be so sorry because the land is sad. Not enough for our population. And the sea is damaged from this and this and this and that.

BP: The land has been damaged? You said? Is that what you're saying?

MC: The ocean. This place, my place... Every year, fish and shrimp come. But when they build this chic hotel and this blooming hotel and this one, there I don't know. The fish don't come.

BP: Fish? So in other words, before these hotels you could go fishing right here? And now the fish are gone. Are gone. No more. So you think it's what, pollution from the hotels? Or what? You don't know.

MC: I cannot say anything. Pollution from the hotels, or you know the people swim and put the suntan and... That's no good. And some time, I saw that more fish here die.

BP: After they built the hotel?

MC: And really this channel come, the first fish in this channel come, then go all over to Garapan, to Chalan Kanoa, to (inaudible). But this is the channel the fish come.

BP: They come through this channel here? And now you can't fish anymore.

MC: So sad. We fishing but just a few. The fishing we call [eea?], [ee?], and tabakito. The fishing come, we find [manoja?]. But just a few. We cannot find the fish in here.

BP: You cannot find them.

MC: Not much like before. You put the net, throw net, and you have a hundred and hundred pound from the fish. Not this time. We so sad.

BP: How long ago you could do that? Ten years ago, five years ago?

MC: Ten years ago we catch the good fishing for the eea, ee,  
[septum?], and even manoja.

BP: That's the name of the fish. OK. But then they built the  
hotel, right after the hotels, you couldn't catch fish  
anymore? (interruption)

Did you know a Catholic priest, he was Japanese, his name  
was Komatsu?

MC: [Simosan?] Komatsu. Japanese priest.

BP: Was he here or in Guam?

MC: Here. But after World War II, he move.

BP: Back to Japan?

MC: Guam.

BP: So he stayed in Guam?

MC: In World War II? He's in Guam.

BP: OK, but did you know him here on Saipan at all? What do  
you remember about him?

MC: Oh, he was often come to mission school and he teach us  
Japanese (inaudible) language. Because Japanese is a very  
a difficult language because the language is too skill.  
For the kids, for the youngest. For the... Young age and  
old age are different. So he's the one who teach us for  
uni in Japanese.



BP: So he took you to the mission school and taught Japanese classes. What else do you remember? Would you say he was he a very good priest?

MC: He was a very good priest, and he just teach us to pray for Japanese. But not much. But I remember this... I think some... Not long, so this is before the war... I don't remember, he was back and forth Japan-Saipan, you know. But he was the first Japanese priest in Saipan, I heard.

BP: What year did he come here?

MC: Year? I think that's 1935, or nineteen thirty...

BP: But during the war he went to Guam, you said?

MC: I don't know about that one. Only I know when I had a baby in the hospital, he came, in Guam, in World War II. So nobody... I didn't heard from anybody he was moving where. But when my baby patient in the hospital, that's in 1955 --

BP: '45.

MC: '45, that time. After we come back from jungle and baby have pneumonia. So they take to the hospital and then I go with the baby. So after that they came, and I'm so happy because he's my priest in Saipan and he was teaching us at mission school for learning unit in Japanese. So they promised me to pray for my baby and... When my baby die, he just help me before we go to cemetery and they pray for...

BP: OK. You said under the Japanese, there was one salary for the Japanese and then there was a lower salary for the Chamorro.

MC: Oh yes. The Japanese high salary. The Chamorro is... Nuh-uh.

BP: Wasn't that also true under the American administration during the Trust Territory days?

MC: No no no. The Japanese was mandatory in Saipan before the war. That time before the war, the Chamorro salary, the Japanese business or... Or even the Japanese government, the people who work for them, it was a low salary.

BP: Because Chai Lan and other people told me that in the Trust Territory days and during the Naval administration, that there were two different salary scales.

MC: Oh, that.

BP: One was if you were an American, you made this much, if you were a Chamorro-Carolinian you got... Even if you did the same work. Because even, Chai-Lang said, you might be an administrator if you were a Chamorro, and your secretary might make more than you. Is that true?

MC: What Chai Lan said, repeat that.

BP: She said that during the Trust Territory days, and even during the Naval administration days, the Chamorro were

paid less than Americans. So what's the difference between them, sounds like they did the same thing?

MC: No but the... For me, when the Americans came, and they taking care of us. That's very different than the Japanese time. Because the Japanese time... This is maybe from the World War II, they have no concern for you. They take your house, and they abuse you, because they take your house, you go find some house and this Chamorro before, it's very un... Unfortunate. If you have a farm, you have to build the house in the farm. And everybody in Garapan City, but everybody have house there. But when you have farm, you have to build another house in the farm. So when you build another house in the farm, that's made of wooden.

BP: Wood.

MC: Garapan City, before, I think seventy-five percent is concrete house.

BP: Seventy-five percent, huh. Were there Chamorros or Carolinians that didn't have farms to go to?

MC: Yes, the same, they went to the farm too.

BP: No, but what if they didn't have a farm to go to? Did everybody --

MC: Ah, no no no, I don't think so. I don't think so. I think everybody have a farm. In case maybe one or two, they don't have a farm because someone come from...

BP: Another island?

MC: A northern island, or Guam, or Rota. Just a few. But they survive from the family.

BP: How about Koreans, though? The Koreans that were in Garapan, they had to leave too?

MC: The Koreans, no. Just a few. Even maybe... Fifty Koreans in Saipan. It's a few. I don't know anything about the Koreans and Japanese and Okinawa. After the war. Because those people, the house is... Many Japanese, raze Chamorro house, and many Okinawa, raze Chamorro house. They are... Kohatsu Company, sugar company, they build the housing for staff. So I don't know anything about after World War II for those Japanese, Okinawa, or Koreans.

BP: Now Francisco Tudella, you said he was a police chief, or security chief, or what was his title?

MC: No, he was... I forgot how to say that. You know. He was an inspecting all the things to go to Japan.

BP: He was a customs inspector?

MC: Yeah.

BP: Oh, a customs inspector, OK. So he worked for the Navy department, then?

MC: No, the Japanese government.

BP: No, but after the war.

MC: After the war, is the Navy department, I think.

BP: Yeah but what was his title then after the war, during the naval administration? Because you said you asked him if he could find a job for your husband.

MC: Oh, oh. He was the foreman.

BP: 1953 we're talking.

MC: He worked for NTTU Security member. So when my husband come from Guam, I asked him to... But when TTU moved to some place, Frank is the American administrator, hire him for inspection for... How to say that in English...

BP: Customs inspection?

MC: Customs inspection.

BP: You said Frank?

MC: Francisco.

BP: So in 1953, then, the NTTU was down at Lower Base, and then later they moved to Capitol Hill.

MC: NTTU? I don't know after them move. I don't know anything.

BP: So you didn't have anything to do with them after they moved.

MC: No, because when my husband they leave from that job, after, later on, the NTTU moved someplace but I don't know anything...

BP: Yeah, they were at Lower Base, then later on in the '50s, '54, '55, they moved up to Capitol Hill. That's where they

moved. OK. So I was talking to Henry Pangolin about this Domina fellow. Now according to Henry, Domina, the Japanese wanted him because he either beat up or he killed his brother-in-law? They had a fight over a sweet potato patch? Did you know...

MC: I don't know anything about that. That's a secret.

BP: OK, but he said Domina was a criminal. The reason the Japanese wanted him was because he had committed some violent act against his brother-in-law.

MC: That Domina is my husband attack. Oh, oh. I think somebody is... This is true. I don't know anything about it. But when my husband in Hagåtña Police Station, the Domina is already in the jungle, because he was... The Japanese police were looking for him because he was some kind of problem. Then after that, the first February bomb Sumai in... What's that?

BP: February of 1944.

MC: Maybe, Japanese Navy, before... Maybe, the Japanese base, after they come. So they come back for the jungle. So the Japanese... When they come back from the jungle, he calls his brother-in-law to help him to find the Japanese. To kill soldier. And the brother he don't want to be with them and he beat him to death.

BP: He was killed?

MC: Almost, almost. Because they mad and they, and the people fall in road and the old lady say come and stay with us. When Domina go they find two youngsters and they say "If you don't come with me, I'm going to shoot you," because she's holding a pistol. So those two youngsters go with them. So after that, some (inaudible) native, they go back in that corner and straight to Agan. And report him. And they come out and say this and this and this.

BP: So he was actually reported to the Japanese police by other Guamanians? Is that what you're saying? Now, of the women in Saipan who had husbands in prison, did any of them get divorced or was that impossible in those days?

MC: I can't understand what you say.

BP: There were women from Saipan whose husbands were in prison in Guam. Like your husband was in prison. There were other women in Saipan who had husbands in prison. Did they leave their husbands after that and find other men? Or--?

MC: Nobody. Nobody.

BP: They all waited for them to come home.

MC: Because at least three of us, Mrs. Villagomez and Mrs. Cabreira and me, (inaudible) not married. (inaudible) not married. So me and Mrs. Villagomez the last. Mr. Cabreira five years back home with the wife. So only I and Miss

Villagomez and I (inaudible) Villagomez survive to wait for eight years. Oh my goodness.

BP: Did you know the name? Never heard the name.

MC: My husband they are secret agent, even to the family or wife.

BP: You never talked about that. How did you hear about Domina? Was that after?

MC: Domina is... Domina is... The police. Because the people see him when the Japanese come and shoot them.

BP: How about some of these other names, if they mean anything.

Francisco Aguigui? No. Joaquim Marsinas? Jose Guzman?

Ignacio Regis? Antonio Regis? Juan Bogota? Catalina

Cruz? Laura Cruz? Roman Cruz? None of those sound

familiar. OK. That's about all the questions I have.

Since we last talked, did you remember anything that would be important? Don't remember much else? No. OK. Well I think -- (interruption)

After you got married your husband and you went on a boat

to Guam, right? You moved to Guam. OK. And when you

arrived, did anybody meet you at the dock? Was somebody

there to meet you when you arrived?

MC: The staff of Japanese...

BP: Chief of police?

MC: Yeah, and...



BP: They were there to meet you? For what reason, why did they want to meet you at the dock?

MC: Oh, to bring me to the quarters.

BP: So they were just being helpful.

MC: Because my husband is working as an interpreter in the police section.

END OF AUDIO FILE