

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Sherman Kealoha Maka

Sherman Kealoha Maka is a kupa of Hā'ena, Halele'a, Kaua'i. He was born in 1961, and raised in Hā'ena with his family where they fished and farmed for a living. He is a descendant of the famous Maka Trio, which fostered his love of Hawaiian music and hula. Sherman attended Lahainaluna for the last two years of his high school career, where he participated in the Hawaiiana club there, along with various jobs and responsibilities. He recalls fondly of his kumu at Lahainaluna that taught him invaluable lessons in and outside of the classroom; in the field, and in the Hawaiiana club and Boarder's chorus. Sherman attributes his experiences at Lahainaluna to his life's path and career choices, and an experience that brought him closer to his own hometown of Hā'ena.



Sherman Maka in Hanalei on February 29, 2024.

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Sherman Kealoha Maka (SM)

February 29, 2024

Hanalei, Hawai'i

BY: Wailana Medeiros (WM) and Micah Mizukami (MM)

WM: Okay. This is a Lahainaluna Boarders interview. We are in Hanalei, Kaua'i. The time is 1:13 p.m. My name is Wailana Medeiros. And with Micah Mizukami. And we're interviewing Sherman Maka. Okay. Aloha, Uncle. Thank you.

SM: You're welcome. Thank you.

WM: Thank you for sitting down and talking to us. So the first question I'm going to ask you is if you could state your full legal name.

SM: Sherman Kealoha Maka.

WM: Kealoha I love that. And then when and where were you born?

WM: I was born at Wilcox Memorial Hospital. February 5th, 1961.

WM: Ho, almost your birthday? Happy early birthday.

SM: Pau.

WM: Oh, pau your birthday. Sorry. Oh, we almost March! (Laughs) Happy birthday!

(Laughter)

SM: Thank you.

WM: Oh, okay. And then who are your parents?

SM: My parents is the late Mr. and Mrs. Murphy and Rebecca Maka.

WM: Murphy and Rebecca. And then what? What did your father do? What was his occupation? Where was he from?

SM: He was a rancher.

WM: A rancher.

SM: Yeah. He worked for the Robinson family that own the island of Ni'ihau. He worked for them.

WM: Oh, I see.

SM: Yeah.

WM: Where is his ohana from?

SM: My father's family is all Hā'ena.

WM: Hā'ena. Oh, they're all. . .

SM: My dad was Hā'ena. My mother was Anini and Hanalei.

WM: Anini and Hanalei.

SM: Yeah.

WM: Oh, I see. And what was your, your mother's maiden name?

SM: Ka'aumoana. You know, to going. . .

WM: Ka'au, to go into the water?

SM: To going. Ka'aumoana. To go into the deep.

WM: Wow, that's beautiful.

SM: That was her. So we're, we're water people, yeah, you could say.

WM: Water people. So all of your ohana ties back to this North Shore of Kaua'i?

SM: Correct? Yeah.

WM: Oh, I see. Awesome. And then do you have any siblings? You have siblings?

SM: Yes, I do. I'm the baby of five. Yeah. I have four siblings above me. A sister and three brothers above me.

WM: And what are their names?

SM: My sister Henrietta Bond. Murphy, which is "Bobo." Jacob. And then Keith.

WM: Keith, okay. Cool.

SM: Yeah. And then we had one hanai sister, Jolly Mahuiki.

WM: Oh, cool.

MM: What did your mother do?

SM: My mother was a bus driver.

WM: Oh she was a bus driver.

SM: She started as a bus driver for, the Yadao family in Kilauea. And then another Japanese family took over the bus system in Kilauea, the Yamaguchis. And so she worked for them. First for the Yadao. And then she went to the Yamaguchis. She was a bus driver. And then part-time maid. Yeah.

MM: Did you know your grandparents growing up?

SM: No, I didn't. I did not. Well, I take that back. I got to see my mother's mom. Tutu Kini. Jane. Hawaiian for Jane. I only got to meet her. She was the only grandparent I met. And then there was this other lady that we called grandma. She was actually my dad's aunt. She was actually my grand aunt, but we were taught, you know back then, you call them, they kupuna, so you call them grandma and grandpa for respect. Yeah. But she is actually my grand aunt. And she was actually, she married, she buried my. My grandmother's, my grandmother's brother. This lady. And she was the last descendent. Her name was Rachel Kanailalooleokamehameha. She was the last descendant of Kamehameha. From Kona. They moved her from Kona to Kaua'i because they wanted to kind of get rid of that Kamehameha dynasty. The blood to, you know, they wanted, they wanted, but they couldn't get to her in time. The brought grandma, grandma Rachel, to Kaua'i and she hid in Kalalau Valley for many years. She hid in Kalalau Valley. The place where you went to today. The Napali Coast. All the way in, eleven miles. She hid there.

WM: Wow.

SM: Yeah, but she did very well. She had many children, like thirteen children. And then one had a son had sixteen. The sister--his sister--had fifteen. So, you know, back then, you know, five today, a family of five is a big family. Back then it was a small family. We had only five. We have a small family. But a lot of them, sixteen. I know a family with twenty-two people. Kids, siblings you know. Yeah. So back then the family were really big. We have a small family compared to the rest of my, my cousins in general in the neighborhood.

WM: So all your life you've lived here?

SM: I've lived on Kaua'i.

WM: Besides Lahainaluna?

SM: Lahainaluna was the only time I moved off, away from Kaua'i for my two school years.

WM: What was it like growing up in Hā'ena and north shore Kaua'i?

SM: It was. It was really, for us being Hawaiians raised up in Hā'ena, it was a really beautiful thing because back then was only Hawaiian people. Back then was, you know, the local families that have been there for many years before us, you know, and, Hā'ena was a beautiful place back then where you hardly saw any people. You'd see people pass your house, like Uncle Tommy Hashimoto, Kelii's father in law. He would pass my house. I would hear his truck. I would know that was him passing our house. He'd go work at the Limahuli Gardens, where you guys pass through that, that cold water pond. He'd go down there and he worked down there, and, you know, just. . . . I'm going blank now, I'm sorry. What was the question again, I'm sorry?

WM: What was it like growing up?

SM: Oh. That's right. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Back then, it was everybody in the, on the north shore was taught to live the sustainable way, yeah. Did a lot of hunting off the land. Off the ocean. The ocean was our ice box, you know, for us, it was our ice box, you know, you went down the kahakai for fish whatever you want. Up mauka for pig, goat, whatever. That's, that's how we survived back then. So it was hard living, but, you know, it was really good living, raised up with that sustainable living. Because my father folks, my father said, "You know, when push comes to shove, when we all gone, you guys going survive." If you stick to this way of living. Living the simple, poor life of just living--not so much poor, but living off the land. And that's how it was back then. Everything was there. If you wanted porkchop, my father, "Sure, sure." We had a pig farm, 200 pigs. "Go kill a pig." I said, "I don't wanna kill a pig for one pork chop." "That's right. Cause you gonna cook for the rest of us in the family. You not cooking only for you, boy. You cooking for the rest." You know, that was my dad. You cook for. . . . So with that, chicken went with chicken farm, pig, cattle farm, and everything. Was, was hard living back then. But it was a good experience. It was, I think it was good. If a lot of people had that way of living, I think they'd be able to live better and live simple, yeah. Because today's kids, this generation is all fast food. Everything, all fast food. They don't know what, you know, they no eat the kind of food we had. Of course, there's a lot of times that you didn't want to eat the food back then because, you know, you live, like I said, off the land, you know. Guts, stuff like that, tripe, you, you have to eat em. And my father was like that. If you acted like you were too good for what he put on the table for you, he would shove em down your throat. That was my dad. "Oh, yeah. You going know. Tonight, you not eating. You not starving. You eating, boy, tonight, and you eating that food I put on the table for you." And he make me eat. He made us eat the food. Yeah, real, real strict. But I glad---today, I look back on that, I glad I had that living because he makes you appreciate what you have. And I can still go back to that simple life for living and everything. That's simple life. Just, yeah, yeah, just simple. No need go out eat.

People, they go all fast food, they go out fine dine. Fine dine is at home. You can eat, make that at home. You're own your self.

WM: (Laughs) So where did you go to elementary school?

SM: Hanalei Grammar School. Right down the road.

WM: Right there, Hanalei School.

SM: Yeah, yeah. And if you see, look over here, that's the old Hanalei school building. That's the one that I was at. That was part of the old school until they changed everything down there. But they had to change it with the people moving in, a lot of people coming in, moving to the island, they had to make the school bigger, so they make the Hanalei school bigger. So I went to Hanalei school up to sixth grade.

WM: Sixth grade.

SM: And I went Kapa'a High from seventh, Kapa'a High and Intermediate from seventh through sophomore year. And then I completed my last two years of high school at Lahainaluna.

WM: At Lahainaluna.

SM: Yeah, junior and senior year. So '77 through '79 I was there. My last two years of high school.

WM: What made you want to go to Lahainaluna?

SM: I had family. My older brother above me, a couple cousins above me, and they did well. They weren't, I think they weren't as troubled as I was. I didn't like school, you know, I wasn't into the drug scene. Nothing like that. I just hated school. So my sophomore year at Kapa'a High School, when I left, I left Kapa'a High School my sophomore year, fourth quarter, a failing student at Kapa'a High. I know it's too much information, but I had five F's and one A. And my father said, "Oh, you report card stay decorated with all French flags, yeah, your report card." He told me was French flags. That's what he called F. And French flags would give you two guesses. S. That's, that was my dad, said, "Yeah, yeah, you. You going Lahainaluna." And it's actually, his words was, "You, jackass. You going Lahainaluna." And that's, that's how they talk to you.

WM: Yeah.

SM: Because they mean business. They going tell you straight. Yeah, they mean business. You cannot fool around with those kupunas back then. Your parents, because they draw the line on you. They draw the line.

WM: How did you feel when you found out you were going? Or your dad told you you going Lahainaluna?

SM: You know, all he ask us, as long as we live on this house to reach eighteen, the only thing he ask of us was a graduation diploma. High school. He said, "I don't care you be a drug addict, a drug dealer, a bum. I no care. I want that, I want that diploma." And there was a lesson behind that. Because today you can't get a job with a high school diploma. When I graduated high school, no problem. Plenty jobs. We had plenty jobs back then. They weren't too strict like today. Today's world, they look for your high school diploma too, now. It's really important. I think it's a good lesson for all, you know, that diploma. There's a reason for that diploma. To prep you until you are in your high school days keiki through high school into your adult, help prep you getting in to your adult world, yeah.

WM: Yeah. So, what was it like to leave home for the first time to Lahainaluna?

SM: I wasn't for it.

WM: Yeah.

SM: I cry every night for one month. I call home. I call home and my mother said, "Ah, shut up. You just stay there. Remember, diploma. You follow what, that diploma. You stay there. You not coming home. You staying there." I call every night. Finally after one month, I didn't want to come home after that.

WM: Oh, yeah?

SM: Yeah, I wanted to stay there. I wanted to stay Maui, stay with my friends, because I made a lot of friends up there. So, you know, and I got a part time job done Lahaina Town. I was working in Lahaina Square McDonald's. That's where it was at the time. Yeah, had Lahaina Square McDonald's. So I was working there, so I had money. Cause I, we didn't have money. And I knew my parents didn't have any. And because I was raised with the poor, poor living with not having a lot of money, I was used to it. So I didn't expect it from them. All they could send was 20 bucks a month. That's all they had. And back then that's a lot of money to them. It was nothing to us. But to them that was a lot, you know. But I made do with what they sent me. And even when I got my job, when I got my job, I tell my mom, "You guys don't have to send me money, mom. I'm working. I get money." You know, because I know they had hard time. So I worked in McDonald's and I was first boarder to get a job downtown in Lahaina.

WM: Really?

SM: I was the first boarder.

WM: Wow!

SM: And from there, the rest of the boarders, the boys, came up with the same living I had back then, the simple living. I got them all jobs at Lahaina. So the boarding department was running that McDonald's Lahaina Square for a while there. We had all the boarders on the weekend, Saturday and Sunday work to ten o'clock, curfew eleven. So you work to ten. And then the manager bring us up. Take food. What did he say? "Eh, take food for you guys. Take back to the boarding department."

WM: Win-win.

SM: Oh, they were. Yeah. Win-win for everything. Yeah. They were really good to me. And one of the funniest stories my friend told me, and I totally forgot. I never thought that she'd remember that. She said, "You know, Sherm. You know what I remember?" She was my manager at McDonald's. I said, "Oh, yeah, what you remember?" She said, "I remember you going to Nagasaki Supermarket. Pick up one pound poke ahi. Poke ahi, one pound bag poi, and you ate em one sitting inside the back room at McDonald's." She said, that's, "I'll never forget that. You ate that whole pound poi, and the one pound poke in one sitting in McDonald's." She said, "I'll never forget you because that's what I remember you from. I never seen nobody eat poi like you." She's telling me, yeah.

WM: You know what I heard before, when we'd interview people they would say boarders are always hungry.

SM: Oh, yeah, because you gotta eat the cafeteria food. And then, you know, on Saturdays we get three meals, but Sunday, you only get two meals, so you get brunch at dinner. So we didn't have three meals on Sunday. But from the rest of it, we have three meals. Yeah.

WM: Oh interesting.

SM: Yeah. We had three meals and you know, it was not like mom's cooking you know, but my first year at Lahainaluna, I have to say this because that Thanksgiving spread that they had at Lahainaluna for us, because back then you couldn't--if you were an off-island boarder, you could not go home Thanksgiving and Easter. But you have the two weeks of Christmas vacation. So I stayed there for two weeks. I had only two weeks out of the whole year I was there to come back home to Kaua'i because you couldn't come home Thanksgiving you was a boarder. You have to stay, you off-island, you have to stay help feed the swine, the piggery, the poultry. You had to help cover for all the Maui boarders that go home on Thanksgiving. But they, they have the best Thanksgiving dinner I ever had in my whole life was at Lahainaluna school cafeteria. Oh, they had poke, sushi, everything. Things that I couldn't get at home.

WM: Yeah.

SM: I could not get at home. So I was very, very grateful to have that there. And I couldn't wait till the next Thanksgiving, you know, because I was their junior year, I couldn't wait till next year because it was, the, oh, everything they had, the food, the spread they had for us, was just the best food they had. And homemade. Everything was homemade. All

the sushi up the yin yang, the strawberry. That's when I first saw blueberry cream cheesecake. It's the first time I saw, was Lahainaluna.

WM: (Laughs) The one that I always get at the grad party?

SM: Yes. That. And the strawberry or the blueberry.

WM: Oh, okay.

SM: From Lahainaluna. And they made their own pumpkin pies. It was just it was the best thing up there. Two years was the best Thanksgiving I ever had in my whole life, was over there.

WM: So all the off-island boarders would have to stay. . .

SM: Stayed there. You stayed on island back in the 70s. You stayed at the boarding department and you only went home for the two weeks of Christmas. So yeah, unless you get special requests. And I was bummed because my brother, when I left, I left a few days before his wedding, and Mr. Keala was the principal at the time. He never let me come home. He says, "No, you can go back." Because I'll would go there only for two nights and I'd have to come back. And they didn't want to do that, think that it's okay to come back for a wedding. It's not in the emergency. So I couldn't see my brother's wedding. So. I still don't forget that, September 3rd, 1977, his wedding. Eight hundred people in my yard in Hā'ena. I missed that wedding. I totally missed that wedding. But I was at Lahainaluna. And, oh, I only cried, they call. All my family talk to me, I'm stuck in the boarding department, and I couldn't I couldn't come home. I was so bummed. My brother begged the principal, and my sister-in-law, begged the principal and he said, no, Mr. Keala didn't agreed to it. So I, but was okay. I just got over it. And then my parents came a month after, brought the pictures to me. It was nice having them over. But she's, "What? You like still go? If you wanna go home, you going home now. We're taking you home. I ain't coming back here." My mother said. So I said, "Oh no, I'm not going home. You guys go home. I staying here." And I stayed Lahainaluna because I had my job. The job is what secured my stay at Lahainaluna.

WM: The the McDonald's job?

SM: The McDonald's job. Because I could work. It gave me an opportunity to work. And that was the good thing about Lahainaluna, that's what they taught you. You know. Work hard, you work hard, you get things. You want things, you want nice things, you got to work. Or things, period, you got to work to get there.

MM: So how did you become the first student to get a job off campus?

SM: I just know I when I was there, I went for a job and the principal approved it. Mr.— they approved it for my job because they know I was—as long as you stayed off of restriction, we could go work. But the minute you're restricted, they confine you to campus. Yeah.

You couldn't go downtown. And you have— you stayed on campus. If you got in trouble, you were stuck on campus. You couldn't go down. You watch everybody go down Front Street, and you stuck in the boarding department. So you tried to do good. And that taught me—I got in some trouble, but it taught me some lessons there. You know, it was good lessons. And I think that's what helped me a lot. Till today, to get to today, you know?

WM: Yeah. Speaking of work, what were your jobs on campus?

SM: On campus? My junior year. I work with Chief Kukahiko. Earl Kukahiko. Chief Kukahiko, I had bad, allergies. They had me in, they had me in the orchard. So he took me out of orchard, and he put me in a time clock with him. And the boarders was all jealous, they all jealous because you time clock. All you do is sign off holes. Whatever. Pick whatever they have to go to their work area. And I was there. And then my second half, my season, you in the job area by semester. So I was time clock for that one semester, the second half of my junior year, because I was an upperclassman. They put me in the cafeteria. So I work cafeteria the whole second semester. Semester there. And so I learned a lot too, for cooking everything we taught the Mrs. Yamauchi, Mrs. Betancourt, Mrs. Nishijima, Akiona, oh, and Bernice Nita. They all was beautiful people. Teach me how for cook. Was all those ladies. Was a great time. "Maka", they always tell me, "Maka", they know I going do for them, I not gonna tell them no. "Maka I need potato, 100 pounds. I need 100 pounds". No worry, I get 'em. I peel 100 pound potato myself. Myself. And then one time I got suspended because over there, when you get suspended at Lahainaluna, you don't go home. You go to school, you go work in a koa fields go dig koa trees out or you could work in a cafeteria. And hell no, I ain't going in the field. I work in the field during the day, well, you know, the next year I was in the field, but. So I went cafeteria. I did my—and was only one there. I wash the dishes. So the whole day— and Lahainaluna, no paper plates. You have green plastic plates or those crazy Y.M.C.A. noisy platters. Like the big square, clumsy ones. Noisy. Really noisy. Well, that's what we have. I wash all the dishes. 600 something plates a day myself. At the end of the day, they say, "Oh Maka, you need help?" I said, "no, no, no, I get them, stay there, I get them". I wash all the plates myself. I had good fun.

WM: So that was like the detention, or the overtime.

SM: Yeah, yeah, yeah like that. Yeah. That actually was detention because that was in the school, yeah. The overtime is department, boarding department. Yeah, yeah.

WM: So. So you got taken out of the orchard and you're put. . .

SM: Into time clock with chief. Chief Kukahiko. And then I stayed there, and then the second half of the year I went to the cafeteria. And then my senior year, whole year was Mr. Watson. That's when I met Mr. Watson. It was his first year there. Bobby Watson, he was a football coach. And I told him, he told me, Maka, after the first semester, Maka, you like stay garden through the end of the year? I said, oh yeah. I stay, you sure? I said, yeah, I stay garden, for the whole year, no problem. I had the best job. Grading foreman.

Rookies. No need go stand in the sun, the hot Lahaina sun. Because that sun is hot. That's why they get good football team. They condition in the heat.

WM: That is true.

SM: You know Kapa'a High School, they couldn't beat Lahainaluna. Only when Lahainaluna came Kapa'a, Kapa'a beat them.

WM: Because its colder over here.

SM: They couldn't react, was too cold for them, you know. [WM laughs] But Lahainaluna would not be capable of everywhere else. Lahainaluna beat Kapa'a. It was funny because I graduated, my friends some of them was Kapa'a, yeah, and my cousin and I go over there with my red shirt, I go stand by them. With my Lahainaluna shirt, just to add fuel to the fire. Yeah, he said, he said, you kidding or what? I said, what? Lahainaluna shirt. I see you have a good stand out, yeah, with all this green in between. Yeah, yeah, but look good. You can see the red eye amongst all the green because Kapa'a was green and white. Lahainaluna red and white. And he said, you, kidding, you got—because when you they that shirt yeah, they know they got beaten by us. You know you they couldn't win us in Honolulu. You know, I thought, Aloha Stadium. Because even like the last game Kapa'a was beating Lahainaluna. The last game and then Lahainaluna came in third quarter from the back end. Because, you know, that hot sun, they're conditioned in that hot sun to play, we had the hard times. And Aloha Stadium is the worst place. Hot. And all that asphalt around there too. Yeah. You know it was not help.

WM: No.

SM: Yeah.

WM: So your senior year you were in the the garden.

SM: The garden. Mr. Watson.

WM: What was the, the jobs, you graded fruits?

SM: That's all I do, graded the fruit. Sister, we have the best produce on that campus. We had cucumber, romaine lettuce, butter lettuce, zucchini, tomatoes, corn on the cob. We had watermelon, or—grapefruit, oranges. Everything was grown there that—none of that was brought in. None of the—all that came from right there on campus. And you can't get any better than that.

WM: How, why do you think it was so ono?

SM: No. I just I think because of the great fertilizer we use, I know the thought of it and that great dirt line that has, I think that have a lot to do with it. Yeah, yeah. That soil. That soil. Yeah. Good. And all the best manure. Lettuce. Everything is. And I never used to eat

that until I went Lahainaluna. And then I started eating it. You appreciate when you grow um. You know how it is to till the land and grow these things. So, so you make do with what you had and I, I ended up eating it all, you know, but even like one bok cabbage, they have the best. That farming system there. Mr. Watson was amazing. He was an amazing person. He was like a pal to me, a really good person. But he was a, well he was my boss, you know, like, farm foreman, so. He was awesome. Awesome. I met his wife. He had a couple kids, you know. So he lived on campus right up there. He had the house up right on the way up to the orchard.

WM: Yeah, yeah.

SM: You got that orchard, that house that, was a mustard color house back then was where he lived on campus.

WM: I think we passed by that house.

SM: Yeah. You go past the cafeteria on the right. You go up and around. That's where you hang a right. His house was right on that corner.

WM: You remember that?

SM: Yeah.

WM: What about inside your dorm? Can you tell us about what dorm you were in?

SM: I was in both David Malo downstairs, and Hoapili upstairs. David Malo, junior year, Hoapili upstairs senior year. I was in both dorms.

WM: And then who is your your roommates?

SM: My roommate my senior year, was Gilbert from Kihei, Gilbert. Kahaleauki. He was a freshman. He was a freshman boarder and I was a senior at the time. So he was my, roommate senior year. And then Ted Morioka was my roommate in my junior year. He was also junior.

WM: Where were they from, those guys?

SM: Maui. Oh Ted from Maui, yeah, yeah. Oh yeah. And then dakine, Gilbert from from Kihei. On Maui.

WM: And you guys got along with your roommates?

SM: The—my senior year I didn't, I got in trouble, I got in trouble. He made a mistake of hitting me, and then I made a mistake of hitting him back and he went on the floor. So he turned me in and I got, I was restricted and confined to campus. And I was wrong. But I told the counselor, you know, he hit me first. I was defending myself. He said, yeah, but

you're the upperclassman. You should know better. He's new there. You knew better. So you have to—I gotta give you the 20 hours. So, I was restricted and confined to campus. They had restrict me. I couldn't go down Lahaina and I couldn't go work, for one month. But I had money saved up, so I just use what I had there and then back to work after a month.

WM: Oh, that's good. You could go back to work.

SM: Yeah, I could go back work down because I was off restriction. As long as you're not on restriction you can work down town. But remember your curfew is 11. Upper class was 11, underclassmen was 10. Yes.

WM: Yeah. So you'd had to stay with the same roommate after you guys had conflicts?

SM: No. Well, they moved him out and, and that was the best thing for me because I had a room to myself. I had my room to myself. And when they said, oh Maka we have a new boardere, I said no put um with me. I no like um with me, you know? But, you know, I don't have a choice. But they never. Never, never have to. So. Yeah. It didn't do good my senior year but the outcome was was good. I had my own room. Nobody with me. So I could do anything. Clean um, set it up the way I wanted to my senior year. Yeah, I had it. It was fun my senior year. I still had a good time, both junior and senior year. You know, you play, you fail, you do something bad. You got to pay. And Lahainaluna, you will pay. And they make me pay. So which was good. You learn, you know, to mess up, learn from mistakes. You learn, you you make. You know, if you can learn from it, it's a good thing. If you don't learn from it, then there's something wrong with you. You know, you have to learn.

WM: What do you think was, in general, like the, the dynamics between the the boarder boys? What would you say? You guys were close? You guys got into trouble with each other a lot?

SM: Very seldom. We always got along. Because it was rivalries between the day students and the boarders.

WM: Really?

SM: Yeah. Yeah, because the boarders were a threat to the day student guys with their girlfriends.

WM: Oh!

SM: Yeah. So there was a big rivalry back then. Day students and boarders, the guys did not get along. They did not get along. Used to have big fights on the campus, but I wasn't there it happened before I went, before I went to Lahainaluna. So I don't know if its fair for me to say this because it's hearsay. But they had rivalries back then. Back then in the 70s. Because the Maui, the Maui day students they would lose their girlfriends to the

boarders. Off island, of this braddah look good, surfer, he look good. I going with this one, you know, dropped on they get.

WM: Yeah.

SM: And then big fights they used to have. You know? And then and then. Well, I was never a threat to them. [Laughter] So I was friends with everybody. I was the only boarder that the day student guys got along with.

WM: Oh, yeah?

SM: Yeah. And I could walk with they girlfriends. Never bother them. Because they totally accepted me and the girlfriends—even one guy who wanted to fight with me. Foodland he worked Foodland. I worked McDonald's. Foodland right across McDonald's square in the same Lahaina square. Because his girl, his girl. He said he wanted to fight me, he meet me in the parking lot. He called me out in the parking lot. And his girlfriend was just my best friend.

WM: Yeah.

SM: But we became the best friends. Her boyfriend. I became very best friends because he accepted me. Because he knew, she was—the relationship wasn't a threat. Yeah. So it was really funny, that was Earl Birtles. I still remember him because we came good friends. We really did. You know, he put everything there.

WM: That's beautiful.

SM: Yeah, yeah.

WM: So you got a lot of work that they students and the boarders.

SM: Yeah. The guys. Yeah. Not because I was good friends with the girlfriends. Yeah, it was never a problem.

WM: But inside the boarding department, the boys generally got along with each other?

SM: Yeah. Very seldom. Never had—yeah. Most of it. Yeah. It was brotherhood. Couple fights in between. But, most of the time they got along pretty well.

WM: What about, discipline? Like when you guys would get in trouble inside of the the the dorms and stuff? Like, what were some things that people got in trouble for?

SM: Oh, well, like in the dorm, like AWOL. Like not coming back on time. AWOL, not being in your room when you supposed to after lights out, you know, and, yeah, that's what they—oh, what was the question?

WM: Discipline? Like what did. . .

SM: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

WM: Cleaning I think I heard a few times.

SM: Oh, yeah. You keep the boarder. Girl, the underclassmens clean the boarding floors. Every underclassman on each floors, have four floors. They have to clean the boarding department every night. 9:30 clean dorm. They clean and really clean that. So all the underclassmen clean the dorm. Everything. Sweep, mop, wax. No need wax the floor. Did it once a month, you know. The bathroom, clean all the bathroom. So the place was tidy. Yeah very tidy.

WM: Spick and span?

SM: We were very spick and span, because it was strict back then. Our counselors were strict.

WM: So do you remember your counselors?

SM: Oh, yeah. Mr. Nakagawa, he was my junior and senior year. Mr. Kakiuchi, I think it was Clifford Kakiuchi. Okay, I think I may be wrong. And Bruce Fujimoto. He was also boarder from Lanai. Graduated like five years before I graduated. So he came back as a counselor, back to Lahainaluna.

WM: So the counselors are generally kind of younger than?

SM: Well, I don't know what the age is, but they were quite a few age above me. Well, there were good counselors. Really. They really talk to you. You need to talk, or you misbehave they'll talk to the you and everything. But they make it real fast and then, you know, move on. Yeah.

WM: Yeah?

SM: Yeah. But they let you know what you did wrong. You know you won't get by with that.

WM: Oh, that's so awesome. And, I was gonna ask. I think we heard people talk about, boarding officers. There was officers, a sergeant.

SM: Yes, we had a boarders president. My junior was Daniel, the late Daniel Santanella. He passed away already, rest his soul. So, you know, he had a dental problem or something like that. And it was really sad how he go. And he was a smart guy. Santanella, Daniel Santanella. He was the president of junior year. I'll see the junior. And then when I was a senior was Gary Diez. He was our president. But we also had a captain. We had lieutenants, we had sergeants, you know. They were the office—each officer had about—each floor have about four officers on the floor, 4 to 5 officers on the floor. And they make sure everything is done right. So it was really. . It was really interesting living the

boarding life because, you know, you work hard. You know, you know, you know how our day starts, did you hear how our day starts?

WM: Tell me!

SM: Okay, our day starts with the alarm clock ringing at 5:45 every morning. You—from the boarding department. You go down time clock. You clock in, time clock. You go to your designated working area for the semester, for one semester straight. So you wake up 5:45 by 6:00 you clock in, 7:00 wherever your job is, you go back down to the clock. Time clock. Punch back out, run back to the boarding department. Get ready for breakfast. What clothes you're going to use. Your pants have a belt hole, you wore a belt, okay. Your hair couldn't touch your eyebrows. The back of your line. Of your hair here, couldn't touch the back of your collar. They were really strict. Look how my hair was short. Oh, well, it's because there's nothing there right now, you know? But. But still, teaching me to keep my hair short. I always have my hair short like this. You know, grooming is important for us. Yeah, yeah. And appearance, how you dress in public is very important to them. They really— and you could, like I said, if you have a belt buckle, you have to wear a belt. You couldn't go without the belt. And you can tuck it in, put the shirt over, the go tell you, you walk in there, Maka, lift your shirt up, I show it off, get belt hole. Go back dormitory, you put your belt on. You put your belt on. So they you make you do—then. It was really strict at breakfast. Yeah. You walk through breakfast, then you do a boarders Grace, and then everybody eat. You eat together. And then you eat a cold oatmeal on the table for one hour, was on the table waiting for you come. But you know what? Today that's all I eat. You gotta, you know, when you old you gotta start eating things that lower your cholesterol, your blood, your blood pressure. And I didn't know, that's what they taught you the whole time. Plus it's healthy, you know? And you know, oatmeal. If you don't eat it, you eat oatmeal, it settles your stomach very nicely. So, you know, no matter how upset or you get in your stomach, it settles the stomach real well with oatmeal. So it taught me how to eat oatmeal. I didn't like it back then, but today I eat that. I two servings every meal, if I eat it. If I eat two servings of—every breakfast, lunch, oatmeal, I two servings each. Each time I eat.

WM: So you guys would would line up, and then. . .

SM: Yeah, yeah. We would line up at David Malo dormitory. All the boarders get in line, and we all walk to breakfast together. Walk the parking lot, go up to the cafeteria with the step going into the cafeteria. Step go up to the cafeteria. You walk in there, you do one spin for the matron. The boarder's matron. Maka, turn around. You know she—I want to see. I want to see the back. You know? Let me see your hair, look your collar, fix your collar. You know. She tell you stuff like that, Miss Lindsey? You know, they really taught you how to dress.

WM: Ma Lindsey? Or?

SM: No, that was the younger, the daughter we had, Mary Helen. We didn't have—we didn't have the mother we had Mary Helen, the daughter. Mary Helen Lindsey. And I was her pet.

WM: Oh, yeah.

SM: Oh, I was her pet. 'Maka! Maka! You whoo.' Tell me ke'ei. Because, you know, that's kiss, you know? Because I went downtown with Miss Lindsey when Mr.—and then I'd go shopping! But don't put that part in please. They're going to hate me for that, because the boarders, they gonna hate me. They're going to say, that Maka, got away with a lot of things. Yeah. Shit. You know you, that's how they were.

MM: Funny.

SM: Yeah, yeah, but that was the truth. She take me go shopping. 'What? You want to go?' 'I like go Front Street'. She go park the truck underneath the tree. It's a state van, and I go inside and buy wax. The wax to make candles. The first time I went there, I never seen that, I was like a kid in a candy store. What I did, my first year. I bought all candles. Came home with candles. My sister in law. 'Oh, those are beautiful. But you wasted your money on that', I said 'oh gee, thanks a lot.'.

WM: Candles are beautiful.

SM: Yeah. Oh, was so beautiful. How them was, like, all kine multicolored candles. And I bought them. I brought home for Christmas for them.

WM: I love candles.

SM: Yeah. Yeah, I did too. Yeah.

WM: Oh my goodness. Yeah. So, and then after you guys eat breakfast, you guys would go back.

SM: Yeah. No, we go back to the dormitory, make sure you dump—you cannot have one paper in your rubbish can, they look for all that. While you in school, Miss Lindsey's in the dormitory checking your room. Oh, one time, my room was a little messy. Was so funny. The boarders when go play a little trick on me. Had dakine, over time paper. They go write the over time paper, and they go put 'um, and they put Miss Lindsey on top of the paper. There look, Maka you're a slob, and all kine stuff there right on the paper thing. It was Miss Lindsey our boarders matron, wasn't yeah? Was the boarders, they go write that. They weren't that—and I go put 'um on top of my window. I thought my door—because they leave the note on your window yeah. Then you got to talk to the counselors.

WM: They played a trick on you.

SM: They played a trick on me. They said, 'Maka you one slob', I said, 'brah I not even one slob only had rubbish in the can'. But Miss Lindsey she was—no rubbish, nothing. No towels hang on the chair. Nothing like that. Everything's put away. Yeah. You know.

WM: So then after you guys get ready, you go back. . .

SM: Then go back to school, make sure you tidy up your room. You go back school, eight o'clock bell starts, the school. Pau hana, pau school 2:00. Yeah. And then from 2:00, you go back to the boarding department, you put your work clothes back on. So you go work from 3:15. That work bell rings at 3:15. You go down time, time clock, clock in there, and you work to 4:00. If you played football, you left at 3:30. He could get half off, a half an hour off.

WM: So that's, that's what we've heard people say. They play sports so they can leave early.

SM: Get their time off with them so they can leave that job site. You play football? I wasn't that lucky. I stay. But you know what? I have the best job in the world. I was a grading foreman. Everybody wanted my position, you know? So, you know, everybody wanted to be my friend.

WM: Did you do any other extracurriculars for sports or anything like that?

SM: No, I was a musician when I went. Actually, I was—Peter Day was, the, the kumu hula there. He was actually a senior, and he was even a senior in high school. He was kumu hula status already. This guy was amazing. He was only one year older than me. Peter Day. Pekelo Day. Okay. And he—yeah, Pekelo Day, and he did all the chanting and everything. He taught me a lot, you know? So when he went my senior year, I kind of did what I could do. You know what I learned there, and everything, and what he taught us, try to teach the students, you know, try to keep them in there. So the chant no leave yeah, the oli like that, doesn't leave. So that was my senior year. So I was a musician the whole time. And a dancer for Hawaiiana club. So. So I was there when Willie K was there, yeah.

WM: Willie K!

SM: Willie K. Yeah. Yeah. Willie K. He was—you know, they were amazing in school. Maui, the school. They bring their guitars, their upright bass, they walk in campus. The three Kahaiali'i brothers and one sister, the Nora, Willie, Waylon, Wilmur. Three w's, the brothers, the tree brothers. But were kind of—guitar player one played guitar—one guitar, one ukulele and one upright bass. And they would be on the campus. Play music first recess and lunch recess, the most beautiful music. You sit on the hill by Hawaiiana class, and you just sit right there and play Hawaiian music all recess. They would sit down and just jam.

WM: And you guys was all students?

SM: All students. They were all jamming. Yeah, the Kahaiali'i brothers, Willie K. He was hot back then. I mean, music wise, he was terrific. Willie was good, even the two brothers. And I know the sister, Donna. She became a good friend of mine, the sister Donna. Yeah, they were really amazing. Even not only them, everybody played music there, you know?

WM: Did you—were you ever, like, in, like, a band at school or did you just do the. . .

SM: Was just the boarding department. We had to. Yeah. Boarders choirs, you know, the chorus and everything.

WM: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

SM: Yeah. I played for them. That's who I played music for.

WM: What was your favorite song? Do you remember?

SM: Oh, 'the wonderful world of aloha. . . it's just not. . . something was. . . a fanciful dream' something like that. That's what I learned up there was the Wonderful World of Aloha. That's what taught me that. That's what's one of my favorites. I never knew it until I got to Lahainaluna.

WM: Can you talk a little bit about the alma mater? I know people were like, really—that was like the first all Hawaiian alma mater.

SM: Alma mater. Yeah!

WM: Yeah. And you had to know it, yeah.

SM: Yes. It's funny you ask about that because my initiation was to learn the alma mater. And I went to the musician already, so I learned it in two days. I learned and I memorized the two verses and the chorus. In two days I had learned them. And so they made me sing 'um, they would say, 'Maka sing 'um'. So I took (inaudible) and I just went, 'O ka malu 'ulu o lele, no e ka oi! Na kualono nani e, ku kilakila!'. And that was my initiation, my senior year. They never tortured me like the rest of the first year boarders. Oh, you freshman or sophomore, they torture you. You know, it was funny, but then my initiation was, well, let's do it! Was do the alma mater.

WM: Oh. What kind of stuff would they do to the freshmen and sophomores?

SM: Oh, God. Make them go play football in the mud at night time. You know, they do exercise. You know, they run, flip over. I couldn't do that. They try to make me do that. But I didn't do well with that, you know. But it was kind of funny, you know, because here like this okay, they make you flex your muscle, 'oh, this guy no more nothing over here' was Michael Sinclair, that freaking podagee! Was Micahel Sinclair from Kihei, god bless his soul. He died two years ago, but he was one funny guy. Funny. He would make trouble. He would sing—you ever heard that song, Makapu'u? No, you guys weren't born

in the 70s, you wouldn't know it. It was a song. 'Makapu'u, Makapu'u. . . something. . . he don't bathe. . . He no take a shower, he no wipe his ass. Thats the kine stuff he used to sing!

WM: Oh my God!

SM: He was kolohe you know, Michael. But you know, you couldn't get a—after that. You come good friends with these guys, you know, they make trouble with you, but I was in initiations. That's what they had to do, you know? But he was a funny guy. But. Yeah. I heard he died last about a year ago. He died. Couple of—him and Moki Parrish, died the same year. And Francis Thompson. Three boarders. One year we lost. They all died last year. Very close and good guys, too. Francis Thompson he was a year younger than us. But he was amazing. Football player.

WM: Football.

SM: Football player.

WM: Was most of the boarders—did most of them play sports?

SM: Yeah. Yeah. Well you know why too, yeah. They like get out of work too, ah. So had wrestling, basketball, baseball, volleyball. So. Yeah. And it was a good guess. You know if you, if that was your dream to do something—really get into sports, Lahainaluna was a perfect place for that. Because you were on campus as a boarder, everything was there. You didn't have to leave. You were there. You walk up there, walk up to the gym, you know, for volleyball, basketball and baseball field. Now, you saw beautiful athletic field. Now you saw a beautiful field. I went and I saw it once. I went, I went I actually went to a ball game, I flew there to sit there and have a—watch one ball game. Oh. That's one of the highlights of going to Lahainaluna, especially from that athletic field. Lanai right across that you right across Molokai angled this way to your far right, Kahoolawe way down there. You couldn't see Molokini, but you could see Kahoolawe. And also was really a nice change for me being from Kaua'i, you know, I live on north shore. You know, there is another island, Ni'ihau. It's a part of our county, but it's on the west side, so I don't see Ni'ihau a whole lot. The other week I went up there. It was beautiful. But Maui, you know, that was—And then walking downtown you have to walk up. It's two miles from the parking lot, Lahainaluna high school parking, lot down to the Lahaina square McDonald's was about two miles, you know, so we catch a cab. You know, cab was cheap, not even \$2. You could get a cab from the school down to Lahaina. To town. So I call a cab, and then after I got my job at McDonald's, my friend would pick me up from there, pick me up from work, and they would bring me back to work after after. After I pau my time.

WM: Oh, cool.

SM: Yeah. So I had good friends. Made good friends till today. We still keep in touch. Yeah, yeah, I was really well accepted on Maui. I don't think everybody was as fortunate as I

was, you know, because they were people really accepting. You know Hawaiian family, you musician, you get points with the kupuna. You know, they give you money. They you know, you can sing. Me I had to go sing, like the Boy from Laupahoehoe when I was six years old, the Bill Ka'iwa's song. So I was singing that song and my uncle's \$10, \$20. I'll get money. My uncles give me money because I was a born, natural born entertainer. And my family saw that. All my uncles, my especially my mother's brothers, because they construction workers, always had money. So they always those are the kupunas, your ohana, you want to be around, you know, they take care you. Oh, yeah. Was fun back then.

WM: That sounds fun.

SM: Yeah. It was if you are a singer, man, you you did well with the kupunas. You know, you could play when you could, especially pay one ukulele.

WM: Yeah.

SM: And back then I had a very high voice I—oh I was so shame. My father used to make me go church, sing with the sopranos—I had a high voice. So get all the women, and Sherman in the front with all the women sing the sopranos. So I hated it. 'Well, I don't like it.' 'Stay right there.' You no move, you stay right there, and you don't move and you shut up, you don't say nothing because he going pull your ear. I remember one time in grammar school, Hanalei School. I was so bad in school. I was bad from when I was a kid. The teacher, Miss Fukuda, short Japanese lady, and you know back then, the teachers sometimes they wore short dresses back then, you know, so she would—she had her nylons on, her nylons on. And she would be chasing me under the table. Everything; the bad Hawaiian kids she would chase us under the table, try catch us. And if you're that naughty back then, they put a diaper on you. They put the diaper on you. I had a diaper put on me. Me and my other cousins. All of us. We all had diapers on us because we kolohe, hard head. So had Miss Chung the custodian, she would, Miss Fukuda would hold us down and Miss Chung would put the—button dakine, make the safety pin. She would get a safety pin. I would walk around in class with diaper.

WM: Ai! How old were you?

SM: I was well, I was only with Fukuda, I was second grade, I was second grade. Oh, yeah, I was troubles back then already. So my father was so ashamed of me. He actually did this because, you know, like my father would love Chief, Chief Kukahiko. Yeah, because chief is no man to mess with. You do bad he will get on you for it. So. Yeah, he went to one conference, they told him they had to put diaper on me and all kine, he was so mad he ended up giving me dirty lickers. The next day—conference yeah, the next day I go school, take me to school. My father take me, walk me to school and he had these hose on his back. You see, how they when siphon gas, you siphon the gas. Yeah, okay. He had the hose there, had the metal part attached to the end of that thing. He took that to school and said, Miss Fukuda, my son ever disrespect you? Don't put that diaper on him! Whack him with this hose? You see this metal part attached to the faucet? You make sure

that part hits his back. So he don't fool around. He won't disrespect you because I have no tolerance for my kids doing that. Lick um, give um lickin. A ticket back. Back then they give you permission for like you. Your parents. Oh, yeah. But teachers would crack you. Mrs. Newberry, my third and fourth grade teacher—back then you had two grades in one class. So 3rd and 4th was Mrs. Newberry. Oh, she was a mean haole lady. She would tape four rulers together. The small, the regular ruler, the small. The wooden one. She tape four together, on the two ends and in the middle. The tape, the masking tape. And she whacked your hand. She make you sit around the table. You say one wrong word. They whack you. 'Mr. Maka, that was wrong! Let me see your hand.' Bam, she pull um out she crack um. I'm sorry. I hated her. So, you know, I got back to her. She used to smoke her Salem Lights 100. This is fourth grade. I go take her Salem Lights 100. I go hide them. She went nuts. Back then they could smoke in the teacher's lounge. I go hide her cigarettes, go take um cause I see her grab her cigarettes receipt of a coupon. I found the cigarette, I go hide her cigarette, throw her cigarette today. She she puts you—she went crazy. And you know what? Today they no more cigarette, they went crazy. That tobacco, they need that. You know, it's a must it's an addiction. Yeah it is, it is such. She was funny because she couldn't figure out to that, to that day, after that, how her cigarettes got missing. Oh yeah. That was funny. The funniest part about her, she would bore us with those black stallion stories. You know back stallion, black stallion returns, the black stallion series. Yeah, yeah, yeah. That was this book of the Black Stallion. And she would read it till our PE time. So as Hawaiians we knew what to do. You know what we did. Dig your nose. She haole, yeah. You dig your nose, you knows she kicked you out of class. 'You filthy Hawaiian. Get out of my class. Go wash your hands and sit by the flagpole!' Well, we knew what to do. When I'm there. When we're on PE, she don't know we was playing PE because she was so into reading. We was outside was playing PE. She read us Charlottes Web, that's how I knew what was Charlottes Web. She read us that story, fourth grade she read us that story, Charlottes Web. And the most boring black stallion stories. Yeah.

WM: So you were very grateful for. Well, what about school in Lahainaluna? What was that kine school like?

SM: That school had really wake me up.

WM: Yeah?

SM: It really made me. Because like I said, I left Kaua'i a failing student. So over there you have no choice but to do better and do good and to get better. Yeah. So it made me right away it taught me. I already knew that already. But even more so I, had to do it there. Because I saw what you did. You stuck. You know, people are stuck on campus and watching everybody go down. They say, oh, no. No, mess up like me. That's why I stuck up here here for one month, you know, but, like, my classmate my senior year I did that, that's why I was up campus one month, you know. And so it taught me a lot to appreciate what you had and the system they have, the lesson it taught us until today, because today I work every day for 44 years now. I work every day. I always had a job. Lahainaluna had totally prepped me for my adult life to be sustainable, and work hard. Yeah, just keep

working. And I had three jobs. I used to get in trouble, I would answering the phone, and I would never know where I was because I had three—I was a waiter for 40, 35 years. I was a server. So I would answer—instead of answering with the principal of a five star hotel, I would answer Tahiti Nui. And you do not do that at a five star hotel, and that was Mr. Maddie, the principal. Oh I say, Mr. Maddie. Oh, I can't remember. First of all, he was the. He was the president of the Princeville Hotel when I worked there. Whatever he said that was wrong. I'm going to call back and I'm going to try again. I called him up, he called back, then I have to—the first year he had the good morning—aloha and good morning this is the Sheraton Princeville. This is Sherman Kealoha Maka. How may I direct your call? You have to wait to the full spiel. And he made me, and I went to it—'now that's how you answer a phone, Mr. Maka', I know that. I'm sorry, sir. And he was fine, I corrected it well. So, you know, so is he. He was. Yeah, he was good. If you do right, you make—correct your mistakes and you humble about making the corrections. You know, it's helpful. And like I said, Lahainaluna taught me all that. So it really it had prepped me for my adult life. You know, how to go about getting a job. Always have a job, you know.

WM: Did you have a favorite subject in school or you just like. . .

SM: Was Hawaiiana. Yeah. It was. It was after. . .

WM: Who was your teacher. Was it. . .

SM: Miss Gomez. Lori Gomez.

WM: Aunty Lori.

SM: Yeah, Aunty Lori was there. She's a good friend. I love that lady. The last time I saw her, she came with Miss Santoku. Miss Santoku did accounting at Lahainaluna. She was the teacher. I really liked accounting. She was the teacher. And Miss—Aunty Lori was the Hawaiiana teacher and the guidance teacher at Lahainaluna at the time. So, yeah. This.

WM: Did you guys, you I you guys had David Malo Day?

SM: Oh, yes. Oh, yeah. I perform for David Malo. Yeah, I was a star dancer over there. Even Miss Wakida. 'Mr. Maka, you was the star again this year. I just enjoyed your dancing'. As funny because Miss Wakida came to a competition. Hula competition I was in on Kaua'i, and they were competing, they were in the kupuna division. So that was like about six, seven years ago. Miss Wakina okay, she was the one who's husband when burn in the fire. Wakida. Penny Wakida. Her husband had burned in the fire. He thought, honey, I coming out. I'll be there. Honey. Never made it out. I think he went to save somebody and he died in the fire. He had burned. Yeah. She was a really nice teacher, Miss Wakida. But Miss Gomez, Aunty Lori and Miss Santoku came to Kaua'i one time. They had no idea. And they found me. Accidentally they found me. They came to the gas station at Princeville. I worked there for 20 years. And they walked in there and I looked those two teacher's coming down. I said, that is Aunty Lori and Miss Santoku. It is. And

they retired so they was on vacation here, and I ran up to them. Auntie Lori! Miss Santoku! And then they look at me, 'Maka!' And oh, happy to see them. I was very happy to see them because they were really nice people. Yeah. Lahainaluna, if you do good in your schoolwork, then you were really tight with your teachers. Especially our senior class advisor, Mr. Andrew Kutsunai, he was funny. He told me I never forget the last day at Lahainauna. 'Mr. Maka. Rejoice, rejoice. Mr. Maka, it's your last day at Lahainaluna, you're out of here after today. Rejoice, Mr. Maka. Rejoice.' He tell me like that. I'll never forget him. Andrew Kutsunai. So my senior class advisor. Very. He was a prankster. He was like an elf. He would make trouble, you knoa? And I was. I gave it right back to him. I wasn't shy either, you know, I just. You have to watch my—you know, watch my words. He he always got the—hey, watch your words. Yeah. What's come out of that mouth? Hamau kou leo. Watch what comes out. Yeah.

WM: So I heard that you guys had to make your own costumes too for David Malo. Or did you already have?

SM: Well, we did, Hawaiiana club did it all. All. . .

WM: Oh you guys did it all?

SM: Yeah, well, you know, we have our palapalai. We did all our own la'i skirt and everything. Yeah, yeah, it was David Malo day. Like it's the founder, so it was the, it was the biggest fundraiser the school had.

WM: Laulau?

SM: Laulau. Yeah. And the kalua pig was another big sell. They had the kalua pig. Oh man. I never saw so much kalua pig until I went Lahainaluna. Yeah, because they did about five pigs. Six pigs in the imu. Thousands of pounds of kalua pig. And the thing all go. And the laulau, that's the first time I see people make laulau with foil paper over there. They they come in for a paper.

WM: Oh, that was the first time?

SM: Yeah. That I see foil paper because our house it is ti leaf, there is no such thing as foil paper, you know, foil paper is expensive. You know, my parents didn't really, we didn't really have it all the time, you know, foil papaer like that.

WM: That is so interesting. Yeah, I heard that like I think it was one person told us they got the back hoe to dig out the. . .

SM: The imu. Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah. It's true, it's true. And it was up orchard right below orchard. Right around Mr. Watson house, the big grave. No, not grave. The big imu. Right there, huge. You can put two cars inside there, that imu.

WM: That's huge.

SM: Yeah, big. Was that big.

WM: Boarders would have to watch the imu?

SM: Yeah, yeah. And with Mr. Watson. You know, get some of the boys. He puts the boys to watch the imu overnight so it doesn't blow.

WM: Oh yeah.

SM: Because it can explode if it's not covered properly, it will explode. That was a lot of kalua pig they had. And even the laulau was so good. The laulau for David Malo Day. You know, they Kalua laulau. I don't know if you had laulau kalua. It is the best laulau. You try have with kalua. Kalua laulau is ono. It is very ono. Lahainaluna the only one did that. Kalua laulau. Foil paper and everything, in the imu. That's so interesting. Yeah, yeah. I learned that all up there.

WM: Wow.

SM: Because we did—well, actually, my dad did it for us here too, for the church. Got to make the 2000 laulau fundraiser. Was all in the imu, done in the imu. Yeah.

WM: Oh, I think another tradition too we learned about lighting the L? Or going up to the L?

SM: That, that was the most wonderful and beautiful experience I've ever had. You know, and we had to go up to the L twice a year, and one at the beginning to lime it, and at the end of the year to set it up, to burn it for the show. My friends from Lana'i would watch it from Lana'i. They'll watch it from the island of Lana'i. So we're watching graduation. We couldn't be there, but they would watch them. We watch it. We watch them. And it was beautiful. They could see um all the way from Lana'i. But what they did is all the Aluminum soda cans. So it wasn't aluminum back then, it was regular cans, was soda cans. What they do it with it they would stuff it with cloth, and soak and marinate those cloths in the Pepsi cans with kerosene to marinate them, and then they would light um. They would stack from like the bottom, the top. And in the middle. And it lights, it goes this way.

WM: Oh, wow.

SM: Because it lights like from three different areas. It was beautiful. When I saw my junior year, I said, oh, I cannot wait till my senior year. I cannot wait until my senior year to see this. Because this would be all for me. It's going to be 79 up there, you know. Yeah. So.

WM: So you guys, you guys would carry up the lime?

SM: Oh, that was my initiation my junior when I went up there, I had to carry that. Was 100 pound lime bag I think was. Is it 50 or 100. But I have to carry um all the way up, all the

way to the L i had to carry um. Well, you know, come from the school because you just right below the base of the L, you can drive up to the L. So you carried the lime, ah. You had all the boys. So you have to carry all that lime up there. Yeah. So that was my initiation. The most beautiful view. Yeah. You know, at one time I told myself when I die, that's where I like go, up there. Yeah, I wanted to. I always wanted to go up there because if you get to see that view, it's the most beautiful view. And you thinking, man. This is, this David Malo knew what he was doing. He knew exactly what he was doing.

WM: To be buried up there?

SM: He's buried up and the most beautiful sight of Molokai, Lanai. It just the view up there. It was just beautiful. Like paradise. Yeah. Yeah. It's so, so peaceful. It was very peaceful up there. You know, the winds of Kaua'ula when it comes down that mountain, stretch and everything.

WM: You guys would clean the grave?

SM: Yeah. Clean the grave. Yeah. Clean em. Set—do everything, do the L, re-lime um, everything. And then right, like a week before graduation and then the week of graduation, we go back up and stuff up again, prepping for liming.

WM: You sing too, up there you would sing?

SM: Oh, yeah. Yeah, we did our alma mater up there. All of us stand up on the hill sing the alma mater.

WM: That must have been beautiful.

SM: Oh, it was beautiful. It was for me. It was. It was a good time back then for me. It really was, you know. Oh, but today different. For what happened, I got to stop talking about it because I get teary. Seeing what happened to Maui. Those people just totally took me in. To see them leave that island. In the way they left, dead in the fire like that, was very, very heartbroken for me because they've really accepted me. The people of Maui, the parents, and Hawaiiana club, everything. I mean, they would make food for me, call me for dinner, they call me at McDonald's. Maka come, I made one big pot stew, come eat stew. You know, I can get the ride back up, no worry. Nani take you back up to Lahainaluna, I make her take you back up. No worry you get ride. You know, they're really nice to me. And they just met me there, you know? So really nice people. And for me looking at that fire, the kids have to of died that way that they died. It's very sad. Very sad, you know, and I just hope that this never happens again because that did not have to happen. So, I don't know about the mayor and Josh Green I don't know about that. And I have mixed feelings with them, you know, because what they did at the first community meeting for me, I saw a bunch of lying going on and covering up for each other. So, you know, I did not like that, you know, because it was not—that did not have to. And the excuses that came up you know, and that's what hurts me the most, because the people of Maui, Lahaina never have to die that way. Leave earth like this. Burned in the fire like

that. You know, it really hurt to see them jumping in the water for save their lives. You know, it was it was really heartbroken. But I see the trees coming back. Banyan tree I saw it, I was like, okay, it's coming back. I say, it's good, it's good because that has a big part of my life, is Maui. It does. If I have to move out of here, I would move to Maui. Maui would be my next move. But I can't leave here, this is my home. This is where I'll die, I going die here. This is my home, you know. But so nice to go back Maui, you know so. I was supposed to have gone. And then when that fire happened, a month after that fire happened, I had to cancel everything, you know. But at least people get—I'm just hoping people can go back there now because, you know, Maui is a beautiful place. Lahaina is not the only beautiful place on that island. Haleakalā, Pukalani. Hana. Keanae. Kipahulu, you know, all those places, you know, beautiful places on Maui, you know.

WM: Resilient.

SM: Yeah, yeah. Very, very. Yeah, yeah.

WM: So I think boarders are also reflective of that.

SM: Yeah.

WM: You spent a lot of your, um, formative years.

SM: Oh yes. Absolutely. Yeah.

WM: So yeah. And you mentioned Front Street. Do you have any memories of off campus time on Front Street?

SM: Oh, driving that little—getting on that little free shuttle from whalers. . . In the marketplace to the left. Village. Whalers village I think was Ka'anapali I think. Whalers market place with a home come—the other way. Oh, towards Kam III, the end of Kam III towards Front Street. Yeah, that's Whalers shopping center over there, that area, that whole area. And we stayed in that hotel. Two over there. Beautiful over there. Well, I remember, I remember getting on that free shuttle back and forth. Free back and forth. And you just go cruising all over. And I was like, this is all over because I got to liking it. After a month I got to liking it. I feel this is better than home. All you do at home is work it's all I do. Because by far back then you were home day in, day out. You work until you 18. You know, you go clean the yard. My father had the clean. We have the cleanest yard in Ha'ena at the time. Now we different, things are overgrown a little in my yard, but you know back then my father made us keep that yard real clean and immaculate. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

WM: So did you—what were some—do you have any memories of, fun things you guys did? Besides you going work?

SM: Well, I was in Hawaiiana club. So they had the high school competitions. Yeah.

WM: Oh, the competitions?

SM: Yeah. So Baldwin High, they had a competition. Talent competition, Baldwin High. The girls entered, the girls won first year for the keiki. They did. Peter Day was the one who choreographed it. That whole—that whole kahiko segment. He did the choreography was beautiful. And they won first place. Then we went to the next one was Saint Anthony's school, I think, and the boys entered and the girls entered. The boys took first place. Girls get second place. Yeah. And I, I lead the boys out for the kahiko, we did the hula kahiko with the kala'au sticks, yeah. So, and I have to—I was the first one, on stage at the last one out. So this is, so Miss Gomez said Maka, you're opening and closing for this competition. I said okay whatever. She said no, you are going to do it. And I said okay Miss Gomez, I'll do it. You want me to do it, I'll do it. She said, because I think you the only one that can remember it. So I open it and I close, and we came first place, the boys have eight of us boys. We did hula kahiko performances.

WM: Was Lahainaluna your first time doing hula?

SM: No, actually, I learned at home. I learned—but Lahainaluna made me keep up with it and stay with it. So even when I left Lahainaluna, Tahiti Nui is right here. Tahiti Nui, my father was a musician here for years. Okay. She hired me as a musician after my father passed on. She hired me there. I stayed with her for 35 years. I was a musician for her. I was a waiter for her nighttime, in her restaurant. And then I was a the musician for the show. I was the [cough]. We had three lū'aus. Monday, Wednesday, Friday. So I would be a musician for Monday and Wednesday. And finally I came in as a dancer with a different with my halau, with my cousin's halau that I danced for. Halau O Hanalei. So I was dancing one night on Friday and then musician two nights on Monday and Wednesday, and then I got all the gigs after hours in the bar when the luau pau, when they come out of the luau room, we're in the bar area playing music. So where I was really involved in the music industry, I had, I really, I had—I have a lot of people working for me, not wanting to work for me because I could get good money, you know, because a lot of times they couldn't make good money to get someone, get 30 bucks an hour. I would go into 75, \$100 an hour per person, you know, and good money, decent money back then, you know. So I had a lot of gigs. I really I was in the entertainment business, full force for 35 years straight pretty much. And then the arthritis had kick in. Yeah. So when the arthritis kicked in, I couldn't play a song. I stopped like ten times, and band leader told me, braddah, I got to let you go. I said, I know, my arthritis is catching up with me. I totally understood it, so I left, I left—when I left was I retired in 2001. I retired playing music because it was too much already for me, was too much. My arthritis no could, my hand lock. Curl, no can strum, no can strum.

WM: So your instrument of choice, was what?

SM: Ukulele. Yeah. Ukulele. That wasn't my, yeah, it was funny because I went up there. I took a song with me from Kaua'i, and it was called Rainbow over Hanalei Bay. You know Hanalei Bay out here?

WM: Yeah.

SM: Rainbow, rainbow, rainbow. I saw rainbow today, hanging over Hanalei. So I have the whole underclassmen. I have to teach underclassmen the song. And they had to sing it every morning to the upperclassmen with for breakfast on Saturday. Saturday we had breakfast at the dormitory, and they hated me because they had to sing um. But I never care, I didn't I didn't give a rat's behind because, you know, they have to sing them. I only fake sing um, they make the underclassmen sing um, and I play ukulele. They was like, Maka, I hate that song, I hate that song. They would tell me that, I would only laugh because they hated that. To see everybody standing there. Okay, rainbow over Hanalei Bay. Freshmans right here, sophomores right here, 'go' the upperclassmen tell them, 'Maka go', they tell and I play um, I had to play for them. The underclassmen were so funny. They hated the song, but I was— music was—I came from a family of music, you know, my dad, the Maka trio. My—was Murphy, Mildred, and Margie. My dad and the three M's, my dad and his two sisters. And aunty Mildred her Hawaiian name was Kaili, big Hawaiian lady, pretty Hawaii lady. And then my father was a Hawaiian Chinese and Russian. Oh, but Aunty Kaili, you want to hear somebody sing soprano, its that lady. But she got sick in 1968. She got sick with cancer in the blood. So she—they had recorded a Maka trio album in 1968, and it was a good thing they did, because Auntie Kaili died in '69. But we have that record till today. Yeah. So I've always—I come from a family of music. My grandfather was in the house of Representatives, Jacob Maka, the late Jacob Maka, he was in the house of representatives. And he would sing his way into the House of Representatives. Back then in Hanalei all they did was sing one song, was a sing off. And of course, my grandfather will always win because he was a musician. He was a singer, and a composer in the Hawaiian language. Him and Alfred Alohioka would write songs together. Alfred would actually write it and my grandfather would translate it for him. And my grandfather would put it into music for him. So music was always a part of my life, you know, and of all the places Hale Pule, you know, House of Prayer, that's where we learn. And everybody learns in church, you know, about to sing and everything like that. My aunty was the choir director. My grandfather Jacob was before her, and then my cousin took over after her, Akika. But now she's the choir director in Kamakapili church in Honolulu. And then my sister was the director after her.

WM: What church you guys went?

SM: Waioli.

WM: Waioli!

SM: Yeah, was protestant. Kelewina. Yeah. Kelewina. Was Kelewina, Hawaiian church. So very Hawaiian. Very Hawaiian. Beautiful. If you can take a walk in the church, you should take a walk up, look how beautiful it is. There's a beautiful stained glass window. Feel the mana in there. Yeah, right down here. Yeah.

WM: The pastor, we were talking about.

SM: Yeah, yeah, it's a church. I was born and raised. I was baptized in that church. Yeah. And like I said, my grandfather, his daughter and my cousin and my sister were all the directors of it. So my grandfather, wrote even some church songs, I don't know if you're familiar with John the Baptist, the John the Baptist and other songs?

WM: Mmm, thats beautiful.

SM: The River of Jordan. So you know, music always was always a part of our life. And it started in hale pule you know, God's house is where it basically started.

WM: So Lahainaluna you say would, kind of fostered that too?

SM: Oh yeah. To stay with that.

WM: Yeah.

SM: Keep doing it.

WM: Yeah.

SM: You know, and I used to go Waiola church too, down dakine, down in Lahaina. They had the Hawaiian church, because we were Waioli. That was Waiola. And it was, it's sister churches. They are, you know. So I went there, and I got to go to the church. And then that's why I also met Chief Kukahiko. Yeah. He was also there already. There were all members of that church, Waiola, but did it burn down? I'm not sure. I think it burnt down. I think it burned down that church. Yeah. I went to church there, I went, that's where I went. And then the God, the minister was Abraham. . .Williams. Family from Kaua'i. Yeah. He's something. So he was the kahu there at Waiola church. And it was funny because every time he-wife would, Japanese wife, his wife would go make lunch for us every Sunday so, I couldn't wait for after church because I was like, well, hurry up. Your message is too long today. I'm hungry. Hurry up. You know, got it. You know, and then it was funny because if you eat lunch, Auntie Dora Kahahane they used to call her the Magic Lady. . . Hawaiian lady. Real nice Hawaiian lady. She had a couple of kids that went to school. Her son was my classmate at Lahainaluna Gary Kauhane. He was my classmate, but that was that was her son. But I've got to meet her, beautiful Hawaiian lady. Yeah, really nice lady. And they would run me up to the school. You need to go shopping or pick up anything? And I said, no, I'm good. I can go back up to school. So I go back up the school, and that's a free ride back up campus. You know, that was at the beginning of my junior year so I wasn't working at the time. I think about a month or two after. That's when I stopped going to the Hale Pule church because I go work McDonald's. McDonald's become like my house of prayer. You know, Hale Pule. Was McDonald's. You know you can eat 24/7. Hale Pule.

WM: You not going hungry.

SM: No you not going hungry. And, you know, back then McDonald's was cheap, you know, \$0.49, small fries, hamburger was \$0.39, cheeseburger \$0.49, I think was 29. Hamburger \$0.29. Cheeseburger 39. Big Mac was like \$0.55. Was cheap back then. Yeah, I got \$1.99 an hour at McDonald's. Back then that's what we have. \$1.99. We had an hour, then when i left in '79 I had \$2.49. That's when I said I need to go back to Kaua, make some real money. So I went back home and I got into food and beverage, and I was in food and beverage, total 44 years.

WM: 44 years?

SM: 44 years in food and beverage.

WM: So you graduated Lahainaluna, and then you immediately moved back to Kaua'i?

SM: But come back. Come back to Kaua'i. And I just went work, work work work work work.

WM: What was the first job you took?

SM: I had—was a server, no, I was a busboy at Hanalei Bay resort. Well, yeah, Bali High Restaurant up in Princeville. And then I was there for a year, and then I was at the Princeville Lanai Restaurant for four years until they went, they closed down. And then I went to—I worked every restaurant on the north shore, practically. Yeah. You know, and then I had like Tahiti Nui, I had the Princeville Hula Moon service at one time, Tahiti Nui, and Charles. I was a waiter, Tahiti Nui, and Charles, and then room service, we just call it room circus back then. But its room service. Room circus at the Princeville Hotel.

WM: Oh, I see. And then, all the meanwhile you was playing music?

SM: Oh, yeah, I was playing music all the time.

WM: Oh, wow.

SM: Yeah.

WM: What did it—how did it feel to, return home after being at Lahainaluna. T.

SM: Oh, to be quite honest, I don't think I was quite ready to come home, so. Oh, yeah. That's right. I moved back to Lahaina after graduating. Yeah, I went back to Lahaina live with all my friends from McDonald's to go. I got a room. You like one room? Extra room. Give me 250 a month. I said, I'll take it. So I move back Lahaina. Then I became bigger than the house. And I said, okay, time to go back home to Kaua'i. So I went back cause I got real big in that one year time. I was staying there, I got big, so I came back and you know, just to work on my weight back home. But I work worked a lot. Yeah, yeah. You know, always had a car, you know. Always. I always had trips to go, you know, go take trips. And I would always go Maui and was so cheap, you know, you know, the air was

only \$20, Aloha air or Hawaiian air, was only 20. You know, was the cheapest, Mid-Pacific. Mid-Pacific Air, \$18, \$18 inter island. Now, if you live Kaua'i, you pay \$18. You stop Honolulu, you stay on the plane, you don't pay again. You stay on that \$18 flight. I went to Maui, to Kahului. Yeah? So oh, was cheap. That's why my parents sent me there. Because it was cheap the flight, you know. And I could pay for my own ticket. You know, I could pay for my own flight coming home, you know. When I could come home because I was working. Yeah. It was cheap. Cheap, cheap. Yeah. Sometimes you go to like I think Mid Pacific will go up, the promotion will go down to 15 as low as \$15. One way trip to Maui.

WM: Wow.

SM: Now look at today, well today you can get ticket maybe 109, maybe 109 you know, in that area. It's still not too bad for that, you know, cause I used to go Merrie Monarch, 450 I used to pay on Hawaiian Air. That's what they do. They gultch you, Merrie monarch season.

WM: Oh because Merrie Monarch.

SM: Merrie Monarch. Yeah, they gultch you. They gultch you, so I had to pay \$450 to go round trip. So that was like—I went, and I went to Merrie Monarch 22 years in a row, I went. I did 20 years and then I was done. My okole, you get all old your okole no can sit down that long, you know, the benches don't come with cushions. You know.

WM: They do not.

SM: They do not have cushions. You have to bring your own. Yeah, yeah. And you got people with the attachments, they sit on top of that. Yeah. One Merrie Monarch had one lady, she was sassy, one Japanese lady. She go tell me 'you too big! You take my seat!' I said, 'So what you gonna do? So what you going do?' You know what I mean. And my friend, my friend stay cracking me. I said, well, she gonna get it from me. She better watch out. She said, you are too big, you too big. You should not sit here, you too big. Yeah, I don't care. Where are you from? I'm from Japan. I visit from Japan. Okay, well, I don't care where you from, I from here. You going to make do with me sitting here because I ain't moving. Oh she was so nuha with me. And then the guy go, the usher go tell me, 'uncle! She giving you problems? Come uncle'. He go move me. He go put me right in front them. [Laughter]. He tell me sit there, when put me right in front them. 'Oh, now you block my way!' I say, yeah, but I not sitting on you. Yeah. And you're not sitting on me. Yeah. So get over it! Was so funny.

WM: You. Did you ever dance at Merrie Monarch?

SM: No, I didn't, I did a half time performance with Rohotu. I did a halftime performance. Well, it was oh, God bless Dora Yare. She was a lead musician that year. Yeah, him and I had play um, we did I Ali'i No 'Oe. And I was yodeling that part in the background of, I Ali'i No 'Oe, and he sang the lead and my cousin said oh, you guys was beautiful. He

said your ukulele, your ukulele when drown his ukulele. I said, what? Because well one of my ti said, ti, your ukulele just blew Doris' the ukulele away. Well, I only could hear you. And then we came up with because the group we had there were winning the—we win the Tahiti Fete on Kaua'i for six years in a row they won first place. Rohotu. And they were actually a halau with Punua. There was a hula halau, the mother and the father's halau, actually, the mother, and he had opened up his own school. But of Tahitian dancing, you focus on Tahitian. It was called Rohotu, Wallace Punua. Good friend till today. But when we did that whole the girls came up Tahitian. They just, they blew them away with the performance from Kaua'i and then, they kind of—Kaua'i kind of pushed them to, to get Tahitian going on the Big Island. And then after that they started opening up Tahitian class. And they had good dance group from Big Island too, you know. And Maui and everything, good dance groups, you know, competing. Yeah. But that was only time I did a performance on stage was half—was dakine, oh exhibition like, Wednesday. That's what it was, was the Wednesday night exhibition. We did them all. Had the Kanaka'oles. Had the Kanaka'oles they did the kahiko.

WM: Halau o Kekuhi.

SM: Halau o Kekuhi. They did the opening. And then we did the second half because and we—he came on. Wallace knew how to put on one ote'a that they would never forget, Kaua'i's last name. You know, Kaua'i, because he had he had 36 Tahitian ote'a dancers. Come out, and he make 'um duck walk out onto the stage. They come out, their 'okole all flying up the skirts, all flying and they coming on stage, and the people going crazy. That stadium went crazy when Rohotu came out, because they never saw Tahitian like that. Yeah, that was about 20 something years ago he did it.

WM: Everybody always talks about how Heiva i Kaua'i is the best.

SM: Yeah. There is a Heiva going on right now, it's kind of lacking now. It's—I really—I made a suggestion to Ben. That's his, Heiva is his competition. I say, well, yeah, I just, you know, I want to make a suggestion, because you're having a hard time with people coming to compete, yeah. But I said, have you ever thought of just making it an exhibition, instead of a competition? Because you make an exhibition, people don't feel like they're competing with each other. Yeah, they're just going to exhibit the dance, their style. Their movement, everything. And he said, oh, I never thought about that. He said, But I'll think about it for next year. Maybe I'll make an exhibition. Maybe we can get more people because some people don't want to compete. You know, if it's like Merrie Monarch, some people, halau won't compete, so they won't go to the Merrie Monarch, because they don't believe in competition. Yeah. Which is okay. To each its own. Yeah. You know.

WM: So you've been really, prominent in, like the entertainment. . .

SM: Oh the entertainment world. Yeah. Oh, yeah. Oh, yes. My home. Yeah. After 2000, that's when I stop. I have to stop after that.

WM: And then what did you do, post that? Like after that.

SM: After that, I quit—well I was at the gas station full time. Full time and then I was, I went back to serving again. Yeah, I went to instead of, playing music, I would go back because I couldn't—I would go back waiting on tables again, you know, getting another job, you know.

WM: And then how long did you do that? And now you work down. . .

SM: I work Ke'e, I've been there five years. He's the owner of this place here. He's my boss runs this place here. Yeah. Yeah. This is his other, their business. Hanalei Initiative. When you come do business for zoom and stuff, you can come right here too. If you have all the material, all the computers, they have them all. There's all computers in the room, all over.

WM: Can you can you talk a little bit about that job, like how you got involved with that job?

SM: At Hā'ena?

WM: Yeah.

SM: Well, you know. They really considered me as an ambassador of aloha for that area. It was Auntie Wena, but she had passed on. So they kind of kind of like, like passed along to me as the ambassador of Hā'ena. So. Joe was always a person for the Hawaiian people. He lived here long time. He went Hanalei School too. They were there at Hanalei school when I was there. Yes. So he live here, so real Hawaiian style. He may be haole, but everything about what he does is—a lot of it is Hawaiian. He wants to help the Hawaiian people, you know.

WM: So did you say Andrade? What did you. What was his name?

SM: The—Joe.

WM: Joe. What was his last name?

SM: Joe. Joe Guy. Yeah. Joe Guy. Yeah. Joe Guy. He was one that, you know, get this thing going for us, you know. So and that he—what happens was he rescued me out of food and beverage. I was a running restaurant right over here, Hanalei Gourmet. And then, the pay wasn't good. So he said, you're looking for a job. I said, yeah. Sherman, you exactly what I looking for. You is what I need on my team. Say, if I give if—I match what you asked for, I give you \$2 on top of that. What you ask for a boss, would you take position I offer you? I said, so what you're telling me is they offer me 18. You got to give me 20 an hour, all he said, yes, I'll start you at 20. So I'll take it, I told him. I would take it—I was getting paid \$15 for run one restaurant. He was nickel and diming me the whole time. So Joe really had rescued me. He gave me a good job, close to home. I live a mile and a half from there. It's so close I can wake up late and still be on time for work. You know? It's

right there. Five minutes, five minutes to my house. So it was a really good thing. He really was good for me. I really appreciate it because I don't have to deal with traffic. When I come out of my yard. I make a left. If you make a right you coming to traffic.

WM: Yeah.

SM: I'm going with traffic. I mean, like, opposite direction. So. And only a mile and a half to the end of the road anyway. So there's not much traffic, you know, at that time because I work six in the morning but only end of the road. Only me and the Kepalo's. You know, only me and the ghosts, only me and the ghosts stay on the road. You know.

WM: Oh, yeah. Yeah. So you love that job.

SM: I love it there. Some things can be stressful because sometimes—you know for me, especially Covid. Sometimes these visitors, they mean well, they don't mean it, but they get so into your space. Like, hey, if you guys haven't seen, you know I do a briefing. I gotta brief them about the trail. The can, cannots, do's and don'ts at the end of there, under the pavilion. That's what I do down at the pavillion. Today I work up, you know, I check you guys in. But normally I work two days, Monday and Wednesday down in the pavillion. So you got a brief um, tell um. Like I said, can, cannots, do's and do not's, you know. Don't swim here. Don't swim there. You know, this is the worst beach in the world. The most drownings in the state of Hawai'i. Is right here on this beach here, you know, you tell them that and then put them on the trail, you know, so it's right there. I'm the person that Joe wanted because he knew I born and raised here. So, you know, and in my older age, I'm 63. I kupuna stage already. So he really made me a good offer I could I felt like I couldn't refuse. So I've been there for five years. He gave me a two dollar raise. So I'm up to 22 right now. And I can live okay with that, you know, for now, you know, just gotta watch, you know. But it's a good thing. He was really good to me.

WM: In that way too I feel like you get to educate people well about where you come from?

SM: Yeah, yeah. And tell him, you know, I said, you know, I always tell them, I said, be very nice. Don't be mean. You know, we are allowing you guys to come into this valley, be mindful, you know, mind your P's and q's here and everything. You be good with the Hawaiian people, but don't get cocky to the Hawaiian people. They will give you right back to you the same way you deliver it. It be delivered right back to you, the same way it come out of your mouth. And most of them are good. But you know, like I said, I like I tell him, have a seat, you have the seat. And anywhere they confront you, they like that. Like they never see what Hawaiian, they don't see one Hawaiian or one mahu before you know. Just looking at me like I'm some kind of freaking freak. You know, that's how they treat you, you know? And then I say, okay, wait a minute, back up, back up. Because, you know, now you're in my space. Now, I said, have a seat here. But, you know, you're staring at me like, I'm one—just like I one view. Like I'm some kind of freak. I tell um, watch it. I'm like, back up. Oh, we're sorry. Sorry. Yeah. Give me my space. Give me my space right now, you know? But most of the time, they're really nice the tourists. And sometimes the only stress we get down there at that at that job, that position is the local

haole people live here. Because they buy a piece of land here, they buy a house and their entitlement kicks in, attitude and entitlement. So if you can watch them—because like the tourists, I hear they're wonderful. They just want to spend the money, have a good time, enjoy the island and get the hell back. You know, go back home, you know. And that's what I like about the visitor, because they come here and they going leave. Yeah. You know, just don't come back and move. You come back. You know, we we have a lot of people, and they still today. They still moving here, the people. Even Maui, still people moving. Why? You know, these people get money. What about the local people in here? They need housing too, you know. So it kind of sucks what they're doing, you know? Yeah, but I that's why Josh Green wants to get off. Go get rid of shutdown. I hope it's true what he said, because, you know, I don't know about that one, but he said he's, he wants to get rid of, short term rentals, which is vacation. He said that on the news last night, the other night. I heard him say that. Oh, that's good. That's scoring points. You know, get you know, get you know, the people from here. It's unfortunate. It's true today a lot of the Hawaii people, a lot of people were born and raised here, got to leave here because it's it's hard to make ends meet, you know. And it's hard to make ends meet because I live from check to check, you know, and I struggle, but I make it, you know, I pay all my bills, but I make it. I said, and they say, oh, that's not good. Paycheck to paycheck. I say yeah but I at least you make it to the next check. Paycheck to Monday is not a thing to get on a plan, because you get paid Friday. You broke ass Monday, you know, paycheck to paycheck to Monday. That means, yeah, you get the paycheck monthly. You broke ass. That's how it is. Sorry. That's hot. Like pocket. Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah. So it's kind of funny, you know, but, I guess going back to Lahaina. Yeah.

WM: Your work ethic there helped you prepare for your adult life?

SM: Yes it did. It really did. And I have—I'm so grateful for that. I was taught that—I was taught that at home, but Lahainaluna made me stay on that plan because my father thought, oh I was being naughty. So he sent me Lahainaluna. So yeah, I always will be grateful. Maui will always have a place in my heart. It will always. You know, like I said, I would move there. If I had to move off this island, I would move to Maui. Not a problem, you know. But I'm happy here. Until now, this is my home. Like I said, I going die here, you know? But I always would be grateful for Lahainaluna. Like they really told me, again, prepped me for my future out of that high school.

WM: Yeah. Was your your parents, were they happy?

SM: Oh, my father was so proud. You jackass. He told me. You know, he's funny because he used to kick my 'ōkole all the time. Yeah, I remember he used to tell me, what do you go to school for? Eat lunch? Yeah! Slap my mouth right across the dining table. He cracked me. I fly ten feet, I fly. So my father was a big man. Yeah, he—I fly. And my mother said, oh. There you go again. Whacking the kids. You know, you, your hand heavy. She tell my father. Yeah. My feet more heavy, I going kick him in his ass. Because, he no listen. You know, that was my dad. You know he was real mean, but.

WM: So he was proud.

SM: Oh, he was so proud. And if—I told you—you was the smartest one of my kids. I knew already when you came up, growing up that you were a nosy kid. Always a nosy kid. You always ask questions. And they knew, the kupunas knew, if you ask questions, you're going to get a lot of answers. That's why the tourists are smart today. They're smart because they no shame ask questions. They ask questions, they not afraid to ask questions. That's why they smart. And that is why my aunty always say in Hawaiian. That's why the haole is smart. Because they nosy people, they love to ask. And that's true, you not going know if you don't ask, you know, it's the truth.

WM: It's just a matter of following the directions.

SM: Yeah. Yeah. Absolutely. Totally. You know. Yeah, yeah.

WM: Do you have any, do you have any questions that you wanted to ask?

MM: Oh, you know, some other of the boarding students talked about doing like potlucks in the dorm, like someone bringing some cans, and something. Yeah. Did you ever?

SM: I used to cook my Saimin in a percolator.

WM: In a percolator?

SM: Yeah. Percolate. You make coffee. And back in old days, you get the ball going in a pot and you get the grain in the stainless steel cup. And I used to take that out and boil my hot water and cook my Tokyo ramen saimin in that percolator. Yeah. You do that in the rice cooker, too. You cook rice and then you cook your saimin, and you would cook like people would be putting Portugese sausage, you know, it's stuff from home. Food from home. And they would have the cooking stuff in there. You could have rice pot, rice pot like that. You couldn't have stove, anything, stove. But you could have like a percolator stuff or rice cooker, electrical stuff you could use it. But yeah.

WM: I know people, some people from Maui would go home on the weekends.

SM: Yeah. Spoiled brats or the parents would bring the food to them.

WM: Would you ever—did you have a sponsor, or?

SM: Yes I did, yeah. The Ho'opi'i's, Junior. He was a boarder at Lahainaluna, too. Was Junior, and, I went to his parents house, went over there, on one weekend. I just go holoholo all weekend.

WM: Where did they live?

SM: Kahakuloa. Yeah. I had to think about that, because I only been there once. To their house. Kahakuloa. And then the Ho'opi'i, the Ho'opi'i brothers. The father is the brother

to the two, to Richard and dakine, his name was Norman. He was a brother to the Ho‘opi‘i brothers, one of the brothers. But he wasn't one of the musicians. He was a brother to those two musician brothers. Yeah.

WM: Because what, the Ho'opi'i is a big Maui family.

SM: Oh, yes, they are that falsetto. Yeah, those two brothers, you know.

WM: So he was a brother of the the two brother musicians?

SM: Yeah. That was Norman.

WM: Ah, and they're from Kahakuloa.

SM: Correct. So they're from—the Ho‘opi‘i, from the Hawaiian homes in Kahakuloa. Yeah, I went to that. Yeah. It was. Yeah. Beautiful. That whole area went up there.

WM: But that was one of your sponsors.

SM: One of my sponsors go there, and then I went downtown, too. I was terrible. I would lie, forge my weekend passes and then. But I would call my father and my mom. I said, well, dad, I going weekend pass, ah. I go tell them you approved it and everything, if they call you, just tell them yeah. He said where you going, I going my friend's house. I never go my friends house. I go check in one hotel. We when get a room downtown. I go stay in a room. Travelodge, right behind, right below Lahaina. McDonald's had one Travelodge back there. We will stay there for the weekend. And you know it was just perfect right there.

WM: Wow.

SM: Yeah. Drinking age. It was funny because I was at the dormitory. And drinking age back then was 18. So I have an early birthday, February 5th, my birthday. So I made 18 February fifth, 1979 when I was a senior. So I was at Foxy maid, I was in the discotheque. I was in plume mass, all of the nightclubs. Brother was hitting it at 18 at Lahainaluna, I was going, going, going, gone. Yeah, that was me. That was, I was kolohe. And then I started drinking. Oh my goodness. Oh boy. A refresher. Oh we went to the Maui State Fair. Go over there. We got all drunk. It was, 'Oh I cannot drive home', 'eh shut up, you. I got to be back up there, you know, in an hour and a half'. So we stopped somewhere, passed. What's that harbor by Kihei.

WM: Ma‘alaea?

SM: Ma‘alaea. We passed over there. Get the look out, the Scenic Overlook. Looking to Kaho‘olawe. She said, 'I gotta sleep little while'. Can we have at least half an hour nap. Nap for half hour, sure. Okay. I feel alright now. We go. We run back Lahainaluna, was so funny. You check in downstairs, David Malo. I was so drunk going back to the

dormitory, I was so drunk, I walk and I never take my shoes off. Right in front of the office. I walk on the floor. David Malo downstairs, I sign in. Walk David Malo downstairs. Go up Hoapili dormitory and go inside my room. Sleep all drunk. I ended up in somebody else's room. My friend, he was. His roommate was home for the week, was gone for the weekend. So he was on his bed sleeping and I was on his roommate's. So Henry Chang from Hāna, that's who his roommate was. So I when sleep on Henry Chang's bed. And I was AWOL they was looking for me, I was AWOL, but they never open the door. If they open a door, they will smell the liquor because I was in the wrong room. If they had come in the room. They would have smelled the liquor. So he never open, and he banged on the door, 'Maka! Two minutes. Maka. I going give you AWOL. Get back to your room'. I had run out of that room so fast, I woke up and said, 'oh shit! I stay sleeping on Henry Chang's bed! Oh, shit. I gotta get out of here'. I run, I run up to the room. The next day, he laugh at me. Maka, you should have played football for us because I watched you play. He tell, I watched you play football on the field, you good for flag football. You know, I run everybody over. I was fast, I was fast on my leg, you know. But he said you should have played football. Said, why? 'You know you, what you did on boarders field football was nothing to how you do what you did last night when you run from downstairs Hoapili to upstairs Hoapili. That was the fastest you ever got back to your room.' And he laughed. That was the next day, I was hiding. 'Oh, please don't talk to me. I never go close to him. I stayed away from him so he wouldn't smell the liquor and then after that I said, no more drinking for me, no more. But that was fun. Drinking age was 18 back then, so I was in the bars already. I was doing the bar thing already.

WM: Because you guys graduate May?

SM: No, June, we graduated June 10th--June second, 1979 I graduated high school from Lahainaluna.

WM: You had good three months.

SM: Yeah. You know. Yeah. There was. Yeah.

WM: So funny.

SM: Yeah. You know, it was. It was fun times in my life. I have wonderful memories of Maui, you know, all over. Go to Kamona bakery up Pukalani. They give that bakery the fabulous bakery. Tasty Crust in Kahului. Tasty Crust. Takamiya market around the corner down on the way to Kahakuloa, Takamiya market right there. Oh, and then Tasaka's Guriguri ice cream. Have you been there?

WM: Yeah.

SM: Tasaka's Guriguri in Kahului Shopping Center. I think it was Kahului Shopping Center. Yeah, around the corner from from House of Pancakes, Ihop, Ihop is right on the corner.

Well Ihop wasn't there back then. Now it's there. Yeah. Right around the corner from that place. Yeah.

MM: Yeah. I'm curious what. You kind of touched upon it, though. What other kinds of Hawaiian practices did you grow up around with your family, and then were there any Hawaiian practices you kind of gained at Lahainaluna?

SM: Basic was like just hula. I learned up there hula and, you know, I mean, I got more into it, you know, and it taught you another thing. Peter Day and Auntie Lori taught us, research is very important. To research your work. Yeah. Whatever you do, especially the Hawaiian language, you have to do your research properly. You don't do it—if you don't do it properly, it can come back and haunt you. So you know, you have to hāmau kou leo, watch what comes out of your mouth, you know. You know. And that was really a lesson I learned up there, you know. And that's how I learned research. That's what a lot of my friends became Kumu Hulas today because she said, 'Maka, how do you think I made it as a Kumu hula today? I had to research. I went back to school.' So you might have to go back to school if you want to open hālau, you got to go back to school. You got to go back, research, do your research. It's very important. You got to have it down, your research. And the information is there. You just got to go fight for it, so your searching know. So yeah, it made me staying in hula and the entertainment business, and helped, you know, make sure you know what you chanting about. Your chant, the 'ōlelo Hawai'i, ah. How important that was at Lahainaluna even back then it was important. So you learned a lot about that.

MM: Did you grow up with 'ōlelo Hawai'i?

SM: No. Actually, no, not until then I did. Not until I started really getting to hula. Then I started doing the research for it. Other than that, no, because my grandmother. I'm sure your great grandmother. Great grandmother, was the same. They were forbidden to speak English [Hawaiian]. They were taking the language. It really was taken away from our kūpuna, way before us back in the day. It was taken from us. So. But you know, it's back, you know it's back. So the language is back. And that's I think it's the most important thing for us Hawaiian people. For our language to come back. You know, that, you know, language is the art of the Hawaiian people, you know. Hula is the dance, everything. You know.

WM: How did you learn hula when you're in Kaua'i before you went?

SM: I took from my cousin, Hālau o Hanalei, Naomi. And she had two brothers graduated from Lahainaluna too. One after me and one before me. So she taught me, and she was the one that got me into hula. She was always scolding me because she tell me, 'eh. That hand! I said, 'what?' 'Not like this!', was a little bit too soft so she would scold me! Yeah. She said no, not like this because your father going scold me. Because her mom was Auntie Margie, the third of the Maka Trio on the album. So she said, 'no, make stronger!' So she worked it to make um stronger, then I got 'um and everything. Yeah, she said oh, you got to become a little more. . . they're too soft. You know it's not wahine category,

you know. Yeah, but she's tell me you got to make um a little more stiff. So she taught me. And then, Lahainaluna, Peter Day got me into it, you know.

WM: Was was at home mostly hula 'auana? Or was it also hula kahiko?

SM: Was mostly hula 'auana.

WM: Mostly hula 'auana.

SM: I didn't really get into kahiko until I went to Lahainaluna because it was right there. I see the thing, the problem with here that I couldn't learn it then because, a lot of the hālaus, all the teachers then—my cousin was all in Kapa'a, and I no more car. Back then if you live Hā'ena, you ain't going to a hula class in Anahola. That's not going to work for you because your parents no could take you to hula and pick you up. That's not going to happen. So I couldn't get into it until I got to Maui. I didn't get really get into it.

WM: That is so cool.

SM: Yeah, yeah.

WM: I find that a lot, because I dance hula.

SM: Who you dance for?

WM: Oh, Mapuana DeSilva.

SM: Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima. Oh. She's fabulous. You know what's good about her? I have to say. And that's what I like about Leina'ala. I went to her 'ike last week. The basics. Kumu is always—I know Kapalai very well, they used to come Kaua'i every year. I used to work at Gourmet, that restaurant. They came in there. They came two years in a row, eat the food at Gourmet. They love the food. So they even packed the whole dining room. And they were staying at camp Naue, over here.

WM: Yeah, yeah. She told me about how she learned 'auana first before she got to learn kahiko. So I find that that's a very common thing because you have to earn that. Kahiko.

SM: Eah. Well yeah. But Kumu, she used to dance—who did she take from, now?

WM: Maiki.

SM: Yeah. Aunty Maiki Aiu. Maiki Aiu Lake, yeah.

WM: Yeah.

SM: Yeah. That's right her, Robert Casimero. Yeah. All them, all for Aunty Maiki Aiu. Yeah. Oh, Vicky Holt-Takamine. Wait wait wait. Mohala—no, Ali'i 'Ilima. Yeah. Aunty Vicky

is Pua Ali'i 'Ilima. Yeah she was a fabulous lady. She came down here. Hawaiians was having bad problem with the boating industry in here. So she came to talk to them, and the Hawaiians was swearing at the everybody and cussing and cursing. And she came down, make everybody hāmau. She made them humble. She said how do you think going to get things done if you guys are all angry? You guys not going to get nothing done angry. Things get done when you sit down and talk, kūkākūkā about things, you know, you have to do that. You have to. Other than that, it's not going to work for you. So she did it. Chants and everything. You know, oli's and everything to help. You know, get this land back, the ocean back to the Hawaiian people and everything. What was his name? Ben Cayetano. Came behind Auntie Vicky, came behind her and shut the boat industry right down in Hanalei. He shut um down. When he was the Governor. Ben Cayetano. Oh, we loved him on Kaua'i. Because, you know, he had helped the Hawaiian people, because no more fish for the Hawaiian people—how we going eat? Because the boating industry, they have, like almost 70 boats leaving Hanalei. All tourists on the boats all day. Money, money, money. You know, yep the money. They took the money and no more fish. You know, so they messed it up. So Ben Cayetano came in, then shut Hanalei boat, all the boaters—shut them all down here. And was a big thing rivalry in Hanalei. But the boaters had to give up. A lot of local people working for boaters said that they had to get a new job. The parents say, you know, just go get new job. You guys got to go get new job. This, this. Too late. And finally, they can save this place. So it's really good, Auntie Vicky. Yeah, she came down and cleared the path, right, for Ben Cayetano come behind her, and shut that whole Hanalei Bay down on them. That was the best. It was a celebration in Hanalei for us Hawaiian people that live in here, so not have to come after all, these people with money come over here and make money. Come over here, make money and leave their 'ōpala behind.

WM: Yeah. You know, reminds me of Hā'ena and the CBSFA restrictions. Yeah. The shuttle. Yeah. That to know that's very. . .

SM: Yeah. And we have, we have to get the shuttle because too much cars on the road. So that's the purpose of the shuttle, to avoid having all these extra cars on the highway.

WM: Yeah, yeah. Beautiful. Do you have any, final reflections that you want to say about Lahainaluna? Fond memories?

SM: Well, first of all, I just wanted to say rest in peace Mr. Ariyoshi. He was our principal he died about a year and a half ago. Bruno. Oh, Henry Bruno Ariyoshi. That was his name. You know. He was the one, when I get in trouble, he helped me keep me on the right track with him. He did. He kept everybody he knew, people he helped. He tried to help you do better, get better and do better. And I'm always grateful to him. Chief Kukahiko. Mr. Watson. Auntie Lori, the ladies of the cafeteria at Lahainaluna. I mean, very grateful for even the teachers. A lot of teachers there, you know, very grateful for them. You know, Ms. Okida, Ms. Sakamoto. What was the name? Husband and wife. Teacher. Nagano Mr. and Mrs. Nagano. He was the one who taught me the class. I was in pre-algebra class, college level four. You know, I was in the wrong classroom. I said, if you feel like this is not a class for you, please raise your hand. I know I'll help you get out of

this class. So I went got out of his class, and I went back to, like, phase two math. A lot easier for me and was fine because no way I would have gotten there. I was a first year boarder at Lahainaluna, and they just threw me in that class. And I had no business being in that class. It wasn't by my choice of school then, you know. But really grateful of those teachers that really just had teach us about family living. I'll never forget it. 'Mr. Maka, I don't care. As long as you put one foot. You have two feet can go in the shirt. I am going to pass you. I'll be damned if I'm going to have you in my class next year.' Thank you. That was what I would call the family. That even though Mrs. Handlershut. We don't have the showbiz call. She taught family living. She was the lady in charge. That was her in home economics. Yeah. Home Ec. Family living. 'Because as long as two feet fit in that shorts, I'm going to pass you.' Pass you? It was funny when I put the shorts on, was too damn low, half my 'okole was hanging out of the back. 'Oh, no, no, no, I don't care, your two feet made it in, you're passing. You're out of here, Mr. Maka. This year. You are out. I'm going to pass— you going to graduate.' And I graduated you know, but just say I'm going to give you a B because just so you pass my class. You know that's what she did, she pass me. But she was you know, she was really fun to to work with. She taught us how to cook a lot of things. Sew, and stuff like that. But the teachers are very good teachers at Lahainaluna. Very good teachers, and helpful you know. I guess Lahainaluna had their help, they really go out of the way to help the students progress well, you know, to get better. You know, strive for, you know, higher goals and stuff like that. They really, you know, taught us that, you know. Yeah. Always grateful for that and that Lahainaluna alma mater. Yeah. That's the that's history right there. Beautiful. And then Yonder Lahaina Mountains, yeah. 'There I gaze up yonder Lahaina Mountain, where hills are quiet.' Yeah. Yonder Lahaina Mountain. That's another song we learned. Yeah.

WM: I do have a question. How did going to Lahainaluna help you with your identity as a Hawaiian person? Like, how did Lahainaluna help you think about who you are as a Hawaiian? I thought since, like, you're so involved with Hawaiiana and all of these different things. I think you're one of the first people that we talked to that's so passionate about all of this.

SM: Hawaiiana and all this. It's just something. It's offered to you there. It's just came naturally for me, you know, because everything was right there. Like I said, Kapa'a school was far away from here. So we have to get to a place where I was on campus all the time. So I was there learning everything I needed to learn when I was there at that time. So that was a plus for me, just being there and there it was there, offered for me that I didn't have to go to nowhere, you are on campus, you know, so you didn't have to go far. Everything was there for you. You just have to look know what you're looking for. Hula and language, and then you just got to know what you're looking for. And everything else, you know. You know, that's what they did for me.

WM: Beautiful. You kept up with it.

SM: Yeah, yeah, I did. I really kept up, you know? And I have no regrets, you know? I have no regrets. I will, I always thought if for with my parents deciding—along with my parents decision, they let me decide. Although my parents decided. He asked me do you want to

go. And I knew my father was like, come back with a diploma. That was all he wanted. So that's that was my goal to get that diploma from Lahainaluna, right? I knew I wasn't going to get it from Kaua'i. Kapa'a High School, but I know there was a chance it would work for me at Lahainaluna, and it did work in the best interest of me to go Lahainaluna.

WM: Yeah. Mahalo. Yeah. Do you have any other last word?

SM: Go, Lunas! Go lunas, you know. Go, Lunas! I'm always there for them rooting for them at Lahainaluna. Yeah. Thank you so much for, giving me this opportunity to share my story. Not only Maui, but Kaua'i is where—it started somewhere and ended somewhere, and it ended on a high note. My father, he told me, used to kick my 'okole all the time, he tell me, I graduated, he tell, to bend over. And my father said, my mother tell, and my mother is one smart little lady and my dad was big. She said, 'Oh no, what you going do now?' 'Yeah. I going kick his ass.' And she said, why? 'Because he the smartest son I knew. He was the smartest boy, my smartest kid, the whole time. He was the smartest one.' And my mom said, 'oh, no. You not going kick his 'okole. I go kick your 'okole', my mother said. And then my father just never he let 'um go. My mother's a small Hawaiian lady, petite but my father listen to her. 'No, he never did his dream. He did your dream because he gave you the diploma that you asked from him. And he did it. So you're not kicking his ass. You know, you supposed to shake his head in congratulation. Congratulate him.' And he hugged me. That's the first time my dad ever hugged me. You know, because he was. I was getting is a little trouble. So before I went to Lahainaluna. So he really wanted me to do well. And he knew I could do well, but I just needed the right people. Yeah, yeah, right people would get me there and he knew Lahainaluna would help. And it really did help me, you know. And a lot of people troubled kids went there too. They were known for troubled kids, kids at a foster home, foster care. You know, I met a lot of them up there, a lot of them were in foster care because, no parents, you know, they break up and, you know, but it was a good thing. And my parents were proud of me. And then I had the most handsome senior picture ever out of all my brothers, when my sister saw my picture, said, 'oh my God! This is you?' And she'd look at the pictures and we had white, you know, it was only the top part of the tuxedo. Yeah, was white with turquoise ruffles. We have, a little black collar and white. Yeah, yeah. I was very handsome back then. And I was skinny at the time, you know, I because after high school I became big, you know. But she just blew through my mind. Blew her mind when she saw my senior picture because it was a beauty. I had a beautiful senior picture.

WM: Wow. That's beautiful.

SM: But thank you again so much. I really glad I got to let out a lot today.

WM: Oh yes.

SM: Because it come on one time, but slowly it was coming up slowly. The memories you the you just got to dig a little deeper. Yeah. Somewhere in here. You know.

WM: It's nice to reminisce.

SM: Yeah. It was for me. I just hope it was as nice for you as that was for me.

WM: Beautiful. Thank you, uncle, so much.

SM: Yes, yes. Thank you so much. Very much I appreciate that.

WM: Okay. All right, let me turn this.