

JOHN SCOTT BOYD PRATT, III

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

John Scott Boyd Pratt, III

(1921 -)

Mr. Pratt is the only son of John Scott Boyd Pratt, Jr. and Elizabeth Kastle Pratt. He grew up on sugar plantations on Kauai and in Kohala on the Big Island, where his father was employed as plantation manager.

Mr. Pratt is the former president of Hawaiian Trust Company, Limited, where he had been employed since 1941. He has a love of the arts and is a past president of the Honolulu Academy of Arts.

In this interview Mr. Pratt talks of growing up on the plantations and compares the life style of the early 1970's with the easy one he remembers.

Lynda Mair, Interview

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN SCOTT BOYD PRATT, III

At his Waikiki residence, 2979 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, 96815

October 15, 1971

P: John Scott Boyd Pratt, III

M: Lynda Mair, Interviewer

M: Just whenever you start remembering.

P: Well, I was born on Kauai but I don't remember anything about that (Lynda laughs) because my mother, off and on during her short life, was quite ill. So my father-- shortly after I was born, my mother became very ill and he had to take her back to the Mayo Clinic. So I was left with my grandmother in Honolulu, and I was too young to remember that.

M: This grandmother was named?

P: Mrs. Kastle--with a K however. She had come here from Kentucky where my mother was born.

M: Could you speak just a little bit louder? I don't think it'll catch.

P: All right. (laughter)

M: Is this Kastle name--is that German?

P: It's German, yes. My grandfather had been a professor of chemistry at both Johns Hopkins [University] and at the University of Kentucky. He was of German origin. My mother was born in Kentucky but came out here. She also was a chemistry professor and was one of the first chemistry professors at what is now the University of Hawaii.

M: Oh.

P: That's where she met my father, and then they were married. They lived first of all at Kahuku and then moved to Kilauea. My father was assistant manager there. But then she became ill so they went back to Mayo's. Then he was as-

signed to the HSPA [Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association] Experiment Station at Makiki. But I don't remember anything at all because really my first recollections were when my father was assistant manager at McBryde Sugar Company on Kauai. I spent all my early years there, going to what they then called an English-speaking school at Makaweli. I think the total enrollment for grades one through eight was something like thirty students. (laughter)

M: All in one room?

P: Well, no, there were two rooms. My first teacher was Mrs. Cedric Baldwin and some of the people in my class were Marion Robinson, various Kauai families. Actually they came from all over the southern end of the island and we were the English-speaking school, they called it.

M: Well, you were predominantly Caucasian children?

P: Entirely. (microphone blocked momentarily; laughter)

M: Okay. What else can you recall about the school?

P: Well, really very little about the school. I think the interesting thing was the way of life and how it's changed. We, of course, had automobiles all the time but they were very different and the roads were very different from what we have now. I do remember our first radio.

I was one of the first to take an airplane ride. My father had a brother-in-law whose brother was one of the early colonels in the U.S. Air Force and he came visiting over on Kauai in an Army Air Force plane and took us around and it certainly was a different experience (laughter) than what you can expect now. One of my earliest memories actually is being awakened in the very early hours of the morning to go out to Barking Sands on Kauai because Maitland and [Albert F.] Hegenberger were on their--I'm not sure whether it was around-the-world or just from the mainland to Australia but they were taking off from there, which was quite a pioneering venture in the aviation world. And I do remember that very well.

M: When you went with this relative of yours on the plane trip--the army plane--where did he land and take off?

P: Well, at Port Allen there was a flat sort of strip there but with the airplanes some of the army used it was, well, it was quite an experience. I mean we flew over Waialeale and Waimea Canyon and Na Pali Coast (laughs). It was in the twenties and it was quite an experience. I remember that very well.

But the way of life was very different. We had a very small mountain cottage up at Kokee and my mother and I used to move up there for the summer. I had a horse and the horse would have to be ridden all the way up there, which was quite a distance. I didn't do that, but it was taken up there and we spent the summers up there.

M: How did you get supplies and things like that? Did someone bring the things in for you?

P: Yeh. My father would come up for weekends and bring the supplies. There was no electricity, the roads weren't paved and it was really a complete wilderness--beautiful country. It was isolated. There were maybe two dozen families that had homes scattered about up there. It was quite a place to spend the summer.

Then I remember trips to Honolulu. Of course, there were no planes. You had to go by boat and [it was] terribly rough (chuckles)--overnight trip. Honolulu itself, when we stayed here, there weren't many cars. There was an old streetcar or trolley system whereby we got about. (chuckles)

M: Yeh. I've heard a lot about those horse-drawn streetcars, I guess they were called.

P: Then when I finished elementary school, there was a question of sending me to boarding school at Punahou or sending me to the mainland, since I did have relatives in California, they decided to send me there to school. So I joined the annual migration [from Hawaii to the mainland]. (laughter)

M: You were what--how old then?

P: Well, actually I was ahead of myself in school. I was eleven when I first went away to boarding school. And actually, when you went away in those days you didn't come home for Christmas or Easter or anything; you went for the school year. Everyone went on the same boat and we really had a great time. It didn't take four and a half days in those days; it took six or seven. The whole ship on this trip was high school and college kids on their way back to the mainland and they had a few chaperones. But, I mean, it was just like one big family.

M: Uh huh. You already knew a lot of the people on this ship?

P: Yes, oh yes. Well, everyone knew everyone else of course. Then you'd all meet for the same trip coming back and it

was really a tremendous experience. It's so different these days. You get up to the Coast in four hours . . .

M: Yeh.

P: . . . and society is sort of fragmented . . .

M: Uh huh.

P: . . . and I think we miss a lot that way.

M: Um hmm. I wanted to ask you--when you mentioned your periodic trips to Honolulu on the steamer, before you started going away to school--why did your family go to Honolulu from time to time, to . . .

P: Well, my father was born here in Honolulu and his family was here, and my mother had several aunts here.

M: So it was mainly to just sort of . . .

P: Just visit with the family.

M: . . . family reunion thing.

P: That's right. As I say, my mother was ill quite a bit of the time and she'd come down to see the doctors or come down to do the shopping. I mean, there were no great stores (chuckles) up in Kauai at that point.

M: Yeh. (chuckles) What school did you go to up on the mainland?

P: I went to Menlo School, which is really a preparatory school for Stanford, and then I subsequently went to Stanford. I came back and forth each summer.

My father in the meanwhile had been transferred to Kohala. He went up there in 1935 and was manager there until he retired in 1949. I don't know--the life on the outside islands and in Honolulu itself was so very different from what it is now. You hear all this talk about plantation psychology and all, but I think it was different living in it than it is conceived today. I'm not saying it was better or worse or what (chuckles), but it was different.

I think everything was much more closely knit. There wasn't all the outside stimuli we get today, but I often think back. One of my first recollections actually is I had a--because my mother was so ill--I had a Japanese nurse, Mama-san, when I was very young. She had been born in Japan and she spoke very little English. She tried to

teach me Japanese, and I'm sure when I was three and four I probably spoke Japanese but I don't remember it now. (chuckles) But when my mother was ill I used to go up and stay with them [my nurse and her family]. They really lived in the old Japanese manner.

There was none of the unrest or discontent with their way of life. I mean, sure they were poor and they were ambitious for their children, but I don't think there was this great unhappiness because they were so glad to be in this country actually.

M: Uh huh.

P: I think it's (inaudible), you know, you can't blame them. They want to be educated and advance in our way of society, but I think the first generation had this feeling for their children. I don't think they themselves were discontented. And they all wanted to go back to Japan to retire and die, which they did. My nurse went back; Brenda's nurse went back there.

M: Hmm.

P: Really, one of the greater experiences that we had--shortly after we were married, after we'd had Thane [Kastle, our oldest son]--we went to Japan, because I had been there. I'd lived there six months right at the end of the war; Brenda had been there before with her family. So we went back on this trip there and we saw her former nurse, who then was eighty-one, I think. She was a very unusual Japanese woman. She was very tall. She seemed as though she were almost six feet. I don't know whether she was or not, but she was very regal-looking.

It was quite interesting because we were supposed to meet her on the island of Miyajima, which is where the great shrine is. We had gone there first--you take this ferry from the mainland and we got over there--and no one spoke English. (laughter) Somehow we found the hotel we were supposed to stay at; no Western style at all, all Japanese style. We had a very nice layout of rooms and all but we had a terrible time ordering food. We were having difficulties really. She appeared the next morning and just took over this whole hotel. They were so impressed with this woman. She had so much presence and she was in her eighties, and very handsome and very domineering. She just came sweeping into that place, told them who we were and that we were going to be treated like royalty. She found out what we wanted to eat and what we wanted to do, and she laid out this whole schedule and she spent the day with us. And all the hotel staff was weeping. But I'm digressing from Hawaii.

M: Oh, that's all right.

P: What I mean is, there was a very close, personal relationship.

I think that's part of the trouble with our times. I think that there's so many distractions, so much conversation (chuckles), so much dissension, that people sort of miss some of these personal contacts. We do. I mean, all the friends we grew up with are all scattered. We may be here in the same city but we rarely see each other.

M: Mm hmm.

P: And it's too bad. That's one of the things about old Hawaii. Sure there were divergences and a lot of people probably were unhappy. But society as a whole, I think, was--well, you felt that you were a part of it.

M: Mm hmm.

P: And I think that's the trouble with our modern age. I mean--what do you think?

M: Well, I find that I feel like I belong here much more than I did in the community that I grew up in on the mainland, 'cause somehow--even so for you--Hawaii now is so entirely different. For me it's very much more close and much more goes on person to person.

P: Yeh. Well, I still think it's that way as compared to the mainland but that isn't the way it used to be.

M: Uh huh.

P: I don't know. Later on when I was in college, for example, I'd spend maybe several weeks or months with a cousin of mine here [on Oahu]. The type of entertaining, the type of things you did were different. And it was a closer society. Maybe it was too ingrown, I don't know. But it wasn't fragmented the way it is today.

M: Yeh. When you'd come back on your summer vacation trips during the school years, what sort of things did the kids do to amuse themselves? For instance, when you're off at Kohala where there isn't too much . . .

P: Over at Kohala? Well . . .

M: Or the . . .

P: People visited. And people don't visit now very much, at

least I don't think they do. (chuckles) But, I mean we had a big house. My father was manager there. My mother loved it. But on the other hand, it must have been a terrible drain on her because we never had a night by ourselves. We always had house guests.

M: Literally?

P: Yes, I literally mean that.

M: What sort of people? Traveling through or . . .

P: Well, first of all you had the business people. We had Castle & Cooke people, or people from the mainland in the sugar business were coming up. We had all sorts of people that were referred to us in a business way; I mean, people that were writing books. And I know we had a mystery writer and we had this and we had that. (laughter) But they were fun, they were interesting.

Then we had our friends. Well, for example, where Kohala is right next to Kahua Ranch and lots of our friends would go out to Kahua and we'd all get together. We'd go riding and we'd go swimming and go around the island. I don't think you'd see that now.

M: No.

P: I mean for example, Reynolds [G.] Burkland who, as you know, is a vice president [of Hawaiian Trust Company] and Ellin [White Burkland] were up there; and Marjorie [Erdman] Fairbanks. They'd all just sort of congregate up there and away we'd go--all this riding, swimming, hiking--just having a good time.

M: It wasn't the thing for young people to get jobs of any kind in the summer?

P: No. No, I don't think they did.

M: You were just more or less expected to amuse yourselves?

P: That's right.

M: Let's see now. Let me get a date so I kind of know where to place all of this. About when was it that you started college?

P: Well, I was at Stanford from 1937 to '41. I graduated in June of '41 and it was quite obvious to me that the war was going to come along.

M: Um hmm.

P: I had been thinking about going to Harvard Business School, but with the international situation the way it was I came back here. Mr. [Charles Reed] Hemenway offered me a job at the [Hawaiian] Trust Company.

M: Now wait. Let me get this. (recorder turned off and on again) Yeh, okay.

P: Well, Mr. Hemenway offered me this job at the trust company.

M: What was he at that time?

P: He was president. And I started as a trainee at seventy-five dollars a month. (laughter)

M: Were you majoring in business at Stanford?

P: No, I had taken a general course there--I mean a general cultural course really--with the idea of going on and specializing at the business school.

But then the war came and everything was frozen here in Honolulu--all jobs. They didn't have the draft. They didn't have anything. Just everyone had to keep on. They had blackouts. So I was frozen in the trust company, which was fine. Due to my eyesight I couldn't get a commission in the navy, which is what I would have preferred, so I sat this thing out. Then about two and a half years later they lifted all this martial law and they did institute the draft and I was drafted.

I was put on limited service and assigned to G-2 or intelligence at Fort Shafter where I sat until about a month before the Japanese surrendered. They asked for volunteers to be assigned to [General Douglas] MacArthur's headquarters for censorship in Japan. They were presumably going with the invasion forces but then the armistice took place. I was between here and Japan when that happened. I was with MacArthur's headquarters but went with the Fifth Corps of Marines. We were the first ones into Sasebo on Kyushu in southern Japan. I was there [on Kyushu] six months. It was quite an experience. After the war I got out and came back to Honolulu and rejoined the trust company.

M: Could you tell me more about how you happened to end up at the trust company in the first place? Was Mr. Hemenway a family friend or . . .

P: Well, yes.

M: Did you just pick . . .

P: I didn't pick at all. They were just looking for young men coming into the company as trainees. Mr. Hemenway, I think, had been formerly at Alexander & Baldwin and he'd been an old family friend and had taken care of some of my father's family's financial affairs. He just told Dad if I was not going to business school and wanted a job, they'd like to have me as a trainee. That's how I started. I had no idea of going in there per se.

M: So after the war, then, you came back and . . .

P: I thought at the time it was probably a temporary position.

M: Uh huh.

P: But I came back after the war.

M: During that war period before you were drafted, did you get advanced at all or were you just . . .

P: Oh yes. Oh yes.

M: You did.

P: Well actually, when I started there they put me in the investment department which consisted of, on the moment I arrived, it consisted of one woman. (laughter) Then shortly after I was there--well, actually they had hired him--Fred Merrill came. Fred Merrill is now chairman of the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

M: How do you spell that? M-E-R-R- . . .?

P: M-E-R-R-I-L-L. He's a very prominent San Francisco and national businessman. So he was put in charge and developed that department.

M: And you worked under him.

P: I worked under him and with him.

M: Was business done in . . .

P: As far as the trust company is concerned I could tell you a great deal. But I'm not. (laughter)

M: Yeh. I understand that. Maybe you could describe, though, something of the way business was carried on in some way.

P: Well, other than being smaller and more closely knit, I don't think there's been as much change in the business

world as there has been in the nature of our society out here. It's very hard to describe. It was a much easier pace, much more closely knit.

And strangely enough, in some ways, entertaining and all was much more lavish.

M: Entertaining. You mean parties?

P: The social life. I mean, I think most people now just don't give a damn (chuckles) you know, which is all right. But on the other hand, I think people had a lot more fun at parties than they do now.

M: When you were growing up, you didn't mention anything about brothers and sisters.

P: I don't have any.

M: You're an only child.

P: Yeh. Dozens of cousins. (laughter)

M: Well, then it must have been really extra hard for your parents to see you off at the age of eleven.

P: Oh it was, I'm sure. But it was a way of life for a lot of parents here. Naturally up on Hawaii, where there were so many people from Scotland and England, some of them would ship their sons and daughters off and not see them for years, you know. Transportation was slow and mail was slow. You couldn't call the mainland on the telephone.

M: Was Punahou [School] regarded as not quite up to snuff or . . .

P: No. You mean in my case--why I didn't go to Punahou?

M: Yeh, or some of the other people of your generation.

P: No, because my family's been very close to Punahou. But they felt that since I had to board somewhere, I might as well get into a different environment. So that's why I'm sort of half a Californian, I guess. (chuckles)

M: Uh huh. Did you find it difficult?

P: What--adjusting to life there?

M: Yeh.

P: No, not a bit.

M: Without your family and all?

P: No.

M: You didn't?

P: Well, I mean, it was hard; obviously it was hard. Well, we've sent our two sons away. It's not that we aren't close; we're very close. I think it's good to be close to them and yet try and make them independent.

M: Um hmm.

P: Develop with the ideals you have, hopefully, but let them feel they're their own individuals. I think it's quite important.

M: Was you father, I mean as a father, was he a real strong sort of individual? I mean, would . . .

P: Well actually, in their own ways, both my father and mother were strong. When I was younger I thought my mother dominated the situation, but I'm not too sure of that. (laughter) They had very different personalities. I think my father's was a business and a plantation world. Of course, their hours were so incredible. In Kauai there my father used to get up every morning at 4:30 in the morning and get out there when the work crews got out. Then when the work crews stopped shortly after noon, Dad went on until five or six [o'clock]. I mean, it was just incredible for him at work there, so he was awfully tired when he got home.

M: Yeh. Didn't leave much for anything else.

P: No. That's right. And, as I say, at Kohala we were just running a hotel.

M: Yeh. Well . . .

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M: (laughter) Yeh. It sort of went with the job.

P: Yeh. Poor Dad. I mean, he'd sort of poop out right after dinner. My mother was a very gay person. She could stay up till midnight. So it worked out all right. (laughs)

M: Did you have a large staff of servants?

P: Oh yes.

M: And such to run things?

P: Yes. That's right. Of course, that's vanished with the times.

M: Yeh. I was talking with someone the other day about, "How do you manage to get all these things washed?" "Oh, I got a lot of machines. They'll never replace the good old-fashioned servants though!" (laughter)

P: Well, things were so elaborate too. My goodness. As I say, we'd have all these guests all the time. But, I mean, for breakfast, lunch and dinner, we'd have a formal dining room table with white linen tablecloths from Ireland.

M: Three meals a day?

P: Yes, indeed.

M: Everyday?

P: And lunch had four courses or five courses and dinner was the same. Life was very different than today.

M: Isn't that just incredible.

P: It's just incredible, right.

M: Well, give me an idea of what kind of a meal, I mean, the four-course luncheon--what would that consist of? I'm really curious.

P: Well, it'd probably start out with a soup or a fruit cocktail and a salad and maybe fried chicken and corn pudding, mashed potatoes and vegetables.

M: That's lunch?

P: And then a dessert, iced tea and coffee.

M: And how much time would people spend at lunch?

P: Oh, a good hour and a half.

M: Did your father come home from the office?

P: Oh yes, yes.

M: About what time of day would this be?

P: Oh, usually at noon.

Of course, at one point my father disapproved of drinking so (laughter) there was no liquor served in the house. My mother did drink but normally there were no drinks at noon. That changed later on. My father did start drinking. (laughter) And then in the evening there was always either people for dinner or we'd be going out to dinner somewhere.

M: So you actually don't recall sitting down just you and your parents to . . .

P: No.

M: . . . to an evening meal.

P: No. And it was very rarely did you go out somewhere. Of course, on plantations it's sort of different. But on Kauai, every now and then on a Sunday night, we wouldn't have company and we'd go and have chop suey or something like that.

On Hawaii it was very different. (laughs) I really don't know how they stood it because Kohala, as you know, is at the northern tip [of the island], and in those days it was a three-hour drive to Hilo. But they would go to Hilo for dinner parties and I used to go to Hilo for parties.

M: And then home the same night?

P: And then home the same night.

M: Oh, good grief. Six hours?

P: Yes, indeed.

M: To go and come.

P: Yeh. (laughter) It was incredible but people did that, and they did that all the time.

M: Well, did you go by car?

P: Yes, indeed, and that's a long drive.

M: Did your father do the driving himself?

P: Yeh, or I did. But there were parties all along, up and down that coast. Of course, that wasn't during the week nights; that was on weekends. But people just don't do that these days.

M: Um hmm. You think you're really going out of your way if it takes you thirty or forty minutes to get to somebody's

house. (chuckles)

P: Yeh. (chuckles)

M: What sort of parties did your parents have? Other than, I mean, the constant flow of visitors, did they give big parties?

P: Yes. Yes, I remember one exceedingly big party that we gave. (laughs) When I brought down a house guest from Stanford we had a luau for three hundred people, which was quite a production. (laughter)

M: Yeh.

P: It went all night long. People really entertained. Here in Honolulu it was even more elaborate. I remember Ather-ton Richards gave three or four just tremendous affairs. He even had one at the Ala Moana pavilion. And they'd be fancy-dress things.

I remember my cousin Betsy Dyer's debut which lasted all night long with hundreds, if not thousands, of people. It started with a great reception, a champagne reception, and it was up in Nuuanu in her grandmother's house, Mrs. George Carter's place, which is all subdivided now. It was a beautiful estate, beautiful estate. These hundreds of people for champagne cocktails and all. Then they had a smaller group of younger people--the smaller group being in the hundreds too--for dinner and dancing. Then they had another supper at two in the morning. I got home at something like five in the morning. (laughter) I mean it was just fantastic but I . . .

M: And the whole idea was--well obviously, the idea was more than just the girl's debut.

P: No, it was just her debut.

M: That's all?

P: Yeh.

M: Was this done regularly by wealthier parents?

P: Yes. That age is gone forever. (chuckles)

M: Yeh, amazing.

P: But, I mean, it was full dress too.

M: People did dress up, I gather . . .

P: Yeh.

M: . . . a good deal more than they do now.

P: That's right.

M: You even dressed up at home for dinner.

P: And people had a really good time. Sure, it was complicated and expensive. But to me a lot of the glamour has gone. (laughs)

M: Yeh. How did you meet your wife?

P: Well, that's interesting because actually I'm four years older than Brenda. I knew her sister, going back and forth on these boat trips. Towards the very end of my college days, Brenda was along in that group too but I never knew her. I was just old enough at that age so that I was going with a crowd her older sister was going with.

I didn't actually meet Brenda until after the war. Bob Midkiff asked me out to dinner at Luakaha and asked me to bring Brenda. She at that point had graduated from college. Her college career got interrupted by the war and she'd gone back to finish. Then she took a job at the Nelson Art Gallery in Kansas City because she'd majored in Oriental art. This first dinner date we had at Bob Midkiff's, she was just back here for a visit for a few weeks and I was quite taken with her. I wrote her back in Kansas City and when she came out the next time she asked me to a party at her parents' house. And two weeks later we were engaged. (laughter) Although I'd known her family for a long time, she was just enough younger so that I had not known her.

M: So you were married in . . .

P: 1949.

M: Can you remember any more about experiences you had as a child on the plantations?

P: Well, what sort of things?

M: Well, just interesting things or terrible things or particular people that stand out in your mind.

P: Well, it's hard to say.

M: For instance, you were always sort of the son of the assistant manager or manager.

P: Right.

M: How did that affect you in the plantation community? Did you feel sort of isolated?

P: No, I didn't. I didn't feel isolated from either the managerial element which was mostly haole or from the working people, most of whom were Japanese. At that point I was very interested in horses and riding. As far as our social life was concerned, it was more or less confined to the people from the same background. But it was a very relaxed sort of thing. Other than going to school, my main interests were in horses and so on.

M: Did you ever . . .

P: Here I mean, I was just (laughs). . . . I was on good terms with all the stable people. You know, you didn't think about those things. At least I didn't. (chuckles)

M: Yeh. You had your own horses?

P: Yeh.

M: You kept them at the plantation?

P: Well, the plantation at that point had horses too. So I had these horses and we paid for the feed and the care.

M: And your spare time was sort of riding around then.

P: Well, that's right. Yeh. But as far as any social distinctions and all, I don't think it was so much a matter of that. Everyone knew who I was, obviously. (laughs)

M: Yeh.

P: But I don't think that there was any snobbishness involved or anything.

M: Um hmm.

P: But you did sort of lead your own life. It's sort of hard to explain.

M: Yeh. I kind of know what you mean.

P: Yeh.

M: How did you get interested in all this sort of Oriental art? (chuckles) Is that where it started, with your

wife's interest in art?

P: No, I've always been interested in art.

M: Oh, you have?

P: Yeh.

M: Did that start before you went away to school?

P: I've always had a sort of eclectic mind. (chuckles) I've always loved music. As you see I have all these operas. Brenda doesn't like music at all, that's why this is really my room. (chuckles)

M: She doesn't like music?

P: No. I retreat in here and listen to operas and so on. (laughs)

M: Isn't that strange. You're not a practicing musician?

P: Brenda likes English literature and I'm not very good on that one. Really, other than technical art books and that sort of thing the only thing I really read is who-done-its. Brenda on the other hand . . .

M: Oh, you're not literary.

P: I'm not literary (Lynda laughs) but she is. She likes to read so she goes in the bedroom and reads (laughter); I sit in here and listen to music.

M: Oh.

P: But I've always been interested in art. As you may know I'm president of the Academy of Arts.

M: Uh huh.

P: Those actually are Iranian (showing several pieces).

M: Yeh. I wouldn't have known.

P: Of various periods but most of them around 800 B. C.

M: Oh really? What function do those kind of wiry, tall things . . .

P: They've . . .

M: . . . serve?

P: . . . all been found in grave burials. Most of them are . . .

M: I guess I don't need this. (recorder turned off)

COUNTER AT 208/2ND TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW

Transcribed and edited by Linda I. L. Tubbs

Audited and edited by Katherine B. Allen

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THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In May 1971, the Watumull Foundation initiated an Oral History Project.

The project was formally begun on June 24, 1971 when Katherine B. Allen was selected to interview kamaainas and longtime residents of Hawaii in order to preserve their experiences and knowledge. In July, Lynda Mair joined the staff as an interviewer.

During the next seventeen months, eighty-eight persons were interviewed. Most of these taped oral histories were transcribed by November 30, 1972.

Then the project was suspended indefinitely due to the retirement of the foundation's chairman, Ellen Jensen Watumull.

In February 1979, the project was reactivated and Miss Allen was recalled as director and editor.

Three sets of the final transcripts, typed on acid-free Permalife Bond paper, have been deposited respectively in the Archives of Hawaii, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School.