

OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

ORAL HISTORY

Gertrude Furtado Berger

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Interview by Barbara del Piano

June 26, 2014

Key:

GB: Gertrude F. Berger

BP: Barbara del Piano

GP: Geri Pedesky

BP: This is Thursday, June 26, 2014. I'm Barbara del Piano, a member of the Historical Committee of the Outrigger Canoe Club. We have been conducting Oral Histories of long time members -- almost since the Club began. Today it is my great pleasure to interview Gertrude Berger here in the Board Room of the Outrigger.

Good Morning, Gertrude.

GB: Thank you very much.

BP: It really is a pleasure to meet with you today. Before we get into our discussion about the Outrigger, I'd like to ask you a little bit about your background. Where were you born?

GB: In Maui, in Lahaina. Our family is from Maui. In fact we still have a place there. I grew up there --- in fact I am one of six children --- the youngest. My Mother was a school teacher, and my Father was in business. His family .... it was kind of exciting because they came in the 1800s from the Azores and landed in Maui.

BP: How did they happen to come?

GB: Well, that's a mystery. We are not too sure. We think that my Grandfather who was a very very distinguished man, married out of his class. And the family was unhappy. There were three brothers and they lived in the Azores which are islands that are way off in the Atlantic --- part of Portugal. My Grandfather was the one brother that came on this small little boat .. I've done this trip twice. I've been to the Antarctica twice. And every time I went across that awful Drake crossing ... we had 24 foot waves for five hours.. pounding us. When I think about how he came... So they came to the islands ... he (my Father) was three then. His brother was one and his oldest sister was four or five. So they came with their three children --- it took three months to come from the Azores all the way around the Horn to land at Kuau, Maui.

You must know Shirley Wetzell? BP: Oh, definitely!

See, her family also came and they landed in Kuau. You know, her Father was Attorney General. And I remember they had their home on that point. And I remember my Father later in life saying to Mr. Tavares: "Don't ever sell that property. If you ever do, I want to buy it as that is where our family landed." I always used to tease Shirley about that. "Shirley, my Father always wanted to buy that point." and she said "Yeah, her Father would never sell it."

BP: What happened to it?

GB: I don't know what ever became of it ... you know, Shirley lived on Maui for a long time and she is now here in Honolulu.

My Father's family ... he lived in Maui for several years and when ... about 18 years, and then they moved to California. I don't know how he gathered up all these people -- don't know where he got his money from,

but he did. I used to tease him, I used to say: "you must have a bag of gold coins." And he went to California. Anyway, that's part of it.

BP: So how did you happen to come to Honolulu?

GB: Well. See we all went away to school. We were typical .. like my brother at sixth grade boarded at Punahou, my oldest sister boarded at Punahou, and the next two went to California for high school, which was very unusual. My Mother, being a teacher, had become friendly with a family which was in an exchange program of teachers. And they lived in Lahaina for several years and got to know my family and when their contract was over ... I think there were two sisters and a brother .. the Andersons ... they said, "you know, we'd be happy to have the two next girls: Anna and Libana, come live with us in California and go to school."

And so my parents said all right .. rather than send them to Punahou. In those days when you went away, you went away --- not like our children coming back every two weeks on the airplane. When we went to college, we stayed for the whole period of time and came back.

When it was my turn to go off to school, I did not want to board because I did not like the building. It had rocks and I knew a lot lizards lived in those rocks. I wasn't about to live with them!! So I told my parents No, and of course since I am the baby, they said OK. I wanted to go to Roosevelt, which was kind of a .... I was just being different. My cousin, same thing, Muriel Heen did the same thing, (Judge Heen was my Mother's biological brother, but she was brought up by the Hawaiian side of the family). She (Mother) lived in Maui and the Heen's lived in Honolulu. So I lived with the Heen's. They had a beautiful home in Thurston -- still do actually -- it is still there. So I went to Roosevelt. And they I went to the University of Hawaii for college as I was only 16 when I graduated from High School. My parents did not want me to go away until I was older. So in my Junior year I went to the University of Washington --- graduated there in 1941 ... I graduated from Roosevelt in 1937. Didn't you go to Roosevelt?

BP: Yes, graduated in 1945.

GB: Oh, you're a baby! I was the class of 1937. In those days Roosevelt was an English Standard school ... so you had to test to get in. Of course my brother who was at Punahou and my older sister, who had graduated used to tease me, they said: "You're in the poor man's Punahou!" It did not matter to me. It was something different. It was a public school, and we had a wonderful class. I had Willie Richardson (Supreme Court Justice), Bobby Pfeiffer, David Pietsch, Walter Chuck in my class. We had a great class!! We really did. And everybody that had gone to Roosevelt at that time were really outstanding later on in life. We used to laugh when we used to take tests and Bobby Pfeiffer and David Pietsch used to sit in the back and always used to say: "Write Big!!"

BP: During my time, in the forties, there were more Roosevelt members of the Outrigger than there were Punahou.

GB: As I was telling Geri Pedesky, in the olden days it wasn't cool to be a "beach rat". The cool people lived up at Nuuanu and they all wanted to belong to the Country Club or the Pacific Club. So the Outrigger Canoe Club was where all the beach bums were. It was also where all the fun was .. it was where all the tourists were. And in those days, (I am not going to name names), but the people who lived up a Nuuanu .... they were kind of snobbish about it. They thought ... the Outrigger ... who are they?

But we had such a distinguished group of guests, you know: the Maharaja of Jaipur came with his whole family one year, I remember. The family that owned that big furniture company in California came often ... they sent my brother-in-law (Sargent Kahanamoku) to Andover. Sargent was just a kid around the beach of the Kahanamoku family living down the street. He was the baby and he was .... sixteen or seventeen. Andover was the prep school and he hated it --- it was so cold. He stayed one year and then he came back.

BP: How did you happen to join the Outrigger?

GB: Growing up I wasn't a member because I was just here at school and Anna, my sister, was married to Sargent and they were members. Of course at that time, they just included me --- so I was part of the group. But when I came back from college, I knew I should join, so I did join. All the years I was at Roosevelt, when I was at the Outrigger, I was just a guest. In those days they weren't as strict as they are now. The old Club, had no where near as many members. We had just the canoes, the surf boards and the volleyball courts. I do not think they even served breakfast. They had just lunch and dinner except Sunday when they served breakfast which was a big event.

After school my sister would bring me down and I would go out in the canoe with Sargent. And I was spoiled, you know he was such a good steersman. I thought that everybody just did two strokes and you were on a wave. 'Cause that's the way we did it with Sargent. I was his second Captain and we'd do two strokes and we were on a wave. We were riding in -- and it was so much fun. Several years later I was with a group of different people and we're pulling and pulling ... and I was wondering "when are we going to catch this wave?" Finally when we got back on the shore, I said to Sargent: "you really are good!!!"

I was fortunate And in those days there were very few people that were diehards at the Club ... there were no civilians, so to speak. There were the beach guys, and the families that were staying at the Royal and Moana who used the Club like they were members.

BP: What were your impressions of Sargent?

GB: My parents were so astounded that my sister ..... remember, she was the one who went to school in California, came home and went back to go to school at the University of Santa Barbara (up in the Mission --- not where it is now), and she finished college. She was very accomplished. All my siblings before me were geniuses. It was not until my Mother passed away and we were having a family trust meeting, and I am looking at them ... and I tell them: "You guys are not that smart!!!" 'Cause I understood exactly what we were doing and they were having trouble with it.

Anna came back from college and she was like a tourist. She went to Waikiki with her cousin Anna Heen and they went down and all the beach boys were just delighted with two new girls, and island girls at that. So Sargent just moved in on Anna and before you know it, they wanted to get married. Of course, Sargent wasn't working. Paul Fagan was very cute. He said: "Now Sargent, you're getting married. You have to have a job." Anna was a teacher, so Sargent needed a job. So Paul put Sargent to work at Standard Oil --- first you'll roll barrels and start from the bottom. Sargent was ok with that. So he did and I think a few months later .. actually he had a perfect job at Standard Oil ... he was their Public Relations person.

I was still his second Captain in canoeing. We were taking out the Prince and Princess of Saudi Arabia who controlled the country's oil interests, and Sargent and I am out there with them and I am paddling away, and all of sudden the Princess says: "Sargent, I do not know how to swim." I have never seen a canoe stop so quickly. Sargent says; "You do not know how to swim?" He had visions of loosing all the oil rights in Saudi Arabia for Standard Oil. It was so funny --- so Sargent puts he in front of himself and put the brother in front of me --- so we were OK. We always used to remember that.

And then, of course, as you know, when Anna taught school she taught at Washington Intermediate. By then I was in the travel business --- from the Quartermaster I went to Naval Intelligence --- that was very interesting. Quartermaster got to be a very big job and rather than promoting me ... I guess because I was a woman ... when I look back, I guess that was it because as the Chief Clerk said: "No, we want a man in your position." And I did not even question it. I thought, well that's ok, if they want a man, let them get a man. So they brought in this man, and they wanted me to teach him. I didn't see anything .. I thought I would not make waves. In the meantime when I saw what was happening, I went down to talk to someone in the civil service office and they agreed with me that it wasn't the right thing to do. And they said: "Well you know, we have a job in Naval Intelligence and we'll do a lateral move from having 500 employees at CF-6 to having 20 at the same grade --- so it was like a piece of cake. I moved and their office was on Fort Street by the Catholic School --- they had taken over that whole compound. It was the Cable and Radio censorship. It was different from the post office where they had that big .. postal intelligence area ... ours was just the cable and radio. It lasted until the war ended.

BP: I notice that you refer to your sister as Anna (ah-na), we always referred to her as Anna (on-na)? How come?

GB: I don't know --- it was Anna (ah-na). It was Libana --- same thing. We didn't have nicknames except for me, the baby. In Hawaiian families, the youngest child was always called baby. In the Dowsett family there is Aunty Baby and Aunty Baby Dear, etc. I was just Baby.

BP: Now what about employees at the old Club? Do you have anyone in particular whom you remember?

GB: Was it Helen that was so wonderful? And, of course, Richard. Everybody knew Richard. And in those days, we really did not know what Richard was about. All we knew was he was different. You know, he used to come to work with makeup on and ... but the old Club was really neat. When you go there, you signed in, but it was not really rigid. You signed in and they had upstairs, they had cribs. I did not have

children then, but other families could take their children up there and they could sleep up there, and there was an attendant who would call the Mother when the baby woke up. Always thought that was a great idea.

And then the Women's Lockers, and on the right side were the two big Volleyball courts. And when anyone new and pretty walked by they would all yell "timeout!!" and all the volleyball players would turn around. "Kumu going by." And the pretty girls would walk by.

And then they had the snack bar, and of course Richard was outstanding. And in the Dining Room there was a Chinese waiter who had been all over the world and he would keep telling us: "you don't know how to eat." My Husband who was from Missouri and always used to eat steak and potatoes would tell the waiter: "No, you don't know how to eat."

Actually, Helen was a wonderful person. She just took care of everybody. And then there was Eva at the front desk, yeah. Richard was ..... Richard knew everybody and loved his job. You know, you could really tell that he enjoyed working there. He was "off the wall". I always wonder what happened to him.

BP: He had a night job dancing.

GB: He was like a transvestite, I think. In those days we did not know what it was, we just figured he was as the Hawaiians say: "Mahu". But you know, Mahus were not derogatory at all. In Hawaiian culture it was just accepted as part of ...

GP: He had a wife. he invited Ron Sorrell and I to see him perform. We went to the house, his wife met us at the front door, and it was tatami mats with a little stage and two chairs facing the stage. She bowed and introduced us --- and he was fully dressed --- made up like the Mikado.

GB: I remember when I went to Japan and went to one of the performances, and they were all men playing the parts of the women geishas on the stage. So I guess it was just a way of life.

BP: So, did you and Harry have any children?

GB: We have two daughters. Stephanie ... I give the Outrigger Canoe Club a lot of credit for enforcing that rule that the children have to join ... they still have it don' they? It gives the Club lots of young people growing up and staying with the Club. We also belong to Waialae Country Club, and the only reason we belong there is they put in these tennis courts. They called Harry and asked him to get maybe ten couples of your friends to join as tennis members. They told him to use his own judgement. Whomever he recommended would be accepted as a tennis member. Which was pretty smart of them to form a nucleus. So we joined. It was my first exposure to a golf club and I found that they are not really interested in Juniors -- they just get in the way on the golf course. It has a very different atmosphere. So finally later on when we really got involved in the Club, they wanted us to bring in younger people. I told them why would young people join? Who are you going to play tennis with --- people like your parents. That's no fun. Young people want to play with people their own age group. We found that the Outrigger has the right way of building up its membership.

At the old Club, across the street were the Moana cottages where the servants and help for the tourists in town would often stay. And there was a tennis court there. David Kahanamoku and Helen his wife ran this little .... they were kind of in charge of the tennis courts. It was so different before. You just said you were here, and you could play. Today you can't. You have to give your room number, etc. And they had a gift shop which was very nice. So we used to use the Cottages tennis courts --- for me, not serious tennis -- just to rally from time to time.

BP: When did the tennis club at the Outrigger begin?

GB: I knew you would ask me that. I remember we tried hard to make an arrangement with the old Polo Club in Kapiolani Park, but it just did not work out. And it was just something that ... it was a group in the Club that was not really tennis oriented. It was not really a must for our family as we had access to other courts. I do not remember what year it was. Did we ever get involved in that tennis club in Aina Haina behind the fire station). I think not, think we just paid to play as a team.

BP: Who else was on the team?

GB: Well, we had a really good team. Besides my nieces and my daughters who are really good players --- in fact at one tournament, the tournament director came up and said: "Is it your whole family that's the tennis team?" I said, Yeah, we want to win this cup. Ann Martin was on there. The Alexander girl .... I forget who it was, but we had a good little team. We played in the league and of course at that time one of the things of the Club at that time was that everyone had to be a member. I joined and then Harry joined. So we had two memberships. So when the Club changed to a family membership model, they wanted me to give up my membership and go on to Harry's. I said no, I am not going to do that. I think my number was 25, and his was 68. (Geri Pedesky: 25 is my number now). I said to them no, I don't want to give up my membership, but I finally did. And I knew it was going to come back to haunt me, but I became a spouse member. After Harry died, I became a widow member, and they wanted me to be Captain of the Tennis team. They said "Gertrude can not be Captain, she does not have a regular membership." It was probably my nephew's wife, Paula Crabb. I called up Tommy Haine who took care of it and made me a regular member. I have often wondered what happened about that break in my membership.

BP: How did you meet Harry?

GB: Oh no, we don't want to go into that. Actually, I had finished college in 1941 and was going to go to Columbia to finish my graduate work. I knew that was going to take me a year and a half or two years. I decided to come home and work for six months and then go to New York and do my graduate work. In those days we had the big war department surge of jobs in Hawaii. I went down to the civil service and it was very easy to get a job. I was hired as a CF-1, which is the lowest clerical position you can be hired into. Which was fine --- this was not going to be my career. I said ok, and they sent me to Hickam field in the Quartermaster Corps. Don't know if you know the Quartermaster Corps, but they are like the Mother of the Army. So I report on December 1, 1941. By now you are getting the picture. I am a CF-1 --- the lowest you can go. I even remember Col. Blair --- but I am way in the back of the room because I am the lowest

person. Every civilian employee had two military counterparts. I was sitting there and there would be two Pfc's with me at the back of the room --- see, we're doing all the work.

December 7, the war breaks out and they say not to come to work until we tell you. So about the 8th or 9th, they say to report. I report back and ol. Blair says we had to send the Pfc's. away on assignment so you are now CF-2. I said, that's OK, I can do that. So I moved up. By the end of December, I was at the top of the list, running the Quartermaster Corps. I was a CF-6. I kept calling my parents, I am the baby: "It's so easy to work. You just get promoted every day. Every day you get a promotion." My parents were just shaking their heads. If you knew me as a civilian, we could sell tickets to the mess hall. We had the best mess hall since we did all the marketing, provisioning, etc. Harry Berger was with the Engineers. He said: "We got to get to know that lady so can eat in that mess hall." He was not so dumb, he was from Missouri. And so it just happened that one of his assistants was someone I knew from traveling to college on the Lurline. So he told Harry: "Let's go see her." So they came to see me in my office. By then I even had a secretary. And the thing about the Army --- you did not really have to decide anything. All you had to do is look it up in the Army regulations. So I used to go to that book to familiarize myself with all the situations that could arise. I had all sorts of employees --- butchers, etc., about 500 employees. I was just 21 years old. It was not anything earthshaking --- just knowing where to find the answers.

So then he came and we got married in June of 1942 --- about 3 months courtship. And that we did at the Club. Henry de Gorog was the manager then. Henry was a young man from San Francisco. His father ran San Francisco. He was the head of the unions that ran the restaurants, etc. I think it was his influence that got Henry the job at the Outrigger. Because prior to that they did not really have a manager --- just people that ran the Club.

BP: Prior to the Outrigger, Henry was at the Royal.

GB: Yeah, he was with Matson and then he came over. So we knew Henry, and he knew we were getting married. In those days Harry and I each got a day off to get married. We were working seven days a week -- nine hours a day. He had a very responsible job for the war department. We both put in our requests to be married and that was June 6. We got married at noon. Anna and Sargent had a house on Maunalani Heights. Reverend Judd married us. The Reverend was a good friend of our family. He said he would come up and marry us. My parents flew down from Maui for the wedding. There were maybe like fourteen --- just the family and Reverend Judd. And Henry was so cute, he said;" I'll save some filets ... he saved fourteen filets and champagne. At one-thirty or two o'clock we all went down to the Club and he had this nice table and we had our nice dinner. We had to be off the streets so at around 5 o'clock --- we walked across the street to the apartment we were renting in Waikiki. It was so weird to have the streets disserted and all the curtains down at 6 o'clock. Overall it worked out well.

BP: Sargent was your brother in law.

GB: Back to the family. Stephanie lives here. Her husband is ... her first marriage was to William Chillingworth (Yama) and he has two sons; Noah and Brant who are grown up and have children. Noah lives in California and Brant lives here in Honolulu. She then married John Marrack who is part of the Case family. His Mother was Althea Case.

And then Tina is married to Dennis Berg who came here often as a young man. They now live in Santa Barbara. They have two daughters. One is a celebrity, Lindsey, who plays for the Olympic Women's Volleyball team. We are quite proud of her! She says whenever she is interviewed: "Everyone told me I would not be a volleyball player." She is short, stocky, a setter ---- very very bright. She went to the University of Minnesota on a Volleyball scholarship. From there she went to play in the Olympics.

BP: Now was it one of your grandsons who plays music?

GB: That's Brant Chillingworth. He loves to sing and play. That's his cousin, Sonny Chillingworth who is a very well known entertainer. Brant just loves it. These are his cousins and they just love it. I ask them if they get paid and they said no -- they just love to play music. I told Brant, I said "Brant, when he was younger, that I would pay for his singing lessons because I know that if you want to do something well you should really get lessons.

BP: Are they going to play this year at the Club?

GB: I think so. My niece is Mahealani Riley --- she can't get away from it and is coordinating the music. Actually, Tina's oldest daughter lives in New Hampshire --- she is the volleyball coach at Dartmouth. She played --- she got a Volleyball scholarship to North Carolina --- she is a tarheel. Loved it, just loved it! Then she wanted to go into coaching. She was pretty lucky, she got this contract at Dartmouth. And, of course, it is a beautiful campus, but sooo cold. They have a beautiful home, but it is so cold.

BP: What was your reaction to moving the Club from Waikiki?

GB: We thought it was the only thing to do because we could see what was happening to Waikiki especially to that little section there. You know the old International Marketplace, well that's where we used to park.. Originally that's where the cottages were --- and when they were torn down, they had a parking lot and used to let the Club members park over there. And then they built that little strip mall --- so you could see what was happening to Waikiki. They were building and building and building and just as the Jonathon Club in L.A. we would have ended up being a Club in a big building. We didn't fight it at all in fact we thought it was quite nice that we were able to get this property here. I think it was through Sam Fuller, he was the President then. He and the Elks Club. I always thought we should infiltrate the Elks Club --- we should slowly join, and by the time the lease is up, we would have some votes. We did not mind the move at all, in fact I think that at the time Harry was on the House Committee. We knew there would be some big adjustments --- we did not have the same feeling of Waikiki. But this is nicer, it is quieter --- you can imagine, being down there as part of Waikiki in a Kelly hotel it would have been very difficult to have the feeling of being in a Club. This is a nice --- only thing I find about this Club and it happens ... the people

that get involved in it --- that run it -- it's like a new thing. I could not believe how we bought those houses on Kalaniani'ole. I could not believe I was a member of an investment club. Remember when they bought those houses --- that was ridiculous. It did not matter to me --- life is too short to get worked up about it. For them to think that they were going to make ... I was sitting next to the Realtor and said: "We should have bought that hotel next door --- we should have bought the Diamond Head Beach Hotel and do it like the Athletic Club in New York. Your friends could rent there and we would have had a good return.

BP: Do you still spend time here?

GB: Not as much as I used to. I used up all my sun rays --- I used to live in the sun and we never put on sun tan lotion. And then I grew up on Maui and we had a beach house. We lived on the beach, but we still had a beach house. As kids we were constantly in the ocean. So I was always very comfortable in the ocean. I used to come --- in the old Club there was one spot that nobody ever dare sit 'cause that was my chair. You know Dorothy McHale --- silent movie star. She lived at the Royal. And she used to sit nearby, and if somebody would sit in my chair she would say: "Hey that's Baby's spot and shoo them off." One of my friends I had told her to go and sit there under this one umbrella --- and my friend told me this woman was telling her she was not supposed to sit there 'cause it was my chair. Overall I was happy with the move 'cause it got to the point that it would be too hard to ...

BP: Do you have any recollections of Alexander Hume Ford?

GB: No, I just remember him as the old man --- Alexander Hume Ford --- he was the founder of the Club wasn't he? I don't remember the year he died -- do you folks know? I remember this elderly man with white hair -- he was tiny. I did not really get too involved in the mechanics of the Club.

You know, during the war years, everyone that belonged to the Outrigger Canoe Club was happy because it was the one place you could go and swim and enjoy it and have a shower. In fact I remember, our housekeeper used to say: "Don't you folks bathe?" Because we would have a shower at the Club and go home clean. So we would not have to bathe again -- until the next morning. I did not realize that she did not realize that we were stopping at the Club and playing volleyball and having our shower before going home. It was a good life!

BP: Well, do you have any other things you would like to mention?

GB: Not really. I think the Club has done a good job in having what they are supposed to do. They have fostered water sports. In fact are they not now admitting Athletic members since we are not doing so well paddling? It's all part of competition. That's all part of it. And it is good -- not that I want to dwell on it to go back, but it is good to remember what brought it here. I know when my children were growing up, I wanted them to have the feeling of growing up in Lahaina. So every summer I would take them to Lahaina and we would stay for the month of August. So that they could run down Front Street and have an identity, and play in the Banyan as I did as a child. So I think it's nice for them to know their heritage ... I don't want them to live like that, but I'd like for them to know what it was like. Same for the Club, I think it is important for the members to have a sense of where we have come from as a Club.

I think that basically what you are doing in documenting the history is a good thing.... in fact my husband's jacket was hanging in ... you know George Branger and Nat Norfleet? George was the one man my brother-in-law and sister would not ever allow... you know, he loved women, and I was just growing up. He used to come and see me. He'd come sit next to me, and my brother in law would come over and say: "George, outa here!" George would say he was just going to take me surfing and Sargent would say: "you're not taking Baby surfing!" In those days women could not lift a surfboard. So you had to go tandem. And there was no way I was allowed to go tandem with anyone but Sargent. George and Nat had that Kahala Sportsware. And Harry had one of their jackets. During the Kamaina it was in the lobby display window. And its just a navy blue jacket -- really neat -- with the Outrigger on the pocket. I still wear it when I go down to the pool. Every once in a while I think: "I wonder why they don't copy that?" It's just a jacket, but its nice. It's made out a nice cotton twill. It's navy, nautical with the Outrigger emblem on it, very tailored. We should do it and sell it on ebay.

GB: Well that's about it -- we've talked too much about me. I want to read this and I want to see it before you publish it. That's all I need is to have my family say ... oh my God, what did you say? My grandson Brant Chillingworth, he is so funny. We all went away to school and he is the only one that has come back to live. Which is fine --- and he is the one that went to school in Spain. And I thought for sure that he would be the one that would stay away. He went to Barcelona, he got his MBA in Barcelona. He is so funny. So he works for a non-profit. He looks for projects to support the community.

BP: This has been so ... GB: It's been a nice journey, the Club has done a nice job. There are some things I did not care about -- like the houses on Kalaniani'ole, but the Club itself is run properly. I have friends who are members and they get so caught up into some of the little details. I tell them it's not worth getting concerned about. They say: "What's happening to our Club?"

Actually, to get serious, my Mother's background is very very interesting. So is my Father's and they should really be documented. You know, my older sister Delores had a very interesting ... she was National Committeewoman for the Democratic Party when Kennedy was inaguarated ... and they became very good friends. And we've got a lot of Kennedy stories. And stuff like that. And we've got a lot of Doris Duke stories. In those days it was, you know, just part of. I remember my Mother asking: "Who is this lady that is coming to see us ---- she has a yacht that is going to be out in the Lahaina harbor. Doris had guests coming with her to Lahaina and they all got seasick because the channel is as you know is the roughest in the world. So when they landed in Lahaina, I remember Anna and Sargent. Anna was so seasick --- she called the office and asked for a plane to take them back. I remember my Mother and Father said --- now who is this lady, that's coming?"

Actually, I am very fortunate to have lived during that period when the transition was being made with tourism, statehood, and the missionary influences: don't do this, don't hula, nothing Hawaiian. Actually, my Mother went to Kawaihao Seminary which is part of the Church. From there she went to --- they did not have a University -- they had the Normal school like a Junior College where she got a teaching certificate. She wanted us to know about our culture. So she would hire a teacher to come and teach hula to us at home. We never would dance in public. In fact she hired a woman to come in to teach us how to weave --- so she wanted us to learn about all those things. We also did the Missionary part --- we all

embroidered -- every summer --- a tea towel. My embroidery was horrible and the maid used to finish up mine. Our teacher could of course tell and said: "You've had help."

BP: What was your Mother's maiden name?

GB: Kaukau. Like in eating. Her biological Father was Mr. Heen who was a Chinese merchant, and he lived in Maui. And her Mother died in childbirth. And so she was hanai'd to the Mother's side of the family which was the Kaukau side. The family owned property in Kahana and Honakawai and so when she was a young girl, one of the Aunts from the Hawaiian side of the family was one of the families who would entertain the Queen when she would come. I used to say ---- Really! My Mother would just shrug it off -- she was very low key. She taught school --- he first teaching job was in Hana. She taught there three years before she could move to Lahaina to teach. So she taught at Kamehameha III school until she retired. Had six children.

We had a real nice big house. Growing up in Lahaina in those years was interesting because it was a plantation town. We were not plantation. My Mother was a teacher and then my Father owned the three meat markets in West Maui. He was a businessman and so there were three houses, the Furtados, and the Hazeltons (Ivanelle's Grandparents), next to them were the Freelands, which owned the Pioneer Inn and the Movie House. In fact I laugh that when growing up, there were these three houses ... our house was like Queen Emma Museum with a big lanai and we had a cottage where my Grandfather lived on the property. There were five girls. We had a big dormitory as an addition. In those days you had two dining rooms: a family dining room and a formal dining room. We had a big living room with French Windows all the way across, and a big lanai, really neat with steps going up. Unfortunately it was taken down and is Burger King now. It was so neat because we were right in the center of town with the Banyan across the street --- that was our jungle gym. That's where we ran like monkeys. And Kamehameha III school was across the way.

You might get a kick out of this. I am the youngest, right? So I am kind of chubby --- I am a good eater, and my Mother did not want me to eat the school lunch because it was always starchy. She was very nutrition conscious. So she says -- and you were not able to leave the campus for lunch --- so she tells our Japanese cook Guchi to "fix Baby's lunch, and you bring it over." So ... and I did not think anything of it. When I tell my Grandchildren the story they can not believe that I had a cook bring my lunch every day. He would come across the street and I would go to the corner as we just lived opposite the school, and he would bring me my lunch and it would always have two cooked vegetables, a raw vegetable and starch - -- it was standard. He'd hand it to me and he would squat and smoke a cigarette while I was eating my lunch. I'd sit there and eat my lunch --- there'd be no conversation at all, and when I was finished he'd walk back and I'd play. Life in Lahaina was really neat.

We had a wonderful theatre, you know which was silent. And so our maid, the Hawaiian lady that took care of us, played the piano in the theatre. Every once in a while we'd be allowed to go to the movies --- the three youngest girls. In those days we would wear our pajamas with yukata kimonos - we were very neat, we were covered and we had our slippers. We'd go across to the theatre like little penguins and sit in the back while she played the piano. The movie played and when they started kissing, she'd turn around

and say --- "Go home now, there is too much kissing." So the three girls would get up and walk out like little penguins, go home. My Mother and Father would see us coming back and ask: "Not a good movie?" I'd say: "No, Aggie did not want us to see them kissing." How many people today would be sent home?

BP: It has certainly been a wonderful interview, Gertrude.

GB: In fact the thing that's kind of fun now is that there are not many of my group that are left to tell me that I am wrong. I spin all these tales now and nobody can say..... That's what I really miss as my siblings have died off. I had one sister who remembered everything and when I was stuck, I would call her up. I'd say: 'Phoebe, you know remember so and so .... and such and such" and she would reel off the names of the family members --- and I can't do that anymore.

Life is what you make it.

BP: This will certainly be a wonderful addition to our achives and I thank you so much.

GB: Oh, you're very welcome.