

ORAL INTERVIEW ABOUT EARLY HISTORY OF KALAPANA.

Interviewed: Cecilia (Elsie) Naungayan

By: Faamanu F. Teofilo

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- F: Could you tell me a little history about yourself, where you were raised and born. Also, can you tell me about the life in Kalapana.
- C: I lived in Kalapana for 9yrs than moved up about 4 miles up to Mokuhulu. And there where my mom and dad put up a house for us to live in and that's where I lived until I moved.
- F: So you was raised in Mokuhulu.
- C: Yeah, in Mokuhulu. Of course I been in and out as I grew older. I didn't go to finish to high school because my mom was getting sick all the time.
- F: Oh, is it old age?
- C: No, she not that old but she always getting sick. Then finally we find out she was hemorrhaging. And I would go to school and come home, sometime I stayed home for 2, 3 days and go school. That's a kind that make the principal after me because I'm always absent.
- F: How many high school during those days?
- C: Only in Pahoa we had the high school.
- F: Only one high school.
- C: Only in Pahoa, the grade that we had in Kalapana was from 1st to 7th grades. And there will be only few 7th graders in that one class, and 6th grader few graders in one class.
- F: Not to many.
- C: Yeah, we had two classrooms 4, 5,6,7, all in one class.
- F: Small class.
- C: Yeah, of course the older one that go to school before us, they were ahead some of them was on their own working. But my mom was teaching some of them.
- F: Your mom was a teacher before?
- C: Yeah, she was a sort of substitute. And that's what they been tell me your mom been teaching us. We pow already, we finished school. Some went ahead and some stayed back.
- F: During those times, what was your father doing?

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M. Teofilo
She was
too.

- C: My father was working for the county. But they called that NRA for the county. 15 days of work that all they got so, the rest of the days he's home either farming or go fishing.
- F: What kind of foods people grow in farm?
- C: Was mostly potatoe, taro, they didn't have much of the beans and cabages. My father raised just about everything that's for his family
- F: Just for your family.
- C: Yes, just for his family.
- F: Is that the same to other families?
- C: Other families, No, is mostly taros and sweet potatoes.
- C: We plant cabage, but that is only for the family. But my dad was selling like; he would plant cucumber, tomato and water mellon that he would sell. But the little things like the cabages, beans all the small things he live that for the house. So he was partly a farmer selling his products.
- F: So he'll make money that way.
- C: Yeah, kind a helped out with his earning. A very few of them was doing that like my dad was one and this man was called Kiniaki, he was a farmer to'o and a fiherman. The same thing work for the county. Was most of the men was working for the county those days.
- F: So, do you have sister(s) and brother(s)?
- C: Yeah, I have sisters. I'm the olderst for my family.
- F: How many brothers do you have?
- C: I have two brothers and 4 sisters.
- F: What are there names?
- C: One is Emma, and the one below me, next is my brother Gabriel, and come one sister is already just past Sarah, and other one is Hazel, and Benny with my parents is eight.
- F: Are they still living around here?
- C: I have only 3, living in the area.
- F: And the rest?
- C: Away, in the mainland. I had one in Monolulu but she died last

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year in 1987. Just the three of us live here at Pahoa though not in Kalapana.

F: Oh, they stayed around here.

C: Yeah, in Pahoa. They find conveniences you know. Now Kalapana has the convenient, like electricity and water.

F: It's coming over there.

C: Yeah, see the life is better outside than stayed back over there in those days. That's how people all moved.

F: It is hard.

C: Yeah, you can't earned money unless you go farming or you go to commercial fisherman. Was hard even ^{while} ~~well~~ I was growing up. You need money to go school.

F: That is right?

C: So I used to go hustle to go get lemon and I got into the 4H's club. So I used to go get lemon, climb coconut tree, hustled it and the tourist will come by and they stopped, and they tried the coconut. They like the water, some of them they ask if the meat inside is good to eat? Of course, is good to eat. I would open it then they would give us about a quater-quater was plenty-even nickle was plenty.

F: Those days?

C: Yeh, Yeh, then I would take them to the 4H's club and sell my lemon. Then maybe I go pick ah, because I have a cousin which he used to ask me if I will go and help them make lauhala? I go help them and they pay me for doing that.

F: Lauhala is the tree?

C: Yeh, is the leaves I would go and do that and they could pay me.

F: Like weaving?

C: No, it just clean the lauhala. (1)

F: How was fishing during those days?

C: Oh, fish was good.

F: Those days?

C: Yeh, but you know was so cheap, too cheap compared to now, now they selling it by the pounds.

F: Yeh!

?

10 pes = Kalaw

- C: Those days they sell fish by the pieces. For example, they sell 40 peices for \$2.50
- F: The long big fish?
- C: You know the Opelu, 40 pieces for \$2.50 and now they were losing so much money.
- C: Oh, fish, fish was good
- F: Those days.
- C: Yeah, but you know was so cheap, to cheap.
- F: Too cheapy.
- C: Yeah, too cheap, compared to now, now they selling by the pound.
- F: Yeah,
- C: Yeah before they sell it for 40 pieces for two dollar half
- F: The long fish?
- C: Oh you know the Opelu.
- F: Yeah, 40 pieces for two dollar half, and you compared that and now. Oh, they were losing so much money. Why making that much. But they caught a lot.
- F: Your father used to go fishing, Right?
- C: Yeah.
- F: What kind of methods he used?
- C: He uses taro and pumpkin, he mixes these two, he cooks it first before he take that out.
- F: So bake.
- C: Bake yeah.
- F: Does he used lines or nets?
- C: No, its nets, he would feed the fish and when they see the fish than he lower the nets.
- F: To catch them?
- C: Yeah, they came back, oh full their canoes. They lived about earlier in the morning before ten or eleven o'clock they back already it's over loaded.
- F: So fishing was good those days!

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- C: Good those days but price was very cheap. So what ever they left over they dry the fish. I know my dad was a hustler, he tried selling what he dry.
- F: To make some extra money?
- C: Yeah, to make some extra money.
- F: That's a good idea.
- C: Yeah. cause that was actually my dad do, and if he wants to go into Hilo, those days there is only one car. There would run from Kaimu or Kalapana. You have to just called in or let him know, ^e than he will pick you up.
- F: Oh.
- C: These families Pe'a, the son used to take him into town. Those days we didn't have that much car. My dad had but his car used only for work.
- F: What kind of car?
- C: Motor T
- F: Oh those old car.
- C: Yeah, those old motor Ford.
- F: But those are the good car those days.
- C: Yeah, but today they ^{Gabriel} save money too. But the one that has the best car was this boy. Kapera Pe'a. He would run into Hilo, maybe twice a week so if you want to go Hilo, so you catch that car than go into Hilo.
- F: Oh.
- C: Do your shopping, because I go with him you know every Saturdays. Just to go buy few things for my brother and sisters. Sometimes my mama can not go than I will go.
- F: Do the people raised animals those days?
- C: Yes! this family and while my dad has pigs. This family, Gabriel Pe'a, they were raising cows.
- F: Oh cattles?
- C: Yeah that the only family, of course we had this chinese, the Lee's in Kalapana, they were raising cattles, pigs, just about that. May be a few ducks in the yard. And had another fmaily, ^{Ahee} ~~Ahee~~, this boy ^{Ania}
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~~Akama~~
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was raised by his grandparents, they were raising pigs and had a little bits of somethings. But you know those days pigs were run loose, all you had to do is make sure your pigs got ear mark, your cow got brand and all those things.

F: All those ear marks?

C: Yeah, all got into somebody yard, too. They all mixed up. But when you called them they all come back. So if you know you're missing one, maybe the next family got your pig up there.

F: So than you had to go look for it.

C: Oh, they going let you know. But if there is no more ear mark, than that is not your pig, but if it's in your yard than that's yours.

F: So mostly your life was raised in Mokuhulu?

C: After eight years.

F: After you moved from Kalapana.

C: Yeah.

F: Do you know the people Kealoha?

C: Yeah, that's my family.

F: That's your family?

C: Yeah.

F: Your father name is Kealoha?

C: Yes.

F: Is that the whole name?

C: Well he is ^{Gabriel} Kaybral Kealoha and my next _____ must be Oh'u Ponovantura Kealoha.

F: ^{Benventura} Would say little more about these people?

C: Kealoha, Kahookaulana's, etc... While Kealoha is my uncle Kahookaulana, ah, my uncle married Kahookaulana's sister. And there this all brothers Henry and William Keliihoomalu. Well while my dad was still living, he say that they are cousins to him (Henry and William). They all come from Kau. They migrated this side. And Herman Elderts, Makuas, Elderts used to stay in Kalapana and in Pahoa. He had two brothers and one sister. All I know that they were living there, never saw children, but my mom used to go vist them all the time. Then she used to get Ava roots the bottom

of the tree. The family of kamelamela espically the boys they will go dig this Ava and she would but it from them. Take it home where we lived and we chopped them up small and dry. So that was part from my mother's work, after she retired from teaching.

F: So what are you going to do with the Ava?

C: Sell it. Sell it to Hilo trust Co. They will buy all that. So we would constantly come home and do the work for her. That's the Elderts I know. The other Elderts, she married to the Kaaohalu boy. Her parents used to work up at Volcano and they were growing 19yrs up there and they moved back to their place in Kalapana. Thats the Elderts that we have there.

Kaaohalu

The Makua's were only know John Makua and his mother and his stepfather. They grew up there and ome parent died. The mama after the children move away from their placed. They moved to Hilo and the mama move with them. Living by her self was not safe, so they took her with them. They moved all to Hilo that where she stayed untill she died about 3yrs ago.

Most of the people older living in Kalapana died. We have only my generation living, most of them. Let me see if I can remember one old person in Kalapana? Just none except like my dad gener- ation but he is Philipino. But he married an Hawaiian lady and she died so he live. But since the eruption went down between natural park and Kalapana they all had to move away. It's Kuiano, he about the olderst person in Kalapana that I Know. And so Peter Lee Hau, the wife moved away. She has the place there but she is not living there any more.

Opiikau

Hong

F: Oh!

C: Yeah, because she growing old, too.

F: Yeah.

C: Because we have now our gerneration that's living in Kalapana.

F: The rest of the people past away.

Opiikau

C: Yeah, the older folks most of them are all gone. So when you come down to Opiikau is the same thing. You go down this another place called Opiikau. The oldest one living there is Lucy Konolui, the rest our generation, and the younger generation just like my child- ren. Let see is the 4th now she the last. Some of them come home some of them they stayed away. They don't want to know home I guess. Pahoia is the same thing, most of the old people are gone. We have old one this younger generation, our the generation the younger one. So if you to find, Oh that right that's only one living, the Lee, the Lee man he lives further down. They called him Jack Lee Kai. That's the only older, old person.

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- F: Is he still living?
- C: Yeah, he is still living, he must be about 90 something. Is this one Philippino lady, that used to live in Opiikau but her daughter took her away from of Opiikau, I mean Malamki, but she old, ah.
- F: Oh.
- C: And now she living with daughter and she'll be 95, she already made 95. So this the only two person that I know they're old.
- F: Oh.
- C: But she is Philippino.
- F: The lady.
- C: She is partly hawaiian-chinese.
- F: How is Mokuulu compared to Kalapana those days?
- C: Kalapana had more people those days, and the where the lava went through, over there had more people living than Mokuulu. Mokuulu had Waipa family, had this Aki, Kini, Aki and further up from Mokuulu, Keokea they called it Keokea, had those two family and then you come down about little over a mile than you find Kahookaulana and than the sister who marry my uncle ___ Kealoha.
- F: That is your sister last name?
- C: No, that my uncle wife.
- F: What is her name?
- C: Ah, Kaymala. She was there before the brother, than we were across. My dad was across Gabriel Kealoha. Then you go one mile below that's where you find Henry and William Keluhoomalua and further down you find Makua.
- F: These people, Kahookaulan's, Henry and William, and Makua's what kind of foods do they plant?
- C: Potatoe, Taro.
- F: Some of those people plant almost the same food.
- C: Yeah, all of them all the same and fishing. They go throw nets. But I don't remember Henry and William going out on the boat because they were big people.
- F: So they mostly stayed on shore?
- C: Yeah they were be on shore, they go down maybe see if they want to buy fish. But I never saw them go out on the boat. That's where I was growing up. Only my dad, this man Kiniaki, Gabriel Pe'a
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sometime will be my grandfather Waiiau. Harry is the one that goes but not Henry and William. Pelehoplani man and this Kahiliiva man. They would on the canoe. Depending to them is not a reason to ask or let's go out than certain, certain day, enough 3 of them 2 of them.

- F: What kind of trees they made out the canoe?
- C: They always talk about Koa.
- F: Koa.
- C: Yeah, the canoe is made out of koa, but tha Ama is all made from hau.
- F: Hau tree?
- C: Yeah, Omilo. And those days the water wasn't as rough you seen it today. The water was good. Maybe good for 3 months. Thats what I notice those days and now, today you find over night it's rough again.
- F: Yeah, the water is rough.
- C: Yeah, the water is rough. Those days my gooddness, I used to go down the beach righ in Kaimu I go down there look for clams, during the night when I'm not in the house, my dad know I'm over there down the beach. To me the water was good those days, wasn't wild like this. It's last so long.
- F: Those days was how the beach? Where they were plenty sand?
- C: Oh down Kaimu, yeah, the sand was way out.
- F: So the fishing those days was easy?
- C: Yeāh, I even go and throw nets. Mostly I go with my' dad that's why I see all of these things.
- F: Oh.
- C: He would go for a short while, he just tell me you stayed there, he walked, bend down and he threw. How easy. He got enough fish may be for the first throw. Yeah, than he go look for lobster. He can dive where the stone is or what hole there he dive in away look. I seen him looked than dive again, he come up again and looked again, Than I ask him why he's do that, Oh I'm putting back the female and kept the male so they can increase. Oh, I see, so he bring out about 2 enough. That is the meal for the family.
- F: Yeah for the family.
- C: And those days well growing up, we didn't care to much about fish.

- We would eat but not that grateful for fish because we always get fish.
- F: Yeah, Yeah.
- C: And the same time my dad always plenty no matter where he went, he always plenty. Yeah, of couse we raises pigs it help out.
- F: Your family.
- C: Yeah, that if he wants to eat meat or the family wants to eat meat than he would ask Mr. Pe'a to get so many pound. He buy it for him and bring home. Otherwise we would be living on pork, vegetables, and fish. But when I lost my dad, that's where the hard part was. We lost him when I was young yet. But I saw everything what he was do.
- F: Yeah, about what year was that?
- C: When I lost my dad?
- F: Yeah.
- C: 1935.
- C: My mom is still living.
- F: Is still living now?
- C: Yeah, but that was hard because I always was with him doing something with him. But when I lost him, oh what I'm going to do. Of cause we had our mom. She had hard time bring us up after that. But what's happening I kept up what my father left off. Just keep with the taro growing, potato growing, plant vegetable if I have time. (3)
- F: Yeah.
- C: Just continue on, but I couldn't go throw net, or go dive for lobster and go out on the canoe. I forgot all about that. But what I did was go maybe torching night time.
- F: Oh. *because girls don't? ask about taro*
- C: Maybe go down get Opii when the water is good. I do that of couse I sell some not all to eat. But to sell some. So I kept up with what my father left back. Raise the pigs, raise the chicken, so I knew what was hard like that after. When you don't have your dad.
- F: So your mother stayed around here?
- C: Oh, No she is at the center in Hilo.
- F: The Life Care Center?

- C: Yeah, the Life Care Center. She can talk but doesn't remember who you are when we go and visited.
- F: During those days about how many families were in Kalapana?
- C: They had this family, the ^{Konani's} Kunalei's, two Kunalei's. Ah, let me start from not Kalapana but in Kapa'au where the lave went through, go further on down to Kalapana there is one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, in Kalapana where the school is, it is the school. and now we have the canoe club got the place, eight families there. (2)
- F: Is that the only school was over there?
- C: Yeah, that was the only school.
- F: What's the name of the school?
- C: Kalapana school.
- F: Kalapana School.
- C: Yeah. Come in, you come Kaimu where the black sand is, Harry, ^{Waiau's} Au's, Pe'a and Ahia. So there were 4 families where the black sand beach is. We had moved away and left four. We go all the way up we met Makua and Keliihoomalu (Henry and William). One, two, three, four, five, six, families up in that areas.
There is one where the fire plant is, Waipa's family, with them will be seven. But them wasn't to many people.
- F: Not to many people?
- C: Yeah, some of them have alot of children. Some of them about my age, some of them a little older. But all the children left for work. But when the war (Pearl Habor) came that's when everbody move out to work.
- F: During the war, was it more easy to find jobs?
- C: Yeah, that when jobs ^{start} started open. But before that, there were slowly the job, but of them don't feel like to work, that type of work. They wants something else, so they move away maybe family from Honolulu come down, Maui would ask if they want to work go with him to Honolulu? Sure, that how the children was going. May be not in Honolulu, but they will go as far as the Mainland. And during that time, the jobs was available for anybody, everbody. Before was slowly, kind you know, may be you want work plantation you go applied, they started you may be your skill they put you in equipment, but if your not skill they put you cut cane or poison. I only found few Hawaiians work plantation. Like Hawaiian family, his father is just like my mom and dad. His work is part of _____, he work. He become one forman and so with his son. But his old one was a little different because he went to school. But this one before him, before they were on their own. (4)
need to put in specific

- F: What kind of jobs were available during those days?
- C: Farming or work Plantation.
- F: At the County?
- C: County or State, either one. Those days I find many nationalities, most are portugese work for the State except Philippino you don't find them working in the county those days. Only Hawaiian maybe mixed blood, Chinese, Hawaiian, Portugese, but philippino you find them in plantation.
When I say Hawaiian include maybe Samoans, Tongas, Malayans, and all those people. That had that blood, because I had family too, had Tongan and Malayans. because get full blooded but half already.
- F: During those days in Kalapana and Mokuhuly^w, what kinds of household people have? Outside the house? Things that kids do?
- C: Those days, kids can played anything that they can creat. Just find something that keep them busy and they played with it. And if they would _____ and just sit there and fun of the other one. The toys those days they used to make was, they love to make noise so they will go and get coconut. The eye part of the coconut they will go get string (any string they can find) run the string through maybe two for one person and used that to go gallops^{gallops}
- F: Like a shoe?
- C: Yeah, they would run on that thing Oh, yeah there were many they would do, they would play indians too. How they found that out? I don't know but they used to play indian, they make their own bow and arrows. They use to find all kind. Yeah, imagine something to keep them busy, but before they can do that, the parents usually tell the kids, make sure Pau Kauanan, ma mua Kapa'ani, means make sure your job is finished before you can go and played.
Kahana
- F: Oh.
- C: But they will do that finished their work first before they go play. I think the worst things the children those days they don't wanna do is go in forest and go get wood.
- F: Oh for the fire.
- C: Yeah because not everybody have stove. They have the outside stove.
- F: Outside stove?
- C: Yeah, yeah, but I know we have the k^eros^eine, but my dad like to cook his food on the outside .
- F: On the fire.

