

KALA MOSSMAN
INTER 5
4/5/88

INTERVIEW 5 WITH HELEN LEEHONG 4/5/88 BY KALA MOSSMAN

K.M.: ALOHA
H.L.: ALOHA KAKAHIKA KALA HOW ARE YOU?
K.M.: FINE, AND YOU?
H.L.: SAME AS USUAL. HOWS YOUR WIFE?
K.M.: FINE SHE IS VERY BUST BECAUSE MERRY MONARCH IS COMMING UP YAH.
H.L.: YES THE MERRY MONARCH IS THIS MONTH ALL THE HALAU ARE COMMING FROM ALL OVER FOR THE MERRY MONARCH.
K.M.: YAH, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
H.L.: MY OLDER SISTERS?
K.M.: YES I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE ONES WHO WERE HANAI.
H.L.: OH OK, ALL OF MY SIBLINGS WHO WERE HANAI OUT WERE HANAI TO FAMILY. WHEN THEY ARE BORN THEY WERE GIVEN TO FAMILY BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN. WE DIDN'T HAVE TO SIGN PAPERS LIKE NOW DAYS WE JUST GIVE THE CHILD.
K.M.: WHO WERE THE ONES THAT WERE HANAI?
H.L.: WILLIAM, JOHN, MARIAM AND KINI.
K.M.: WHO HANAI 'IA MARIA?
H.L.: MY AUNTY
K.M.: YOUR AUNTY
H.L.: YES
K.M.: WHAT WAS HER NAME?
H.L.: PAUELUA WAS HER NAME
K.M.: PAUELUA?
H.L.: YES PAUELUA. SHE WAS IN THE MIDDLE. MOANA, MOANA PAUELUA.
K.M.: SHE LIVED CLOSE TO YOUR HOUSE?
H.L.: NO SHE LIVED IN HERE IN HILO.
K.M.: WHAT ABOUT WILLIAM?
H.L.: WILLIAM AKULAKANE YES AKULAKANE WAS THE ONE THAT HANAI 'IA WILLIAM.
K.M.: HE WAS YOUR....
H.L.: UNCLE MY UNCLE OLANI WAS THE MOTHER .
K.M.: OLANI WAS YOUR UNCLES WIFE?
H.L.: YES
K.M.: WHAT ABOUT JOHN?
H.L.: JOHN ULUMAHIPUAOKALANI PE'A YES MY UNCLE MY BROTHER WAS NAMED AFTER MY UNCLE.
K.M.: AND KINI?
H.L.: KINI AKI WAS THE NAME OF HIS FATHER AND ULULANI PALEIHO LANI WAS HIS MOTHER.
K.M.: WHAT ABOUT AKI HE WASN'T FAMILY WAS HE?
H.L.: HE WASN'T CLOSE FAMILY BUT HE WAS JUST LIKE FAMILY.
K.M.: DID THEY ALL LIVE NEAR TO YOU FOLKS?
H.L.: NO JOHN ULUMAHIPUAOKALANI YES HE LIVED CLOSE TO MY HOUSE AND KINI HE LIVED IN KALAPANA BUT WILLIAM HE LIVED IN HONOLULU.
K.M.: HONOLULU?
H.L.: YES
K.M.: DID YOU FOLKS GET TO SEE YOUR BROTHER WILLIAM?
H.L.: YES WE WOULD GO DURING THE SUMMER WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

AND WORK IN HONOLULU. WE WOULD STAY WITH MY UNCLE FOR THE SUMMER.

K.M.: DID YOU FOLKS EVER GET TOGETHER AT YOUR FOLKS HOUSE?
H.L.: ON IMPORTANT DAYS SPECIAL OCASIONS, LIKE BABY PARTIES THEY WOULD ALL COME VISIT TOGETHER, THEN WHEN THE PARTY WAS OVER THEY WOULD ALL RETURN HOME.

K.M.: WERE THERE OTHER HOUSED THAT PEOPLE WOULD OFTEN GO TO PARTY?

H.L.: NO

K.M.: TELL ME ABOUT YOUR HUSBANDS FAMILY.

H.L.: WAI'AU WAS THE MOTHER OF MY HUSBAND AND THE FATHER WAS FROM CHINA , HE WAS CHINESE.

K.M.: PURE CHINESE?

H.L.: YES FULL CHINESE. THEY HAD TWO CHILDREN, TWO BOYS. MY HUSBAND WAS THE OLDEST AND THE SECOND BORN WAS A BOY ALSO. HOWEVER HE DIED WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG SO IT WAS JUST MY HUSBAND.

K.M.: WHAT DID HIS PARINTS DO?

H.L.: FARM AT HOME PLANT LIME

K.M.: WHAT ABOUT LADY WAI'AU WHAT DID SHE DO?

H.L.: HOUSE WORK.

K.M.: YES

H.L.: AFTER THEY GOT MARRIED HE WORKED AT KONG SI WO THATS A STORE, A LARGE STORE IN HILO.

K.M.: OH

H.L. | HIS COUSIN WAS THE OWNER OF THE STORE. LEE CHU, LEECHU WAS THE NAME OF HIS COUSIN BUT THE STORE WAS CALLED KONG SI WO.

K.M.: OH DID HE WORK THERE FOR A LONG TIME.

H.L.: YAH, HE WORKED THERE FOR A WHILE.

K.M.: WOULD HE GO BACK AND FORTH TO KALAPANA OFTEN?

H.L.: YES, WHEN THE WEEK WAS OVER HE WOULD RETURN HOME ON THE AUTOMOBILE A MODLE T AT THAT TIME HAD MOTOR CARS. THAT IS HOW HE WOULD TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH FROM KALAPANA TO HILO.

K.M.: CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE YEARS 1930-1940

H.L.: WHAT ABOUT?

K.M.: WHAT KIND OF JOBS WERE ABAILABLE IN KALAPANA AND WHO DID WHAT?

H.L.: OH IM TRYING TO REMEMBER ABOUT THAT TIME. THERE WAS WORK FOR THE COUNTY, MAKING ROADS, CUTING DOWN THE WEEDS ON THE ROAD BUT FARMING WAS THE MOST COMMONG. MOST OF THE PEOPLE FARMED.

K.M.: WHAT ABOUT STORES DURING THIS TIME?

H.L.: THERE WAS THE CHINESE STORE YOUNG WAI.

K.M.: ONLY ONE?

H.L.: YES ONLY ONE, IN PAHOA THERE WERE MANY STORES, JAPANESE STORES AT THE TIME WHEN THE SUGAR PLANTAIONS CAME YAH.

K.M.: YAH.

H.L.: PLENTY PEOPLE CAME TO WORK SUGAR PLANTATION BUT NOT MANY HAWAIIANS WENT TO WORK THERE TO MAKE MONEY. THE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE WORKED FOR TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE WELFARE OF THE FAMILY TO TAKE CARE OF THE FAMILY.

K.M.: WERE THERE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO LEFT KALAPANA TO WORK AT THIS TIME?

H.L.: LEAVE KALAPANA AND GO SOME WHERE ELSE TO WORK?

K.M.: YES

H.L.: NOT A LOT MOST OF THE PEOPLE STAYED HOME AND HELPED THEIR PARENTS. NOT MANY LEFT TO WORK ELSE WHERE.

K.M.: DURING THIS TIME YOUR HUSBAND WORKED FOR THE STEAM SHIP

YAH?

- H.L.: YES ON THE WAI'ALE'ALE THE STEAM SHIP. THE SHIP TRAVELED TO HONOLULU. IT TOOK PASSENGERS, AND CARGO. ON EVERY WEDNESDAY THE SHIP CAME BACK TO HILO.
- K.M. | WOULD YOU SEE YOUR HUSBAND EVERY WEDNESDAY?
- H.L.: YES, HE WOULD STAY A WHILE BUT AT 4 O CLOCK THE SHIP WOULD BE OFF AGAIN. HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE SHIP "BOAT SWAIN" IS WHAT THEY CALLED IT.
- K.M.: DID HE WORK THERE FOR A LONG TIME?
- H.L.: OH FOR SOME TIME. THERE WERE OTHER SHIPS TOO, THE HALEAKALA AND OTHERS IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND, THERE WERE NO AIRPLANES IN THOSE DAYS. THEY HAD CABINS FOR PEOPLE TO STAY IN. I DID

NOT LIKE GOING ON THE SHIPS. I WOULD GET VIOLENTLY SICK, POOR SAILOR IS WHAT I AM. IT WOULD TAKE A FEW DAYS TO GET FROM ONE ISLAND TO ANOTHER NOT LIKE TODAY ONLY TWO HOURS. THEN IN 1940 MY HUSBAND BECAME A POLICE MAN. HE DID POLICE WORK FOR SHERIFF PUA. HE WORKED THERE UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT THEN HE WOULD STAY AT HOME.

- K.M. WHEN DID HE RETIRE?
- H.L. OH I FORGET I HAVE TO LOOK AT THE PAPER HE RETIRED BECAUSE HE HAD A LOT OF PRESSURE AS A POLICEMAN. IT WAS HARD WORK. HIS RETIREMENT WAS NOT LONG. THOSE DAYS POLICEMEN GOT PAID WELL, NOT LIKE TODAY.
- K.M. MAHALO AUNTY HELEN FOR SHARING THESE THINGS WITH ME .
- H.L. YES THANK YOU YOU HAVE A CLASS NOW?
- K.M. YAH, WELL THANKS AGAIN AND TAKE CARE
- H.L. YES YOU TOO A HUI HOU.