

lost file
Helen Lee Hong--Interview 6., by C. Langlas 7/12/88

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Interview 6 with Helen Lee Hong 7/12/88

by Charles Langlas

Tape 1, Side A

- C: I wanted to ask you about Nawahi.
- H: I don't know too full. It's so nice that they have it in the book [Ka Buke Moolelo o Hon. Jos. K. Nawahi].
(bit omitted) He went as a representative I guess, legislature, those days, their sessions, you know Honolulu. It says, of what I heard, he went on a double-hulled canoe.
(bit omitted) I guess from here, from Hilo, because that was their home, in Homelani, so must have been from Hilo here.
- C: And then his family had that land, in Kupahu'a?
- H: In Kalapana, where it is called Kalapana Gardens today. That's all part of Kalapana. But that was his property.
- C: What was it you called that area?
- H: Makanihalulu? Makanihalulu is the name of that place.
- C: That means what?
- H: Rumbling wind. Halulu, you know, rumbling...wind. I guess when the wind comes, there's a sound to it...in that particular area, because it's kinda cliff, you know, there's a cliff going on the side, going up there you know and there's a cliff going above too. That whole Kalapana Gardens area.
- C: Do you know how Nawahi was related to your family?
- H: Through my grandmother, my mother's mother's sister I think was his... [phone call interruption] ...that's how the relation is.
- C: Maybe his mother is her sister?
- H: Yeah.
- C: Do you know her name?
- H: I cannot remember her name. My grandmothers were all Keawehawaii sisters, so many...
So that's how the relation is, and he was also born there in Kaimu.
- C: So to you he would be...
- H: Great, great I think. (bit omitted)
I didn't get to see him. I wasn't even born and he was gone, he died. Only see in the pictures and then they told me. We had pictures of him. My sisters took all the pictures. They give it to some of the sons I think. They didn't have. (bit omitted)
- C: Did you ever hear of Alapa'i? I heard that was the father of Ilala'ole.
- H: I guess. I've heard the name Alapa'i, but the relation I wasn't quite sure. That's way back. But like uncle Ilala'ole, we were youngsters when he was still living, so we remembered him.
- C: Did you ever go to see the wife of Nawahi?
- H: Yes. When we were youngsters we used to go up to the house, to the home. A'ima is her name. Yeah, we only know her. Tutu A'ima. Oh, she was...Chinese, she has a lotta

Chinese in her, Chinese-Hawaiian. Yeah, we used to go up to the house quite often and spend time up there.

C: Did you stay there or just go to visit?

H: Just go to visit. We didn't stay there. Oh, she was cranky. (laughs) She gets you going. Not a sweet, uh, grandma. She'll push you there. She gives scoldings. We used to get lotta scoldings. I guess we were naughty, we weren't doing the thing she wanted. She was cranky. When we're children we're different.

C: Let me take you back now.

Do you remember before you started going to school?

H: Not quite that far back. All I remember, when I was school age. Age of six years old, I started going to school. At Kalapana school. Those days. Then Mrs. Goo San was my teacher there. I went to school from the first grade to the sixth grade. That was all the school went to. After I graduated from the sixth grade in Kalapana school, I came to live in Hilo with one of my grandma, Koli. Koli was the grandma that stayed with us here. She had moved to stay with us while we were going to school.

C: You and some other children too?

H: My other, my brother that was next to me was going to school too, so we all stayed together. We took with Koli.

C: Did she rent a place here?

H: We rented a place here, at a Bima's Cottage. You know where Lincoln Park is?, those cottages across there. That was called Bima's Lane. Bima's cottages. We rented a cottage there, just for schooling. And Tutu Koli stayed with us to take care of the house while we were in school. I went to the Hilo Junior High-school first, from the seventh to the ninth grade. Hilo Junior High-school. Then from there went up to Hilo High-school from ten, eleven and twelve. And graduated in the year 1931. June 5, 1931, I graduated from Hilo High-school. Then I went back home to help mom at home. You know, mom and dad was at home. We went back there for vacation. But during summer. Well at school during summer I always went to Honolulu to work at the canneries. Pineapple cannery.

C: Oh you did? From when you were...

H: I did. Well, I was in Junior High-school. Those days they would get children, those interested, before summers. Before school is out they would get the children, those who interested to go to work. They have the cannery work. So I went to work at the Hawaiian Pine.

C: Oh, that's how you were in Honolulu then.

H: That's how I moved to Honolulu during summer. To work. I stayed with my uncle.

C: Did your brothers go too?

H: No, my brothers didn't. They had something to do at home. To help dad at home.

I stayed with one of my aunt and uncle up there in Honolulu and then went to work, at the cannery. It was interesting. First experience, you know, working. What got me, you know,

not used to using those gloves. By the time the day is done, you know, your hands are all hurt. From that pineapple acid, yeah? Goes through the gloves, especially when you start with trimmin. Trimming is the first thing you start, then you start to packing. Go to packing. Then of course they have the jelly and all that. Oh, it was good experience for me. I enjoyed during the summer. Course the wages wasn't too much then, you know, during those days, cannery days. But it was enough, was helpful for continuing school. (bit omitted)

C: That uncle and aunt you stayed with, would that have been William Kane?

H: William Kane. They lived on Waiakamilo Road. That's right. William Kane and Auntie Nellie. That's my dad's sister. She married this Kane from Honolulu. They lived in Honolulu. My oldest sister was there too. She stayed with them and then she went to Normal School. We both lived with uncle Kane.

C: That must have been Kaia...

H: That's Kaiahua. She went there, school alright, Normal School, but she got married. Dad and mom was so angry. (laughs)

C: Cause she didn't teach.

H: She didn't teach. You know she went right through school when she...last year going to school, out to be teaching and then...she had to get married. She was...you know. Ah, but that was. We both lived together, with uncle and auntie. After that, I came home. That's all I did, go to the canneries and come home, for summer. Most of the time home with mom and dad, helping them with the farm.

C: After high-school was over you mean?

H: After high-school was over. Go and live with your parents was, you know. Dad didn do any work, special, you know. Money was hard you know, for education those days, and with a big family of ten. But we always had plenty, you know, in our food and everything for the home. And I spent most of my time at home. I was the one mostly at home. My sister stayed with the uncle, and of course she got married after that. Raised her family in Honolulu there. And she's still there in Honolulu.

C: So you were the only daughter...

H: I was the only one home. That's how I learned to do all the crafts, at home. Helped mom with here weaving. Mom was always busy at her weaving mats and the lauhala. Lauhala mats especially. Those days they didn have carpets like they have today, so lotta orders of mats, lauhala mats. So I used to help mom with pickin the lauhala leaves and rolling, and preparing the lauhala for, and even weave with her. You know sometime the mats are so big size you see. And also with Grandma. My grandma was still living, my mom's mom. We stayed together. We all worked together, helping.

C: And what about Tutu Koli, did she help too?

H: Tutu Koli, no. She didn't, she wasn't interested in lauhala

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- work. Housework--clean house, cooking, and wash and all that. Except she didn't do much weaving. She did other, crocheting, other things.
- C: She had a daughter too?
- H: She had a daughter. Only one daughter, yeah, Keake. Named after my mom.
- C: Was she the same age as you?
- H: No, she was older. Auntie was older than me. She was much older.
- C: Did she weave?
- H: She hardly did weaving. She wasn't interested in that, that's why. She would crochet, leis, like the mother. And embroidery, you know, make those old pillow-cases. She loved to do that. Crochet. And so is with her daughter, with Auntie Keake. She loves to do that. Make pillow-cases, lace. You know those old days, they make lace for the pillow-case, even the panties and the undershirts, you know. Crochet laces. Oh, they loved to crochet. That was their talent, crocheting, with Auntie and Grandma, Koli and her daughter, and embroidery.
- I spent most of my time home then, after that. Helping mom and dad. Milking the cows. That's how I learned to milk the cows, when we had our own milk. Milk the cow in the morning and feeding the pigs, doing farming. But I'm glad I've been home and could help mom and dad.
- C: Was your dad sick in those days?
- H: Yeah. He has bad asthma. Dad was hard-working man. He has his asthma too. When he has it bad, oh, he has to rest.
- C: So was Gabriel kind of taking up the slack in those days?
- H: Then Gabriel was taking up the slacks. That's how he has to leave school. To go home and help dad too. He only went to about fourth or fifth grade I think in school. With Father Louise. That's where he stayed, in Father Louise's home. Then he came home.
- C: Was there some reason why he came to Hilo for grade school?
- H: No. I guess he wanted to be in Father Louise's home.
- C: But Kalapana school...
- H: No. He didn't want to go to Kalapana school. He wanted to go to Hilo. That's how they put him in, and board, to Father Louise.
- C: Oh. That was like St. Joe's?
- H: Yeah. That's St. Joe's branch, church. And then this Father Louise, his own home, and then he keeps boys. School was right there too, you know, privately, parochial schools. Those days girls went different school. St. Joe's. And this was only boys.
- C: One was St. Mary's.
- H: That's St. Mary's where Father Louise home was. They call that St. Mary's. St. Joseph's was the girls. That's where the Manor is now, just below Homelani. That was where the girls went to school. My sister, my younger sister, went to that school. Mrs. Lindsey now, she graduated from that school. That's where she went. Because she was adopted by my auntie, you know Keake.

C: By Keake?
H: Keake, Koli's daughter, adopted her, as Paelua. She married Paelua and then they adopted my youngest sister, Maria Kaleialohakekapuna. They adopted her.
C: And they lived in Hilo.
H: They lived in Hilo, Wainaku. The adopted daughter was Paelua. Moana Paelua, that was his name. They lived in Wainaku those days.
C: During your grade-school days down there, did you do chores in the morning before you went to school?
H: Yes. We have to do chores in the morning. We get up, we did our cooking, sometime help with the cooking breakfast. Those days no stove, eh? On the cast-iron stove, woodstove, is what we used. Mom used to cook. We help with our chores. Or if there was animals to be fed, feed them. Pau before you went to school. And we had to walk to go to school those days. A mile's walk from Kaimu to school anyway. We had others, students, about four miles up they had to walk, come down. They had to start early to get to school. Way up Mokuhulu, way up there.
C: Did you all walk together?
H: Different times. Some came later. We walked too and we went on our own time walking.
C: Who did you walk with?
H: Neighbors, families close by, the Waipa's. Oh, before it was lotta families there. We all would walk to school together.
C: Did you have particular friends that you went with?
H: The closest neighbors, we went together. We had no lunch. Just go to school. No lunch in school all day.
C: You must have got hungry.
H: No. We would take cracker. You know those saloon pilot crackers. What we had at home. Maybe two slices. Wrap it up. Put it in schoolbag. That was lunch. Cracker. And then when it was guava season, those days we knew where the sweet guava trees were. We would stop on the roadway, go to the tree. Who gets there first gets the ripe guavas. (laughs) If you're too late, you're outta luck. That was fun. Most of the time, when we came home that's when we would do that. Stop, go picking guavas. But when we were on our way to school, we have to make time to get [there] before 8:00, before school starts. Otherwise you're tardy.
C: What happened if you were tardy?
H: I didn't. We have our little punish[ment]. Either clean blackboards. The teacher always get you something to do. Being only one teacher for six grades. That was some...I give her credit. I mean she's part-Hawaiian. It's been hard, but. She's Hawaiian, Mrs. Goo San. She married a Chinese. And she raised her family down there too. Those days they had teacher's cottages down there where the teachers stayed with their family, and the school building close by.
C: When she married, her husband came down there?
H: Yeah, her husband stayed down there. Her husband is the

Lee's mother's brother. Came to be her husband. That's how.

C: Did he work down there?

H: No, I don't believe. Most of his time was staying at home in the cottage. He goes over to the sister's, the Lee's. They had a big ranch and farm too. The only Chinese family that was down there in Kalapana that time. Including the Chinese stores, you know they had several stores over there, you know Alina and Ah Wah. But. The Lee's had their own store. I remember they had their own grocery store right across the house. Yeah, that's how she married.

C: Was it on the other side of the road from the house?

H: Yeah, it was on the opposite side of the road, the store, little grocery store. (bit omitted)

C: During those days did you go up mauka with your parents to grow taro?

H: Right. During weekends, Saturdays, we all went up. Pull weeds, help with the farm, with the taro patch. Clean it. Yeah, because that was our food, the taro. We always did go and help daddy, yeah. The weekends. Sundays, no, we didn't do any work at all. Everybody. We go to church. Oh, they get us... (tape ends)

Side B

C: Did you ever go to Panoa with your dad in those days?

H: But when we were going to school, it was hard to go up travelling up, you know. It's a distance going up there. No. We seldom go. My brother does. Gabriel does go with the daddy. Up there. Most of the time. ___we had more stay home with mom. Was more work to be done at home. (bit omitted)

C: Did they have a house up there?

H: Yes. A big house. A sleeping house, and you know the house we had up there was different. The sleeping house was different and then goes to the kitchen house where the cooking. And then the storage house is the cooking house, where you store things. And a cooking house where you cook your poi, taro and all that.

C: The cooking house was separate from the storage house?

H: Separate from the storage house. The dining house was different, only dining house where you ate, and then you come into the... That was a long house, up there in Panoa. And we had rainwater, catchment water, cement tanks. Those days. Built-up cement tanks for water storage.

C: What all did they do up there?

H: Farming, and go down. Goats. We had lotta goat meats. Raise cattle. Daddy raised cattle up there. Because the cattle would come down all the way to Lae 'Apuki. You know where the National Park is today? We used to go down and pump water, there was a water pump, pump water for the cattle every now and then. In the troughs you know. The cattle would come and have water to drink.

C: Down the makai side?

H: Yeah, down the makai side where the coconut trees are.

C: So that whole area he was running cattle?

- H: Yeah, that whole area, the cattle was running. Even wild donkeys, lots of wild donkeys there were during those days. Running.
- The goats were down the other end. Kealakomo, Kahue, that's where all the goats. Hilinapali. And there was certain time in the year when they would all go goat chasing, to get meat. Not for selling, to get meat for all the family from Kalapana, would go up. The men folks would go and help dad go chase. And corralling the goats. Then all, they can have all the meat they want. All dad want was the hide. That's another work we used to do. Salt the hide, and stretch, dry it out. Then roll it and dad would bring it in to Hilo, all on the mules. You know, pack-mules.
- C: Oh yeah.
- H: Bring it down to where the road can get, the wagon cars. It was horse cars, you know, those days. Before the motorcars came in, the first Ford cars. Daddy used to go on horse car. And then take it to Hilo to the Hackfields. Was Hackfield those days. And then they would ship it to the mainland. The hide you know. Take it in rolls after it's dried.
- C: Where could you start with the wagon, at Kapa'ahu?
- H: Kapa'ahu. At the end of Kapa'ahu.
- C: So the corral was...
- H: The corral was way up. Close to our house, there's a big corral there. Then there's other corrals down Kahue, you know where they would corral there. But the biggest corral was close to the house. I remember going over there, and all the families would come up and have all the meat they wanted. Make dried goat meat, and take it home to their families. That's the way. Goats was plentiful. All the beautiful colors of goats. Not black. All spotted, black and white, brown. Because my great, great, my father's parents used to live down Kealakomo. That's what they did was keep the goats, domestic goats, you know, keep the goats. They lived down there, my dad's mom and dad. Finally till a big earth-, tidal wave came. I think the Grandma fell in the crack. She died. That's how she died, not knowing, eh?
- C: The earthquake before the tidal wave?
- H: Yeah, the earthquake before the tidal wave. And the tidal wave came. And that's how Grandma, my great-grandma died. Fell down.
- C: Oh, the mother of your grandfather?
- H: Of my grandfather. I just heard. They told me that's how she died. But down Kealakomo there was a big village, where they raised goats. And the families lived there.
- C: And then during your father's day, were the goats just wild or?
- H: The goats, they increase so fast, there were some wild ones in with the tame goats too. He had tame ones too, to follow, when the goats come.
- C: Did he feed them?
- H: They helped themselves. There was lotta food in the field.

They didn't feed the goats. Maybe when they were living in Kealakomo. You know, starting to raise them, they fed. But after they increase, they went and search their own food. They would eat everything, the bark on the trees and everything.

C: How did your dad keep them tame?

H: Well, those that you keep in the corral and you play with them all the time, they're tame. But the other ones, they get wild. Those that you have in the corral and where you can play with them, hold them you know, the little baby when they're born, they get tame. They even follow you around, the little goats. He has some in the corral. But when they went out with the men folks to really corral goats, out in the field, oh, they got plenty. And then brought it home in the corral. The families that want to take home goats for pets, usually the children they like for pets, they can have all the goats they want. But was nice. All beautiful colored goats--spotted black and white, the brown, the grey, look all the colors. But after they got to be only the wild goats, all came black. The wild goats all are black. (bit omitted)

C: That greatgrandmother you talked about, do you remember her name, that greatgrandmother who fell in the crack?

H: My dad's mom, yeah, was Kuluwaimaka. You got the name I think.

C: Do you remember your grandfather, your dad's father?

H: I remember him in the picture only. Because I didn't get to talk to him. He died before we were born. Momma would tell me, this is daddy's mother. In pictures.

C: Could you tell me a little about your parents? What they were like, how they treated you?

H: My parents were good parents, loving parents. My dad would hardly talk, to me. But my mom would be the one. You know girls, uh, girls. Mom is more the one that does a lot of talking, giving you lectures and what to do. During my young days when I used to go out and play, you know when we done with our chores at home we go to play, you know, we have neighbors to play with. We had time to come home. Mom would say, you folks come home a certain time now. Be home before dinner. Sometime we just keep on playing and forget the time. Mom would come down with the coconut ni'au, broom? Yeah, we would get spankin. We feel shame with our other children lookin at us. It was gettin lickin to go home. (laughs) I remember that. But otherwise, my parents, dad would hardly...talk too much. He's so busy with his working. He was a quiet man. Mom was the one that..._____your chores.

But I'm glad. I'm happy that I've learned. What they taught was right. It was for my own good, to learn. I learned to cook, to help mom with whatever we had to do, to cook, to do her weaving. We would go together and pick lauhala leaves too, with mom. Dad would come when he had time and help. But we went with mom most of the time to help.

- C: Did your brother's come too?
H: No, they had their own chores to do. Most of their time was with dad. Help daddy with what he had to do.
- C: What about your grandmother, the one who lived with you?
H: Haleola, my namesake. Well, she was busy too, with her own work you know. She liked to do quilting, overcasting, making blanket and make lauhala. She would spend most of the time at home, you know, at home doing her work. That's the way she was all a time. And helping with dinner, cooking, mixing the poi. She likes _____ that.
- C: Did she have a special relation with you, since you were her namesake?
H: Well, we stayed together. Whatever she had, look like I was ...well, whatever I wanted I got. You know, if I went to her, what I wanted I got. (laughs) You know, you spoiled, eh?
- C: Were you her favorite?
H: I think so. (laughs) Because namesake, eh? usually namesakes, eh? Say, ah, "Hele mai. He aha kou makemake? Hele mai. Mai, mai, mai." Ask what you want and you got it. But you gotta be nice. I know why.
- C: What kinda things would she give you?
H: What I want.
C: Like maybe food, or...
H: Food, or maybe something I want special. Clothes or what. We used to wear. Those days we didn't care too much for jewelries. That's only occasions when we go to Sunday-school, you know, go to church. And then you wanta wear something nice. Yeah.
- C: Did she ever...when your mother scolded you, did she ever...
H: Her saying, she would...No, no, no. She didn't want to step in. Otherwise there would be a big row. Say, this is my child. I gotta teach. No, she never. She had her own little room where she would keep herself busy. She liked to quilt, eh?
- C: Did she ever tell you stories?
H: No, no. That grandma never talked stories. I never hear her say much. Prayed. We always used to have come, you saying before we went to sleep. Get em in the morning.
- C: With her?
H: More we did. Just the family would get together, together in the morning and in the evening. That's the two time, morning and evening, before you went to sleep. Everybody got together, in the room, and then we would say our verses. You know, bible verses. And then go rest. That's a tradition in our family. Think it's the same with James' family, they do the same. The grandpa, his grandfather's a religious man. We used to have a little church at Paia'ala there. We used to always go. Did James tell you? When we were little. We had to go in the morning, early in the morning.
- C: Everyday?
H: No, just on Sundays. You had to go to church first before you went outside and play, or whatever, you know. That's

- how it was named. Paia'ala church.
- C: Does that name have any special meaning?
- H: No. Just a name.
- C: I know your mother was a schoolteacher at one time. Did she stop before you were born?
- H: I guess. I didn't see her when she was going to school [to teach]. Before. Maybe when she was young. All I did, I heard that she was a teacher. Going all the way to Kehena. Around Kapoho in a stagecoach. Those days was horses.
- C: She went to several places?
- H: Yeah. Like Kaua'ili. But I think her favorite place was Kamaili, where there was a school there.
- C: Was that Kaua'ea school?
- H: Kalanihonua. Kaua'ea school is above Ophikao. Kaua'ea school was a regular public school, like Kalapana, like where we went. Kaua'ea was the school for Opihikao children.
- C: So when your mother was teaching...
- H: I think only where Kalanihonua is, that's where she went to teach. That's where I remember they said that she was teaching, over there.
- C: Do you suppose the public school was going on then?
- H: Public school came on after that. Kaua'ea was a public school. Kapoho had its own school. You know, all the little villages, they had their own school. (bit omitted)
- C: Do you think that she had gone to get special education before she became a school-teacher?
- H: I think she did.
- C: But you never heard?
- H: I never heard. All I heard was she was teaching, during her young days. Either before she was married, or was she married? I don't, I wasn't born then.
- C: Did you hear any story about how you got your name?
- H: No. All I know was I'm named after my grandma.

Here we begin talking about the house she grew up in and drawing a floorplan of the house. The house was two-story, "bungalow-style." It had a lanai on two sides upstairs. Gabriel's room was outside, on the porch. You can sit outside on the porch and look down to the ocean. The lanai had old-style railings (decorative). Upstairs were a parlor, three bedrooms off the parlor, a dining-room and a kitchen off the dining room. Downstairs was only a big hallway, though enclosed and having windows. Also had her grandma's room downstairs.

- H: She wanted to stay down there. So, underneath the house. She didn't want to go up. So she had her special room under the house, the grandma's. With all her things, whatever she had to do. Then the rest of the house was all open [downstairs], except her room. Course, had windows, for air, you know, and a back door. And that's where we used to do our weaving, down there. All the space under the house, weaving, sleep. We wanted to sleep under there, because it was all lauhala rugs, eh? Sometime we had

lu'au's, and that's where everybody goes, underneath. They go downstairs there. Stead of running upstairs. It was a big house.

In back of the kitchen were back steps. (We had trouble with the drawing.)

Tape_2

C: Did you share a bedroom with anybody else or did you have your own bedroom?

H: We shared, sisters. I mean, if we came, we had our own bedroom. Mom and dad they own bedroom.

C: Can you tell me who had which bedrooms? Which one did your parents have?

H: One of the big bedrooms in the house. I think one next to the parlor. Our other bedroom's were not as big.

C: Was one of the bedroom's for Koli?

H: She hardly stayed with us. Most of the time she was with her daughter. Wainaku. The only time she stayed with us when we went to school.

C: But before you went to school in Hilo, was she living with you folks?

H: She was with the other sister I think. You remember she has another sister. In Hilo, up Pu'ueo side.

C: Oh, so she didn't really live with you folks.

H: She was mostly with the other sister, and her daughter. But she had my sister, they was the baby. I mean my aunty, Keake, adopted Maraea Lindsay.

(bit omitted)

C: I guess you had a couple of younger brothers that were staying there.

H: Albert.

C: Peter?

H: Peter was. And when he was old enough, he went out in a boat. He worked in Honolulu, with Young Brothers. Then he went to the mainland. I mean he got married, got his own place, with his family. In Honolulu, when he was working. He was captain of the mai, you know the tug boat that runs between. He was mostly out on the ocean. Then went to the mainland or Japan, and wherever the barge went. Dillingham's. Yeah. He was hardly home. But his family was home. They have the home in Honolulu. That's Peter, the one next to me.

C: Was one of the bedrooms for the boys and one for the girls?

H: Right. There was bedroom for the boys. One of the back bedrooms. And one was for the girls.

C: So just you and Edna together?

H: Umhm. But Edna was most of the time with her uncle and auntie in Honolulu. She didn't have much time home with us. I was the one that was always home. Most of the time. All of the time.

C: I think you told me at one time that your folks switched to a kerosene stove.

H: Yeah, when the kerosene oil came, and then we bought. Mom bought a kerosene stove. Then we did away with the castiron, woodstove for cooking. Making wood. That's right.

C: Was that easier?

H: That was easier. Just fill the gallon kerosene, turn it on, and then all you do is get the chimney on, light the kerosene and let it cook.

C: Do you know how old you were then? After you went to Hilo?

H: Before I think. Still in grade schools. Used to call the kerosene 'aila mahu.

C: Why?

H: 'Aila mahu. Maybe the steam the heat or what, of the kerosene. Mahu is the steam. Kapuahi 'aila mahu.

C: When you finished sixth grade, did you go right to school in Hilo?

H: I think I went right in. The good thing was we had house, you know, house rent where we could all be, and then go to school.

C: So I guess...was Edna there?

H: No. She was in Honolulu, Normal School already. She was much older than me.

C: So who was there in that house with you? Was Peter? And Keakeli'ili'i? And was that all?

H: Peter. Keakeli'ili'i. And Grandmother, Koli. Yeah. Just us. Cause when mom folks came in. Once and a while they came. Most of the time were home. Most of my brothers were adopted. See like Kini was adopted. His adopted parents took him. Ulumahipua was adopted too. Sister Mary was adopted too. So much children was adopted in our family. They lived with their adopted parents, hanai, yeah? hanai. So, left was with. My brother Peter I think and I was...

C: So Ulumahipua and Keola were next door, yeah?

H: Right down there. Their home, lived right next to us, near, Keala and Ulumahipua.

C: Did you see a lot of them?

H: We used to run, go down to the visiting, to the house there too. Right next.

C: Was he close in age to you?

H: Two years above me. See Gabriel, and my sister Edna, the one in Honolulu, then Ulumahipua, then me. Two years older, and then me, and then brother Peter. Then sister Kalei and then Kini, Bill. My aunty Kane [took]. Of course, Albert was the youngest one. Yeah Albert was home too, when he was young and growing up.

C: Can you tell me about Keola and Ulumahipua?

H: I didn't get to see much of them. I was still young yet. I didn't even get to see that Ulumahipua, that uncle of mine. I think he died before I was born. Keola, I see her. She was quite elderly already then.

C: Did you go over and talk to her very much?

H: Not much. I stayed most of my time at home. Busy doing our work. Just once in a while when we had time, we would go to see. Outhewise we had our own work to do at home. And then go play, go to the beach and whatever we did.

C: So you didn't pay much attention to her?
H: No, never paid much attention.
C: Did you like her?
H: Yeah, I think she was alright. But I used to be scared. When you look at them you think, you know, they cranky kind. I never paid much attention.
C: What about that brother that she had, did you spend much time with him?
H: Most of his time was with them, his adopted parents. But he knew. He comes, visits sometimes, when he has time.
C: Did he ever come over and eat at your house?
H: Sometimes. Sometime he would come and eat. Then the mother would call him home. Cause she was _____ you know.
C: One time when you were talking to Kala you said the children of the family often came over to eat, and I wasn't sure who you meant.
H: Maybe when we had parties, birthday parties like that, everybody would come. That's what I meant. Because we always celebrate, especially the first year. Make one year old, the parents always make parties. And then all the families would come with the children and eat. Together. Those days birthday parties was important. Lu'au.
C: Was that the most important lu'au?
H: Yeah, the birthday lu'au was important. Yeah, they would kill a cow, the pig, and have a big celebration.
C: Did other people come help?
H: Yes. The neighbors, the families. In fact they were mostly family. Close neighbors. Everybody lived like a family those days.
C: When you made poi did everybody in the family help?
H: Yes. Everybody helped in the family, to peel the taro, clean the taro and then of course the daddies did the pounding of the poi. The families all did.
C: So that was mostly men's thing to do the pounding.
H: Men's thing to do the pounding. But unless the daddies were too busy to do, something else, sometimes the mom's would do the pounding. But mostly the daddies would do the pounding. We would at least cook poi once a week. You know, enough for a week's supply, and then the following week again. That was the staple.
C: Were you cooking it in the imu in those days?
H: No. During our time we were cooking it in the tubs. They had cooking tubs.
C: Did you have a cookhouse?
H: We had a cookhouse. The cookhouse was a separate house outside the main house. That was only for cooking. Where you stored the wood, and then the cooking stove.
C: So when you cooked the taro that was in the cookhouse?
H: In the cookhouse.
C: And what was upstairs in the kitchen?
H: Food to eat. You know, table food. Like maybe they had fish, or meat to cook. That's usual, either fish or meat or pork. That's the only thing we cook inside.
C: Did your family ever bake bread?

- H: No. I don't think so. I wish we did, we learn how to bake bread. We never. We would go to the people who make the bread. There was a Portuguese family who makes bread. We go there and get the bread. Buy bread. Of course cracker was favorite. There's saloon pilot, big round crackers.
- C: So you didn't bake with flour.
- H: No, we didn't bake with flour. We would eat taro or we would eat banana, the cooking banana. Just boil it and cook it, eat it.
- C: So the cookhouse then, was that only for cooking taro, or did you cook anything else there?
- H: Cook taro, the 'ulu when there was season of 'ulu. That's the most, cookhouse. The rest of the cook, like fish and all, it's in the house.
- C: Up in the kitchen, who did most of the cooking?
- H: Mom.
- C: Your dad didn't?
- H: No. He didn't do anything. Mom would do the cooking of the house. For meals. Cause dad is too busy out there, with the animals. And of course the farming, the fishing.
- C: Did he fish on canoe or not?
- H: Seldom. He seldom went. If there is not enough men for the canoe, then he would go, paddling out. Otherwise, they always had enough men to go out. Those fishermen who are good at their fishing, so they always took their canoe out fishing.
- C: Was he less skilled at it?
- H: He was less skilled. He wasn't a ___fishing, more farming.
- C: Did he have a canoe of his own?
- H: No. Not that I remember. (bit omitted)
- C: With taro work up mauka, who would usually go with your dad?
- H: Mostly Gabriel would go.
- C: Your mom didn't go up?
- H: No. Only once in a while, when she wanted to.
- C: Someone told me that your mom took lauhala orders for other ladies down there.
- H: Yeah, I think. They give her the orders, yeah, and then she tried to make it. Or else some other neighbor ladies when they can make, fill up the orders.
- C: So she would ask them to help?
- H: Yeah. Bring their rolls. Yeah. They would have their how many rolls they have, and how many they can supply.
- C: Was that mostly just the rolls, not orders for weaving?
- H: Orders for weaving too. She would give out to those who can make. Momma would do that. Cause there were several mothers in Kalapana who used to do weaving like how mom does. Louise's mother. Louise Keliioomalua's mother was a weaver all her life. That's how Louise learned. That's one of the weavers, and her sister, another sister of the mother. She would go, and another aunite of mine, Kaleihulua, yeah. They would help her with the orders, yes.
- C: Did they come over to her house to weave, or...
- H: They wove at their place, cause they had their own

materials. All they did was to take the orders and weave, especially mats.

C: Do you know who was giving your mother those orders?

H: I know Doc Hill was one. And some other friends we knew.

There are still some people today that mom did, you know, coming to me. You can make my mat? You know, it's so hard to get lauhala today. The place is all subdivided and the lauhala, you know where we used to pick the lauhala, it's a subdivision. Like Kehena. You cannot just go. Before it was owned by one person and then they let you go and pick. Or else you lease the place, yeah? We pay lease, by the year. But today, no more. you gotta try to plant your own lauhala. Otherwise you cannot go to [just] anyplace where you see lauhala. Actually, but it's somebody's property. Today. Before, yeah, you can pick all the lauhala you want.

C: Do you think in those days all the lauhala was being used? Or did some go to waste?

H: Some go to waste. The ones you can't get it when they're ready and use that. Cause they dry so fast. They get rain, wet, and rot. That's why, during summer, when it's dry, you pick all the lauhala you can and put it in a dry place. And all you do is roll it afterwards. Otherwise you get a good leaves.

C: So you went with your mother to pick I suppose?

H: Oh, most of the time, bein the one home.

C: How did she go? Did she take the horse?

H: We walked. Some far places we had to get animals to carry the bundles of lauhala.

C: Do you remember ever making bonfires when the men went fishing?

H: That is the fishing at night, when we do bonfire. Yes, we used to do that, as youngsters. We used to have lotta fun. Pick all the coconut, dry coconut palms. Pile it up together. And then, during the night when it's dark, start burning the bonfire, right. Then we used to get, if we got young coconuts, put it on the ashes, you know when the fire is burning. We would eat it. Or 'ulu, we just whatever we have, put in, let it cook. And then have fun eating. Cooking on the beach while we wait for the canoe to come in.

C: Did you play games, or tell stories?

H: Play games. We usually played games.

C: What kind of games would you play with the bonfires? You couldn't play kamapio.

H: No, no kamapio. Playmaster maybe, hide and seek, and maybe play with your hand, if you have something in your hand, you know. We never played cards, no. Just games, past-time. And then pick dried coconut palms and keep piling on the fire so the fire continued burning. Otherwise they burn so fast. You gotta pick up, keep piling up, and then pick dried leaves. That was the fun.