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This interview was not recorded on tape.

INTERVIEW WITH AUNTY JENNY KAMA AWAI OF KALAPANA AND HER HUSBAND CHARLIE AWAI
IN THEIR HOME AT KEAUKAHA.

Date: October 27, 1987

E=Ehukai (Interviewer)

J=Aunty Jenny

C=Uncle Charlie

J: Hui! Come inside.

E: Aloha Aunty Jenny, pehea 'oe?

J: Fine! Fine! Come inside.

(After sitting on floor at J.'s feet E. begins interview)

C: Mama, she knows a lot. You ask her anything, she knows. The old folks always like talk to her because she good listener.

E: Okay! Aunty, I want to ask you some questions about how you were raised in Kalapana, what your family life was like and so forth. Can you tell me when you were born and where?

J: I was born on September 19, 1918 at home in Kalapana. My grandfather's name is Kelakomo. I when go Honolulu after the 6th grade because my aunty was one teacher.

E: Around what year was that? You remember?

C: Mama, what year was that? 1932?

J: I think was 1932. My father died when I was young age. My grandmother raised me. When I went Honolulu I went to McKinley High School, Tokyo High.

E: Oh, so you went Honolulu to school?

J: Yeh, my aunty was school teacher there. There were three girls in my family. My sister, Louise, is the oldest, then me, mysister Edith, who died, one brother who died as an infant and another brother who died at 12 years of age. I was close to my Aunty, the teacher. I graduated from McKinley High School in 1936.

E: Did you move back to Kalapana in 1936?

J: My mama died after the war pau. I got married about 1937 in Kalapana at the Kalawina Church.

E: Mauna Kea Church?

C: You know the name of the church? Too good, hah, you? Yeh, yeh, that's the name of the church, Mauna Kea Church.

E: Who married you? Who was the minister?

J: His name was Richardson. Half haole he was.

C: Yeh, tell her about the time you got married, your first husband.

E: What was your first husband's name?

J: I married Fred Bumatai. You know Andy Bumatai. He used to stay with me. I raised him.

E: Oh. That's interesting.

J: Yeah. He stayed with me.

E: Did you live on the Big Island after you got married?

J: No. After the war started, I moved to Honolulu.

E: Aunty, do you ^{know} anything about what Kalapana was like during the war? Some say had barbed wire along the coastline of Kalapana.

J: Oh yeah. Had barbed wire along the ocean to keep the enemies out so that they no come in.

E: What about people in Kalapana, did they have to give up their houses to the Army for use?

J: Oh. If they wanted to. They got paid if the Army had to use their house. I move to Honolulu. Wartime I work in Honolulu. Ho boy! Had plenty canned goods where I work.

C: You betta not tell dat. You might get into trouble.

E: That's alright, uncle. You folks will be able to see whatever is written and if you don't want this written we can take it out.

J: That's alright, I like tell her. War time had plenty canned goods where I work and I always send home here to the Big Island because my family here had hard time, hah? My uncle work stevedore so I can send it home through him and when get to Hilo, my family in Kalapana get 'um.

(After a few seconds pause, Aunty starts talking about her grandfather and life in Kalapana)

J: My grandfather was the minister in Kalapana. His name is Reverend John Kama. My grandmother's name is Mikala Waiwai. She raised me. My grandfather used to go to Opihikao, Ola'a and Kalapana and Pu'ula for church.

E: Aunty, where's Pu'ula?

C: As by Poho'iki hah?

J: No, as not. Pu'ula is up side.

E: Did your grandfather make the rounds in one day?

J: No, he take turns. Every Sunday he go different church.

E: Aunty, you remember if had an old church built by Father Damien down there?

J: As not Star of the Sea, the Painted Church?

E: No, I think there was a church that was built out of stone.

J: Oh, I know which one you talking about. The one that stay Kapa'ahu. But he left after that. I think he died.

E: Father Damien went to Moloka'i after that, I think. (A little pause) Aunty, can you tell me about life with your grandfather and grandmother?

J: I was my grandfather's favorite. I used to go with him when he went for services somewhere else. When we went to Opihikao we went by mule. The mule's name was Hala'aniani. I used to get the mule ready for our trip.

(Continued Interview with Nancy ...)

J: When we went to Ola'a, we went by car.

E: Aunty, what kind car you folks had?

C: Was Model A, hah?

J: No, we had a Model T. I used to steer the car up some hills because too steep, hah? My grandfather would push and I steer.

C: Tell her about the person's house you used to sleep at when you went to Opihikao? What his name was? Up-and-Down?

E: You used to sleep over when you went for services?

J: Yeh. Some places like Ola'a and Opihikao. At Opihikao we used to sleep at this person's house. We call him Up-and-Down.

E: Do you remember his real name?

J: Hmm. I dunno.

C: Yeah. What was his real name? They call him Up-and-Down because he had one short leg and one good leg. Oh, I forget his name, she said. Oh yeah, Elia.

E: Did you really call him that? That's kinda cute.

J: No, we call him by his name but everyone knows him as Up-and-Down.

(pause)

E: What about your grandmother?

J: She raised me. She was the President of the Sunday School. But I was my grandfather's favorite. I always went with him.

E: Were those days happy ones for you?

J: Yes (with a wistful look in her eyes). You know where Harry K. Brown Park stay? We used to go swim over there naked. If the girls got there first, the boys would just stay away and hide behind the rock until we was pau. They no watch us. Was good.

E: What happened if the boys were in the water first? They went swimming naked, too?

J: Yeh, they went swimming naked. We no bother them. We went up front side swim.

E: Was fresh water?

C: No, brackish water. Come in from the ocean.

E: What other kinds of things did you do when you were young, Aunty?

J: We went fishing. I went fishing with my grandpa. Opelu fishing.

E: Had opelu?

J: We used to go by Canoe Landing, you know where dat? Behind by the Catholic Church. Night time had menapachi. I used to ^{go} with my grandpa in the canoe. I had to keep the canoe still.

E: How did you do that?

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J: Was shallow so I just poke the stick in the water and hold it there. I also used to "hapai wa'a" (carry canoe) on the logs.

E: The term is "hapai wa'a"?

J: Yes. We used to have to carry the canoes on the logs.

E: How did you fish?

C: Wasn't throw net, you know. Was different kind net.

E: Aunty, how was the fish distributed?

J: Oh, that's why I go help. If you go, you get share. I hapai ka'au.

C: Tell her how much money you folks lived on when your grandfather make(die). Only little bit, you know, they get.

J: My grandmother raised us. My grandfather's pension was only \$15-\$20 a month.

C: Yeh, those days was cheap.. When I was young 15¢ bought enough meat to feed a family of eight. 5¢ could buy you salt seed and your mouth would be all funny kine. Was cheap.

J: My mother remarried after my father died. She married two times after that.

C: Yeah, plenty times, her mother marry.

J: There was a lot of land behind Mauna Kea Church. We had a farm. We raised chickens, pigs. Hoo! The pigs just roamed around in the stonewall fence. Had kepallo (devil) in the house.

C: Yeah, the brother had to go burn the house down.

J: We had a big house. Had 7 bedrooms and one U-shaped lanai.

C: The step-brother, the mother's son, his name was Abner, yeah, Ma, when burn the house down. Was spooky. You know the Hawaiians talk about puolu in the roof, one red one....Excuse the house, yeah The mo'opunas come ovah heah. They come, stay. We buy new bed, the kids come, stay then take 'em with them. Moa bettah sleep on the floor. The mo'opunas supposed to help us with the yard. They come ask for money, I give and they no come back for lawn mow the yard.

(After a pause)

E: Aunty, can you tell me anything about school in Kalapana? Do you remember any of your teachers?

J: Oh, yes. Mrs. Goo-Sum. The school was by the Catholic Church.

E: About how many children were there at the school?

J: Oh, had plenty. About 70 children. The higher grades were upstairs. The building was high. There were 2 rooms and 2 teachers. One was Aunty Loy Atai married to Pa.

E: Are there any special people that you remember from your school days in Kalapana?

J: Oh yes, Akeneki, "Blackout". Her real name is Agnes Konanui.

E: Why did you folks call her "Blackout"?

C: Oh, she was tough. If somebody make her any kine she give 'em one hook and pau, they knockout. She used to do dat at the bar.

J: She was black, too. That's how she got the name "Blackout".

E: Was there anyone else that you would like to talk about?

J: Harry Kaina, my grandaunt's boy used to chase me and give me licking.

E: Why did he do that?

J: I used to make him any kine. I used to be kolohe.

E: I bet you were a rascal Aunty Jenny. Do you remember any stores in Kalapana when you were growing up?

J: There was Young-Wai store across the school. AhMoo, the lady used to dry lemon outside and we used to steal the lemon from the store.

E: Were the storeowners pure Pake or were they Part-Hawaiian? Around what year was this, that you are recalling?

J: Oh, the owners was pure Pake. I think this was the 1920's.

E: Aunty, do you have a Hawaiian name?

J: Oh yes. I was named after the princess of Puna, Ka'oleloho'oholookanihomau'ola.. Either my grandfather or my grandmother gave me this name.

E: What is the meaning of your name?

J: "The approving words of the Princess of Puna".

E: Was it common in those days to have long names like these?

J: As far as I know it was a common thing to give your child a name like that.

C: You know before, S.K. Oda come ask me to help clear the gravesite back of you know where Kalapana Gardens stay? As all Aunty Jenny's family stay buried there so they scared and they come ask her if okay. Was good money, they pay me to go excavate.

E: Around what year did these gravesites go back to?

C: Oh, about the late 1800's, maybe before. Had one nice haircomb and one 5¢ peice. I was looking for gold piece because sometime they bury 'em with them. Charles Kaina, the cousin help me with the grave site excavation. Had to open one stone. Neva had cement for hold together. Too good the Hawaiians when they built the tomb. They build the cave then they bury. They put one rock at the entrance. Can stand up in there. Some had iron roof inside. Had lauhala mat inside. The body was rolled up in the mat and put in the grave. Was kinda spooky but was all her ohana.

E: Uncle, where were the bones transferred to?

C: Oh you know down past Kaimu side going towards Opihikao side.

(After a pause)

E: How did you get to Keaukaha from Kalapana? How long have you been living here in Keaukaha?

C: Was the 1950's.

J: From Kalapana, I move to Honolulu. I went to Washington Intermediate, then Tokyo High. After that, I come home, got married before the war then move back to Honolulu.

C: She and I get married on V-J Day in Honolulu.

J: I had all kind jobs. I was a truck driver on the base at Pearl Harbor, the Navy Yard.

E: How did you two get together?

C: We meet in one bar. The City Cafe.

E: After you got married you moved back to the Big Island?

C: Yes we move back here. But I was already married, you see, and I had 2 kids with my first wife. I wanted the kids. I when get'em.

(After a short pause)

E: Aunty, can you tell me a little bit more about your family? Any thing that you remember and want to share.

J: Yes, when I was growing up I only talked Hawaiian. My greatgrandmother's name was Ka'iu Waiwai. Shelived til 92 years old. She came from Tahiti on a canoe with a rat and an owl. Had war was going on . Her people was fighting. She came from royalty and her parents did not want her to die so they put her on the boat. Yeah, she came from "Down Under". The rat would leave his long tail in the water. This is how fish was caught on the voyage, and the owl would guide them to Hawaii.

E: Aunty, did you have aumakua?

J: Yes, for the water, the shark and in the mountain, the pu'ueo. When we was growing up in Kalapana, at meal time we all ate together at one long table.

E: Did you have benches at the table?

J: Oh, no. Individual chairs.

E: Did you have a separate cook house?

J: Sort of. But we had kitchen. If was nice day, we cook outside.

E: How did you get your food?

J: We used to pound opihi and go crabbing. We used to catch crab, you know with the head pin? And the guava stick, too. We used to use pipipi for bait. No moa other kind, hah, those days?

E: You ate with the poi?

J: Oh, Kalapana no moa taropatches. We had ulu poi.

C: After the grandfather die, only had ladies in the house. They did all the work. Every time we used to go down there every time the old folks come get her from me. I used to get mad because I like spend time with her, too, hah?

E: Aunty, what other kinds of things you did in the old days?

J: We used to weave lauhala mat for Carlsmiths' from Honolulu and for Shipman's.

- J: Shipman's wife and my great grandmother were distantly related. I talking about the Old Man Shipman. He had one Hawaiian wife. Her name was Mele.
- C: Tell her how you guys eat poi from the barrel. HO! That's one good one.
- E: You used to eat poi from the barrel?
- J: Yeah. When we used to go Shipman's house, we couldn't eat inside the house. They made us go in the back of the house and we ate from one poi barrel. Shipman's workmen grew awa and sold it to him.
- E: What was the awa used for?
- C: Gunpowder. (I need to clarify if it was gumpowder or gunpowder)
- J: At our farm in Kalapana the pigs, cats and dogs ate all kinds of things.
- C: Yeah. They eat any kine. Ulu, guava, coconut. Ho, boy, the coconut is real valuable thing. You can use the bark, the water, the shell and the meat. Can live on coconut alone. Can even use the coconut leaves. On the farm they had donkeys, mules, cattle. Can kalua pig every day. You kalua one day, you wake up, you like eat pig can kalua one moa. They had the small kine pig. Amazing, was.
- J: We used to make 'ulu kulolo.
- E: You used to use 'ulu instead of kalo?
- J: Yeah.
- E: You used to mix 'em with brown sugar?
- J: No. We use wild honey. Had, you know. We neva use sugar. We were taught to respect people, you know, in the old days.
- C: You know where Hakuma cave is? In the old days used to have war between the different districts. One man would stay outside and tease the enemies. When they approach, everybody go hide in the cave. Only get one small puka, see? Some guys, they hit 'em from on top. You gotta climb down in the puka. Big, you know, inside the cave. But you can go inside.
- E: I don't think I can fit through the puka. My okole too big.
- J: Nah, you can fit inside.
- C: Good listener, you know, my wife.
- E: Okay, Aunty and Uncle. I think next time when I come back I going ask you to tell me a little more about your house in Kalapana, the one your brother had to burn down and maybe some legends, if you know any from the Kalapana area. We also can talk a little more about your family.
- C: Oh, yeah. She get so much stories to tell. Too bad she when get sick otherwise would be bettah. Sometimes she repeats.
- E: That's alright, she did a wonderful job tonite and so did you. I am so glad we were able to meet.
- C: Call next week then we can set up another time.

