

JOHN HALE
OF
POIHIKI



*An oral history of life in a Hawaiian village in the 1920s and
1930s*

Anna Naupa
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Charles Langlas

Interview Release Form

'Opihikao/Pohoiki Oral History Project

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Signed & Dated

John Hale
(Interviewee)

CAUNNA NAUPA
(Interviewer or Witness)

The following optional conditions may limit the release of information if signed by the interviewee.

Only an edited version of the tape and tape-transcript (or the copy of notes taken) is released by me, with sensitive sections deleted at my request. The un-edited tape and tape-transcript (or notes) shall not be used or kept by Mr. Langlas or by Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. (Signed) _____

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INTERVIEW #1 WITH JOHN HALE September 6, 2000
Kea'au, Puna

Anna Naupa (AN): So, your full name is John?

John Hale (JH): John Hale, H-A-L-E eh, yeah?

AN: Do you mind telling me, like, how you grew up? Where you were born?

JH: Oh, yeah, I grew up down the red house eh? You know down the beach, you went the beach eh?

AN: In Opihikao?

JH: Yeah, by the Park, Isaac Hale Park eh. That's where we came out. When I was young in the '30s, ah people move you know, out. Only us was the last. You know the young generation eh? Soon go 18, they leave the place now, and I left there, I last left back there, 19- what year that? 1938 I left there. I went Honolulu you know. I was taking care of my old man, he sick that's why. I was only about 10 year old. I take care of him until I was, until '38, I went Honolulu work, find job, because my old man sick. In a hospital eh? Mental hospital. You see hard life you know, take care of my father, I live like the native, no light, you know, I go fishing only me. And most people there, they move out no? I got to take care of my old man you know. And my, I get plenty brother, sister. My brother pass away you know and ah eight of us left, hard no? And my, my mother pass away, she gave birth one boy, she died. My father the midwife, that's why he come off eh? Midwife you know, hard life eh that. Then, after that then, ah, that's kinda like acting eh? And I see how the end was no? You dead and there's all this stuff like that, then you go call for help, we cannot save our own mother. Then they wake up the whole village, Kapoho village. No car, only three cars you know. No doctors, how, how you gonna save? You know, unlike them, my mother pass away. And eight of us, I give, pass away with a small baby no? My aunty like keep the baby, and I want, Isaac, was one year old. That's the one passed away in the army, he was one year old. And the mother (his sister, Hana's mother) keepem. My sister was only 17 year old, unlucky you know my sister get, and the rest of us you know, we get eight of us, well, my sister the oldest was goin' keep the rest. But the oldest, she was only 17 how you like that? No more mother, and my father went mental ill, sick yeah? Was hard life you know we get.

AN: So, uh, after your mother passed away your sister had to look after all the other children?

JH: Yeah, hard life, yeah, my sister only young, 17. And 17, one 15, one more sister, 13, you know, then me, I come 10, I get one more brother ah tink, one more brother, 8, and my young brother, the one the mother (his sister) keep was one year old. Feels a nightmare. And no welfare days you know, so life not easy uh?

AN: So, you just stayed out in Pohoiki?

JH: Yeah, sometimes paradise you get anything you get, only thing nobody house, everybody move now.

AN: Did you ever come into Pahoa?

JH: No I no work, we get our own town in Kapoho. Nice town that was. The fire went destroy that town. Nice place, clean town there, plantation with sugar uh, you know. That's where my mother, my sister live, the mother. First time, you know, she marry over there, she stay over there.

AN: So, lots of people worked in the sugar cane industry?

JH: It's 300 laborers, yeah? From the Philippine Island.

AN: Ah? All Filipino?

JH: Yeah! Filipino, you know how they work eh? Hard work, cut cane and all that stuff you know. Carry the cane eh? Hard work, nobody can, other nationality no can that job. Hard. Hard, itchy, you got to handle poison all that stuff you know, it's not easy that.

AN: What about the Hawaiian people?

JH: They no work over there. They, they go fishing, other stuff no? Hard to work that kind job, they, when they work the Filipino, they like run, they fast, so the plantation they no hire people that no, no run you know. Fishing, breathe (?) that you know, they work, work no stop, no can like that. Some was nice people no?

AN: So, in Pohoiki and all that, the Hawaiians lived from the land?

JH: yes, you get some all that, Yeah, nice kind place, any kind you eat, plenty pig, the pig come by the house you know, pig, cattles, like that, plenty, plenty fish left uh no, plenty get. Only when the one come teenagers, they come big, they move out of there, you know they go Honolulu they go school some place, only the old ones stay back no? And nice. Uh?

AN: Did you learn how to hunt? And you went hunting a lot?

JH: Yeah, we hunt, we learn and run, the pig come by the house, plenty animals over there. How much people they live out there, they only eat enough - little pig too much there - you know. Today they kill all the pigs that's why. And you get one cow you divide among no? No be greedy, today guys, people eat everything eh? Nothing left.

AN: And the same with, with fish and lobster?

JH: Lobster, fish, any kind. Because we eat what can, no eat too much eh? You catch what you eat, just like you guys place eh? Same ting. That's why you folks place get plenty fish eh? Then uh all the humans (?) come then, they get different culture, no? They take everything now, and today no fish, they sell all the 'ahi, sell to the market eh? They take a truckload of fish, today no more fish where we live now, the 'ahi fish, the mighty one, all gone now, few left. Now they just stuck.

AN: So, you would just fish in the bay there?

JH: Yeah, bay, they go about 20 mile out, the big kind 'ahi aye? Tuna. Today gone, all gone already.

AN: What kind boat?

JH: They used the microle, the open net, small fish, they put on the hook, hard life you go out all night. You know Puna coast is dangerous uh? That's right, sometime you no come back.

AN: So, who went fishing? Like the men, or the boys?

JH: Who? They all go, the old generation, not the young ones, not now blah! In the '30s, after '40s, '50s, no body goes fishing over there. I was talking about the '30s you know, early '40s, yeah about. I was the last guy of the early '40s, the young ones you know. My father wen go hospital then I wen move out. I came back, 19-, what year I came back? I came back in ah, '26 no? I am gonna go check the land over there, still was the same thing, nobody about, everybody move already. Then nobody know about Puna, nobody know. 1960 the eruption aye? They see 'em in the TV, they think what is this land, they go Kona, they see Puna, they all go this side, the house, they buy land. They say they no get land over here this side no? Before they only come here they gonna stay Kona.

AN: But now, many buy land in Puna.

JH: Ah, now too much people now. Oh.

AN: So, when you lived in Pohoiki how many families lived there?

JH: Ah, me ah, me atink when I was there only about 4 families like that, or 5. They stay Pohoiki, when the lava erupt they go in the mountain they plant taro, paheka taro is you know, they not lazy people up the mountain, the water come, they come down the beach, they get beach home too no? Yeah, that's what they do. Hard work that. Taro, kalo, and then we plant ulu. They go get fish and - buy the fish and - they go home uh? That's how they live these people.

AN: They get sweet potato? Sweet potato, ula'a

JH: eh? Potato. Uala yeah, uala, uala, yeah uala. You folks, how you talk you label that one, uala too?

AN: We talk kumala, yeah.

JH: Yeah, same thing but they talk French sometimes hard to understand. When I go I understand what they talk I listen eh?

AN: So, you had uala, ulu . . .

JH: ulu, we plant, today you look these houses, all they are Hawaiian houses you see all the stone inside, you cannot plant nothing. All the new generation no? Because they don't eat that stuff. They no eat that's why. They no eat taro, they no eat, what kind they eat, hamburger? They eat other stuff that's why.

AN: So, when you planted the uala, and taro, it was in the good soil.

JH: Yeah, we, we plant uala, only uala, taro we plant different place. Remember the leaves grow ontop the taro eh?

AN: So, how did you plant in the stones?

JH: That's 'cos we make, sometimes they make the mound no? They plant no? Some they, they poke in the dirt like this, then every time they put pile 'em, pile the dirt up them. When the time that taro, that uala ready the mound big you know. They cover everytime no? Some like that. They when big when they come out. The uala one they good farmer no? Today they don't know nothing. Just waste time.

AN: And you said there were four other families?

JH: Yeah, about 4 or 5 family around there. Yeah, they work taro, they go fishing, and go up mountain, they get two land uh? Like us we get two land too but ah our old folks all pass away so nobody go up. Stay down then they go farming up, good land all soil you know.

AN: And what were these other families called?

JH: Called, eh?

AN: What were the names of the other families?

JH: Philip, ah the other one they call Manoa family, yeah. Kuamoo family. Yeah. All the kind clar (?). Kupuhio family no? You from all over the place no more you get all family all pass away the kids move out that's why. They don't want to stay in the kind place uh? They go Honolulu, Hawaiian Homesteads open eh, so all they go there. That's right.

AN: And, um, were you related to them?

JH: Yeah. How hard you get blood or what but some only Hawaiian some no blood but they the family. No hard the kind, you know. You from the place, same thing eh? No, it's like family where they find out no, no blood. That's how you get trouble on the land no? Oh, let's see, the family, oh when you find out no you race to heaven that's why you know.

AN: So in Pohoiki it was just the families and the houses. No stores. Any, like, shops?

JH: Eh? What are shops, stores?

AN: Stores.

JH: No, where I was, no shops. I was, when I see only I was in a ten year old, 10 year old I was in the when, 27th, 1926 eh. No, nothing over there. Then where I live, the old house was in the coffee mill, big coffee mill you know. Yeah. (unintelligible) out the land it look nice but no human being live all move out already you know. Maybe my father time was plenty people eh? The boat used to come and unload and go you know. You know the pier? The boat come, a sailing boat I think, and unload the supplies, by the old house where we stay uh? I think supply house before that eh you know. You come get your cargo from the boat you know, stored come there and pick 'em up with a horse wagon. Then there's no more car you know. But we no see that, we only hear. My old man told me that. When his time was you know, they had things already desk (?). Close up already. You know, that was, told you was nice you know, oh anyone you know one old pot yeah?

AN: So, in your time, did you walk everywhere you needed to go? You walked?

JH: Where?

AN: You walked everywhere? Like you walked to Kapoho, you walked to . . .

JH: I walked yeah, school must walk. The car guys get car in the '20s, one car like that. When I was in my young time plenty have cars that in the '26, no '27, they get a Model E or a Model T, two cars. And Kapoho you get 700 people with 4 cars, you know that's how it was eh? Not too much.

AN: And who had the cars? The cars belonged to the plantation?

JH: Oh no! No, the one who can afford car you buy your own. So in Kapoho only 4 people get car. How can you buy car you get dollar one day no? Shit.

AN: So, your father, he didn't work at the sugar mill?

JH: No, he the kind police. Yeah. My father, before 6, 8, big! And when you apply job at the plantation, Filipinos coming in eh? And get rumor, you know rumor? They thought aye, watch out that kind police there, nobody apply the job, chase all these labors they walk out. My father kill you they cook you, you know. The rumor they heard like them was other people eh? They hear the rumor you know, nobody apply for the job. Then my father wen try, that's why he get a job with the camp police and we find out the kind people they usually live in the camp. When they eat they always call us eat. And I lived there until I was mature, or 18. I no see fight, they don't fight, and they didn't swear. Pretty (?) human that. All hear rumor no good you know, say aye, better watch out, there's no good that kind talk like that. And then that's what happened you know, nice people my father get job camp police. Shit, I think he went die you know, sick and then he finished. You like in New Guinea, we have a rumor, the other guys say watch out, why? They catch you, they cuddle you some guys. No! In New Guinea too! They were scared there, they didn't know about the natives, cruel people. That kind rumor no good you know, because anybody gonna watch out no matter what the Japanese might knock you out the ladies why. They cuddle you they like pigs, shit! He heh heh. That the rumor yeah? Where you going work with the haoles spread the rumor yeah, They read too much book that's why you know. Shit.

AN: So, when you were 10 you went to Honolulu with your father?

JH: When I was ... ? No. When I went left over here I go visit my father, he was in a mental hospital, then I never come back. Me, and my brother, I get one more younger than me. We stay over there, and then we get caught in the war no? Let's go stay short while. Then the war, we get stuck, they kickle us eh?

AN: So did you fight in the war?

JH: Who?

AN: You.

JH: No I don't fight! Lucky I don't fight. Me no like fight anyway, for what. I was on the ammunition boat. Good job but only thing bad, when the torpedo hit you and goodbye. Ammunition ship no? I load the bombs for the guys fighting no? You go like come Hawaii I come put the ammunition in the boat. Then you ride with the boat. And when you bang into one torpedo you explode you know. That's where I was, but I lucky.

Hana: How old you that time uncle?

JH: 20 year. Young boy at the time! I was, 19, I think when I get drafted. I get stuck with them. '41, ah, '41 I went in.

AN: When they bombed Pearl Harbor?

JH: I see the first bomb. Me and my brother were in Honolulu. We see the big pile coming and, and they pass our hotel. We see all black. We talk, American men were practice uh? They gonna see the red star. Japan zero. Us we see, and the rumor people they said oh Japan plane no can fly fast. Junk plane, no? They get a, the speed plane you know. Good plane, better than the American ones. That kind rumor you hear you know, shit. So much plane came, they throw bomb all over the place in Pearl Harbor you know. Shit.

AN: And so you worked on the ammunition boat until the end of the war?

JH: Yeah. I came back then I went see (unintelligible). Then I went back Honolulu ah '38 I think. No when the, when the, year, when the bullet of the war. Yeah but today I when go up again I think was, after the war I came back a few years earlier. I when go back '47.

AN: You get job there?

JH: Yeah, but I like come home yeah that time. At home nice, not (unintelligible) eh? I came I bring Honolulu people with me, plenty stay over here. The young boys no? They come with me.

no

JH: Uh?

AN: When did you go to New Guinea?

JH: Yeah, New Guinea? War time that.

AN: So, when you worked for, when you worked for the army?

JH: Oh yeah, but lucky I was on the boat eh? And my brother was inside the forest danger you. You stay on the boat you safe. You go in there they shoot you, you know, under the logs.

AN: So you travel plenty.

JH: Yeah, we have no kind war, nobody like war, even the enemy they no like fight. Say no like, you never go eh you know. No like fight. Some only young, 18, 17, eh, that's too young eh go fight eh?

AN: And when did you move back to Puna permanently?

JH: Where?

AN: What year?

JH: After the war I came back ah what year I came back? Was '46 I came back, '46 yeah? '46 then I went back '48. '46 I came back again. After war, I came back, then I go Honolulu, I came back second time no?

Hana: What year was the war Uncle Hale?

JH: '41.

Hana: So, '38 you went up first?

JH: Yeah, we stay, yeah, I say we stay otherwise we don't stay.

AN: And so '46 you come back.

JH: Yeah. '41 was when they bomb Honolulu. They kettled us.

AN: And then when did you come back again?

JH: I came back after the war, and then I went go back again. The last time I came back was kinda, what year was that? What year that? Oh, I came back, ok, I forget what year?

Hana: Sometime earlier aye Uncle?

JH: Eh? Yeah, sometime earlier. Yeah, when Kani guys came back eh? Two, three times I go come back.

AN: And you fly in the plane or . . . ?

JH: Yeah, get plane, we get plane, yeah.

AN: Aloha Airlines?

JH: Yeah, I came on the same airline too.

AN: They had it then?

Hana: It was Hawaiian I think no? What was it, Aloha?

JH: Hawaiian, and Aloha Airline too.

Hana: Both of them.

JH: And before nice, you know the kind railroad train, railroad kind u? Hamakua all the way till here, to Kapoho. Cheap, you only pay quarter. They went by up the road when not more of them, was 1960, the tidal wave broke all the bridge, nice they pass by here.

Only quarter, is cheap aye? You go there, you go Hilo, you go Hamakua, quarter? Yeah, cheap aye?!

AN: No more train uh? Ah, the train they also used for sugar cane or only people?
JH: Anybody who stop on the road, they stop. They go all here (gesturing), come like this, make a station uh? You want to go you stay and they pass through this place. No houses, you stay at this stop you go inside. Yeah, from here they go all the way, they pass Opihikao, way down, shit. No Kalapana, that way, they get morning time they go this way. In the evening they go that way through the other side. Today no more the kind uh? Shit. Only quarter. Enough. Was good life you know that time in the ('30s?) uh?

AN: How much did a quarter buy? Bread, chicken?

JH: What that?

AN: Like, a quarter, it could buy rice?

JH: Yeah, a quarter, a whole quarter. Ho, was cheap you could buy anything. Shit. Sardine can, 10 cents, any kind cheap you know. Rice bag, 100 lbs, \$3 you know. Today, what? You gotta get \$100 ah one day? Cheap living, you know them days.

AN: But how much did people get paid for work?

JH: yeah, small pay but you eat better than today. You buy loaf bread it not cheap.

AN: Who made the bread?

JH: The bakery, good bakery yeah. They get their own bakery yeah this place. Japanese bakery.

AN: In Pahoa or . . . ?

JH: In Pahoa, about 2, 3, bakeries. Over here, all these places get bakeries.

AN: Kapoho had a bakery?

JH: Yeah, they get bakery too. The kind they bake the pie, like that. You know plenty laborers, Kapoho alone 300 now, you go Pahoa maybe get a thousand yeah? OH yeah. And then in the town, Hilo, mostly open, what you call, chatels, people can lie in. All the restaurant all full today no more job no more nobody go eat eh? Yeah, you eat ham and egg, good food quarter. Shit. Rice, any kind, cheap eh? Yeah, today no more the kind no? Good living. You find quarter you can eat. Shit today nothing. No more nothing today!

AN: Was there many illness back then?

JH: Uh?

AN: Was there a lot of illness or sickness back then?

JH: Ill sick kind? No, they best heal in Hawaiian medicine, they good herbs.

AN: What kind they use?

JH: They good but no more they die today. No more, the medicine all gone. Hawaiian herbs, oh, they good, And the Hawaiian people they no get sick. They skinny, all the time, only some big ones eh? They all work, plant taro, go fishing. Today the kind modern Hawaiian they only sit down eh? People kind Hawaiian they hard worka the skin they pound no.

AN: What kind herbs did they use?

JH: Medicine? Plenty medicine they use. They get that 'awa root, noni. Yeah, that's one they make into the experiment eh? The Hawaiian know the pulp ten years ago. They like know, they like know how for making it today. And Hawaiian tea. Ko'oko'olau. They gotta go, we had enough people and sell them in the country eh? Must make money. Good for the body you know, that kind herbs yeah.

AN: Yeah, I am interested in that. So, they use the 'awa root?

JH: Yeah, the 'awa root. That's for the back ache, or something. That stuff will make you numb see, you no feel the pain in the back. They smart these guys.

AN: They use the noni as well?

JH: No, noni for other kind medicine. We no allow to use the medicine, no good they use it wrong. Yeah, bambae you get overdose. So you know, you gotta know. Plenty can use, somebody get sick, they come see me at the house. They get runs, they drink too much, noni, you take one tea cup no? Everyday when you take one cup you got to watch boy. Oh man, you gotta hold still.

AN: So, did you learn all the medicine?

JH: Yeah, that right, you learn, you know 'em uh? All learn them cups (?). Then they take cup. The old guys they expert, they make eh? Yeah, they no make anybody touch, I told you guys. But then you guys get cripple you know?

AN: So you use leaves, like ti leaf or anything?

JH: They use the ti leaf too, yeah? Yeah, plenty in Hawaiian herbs they use. I Think in you guys place same thing eh?

AN: We get a lot of 'awa.

JH: 'Awa, yeah it's the best when they like that. You get 'awa country you rich today, now they looking for 'awa. I think they go New Guinea, that's the only place they get plenty you know. Hmm, New Guinea they get mountain no? Over there. Shit, the best medicine there.

AN: So, so, what medicine would you use if you got like a cut? Like a cut?

END OF SIDE ONE

JH: Any kind of big cut, they put in that bleached stuff you know. Yeah, Good stuff that. That's what I do I get cut I put guava in one (?) there. You chew 'em up and you put 'em in the cut no and the blood stop.

AN: And, uh, if you get sore eye or something?

JH: Eye kind? Yeah, you get eye, you get own kind for the eye too you know. Me, I no go learn too much because the old folk they smart, you know the old one no? So them guys they heal all. They heal bone, anything. Bone, oh yeah, these guys are there.

AN: How did they do that?

JH: It's what I tell you. We get this special vine yeah? (koali) They go pick 'em up. Bone, and might be you actually get your bone, or rib, sometime all broke no? You go doctor you no move. You go to these people they heal 'em you know. They pray, and they make like this (gesturing), your bone all, all, all broke there or what? You go accident uh? Then they go prayer and they put the medicine. They tell you sleep. You sleep you know. That, if I go, I tell the guy watch out, I tell something go pull you know. I tell that guy if he get scared, the medicine kind you don't talk you know. But by you stay two hours you gotta watch and then you'll feel something pulling you know. Pull, and they all go back, like this, weh! Healing already. Even though you scream you know, you scared to let somebody like tear you up. They no talk after that they left. So that, you know that vine, they get a kind vine you like, oh, I don't know the name of it . . . flower, white flower. And if the vine, it go grow uh? Every night no? When they put, when the vine grow, that's when, that's when go stretch, hard that kind medicine no? Set it, all open, oh you walk the next day. The broken leg all heal, go back, it go back in the crack like this, you boss you.

AN: And, this happened to you?

JH: I no get, my friends all get. Never get. My grandfather he's like that. That common, just like taking pills for them, but today nobody can heal like that. Today, no can. Yeah, that kind people who use that they like holy people you know. You no go no work. Same like your place? Yeah, same thing. As the mana is in, in you. Even no matter if you got touch, if I'm, if me no good I do that same thing, that guy gone never come back. You know you got to watch out these things. That's why I don't talk about Hawaiian. You

know, they just, they no they no can talk so, I can talk because we outsiders aye? I second heal eh? We say no good. But only the Americans, the one who touch 'em no? That's the main one that.

AN: So, they didn't teach anyone else the technique?

JH: Yeah.

AN: When they died it died with them?

JH: Yeah. They show people, they know, they say ee no work with you but most kind they no like because hard uh, hard uh, they scared you. They smart. So all lost already I think now. Two, twenty people different hard to heal you know, I think no can. Now, mind all no good eh? I go party, I listen the music. I go sleep, I no like the swear part. They drink, young kids drink, girls drink, swear. You know the park, I watch every time they go, ah.

AN: So, not much alcohol uh? Back in the old days.

JH: Alcohol? They no swear. Only the old ones touch. They drink too much, they don't swear, taboo. Old people you look at taboo to swear in the house, you cannot come back. That's no good that, that's fighting word that, you know? We no swear nobody fight uh? It's that simple uh? The song they listen today, all fighting song eh? So, all the kids fight themselves, you go crazy like you know. Shit. If, if you don't swear you don't get hurt you know, shit.

AN: So, people didn't fight very much back then?

JH: Yeah, uh?

AN: Very peaceful?

JH: Peaceful, they don't fight. Today, all they fight, drink, fight, weh! They cannot fight, if they hit you, it will come back, they strong that why. That's why I glad I see two side of life eh? I like the old one, I was wise in about eh you know, I see two side eh? I no like the new one, I like the old one you know, different kind guys then. The kind, they got house, they family, they no swear you know. Today kind, oh man, they silly kind already, The songs eh? I listen, all swearing inside no? That's no, I see young girls they can drink bottle, I look weh! The kind I stay in my room I close the door I sleep, yeah I don't like the other kind. Yeah, no more fun the kind, I look young ones weh! That's bad example eh the girl. Shit. And now they get trouble, now no, all make (?), get plenty babies. Now no more welfare, the kids all you know where I stay? Some girls only in their 30s, they get 5, 6 kids, welfare on one hand no? They gone cut 'em all off now. Five hundred dollar one kids no? Some of it they use for, one what you call it? Shit. The kids start like that, no good the kind.

AN: Back in the old days, the girls married first and then they had kids?

JH: People no kind marry before, no care, you never get something. And the population not too much that's why. So you get outsiders come eh? In this Puna coast, most men, because when the immigrant come 300, that's only men 300 you know. You know what I mean? No, no more balance uh? Yeah.

AN: 300 Filipinos all men?

JH: Yeah. Yeah. That's why you see. Then after the war, then when balance, balance whites came from the mainland, waves, haoles no? They met all the local ones, heh, look plenty wives. Yeah, that's how it was before the balance eh? You think of how can, you live ah, Kapoho, 300, Puna alone, big pile plantation guys. Shit. So, the, the town was like the girl was going the plantation workers, because they get job eh? You know, you know, the other one, bah, they no like, they no like because the Filipinos, they hard workers eh? You know what I mean, that's why they make wash (?). After the war, then after that, they get, the whites, the hippies came no? Heh heh, the hippies, other different kind haoles eh? That's why they lucky again. The hippies, the hippies, ladies came, oh get plenty people. Shit, waste time to leave 'em.

AN: And, did everyone get along with the hippies?

JH: Yeah, (?), they get boys in my house, they still miss out. Families, but the only thing they smoke too much. They go the other side street, but by you no can sleep no you high boy. They no bad, they good guys you know, only thing they smoke pakalolo too much.

AN: Has that become a problem? When the hippies came the pakalolo became a problem?

JH: Nah. They can, everybody bent all over the place. I bis I bis spend on your smoke because they like get caught, you know why? They most college student. Oh yeah! Most of 'em. If they get caught they no get drafted. They no like the war, you know Vietnam War, they like get caught. They like, they like that kind they get smoke in the plane they get caught, they gone arrest them. And they smart they come Hawaii what. At the where, they say their friend all died, all drafted, you know, you get drug they no like you, you know the army no like.

AN: Was pakalolo here before the hippies or the hippies brought it?

JH: No, the pakalolo when the hippies came was plenty. Before no more I think, the other kind stuff. They was all college student, they no like get drafted, why the hell you think everybody would be one hippy we no like join the army. Only they no like they get no choice uh? Only the draft them, well I don't draft to be (?) all them guys. So the war pau they go home, they got chased back, all wear suit. They, they, they got well-off families now, they going home they tell me, oh the war pau.

AN: So they come and they go when the war is finished?

JH: Yeah, they not hippy no more, their father was wealthy, and when they come Pohoiki they go big party. Eh good stuff they eat. The families send money eh? Shit.

AN: So then now, now no-one lives in Pohoiki?

JH: No more now. Now they get this kind, ah, the kind ah what you call the kind, ah, the kind people only sit down do nothing you know.

AN: Beach bum.

JH: Local guys, yeah yeah. Only sit down, eh talk talk talk talk talk , talk same story you go live there you talk, talk. Shit, the only time they work when they eat.

AN: So, um, why does your family not live there?

JH: Well, they no more there they all move. All these young ones. Us, we no more family too, it's small. Honolulu is some you know, up there, there's (unintelligible) too much. They work, yeah they all work that's why. They go stay home when they, all kind, I say you idle, you gotta do something you know.

AN: I think you are the closest to Pohoiki now uh?

JH: Oh, me, oh I tell you I go up I go down like well. Shit, enough, I tell you I have young kids you know. And I used to go to haole house before, me I like, nice that over there, I helped the scout master. Now you don't see scout eh? My young time I go with the scout guys and help 'em. Over my place, boy in the other side, you know that warm spring, the big, the big one, weh all sometimes you get Honolulu guys come all over, over there, help, no more the kind uh? Shit. Came 1, 2, weeks. I go there help you know. So when they go home I take everything they give me. Today the old guys only sit down aye? Waste time. That's why no boy scout eh? The kids no know what to do they drink beer nowadays. Shit, How you like the kind good? Heh heh. Yeah, they turn all that generation, the old guys do that kind beeping eh? Waste time.

AN: So, before you used to help take the scouts to the hot ponds?

JH: What the kids? They camp over there. Oh, over there from there till up 40 acre all over the place. Some come Honolulu, some from Hilo, once in awhile they get a meet eh they go down there. All over the place.

AN: This is the '70s? During the 1970s?

JH: Eh? Yeah, sometime you know that, in the '40s, '50s, '60s like that. Yeah, only big, big boy scouts. That's the main place right there. Now I no see scout like before eh you know.

AN: And you were a boy scout?

JH: No. I go help the scout. My cousin the scout master. Him, he teach them how to swim, how to camp, how to cook no? Yeah, good fun they get. Easy like that, you learn something eh? Shit, today no more the kind eh? They go down the beach they hungry, no more food, eh shit.

AN: So, before you used to go and swim in the warm ponds all the time?

JH: Which ones? The small ponds?

AN: Yeah, the warm ones.

JH: Yeah, me the one that dig that pond. Yeah! Was with a cover like this eh? I see the steam over there. Then one Japanese guy like make hotel, like that, steam watch out you get one water. Then we break the top off. The top, off, was nice, was clean.

AN: So before it was covered?

JH: Cover! But I see the crack, the owner when tell me I say oh, water in there. I started where the spring water was. And where the house stay, you know where the house I live? Yeah, that's the hottest place in Hawaii, that's a big pool, you know where the boat come in. They when dig that place for the boat come on the ramp eh? That's the big hole they cover cement, that's where the hot water is double yeah? So hot you now can stay inside there too long. I no go in the pool I go there, big big like this house. Nice. Today no more, you get a ramp of the boat, cover, stay underneath, but you go in there you can still feel the heat eh? But all cover because cement that's why?

AN: So you dug the pond?

JH: Where which one? Which one, the boat ramp?

AN: The warm ponds.

JH: The old one, I make them. Yeah, I open the top only, not so hard that.

AN: Must be hard work.

JH: Yeah, I broke the top, and he broke the stone, you know above, with the hammer I threw 'em hard. Yeah, I like carry stone that's why. That noise, eh them guys lie like that. Shit.

AN: 'Cause, there's one more hot ponds, like steam area, towards Kehena.

JH: Ah, you get one hot one there. All get, that's how Puna, they get the Volcano kind. So hot, you muggy, you die inside there. No wonder one haole went die in there. Hot I

think, too hot. They went find his body inside the hole, they then went close 'em. I told them no go in there hard to breathe when hot.

AN: When was that?

JH: Ah, about 20 year ago, I think, I don't know, one guy went make all there. But you know the one outside. You get hard time with all the steam, you no see the entrance you get stuck some place. No go in the cave if you don't know you know.

AN: There's many, uh, many lava tubes.

JH: Plenty. Yeah, plenty, you get lots.

AN: One's at Mackenzie's State Park.

JH: Yeah, you get two over there. Plenty more, some more here you get.

AN: You use to inside them?

JH: Me, I no go in, I know the place, I never. Sometime go in there, you don't know what dead you know. Hawaiian bury in the cave you know.

AN: True, the kapu on the cave.

JH: Yeah, yeah, no more, you get Mackenzie Park boy inside three cave. Dangerous sometime the rock collapse you go inside no good. Stay outside safe.

AN: Where would you swim when you were a young boy? In the sea or in the hot ponds?

JH: Inside the ocean. Yeah. I like swim.

AN: Were there plenty sharks?

JH: Plenty sharks, oh the shark no bite you but, no bite, plenty shark people, no bite. The old Hawaiian kind beach family all shark no bite. Yeah, 'aumakua, get no bite, but today you get, yeah everybody get no bite. They get curse, no bite. Same thing eh? The kind shark, they no bite.

AN: In my place my 'aumakua is the octopus.

JH: Yeah, you guys place get big kind octopus eh? We get no more the kind. That's how this kind works. Shark no bite.

AN: And you went surfing?

JH: Ah before no can surf, you go work, then you no like play stuff around. You plant taro. Today only lazy kind surf. No can, only lazy people they go surf, yeah? Before there's no more surfing, others they say alligators (?) sit they skill. Before people never surf. Yeah, I like the life before, life good bro. They drink, they no fight no. They like sing you know, that's why I like before. They sing all night.

AN: What kind songs?

JH: Music, they sing nice kind music, no more this kind scream kind, big noise eh? Weh! That drum, bang, bang, bang, bang, weh! That music, shit! Ah, so I lucky boy. You come home, on the holiday, you get sick, mental illness over there, healing ground you know. Good place you know, your mind no good, you come heal quick. Peace eh? Peace smoke and then you rest. Say me, I lucky boy.

AN: Was there a lot of mental illness?

JH: Oh yeah. Yeah. Yeah, you go all the kind place, you come clean, you come good, shit. You mental illness as long time you work you know. You get the ocean noise, good eh? Boom, boom, it's a dream you know. Brum brum. You know you get square, nothing else, only the sound of the ocean, good brah. And uh how come you come Kamehameha Schools? How come? You apply?

AN: No, I'm not with Kamehameha Schools.

JH: What Kind?

AN: I'm with UH-Hilo.

JH: Oh Hilo?

AN: But Hana works with Kamehameha.

JH: Oh, yeah, you go ask about Hawaii go talk, that the kind uh?

AN: You speak Hawaiian?

JH: I speak but now I no speak long time, since my mother pass away I no talk Hawaiian. Those people no speak eh? We live in a plantation area yeah? No can you know. Then they talk with Pidgin English so everybody understand eh. You no can talk Chinese, some Korean, all mix up eh? So, I speak Hawaiian, what, pidgin Hawaiian though.

AN: You speak pidgin Hawaiian to your father and your brothers and sisters?

JH: Yeah. Yeah, no us but my father can speak good, my mother. Hawaiian language it speak slow, you know, soft eh? Soft, they don't hear you, Easy language for learn that.

AN: And then you teach it to your nephews and nieces?

JH: Yeah. But me I no like, you like go Hawaiian, me I know Hawaiian I talk people over there. You go there nobody talk Hawaiian eh. That's why we get hard time. You get some guys talk alright, people no talk see. Pidgin English they talk how that kind, all mix up eh. That's why I get humbug boy. Easy language that. Slow eh? You folks language I think they speak fast kind eh? Slow?

AN: Me, oh yeah, fast.

JH: Fats, yeah, yeah fast. But you hear that like Ni'ihau same thing. Fast. But we, we slow, slow when they talk you know.

AN: So, you speak pidgin with the Filipino?

JH: Pidgin, yeah they talk fast eh, they scream you know. Get two kind you know. They get the kind sometime they scream, they not fighting that's how they talk. Most of the haole oh.

AN: Um, if you don't mind my asking, what year were you born?

JH: What? Was I born? I born 1919, April 29th I born, not too old, maybe 80.

AN: And then after Honolulu you came back 1946 and stayed.

JH: Yeah stayed. I got to take care of the 'aina, I get land down there, tru the other side eh. I get one place the other side. I see when I young, I take care 2 place, somebody got to watch the place uh? So, I stay on two side.

AN: Near Pohoiki then?

JH: Yeah, about a half mile down the road. By one graveyard, get one grave on the highway you go down, you see all clean, that's where I live, I stay before, young, two side.

AN: And what did you plant?

JH: Yeah, only get houses some there. That's why family move out, nobody come back, they no can live the kind place, hard eh? New generation no can, Hard work.

AN: But it's good you came back, work the 'aina.

JH: Yeah, I just watch. Somebody got to watch it eh? That's why I came back.

AN: And you have land by the sea?

JH: Yeah by the ocean, I get one right by the ocean. You take you go Hana over there by the ocean. Only good for sit down you know, look the water, nice. Only in Hilo you just hear noise. No more noise over there. I work for the Park that's why. That's why I go sometimes. When I young days, I raise pigs over there.

AN: So, when you came back you built this house.

JH: No, not my house my nephew, the mother house, I don't live here, I go doctor that's why, I come here I get nurse. Where I stay the nurse come look for me every time, I tell I no more telephone eh? So I came up.
I stay with him now, my nephew.

AN: But you get house down there.

JH: Yeah, I get down there. I get somebody take care of the house, then I go stay in the hospital. I get good family in the hospital, talk story eh? I go people hospital, Honolulu.

AN: So when you were a young boy did you know Daniel Ahia?

JH: Ahia?

AN: Elia, Elia.

JH: Where, Elia?

AN: The brothers who live in Opihikao.

JH: Elia? You know them?

AN: I met them last week.

JH: Daniel? Daniel, oh him like one fit bull no? Daniel, that's old Opihikao down there. He's strict, he no want to play, The other brother, Charlie he like play, he like talk story me. But the other one he no play too much, Daniel eh? Serious.

AN: Was he the same when you were children?

JH: Eh? Who? What?

AN: You played with them when you were young?

JH: Yeah. He no play too much, I like the other one, he like play eh. Him serious. He look, you meet him already, he serious eh?

AN: So, people in Pohoiki and Opihikao all knew each other?

JH: Yeah, all good friends, yeah all come back. That's where we walk school before, from there then go back.

AN: Ah, you school where.

JH: Me go school Opihikao. Yeah. Opihikao school, right by the ocean, no more the school gone long time already, '30s. I was the last student over there I think. Then we move up the hill eh?

AN: So you all walked?

JH: Walked, yeah. Couple to school I walk there, 5 miles.

AN: You went to Opihikao first and then Kapoho.

JH: Yeah, yeah, Kapoho first, my sister they walk on the road, walk. But hard you know that kind place when the cow on the road eh? The girls, I pity the girls eh you know.

AN: So Kapoho school was from . . . ?

JH: It go six go seven I think,

AN: And then after that Opihikao school?

JH: Yeah, Opihikao go six grade, go seven I think. That's all. And then you can go high school, you gotta go Hilo to get degree, what you gonna pau only eight grade. And no more bus how you gonna go, you gonna walk eh? Eh shit.

AN: You couldn't take the train?

JH: After that they get train. Yeah!

AN: What year did the train come?

JH: The train came, oh kinda early, but you cannot afford to pay the train ticket no? Guys only get train ticket they get work eh? The country Hawaiians no can pay, ah, the, the train, You gotta pay eh the ticket. But yeah, lucky I study home too you know. I read plenty book eh that's why, heh heh.

AN: In English or Hawaiian?

JH: I read two sides. I get book, guys give me book every time. Shit. I go over there I talk with haole, when I go home they give me book.

AN: So the teachers in Kapoho and Opihikao school they were haoles or?

JH: Ah, local kind, yeah, Hawaiian, Japanese, much Oriental, Filipino all mix up. But teacher easy job, The kids all, you know all discipline eh? Oh yeah, especially the Filipino family, you make humbug in school you watch out when you go home. The old man gonna beat you up you know. No more, no more . . . yeah!

AN: So you schooled in the plantation?

JH: Yeah! They come home like lose face, you better watch out. I see his (Hana's) brother one time the father, he lick the brother, school, get phone call, he no answer the phone, they talk with the old man, Filipino father, talk call Uncle Hale, eh you get phone? He call. When you came back, come back sit down and you no talk with me I know something wrong. Wild the face! I know the boy, the brother, the rugged one, the 17 year-old one.

END OF CASSETTE ONE