

Tape No. k-kp-6

Oral History Interview for the Kalapana Project

with

Kini Pe'a (kp)

November 25, 1987

Kalapana, Hawai'i

By: Johnnie Jovanovich (jj)

jj I think what we will do today is get more information on those thing that we already talked about and maybe just a few other things that I may have forgotten to ask you the other times. So we will see how it goes today and maybe just one more time and we can<sup>w</sup>rap it up. Is there any way to get up to the place you use to live the truck farm?

p Oh yeah it is right next to the highway just about. There is a house there, no it was burnt down.

jj So then your adopted parents, they didn't own the land up at the truck farm?

p No that was another family. He just leased it.

jj but the land in Kalapana?

kp They owned it and the one up here by <sup>ep</sup> Kupahula we had little truck farming up there potatos tomatos but the business one was up there this one was just for house use.

jj So how was the land aquired at that time?

p a lot of it was the mahele that is when they parted the land and put it into ten arcers a piece that is how my real parents aquired the land over in Kaimu. --

jj Who were the important people that you remember in the community?

p Well one was reverned kama I can't remember his first name, that is when I was real small. -- Another was Charlie Kaina which a I odn't know what you call him he became the decon in the church and also he was the mailman, he used to go up to Pahoa and pick up the mail and bring it down and deliver it.

jj So this was Mauna Kea church?

Ⓢ Kawananakoa

p Yeah Mauna Kea. And of course at that time the Konanakoa family they were the relatives of ?? used to own properties at keahou. My oldest brother and dad use to more or less keep an eye on it because they was form Honolulu and the other I think was John lane beche was from HIlo although we used to see him down here quite a bit and then he became one of the governors of the state.

jj What kind of things would John Lane do when he was down here?

kp off hand I can't remember he was just a good cowboy I know that nad I thinkkk he used to spend most of his time woking on the ranches around the area. --

jj Were there ever any sort of community events that happened?

kp No never, never, never, the only time they had was either weddings although the churchs the Protestant church there they used to have an island wide convention they used to go to. -- Then of course traveling was by ship until Hawaiian Air started service.

(that is how Kini got to Honolulu on ship for school he also tals more about inter island shipping and gives the names of the ships)

jj so those were the respected people.  
well of course the Lymans in Kopofo and doctor Jagger in volcano.

jj We talked about kahunas. <sup>m</sup> Can you tell me what you remember about the kahunas down here, the different types and what they did.

p Well I would say there would be two types: one could make another person ill to even being killed and the other was a the one that who forgives and cures.

jj do some of them possess both of those capabilities?

kp well yeah like the one we had here, John Makua had both capabilities, but like mother she could fix the ailment or what ever but she could not <sup>[punish]</sup> well in the fixing a lot of times if the person that had did the ?? (started I think) the wrong. For some reason the person that did the fixing, that thing goes back to them to punish him for what he has done that is the only time I have heard of it or seen it. Like my mother when she used to bring people in to fix them up or hoponopono, why after that the other party that originates some <sup>[punishment]</sup> (not clear what word belong here) laugh.

jj Because she would send that

kp No she doesn't send it she can not send it but John Makua could he had that power too to punish as well as to forgive. (his mother could forgive)

j So he had more mana is that what you would say?

p Yeah, he had more because of his, well being able to punish as well as forgive.

j Did your mother ever teach you any here?

p No never ever. Well I went to Kamehameha schools when I was fourteen years old. <sup>end</sup>

j So how would someone gain that type of power?

p I think it is from generations passed down then too with that sometimes if the person who has that power and see or knows someone worthy to receive that power, he can teach that person that's the thing

that is how.

jj So that is how John picked it up?

kp Well for him I couldn't say but for knowledge or form what I have seen that is how it is done, like John Maukua if you saw somebody that was worthy of doing what he has done then he passes it on. could be family or all together strangers.

jj Once we said that John Makua is also a good church man, does that was there any conflicts between church and the Kahuna practice?

p Well that I couldn't say being a youngster in those days, but he attended our church, Mauna kea, to me there is no destintion of of being a church man or Kahuan.

(Ased about Kuakoakahiki also being a kahuna, he didn't know)

jj One of your first experience was when you and your father adopted father wre throwing net and you saw the dog, what exactly did you see at that time? 10

kp Exactly that, he was going from the left to the right right on top of the water, I mean you don't see water spraying but you can see him moving right on down there, that was weird, I mean seeing a animal out there running on the surface of the water.

jj Did you talk about it at that time?

kp No I never did at times I bring it up to remind people of what things areand could happen. and from that we never experienced anything happening after, except like I told that story about the shooting star where it killed that guy in Kapaahu, it ended up on his house and he dieded.

jj Who was that who died?

kp <sup>sp</sup> Kononui was his last name. Moke is his first name. --talks about moke being a big person and also an albino who had a bad leg but who would swim out on a log to catch fish..jj note

jj so what kind of symbol could that dog be, I mean what could it mean?

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kp Well I couldn't explain that. My dad saw it and I saw it. sometimes when one person see things , but that time we both saw the shooting star that landed on our house then with my mother digging in the ground, we both were at home. They were on the drining party and they ended up doing that so.

jj That was part of the spell was it that she was digging?

kp Yeahh she was digging in the ground. the next moring we look up and no indication of scratches or anything, I mean it is one of those things. I don't know how to explain it myself, even to my self, how you going to explain that, unbeliveable, and you go out in the yard and it is all dug up like a pig pen. We didn't have any pigs.

jj And it was all from her?

kp yeah

jj Was it part of her mana coming out then?

kp No she was being punished by somebody else that what she has done to forgive another party now I think it was coming back on her.

jj Did you ever remember other things like that happening.

kp no

jj so how would she actually go about?

p Well that I couldn't say it is hard to say, she could be there and saying somethign and you wouldn't know. I never actually seen the procedure of what she was doing at all and I myself would say that would be restricted to just to the person who is doing it.

jj YOU moved around quite a bit cause your fatehrs work to Keaaau, Pahoa nad volcano pahoa, how long were these moves usually?

kp Well it all depends we went up to Ophikau and was building thre church ther and we stayed there for I don't now for how long we couldn't say myself, but for the period of building that church but still come home here during the weekends or in between just

to check. ---

jj Did this happen quite often?

kp Oh yeah. I would say I spent two-third of my time schooling away from here. Kapoho we stayed there, Ophikau we stayed there and ---- more place all over the big Isaland

jj so he must have been quite a well respected carpenter?

kp Well they lie his work but he was a hard man to work for a lot of men say that. ---

jj As far as was your father was he rougher with you than say your mother with punishment?

kp NO (laugh) I might as well admit I am the spoiled one, brat, I got away with everything. (laugh) I couldn't remember any punishment

jj How about teaching you anything. what kind of things did your mother teach you.

p OH well the only thing I could say is the bible things for one things the other thing is the from the beginning was the teaching about the preparing of lauhala so that she could weave mats of course my dad and I did the pounding and we all went out ot pick Lau Hala leaveas and we all went out to pick and bing it home to strip it and roll it up and also help she does the strippign and we do the rest of the cleaning.

jj so you had christian values taught. Was there more of that then Hawaiian traditions?

kp Well Hawaiian language was never taught to me, it was just listening and hearing form the parents. I couldn't remember any language taught to me except when I went to Japenes school (laugh)

j Did your parents teach you about Pele and the night walkers

kp Well they talk about it but never as a thing of teaching it is more or less saying they expect you to realize what those things

are, another wise to kind of tell you if you see it or hear it that is what it is ,because a lot of people have never seen those and I havent but I have heard a lot of but have never seen them night walkers what you call kahiheles better stay clear or <sup>(not)</sup> get ot close to them or look at them look the other way that is part of the things that we say but like the things I saw like the dog running on the water why you can't help it a person that when you see it of course

a kahihele makes a lot of noise sing or music or drums at times all that sort of thing so you probably here ~~is~~ before you see it

jj do you know of any one coming in contact or close calls

kp only on one occasion that was my youngster when we came back and a that was after 67 back from the mainland and our first visit here (they are up near the volcano area and a huge owl swoops down on the car and they drive away from where they are and all the way home rain follows then until it hits there drive way and then it stops the grandmother said that this was a warnin for them to leave where there were which they did.... This infor is at the close of side a nd the start of side b if actual verbatum is desired jj note)

jj was the owl your family amakua?

p No I donn't really know what the family amakua is.

jj so your parents treated you differently then you saw other kids being treated then?

p the only thing is I get my ways, that's it. (laugh) well everybody <sup>knew</sup> ~~new~~ that, they would say he is spoiled. MY oldest brother would say I was a spoiled brat, well not in that sense but a spoiled kid.

jj How would you feel about that?

p Well I don't know it wouldn't matter to me. I was just having fun I guess.

jj Were people affection show there love in the way they do know wiht greetings and such.

kp I would say it is about the same know but of course you might say it is more now because of everybody knowing it, but actually in the old days it was about the same whenever we go for some convention or parties greetings always the same, so actually I wouldn't say there there is any difference. Greeting families or stranger it is about the same.

jj Your brothers and sisters; were you closer to any one than the other?

kp No a after knowing them never did of course I was still staying with amy adopted parents until I went to Honolulu. Of course when I went ot amehameha school my real mother told me to tell my brother to buy you a pair of shoes when you go to school. He was working in abakery in a restraunt in Honolulu. --- One sister of late I noticed we are quite close, so I don't know when in the old days.

jj but when you were in Kalapana in grade school and that were any of your brothers and sisters your better friends?

p Well no we never in that sense never did. the only thing I guess I respected my oldest brother because I used to go to Kaimu to get milk in the evenings, fresh milk.

jj At church you mentioned a lot about signing and your father.

kp Yeah my adopted dad was quite a signer. --

jj What else do you remember about church?

kp Well lie I say we go to conventions although this church here I guess it was all family relatives and all were always here. YOU know hoew you going to explain it relatives or friends all around.

jj Did you like to go to church your self as a kid. I know my own experience I would get bored and look at the girls.

p Well the only thing in those days was I used to put my shoes on tro go to church and befor church was over why I o



would have my shoes off. I would go home with them hanging on my neck.

Church is sometimes not half over and I'm barefooted again

jj So your dress for church would be different than the rest of eh  
the week?

kp Just either newer or cleaner that is about it.

jj Did you wear shorts a lot back then?

kp Yes we did, but for working we never did we always wore long trowsers.

jj You used to fish for opelo a lot; you gave me some great descriptions  
on how you would get the net into a loop, then it would sink and  
you would put hte bait sack down there with papaya or mash pumpkin  
or red shrimp and then yu would pull it loose. How would you tell  
when there were fich in there?

kp We had what you call a glass box, there was always one or two in  
the canoe. That is how they would watch the movement on the bottome  
of the net.

jj so someone would be looking down and when the net was full wht  
was full what would happen?

kp pull the net up.

jj but how would you actually go about doing it?

kp I can see how it is done, but it is usually just one person doing  
it at about the center of the canoe, then they take turns of course,  
one pulls so much and then the other you know in a canoe you have  
to squeeze around each other all the time. It is a monuver that  
is hard to explain actually, but they do change, sometimes if it  
is heavy enough they take two.

jj Would the fish be caught in the gills or

o No. the hole fish would be in the net.

jj So then they would take the fish out of the net?

kp there is achoke on the bottom and you get that set in the boat an  
release the fish into the bottom of the boat.

- jj How would you divide up a catch?
- kp Usually, I don't know how to describe it but anyway if they were going to sell some they would they would, or there was some sort of system that they would use I can't describe it, but of course they give so much to the people that were around there to whether they help launch the canoe or land the canoe or what they always did give those people some sort of fish to take home.
- jj So would your father get more because he owned the canoe and all the gear.
- kp in a way that's how it is I don't know how the percentage is he always did get a good share.
- jj so he would go sell that then for money or trade.
- kp Well sometimes trade like whatever in Pahoa takes it up there and sells it trade it with somebody.
- jj the crops up mauka house were those the crops that you would sell?
- kp Those were all more or less pre assigned like he had the kawamoto in HIlo that was taking all his produce and some in Pahoa,
- jj What about the other crops like most of the people would grow would they use pretty much what they grew to eat or would they sell.
- kp well yeah a lot of them I don't know if they would sell any of the stuff that they grew to live on, like taro, I don't think they ever it could be exchange maybe they exchanged for something but I don't remember them selling the taro or potato and all of that some kind of exchange somehow.
- jj Do you remember any of the exchanges like sometimes would they send you over with a bag of whatever.
- kp Well sometimes they do like the Makuas here take to uncle John, take in no exchange done there.
- jj How about your mother would she have had a lot of lau hala activities, would people order those and buy them.

kp oh yeah they had this doctor Henery P Jedd always ordered lau hala mats form her and different people see what he has in his house and say that they would like to have something like that too.

jj Would other people sell lau hala too or was your mother the onl one who had a business doing it?

kp Oh there was a lot of them like my real mother did and of course there was a lot of people that would make hats too.

jj would yur mother have people help her with the mats?

kp Unless it is a big order then they don't get together. --

jj YOU had one house at Wai hulauai and another at kalapana; which house wuld you spend more time at.

kp Kalapana I would say most of the time.

jj So the upper house served as a way to make some money; would the lower house also have any crops grown for money.

kp NO but sometimes the crops at kupahula it would depend if those crops were in demand.

jj did most of the people have cash down here or was it sort of an exchange.

kp OH money was in their pocket all the time.

jj H0w would they get it?

kp Well from working and produce they would get rid of.

jj the luaus during those times were they different then those now

kp IN those days they had potato swipe and home brew. parties in those days you didn't sit at tables you sat on the floor. The house we had here and under the bottom side of the house was just a big open room. Kaimu the family the same thing just a big open room and and that is where both mothers made their mat material and that is where the parties are held, downstairs

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jj At the house, so were most of the parties held at your house?

kp No not all the parties but or parties. The others were where ever they can and some of them uses a hall like the church hall here ((talk about volleyball and basket "I wasn't here then" confusing)))

jj Where would you sleep you ate on the floor and would you also sleep on mats on th efloor?

kp Well yeah mats,

jj Were these hapuu mats.

kp No that is a business that my dad had had those inners of hapuu for matress and pillows, we never had those kinds of matress we had straw matteres in those days.

jj (Asked about his real father plugging up a blow hole near kaimu that was killinf plants with salt spray. he never heard of that story)

*that was a mistake - asked Mrs Lee King*

you said that you would go to lees bakery and it would be free for you;

kp there was no charge, like everything else when they go fishing they send fish over to them too, because they were part of the n neighbor.

jj But some people would pay when they went there?

kp I guess i never see any money cross there to my knowledge. what they were doing was selling ther bake products, not just (rolls)

± My dad use to go down there with a bottle of oak and sit down and use that as some kind of drink for the old folks and the kids just have coffee and sweet rolls whatever.

jj How about christmas any special memories of christmas in kalapana?

kp Well taht is a big holiday but like any other holiday I guess.

--- Waimea story for christmas-

jj Did you have any girlfriends when you were down here.

kp The only one was before I went to Kamehameha schools. Her son just returned all the pictures that I had sent the mother when I was

going to Kamehameha school. ----- She is still here she is one of those that lost her homes in kapaahu Ema Kahu ----

jj do remember any funerals down here.

kp There was a grave yard just the other side of Kaimu but some of the people were buried in their own property. One was William Kalehomalu, I remember that, he was a big man, big and fat, people had a hard time carrying him, I think he was burried on the family plot .

jj So would they burry the people right away or would there be a celebration afterwords?

kp Always there was a celebration afterwords. I guess the wake is (not) only for several days like it is now since they didn't have the presering like they do now. I gone to a lot of funerals but I don;t remember any of them.---end of tape.

some of them just had the wake in the home and then bury.---

jj How were he relations down here between the Hawaiians and the Chinese people?

kp I didn't see any conflict at all, even with the Japanese, because I lived with a Japanese family when I was going to Japanese school in Pahoa. My folks just wanted me to go to Japanese school so I go up and stay wiht the principal and his family in Pahoa.

jj Any crime in the area?

kp that i guess it is paramont, somebody steal from you and you steal from somebody else. Crime down here was stealing animals, pigs cattle, I remember some of that happening but never seen it myself

jj Well ok that is about all I would like to talk about today. We have covered a lot of things and I have learned many things in the last couple months that we have been meeting.