

Interview #3 with Louis Pau by Russell Rapoza 4/90

(Revised with help from Becky Pau, Spring 2010)

RR: What I will be doing this interview is about the Kapaahu area during the sixties when you moved in. First of all what year were you born, your birth date?

LP: 10/16/23

RR: Ok, and you grew up in what part of Hilo?

LP: In Waiakea.

RR: Waiakea, ok. And which part of Waiakea was this?

LP: Railroad.

RR: Railroad Avenue side? So that would be in the Panewea side now?

LP: No, no right in the Waiakea town.

RR: Oh, that was before the tidal wave then?

LP: Yeah, right behind KK-tei.

RR: Ok, on the other interview you said that you lived in Kini Ville.

LP: Oh, that was after, Kimiville

RR: Kimiville, K.I.M.I?

LP: Yeah, Kimi was a well known family of Hilo. They owned Hukilau and, you know where the old Motors Inn?

RR: Was that by the by the old Hukilau in Keaukaha?

LP: No Hukilau is in the same place now eh?

RR: No the old Hukilau was across the Ice pond before.

LP: Yeah. They used to be in town, it used to be called Kimiville. It was that Kimi had owned the property over there and that's what it was called.

RR: Yeah, because we were wondering where it was, so we was looking Kini, Kiniville.

LP: Kimiville, Ok. You know where they shoot archery?

RR: Yeah, ok.

LP: As all Kimiville. On this side of the river towards the highway side, you get the stream., get Sun Sun Lau, and you know the road that go up by the service station up by the county building. That used to be Hilo Transportation Company and Kimiville was all the plenty houses over there. That kind, not the nice houses you know.

RR: And the tidal wave when wipe all of that out?

LP: Oh, yeah when wipe out all that. I went over there not can find my house, the mango tree still there though.

RR: Ok, I just wanted to find out where that was.

LP: Yeah you know when you go front street, Kam right

RR: By the archery place?

LP: Yeah look towards, ahh, get one lone mango tree over there and as where I used to live. The mango tree was right in my driveway. We used to go around and come back by the river, And by the canal and come to my house.

RR: I have a map [of Kapaahu] over here, and we were just trying to figure out where all of the houses were in the sixties when you moved in, and what we trying to do is, we figure that we getting a lot of people from the early part, right. Like your wife. So we would like to ask you about the sixties when you moved in there. Would you be able to figure out where most of the houses was? Because this is where we think the houses were, like over here Sam Kaawaloa house was here--

LP: Yes, Kaipo Kaavaloa, then Pavao, Emma Kauhi no was there yet, Emma Kauhi was built after.

RR: What year was her house built?

LP: Oh, in the seventies I believe.

RR: In the seventies?

LP: Yeah, I think after she retired she moved back.

RR: Had any houses over here they Konanui?

LP: Yeah Sam Konanui. Right across from mine. Oulu Konanui. Oh wait, this one here.

RR: Over here by Tutu?

LP: Yeah.

RR: Ok and your house was over here somewhere?

LP: Right across, his driveway going to his house. Our house was right next.

RR: And this was your mother in law guys place, back here?

LP: Yeah.

RR: So your house was in front.

LP: No, same house.

RR: Same house?

LP: Yeah, then after that they moved over here.

RR: Lei Pavao's place?

LP: No Lei Pavao's place over here. Right here Thomas Quihano, you get him right here.

RR: Ok, so they move over here then. Who move over here?

LP: My father in law them. Annie is my mother in law and Floyd is my brother in law.

RR: Where else did they have houses around here? And this was the crack that you were telling me about earlier.

LP: Oh yeah, the crack went right behind the house.

RR: And this one goes all the way to Punaluu pond, you was telling me.

LP: Right, and he come, the same crack he go down further.

RR: So lets see that's one, two, three, four, five, six houses?

LP: No, ahh, you mean in the sixties?

RR: Yeah when you moved in there?

LP: Ok, this one wasn't here.

RR: Ok, when was this one built?

LP: This was built in the early seventies.

RR: About what seventy two?

LP: Maybe before that no?

RR: So early seventies?

LP: I would say in the late sixties, May be sixty eight, sixty nine. I forget already.

RR: Ok.

LP: This house was, and this house was.

RR: This was?

LP: Johansen.

RR: Was she living when you there?

LP: Yeah.

RR: She was. And her house was, what ? on the corner?

LP: Right in the corner.

RR: Had any other house in the area. Or some vacant houses?

LP: Well had behind here eh. The Stone place, had a house over here.

RR: Let me mark that. And this was vacant?

LP: Yeah, well no, they used to go inside when they come from Waimea, like that.

RR: And this is Lui Stone?

LP: Yeah he make already. As a family from Emma she's a Stone too.

RR: Had any more?

LP: Yeah in the back had. In the back of this road.

RR: In here?

LP: Let see.

RR: I guess this is your father in law again.

LP: No my brother in law.

RR: Frank?

LP: Yeah Frank. Waipa, Kaawaloa, you get all them here.

RR: What I was looking for is the houses. Where was the houses?

LP: Sam had a house.

RR: Sam Kaawaloa?

LP: Yeah.

RR: Over here?

LP: Right by this fence line you go in, so it would be right over here. And then you get Waipa, eh? Kaai.

RR: Kai

LP: Ka'ai. [According to Emma Kauhi, this is George K. Waipa Kauhi, d. 1985] Yeah, he passed away. The daughter still living yet.

RR: And his house was along the fence line too?

LP: Yeah right over here, right where Waipa stay.

RR: And this was a rock wall?

LP: Yeah, lava came right over here the first time in 1986 lava flow stopped over here. And of course this is all covered now.

RR: How about Kelley. What was that. They not Hawaiian eh?

LP: Ahh, Smith's they had the property there but I no think they had one house.

RR: What about the Kelleys?

LP: Well that's family from the Smith's.

RR: They never had house?

LP: Yeah. They never had house.

RR: What about Ahee?

LP: Oh yeah, he was over there. He had a house over there.

RR: In the sixties when you moved in. And that was where front, back?

LP: Right on the right side of Sam's. Sam's was over here so he'd be right over here.

RR: And this was the person Akima?

LP: Yeah, Akima.

RR: This one here was your father in law's, Thomas?

LP: Tomas.

RR: Tomas, Ok. Sam—

LP: Sam Kaavaloa, as Kaipo guy's. He pass away too.

RR: This is Lei Pavao's house?

LP: She had two houses over there. You only get one house, she had two houses over there. One right next to each other. In other words all of these house was just like right in line.

RR: So Lei lived in one house. Who lived in the other?

LP: This one was vacant.

RR: One was vacant?

LP: Yeah, well the kids used to stay there, eh. The sons. And Lei with her daughters stayed over here.

RR: And so this one was vacant then.

LP: Well her husband used to sleep over there before eh. You know when.

RR: Yeah. Ok. So this was like a guest house then.

LP: Yeah, well family. The other kids used to come, they used stay over there. It was from about here to the clothes line that's all.

RR: So all this land here was vacant. Had any other houses?

LP: Well had over here, Konanui had one.

RR: He had a house.

LP: Yeah, back in the sixties.

RR: Right here.

LP: Well they had the road going in.

RR: Konanui's one was here.

LP: Who's this?

RR: That one is right next to Kauhi.

LP: Yeah, but I thought they when own this two. They wen bulldoze, I thought they was going to build. Over here had one house over here too.

RR: And who was this over here?

LP: Fred Punahoa. The slack key guitar. Uncle from you know.

RR: And he was living there in the sixties?

LP: Oh yeah, the house came vacant.

RR: Came vacant? When did they move out?

LP: Well they come and go eh.

RR: Oh, oh, ok.

LP: Well sometime they used to come over there, stay. Then they take off. Then after that there was nobody there, he moved to Hilo.

RR: On your side, this is where your house was when the lava came through. When did you build your house?

LP: My Father in law built that in 19—

RR: So this was—

LP: That house was there when they moved from Ka'u they build one house over there. Which was right next to this house in the front. In the front.

RR: Right here.

LP: Just about here they use to climb though the window onto the porch. Just about boarding it.

RR: Ok, So when you move there after you retired—

LP: And there was one house over here too. Oh, you get em. Kaipō and Maria Roberts. Maria was Kaipō's mother. And then they had one more house over here, you no have. Well this road supposed to have over here.

RR: From where does it start? From about here.

LP: Well let see from here, You no more Pai house too eh.

RR: No.

LP: John Pai house. But you get that one over there. In other words you get from over here, and this is State land eh.

RR: Yeah, Yeah.

LP: And Kaipō here. So it would be over here no. So Pai house would be over here. Actually, you get the boundary you go one two and the second and the third and the fourth would be Pai and two more after that, but no houses only Pai.

RR: This is all Kī land right?

LP: Yeah right up to Kī the property went up to there. You see the family had fifty one acres.

RR: Yeah that's the one you were telling me about.

LP: Right. And the Kī had three acres at the ocean.

RR: Oh so this wasn't all Ki's land then, cause according to this map this is all Ki's land, I think.

LP: What you mean Ki's land. Kī is an area, eh?

RR: I guess so.

LP: Yeah. Kī is the area. Kī is way down here, eh Get one road by the crusher and the road go down, that's where the lava flow stay inside there now, I mean was.

RR: Which Pai was this?

LP: Ahh, what's their names.

RR: John?

LP: Daisy, yeah John Pai. But John is the grandson and the son of Daisy Pai. Ok, so this was Daisy's Place.

RR: John was somebody who moved in right?

LP: Well the father moved in with the kids and John was the last one. John, the grandson of Daisy, was the last one to stay there.

RR: So lets see we get Robert's house, the Pai's...

LP: Ok then over here you get one more.

RR: You said this was all not down on paper, right?

LP: Yeah, but they wen build house. The section one, two, three, four, five, six. 17 acres, 17 acres, and 17 acres. So Daisy Pai guy's would come under the second. Correction, Correction, Correction, the 17 acres went this way.

RR: Here you can mark it in with the pencil can always erase.

LP: They went back from the road way. 17, 17, 17, and by Kī would be 3 acres. And the total of 51 plus 3 acres Kī equals 54. And you get under the names like Dante Carpenter he, the family get share. And Kakilaka, well, that would be under Carpenter guy's.

RR: Any other houses?

LP: Yeah, then where Pai's house stay you would have on more. Martha Moa'e, as sister of my mother in law, of Nuuanu. And then in the back over here Kaipō Roberts. He built a house over here too.

RR: So besides his mother's house he built one too? So that was his mother's house?

LP: Yeah, Right. Well this one was built in the eighties. And this one was built in the sixties.

RR: Early, late?

LP: Early sixties, or about the middle eh.

RR: Any other houses, around during the sixties?

LP: No not on this side. In the sixties no, and of course the subdivision was after. And this was Lui Stone's summer house he came only on occasions. Tomas, Sam Kaawaloa, Lei Pavao had two houses.

RR: Yeah. Emma Kauhi had built that in the seventies, Fred Punahoa, that was there when you moved in?

LP: Yeah.

RR: Lets see where else. So this was your father in law guy's place?

LP: Yeah, right. That was built in the thirties.

RR: Ok. Both houses?

LP: No, no. this one—

RR: The main one.

LP: The main one was built in the fifties.

RR: So this one was in the thirties, and this one in the fifties.

LP: Well before the thirties, She two years old when they, and she was born in 1929 so about 1931. And this one was 1950.

RR: And this one was here?

LP: Daisy guy's was in the, about 70. Early 70's.

RR: How about this one?

LP: Oh, that was when I used to go down there fishing with Kaipō guy's and my wife guy's was the same family in next door. This was a old house that had to be way back in the...

RR: So when you retired you moved into your father in laws place and your father in law moved here.

LP: Yeah.

RR: Oh, ok.

LP: No we lived there for a while.

RR: With your father in law guy's?

LP: Yeah.

RR: Ok, in 66 you went there, and so you move in with you father in law guy until... Did they decide to move? In the 70's?

LP: About 70.

RR: So you lived with them for about 3-4 years?

LP: About 3 years.

RR: So that 'sabout all the houses that was down there. Well I also have a list of families who supposedly were there in the sixties, if I missed anybody we can write them in, you got Sam Kaawaloa, Lui died—

LP: Luika.

RR: Luika, he died in 69 right.

LP: Well his brother was there too.

RR: His brother was there too? What was his name.

LP: Let me see, Kaipō, Kaipō Kaawaloa. [should be Keala Kaipō]

RR: Kaipō, he was there? Did he have a house there?

LP: Yes the same one with Sam.

RR: Oh, he lived in the same house as Sam?

LP: Yeah, Sam is his brother. [Keala is] his older brother. We used to call him “All the way,” cause when he went school, he graduate in one day.

RR: Did he take a test?

LP: No, he went school. That day he never had class. So he wen pass all the grade and never go inside the room eh? As what we used to say. He was quite a kid he graduate in one day. He pass all the class the door was close so he just keep going and he come out.

RR: And so he lived with his brother until when?

LP: And his mother was there too.

RR: And the mother.

LP: Yeah, she died in 1969 eh?

RR: And what about Kaipō when did he—

LP: Oh, Kaipō died in the seventies, no?

RR: So he lived there until he died?

LP: Yeah.

RR: And what kind of work did Sam did?

LP: He used to work construction.

RR: Is that the one you told me about that he went to Ka““?

LP: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

RR: Any other work that he did?

LP: Well mostly, well hard to say what they did, but was mostly on construction. He
was an equipment operator.

.....
Misunderstood question and told me about Kaipō Roberts and not Kaipō Kaavaloa.
.....

RR: What about Kaipō?

LP: Kaipō was, ah, he retired from the national, he was working for park and then he when go
down under, then from down under he went to state forestry.

RR: What you mean down under? Did he go to Australia?

LP: No, To the Marshall Islands.

RR: Oh, ok. And then he came back.

LP: Then he came back and wen work for the state.

RR: When did he leave to go to the Marshall Islands. Or are you not sure?

LP: Oh, I hate to say the date. Well we used to go down there in the fifties and he was already
working in the park. Then he when quit the park service, and then he went, So in the fifties
Kaipō was working for the National Park, then he quit and went down under, then he came back.

RR: When did he come back? in the seventies?

LP: I would say in the sixties, no?

RR: Late, early?

LP: After I came back, no? In the late sixties.

RR: And what did their mother do? Luika.

LP: No, Maria. Oh you talking about Kaipō Kaawaloa. I'm sorry. I was talking about
Kaipō Roberts was working for the park. "All the way," he use to work for the county until he
got a medical, he never work for National Park now.

RR: Yeah.

LP: Well they was just, mostly used to hunting and fishing.

RR: So he worked for the county, but he went hunting and fishing usually?

LP: Well when I move down there, he never used to work already, yeah.

RR: So you were talking about Kaipō Roberts then when you said he died in the seventies?

LP: No, no.

RR: That was Kaawaloa.

LP: Yeah, Kaawaloa.

RR: Did they have other brothers and sisters living with them or...

LP: Not with them, but they used to be kind of close by eh.

RR: Not in the Kapaahu area?

LP: Yeah, not in the Kapaahu area.

RR: How about Lei Pavao?

LP: Well was her kids and her husband there too.

RR: Did she have any brothers or sisters living down there too.

LP: In the sixties?

RR: Yeah.

LP: No, no.

RR: So just her, her husband and her kids.

LP: Yeah, yeah.

RR: Oulu was till living when you moved in there right?

LP: Yeah, right.

RR: And he had a daughter, Regina?

LP: Yeah.

RR: Any other? Well I know he had lot of kid, any other of his kids were living there?

LP: Only him.

RR: And Tina.

LP: Tina, when I live down there she when ah, wait she wasn't living there.

RR: She wasn't living there? So she moved back with George?

LP: Yeah.

RR: When did she come back?

LP: Yeah, they went Honolulu, then they move back over here, then they went, then he moved at ahh. She wasn't staying with him, they was stay at, Oh one more house. Where Queens Bath, this is Waiaka pond.

RR: Yeah, that's Waiaka pond.

LP: Heiau. And then the church building. And the same crack. Where the hell is Queens Bath. Oh, no stay on this map.

RR: Yeah, this is one different ahupua'a. So they were living down here somewhere?

LP: This National Park boundary. So this property here. This the chain of craters road. This side would be the same family all inside here, all in here too. Yeah, had one house across Queens Bath. The one that Lim Tim used to stay in. Then Kaapana stayed over there for many years, him and Virginia. That house was there.

RR: Any other people from that family was staying down there?

LP: From who?

RR: Oulu Konanui's family

LP: Well just Tina and the kids.

RR: How about George Kaapana?

LP: Well George is Tina's husband eh.

RR: So he's not from there.

LP: No, he from Ka‘u, eh?

RR: And your father-in-law guy, the Quihanos, right.

LP: Yeah, well he was from the Philippines, and then my mother in law, Nuuanu, was Ka‘u.

RR: Any other people from your father in law’s family living down there?

LP: No.

LP: How about Maria Roberts and, wait, going back George used to be singer right, did Tina work?

LP: Well she used to sing with her husband, they entertain.

RR: So they used to make money by going out and singing.

LP: Yeah, well he used to work National Park too.

RR: Yeah, that’s what you told me before, he fell down. How about Lei, how did she used to get her money and stuff?

LP: Well she use to go and work at the flower place like that. And in the seventies, she went and worked for the National Park.

RR: And you said your father in law used to do all kinds of odd jobs, you said.

LP: And of course during the war they used to work, look outs for the military.

RR: Maria Roberts and Kaipō Roberts?

LP: Yeah, as the son.

RR: Yeah. How did they get their food and...

LP: Well they used to weave. Make lauhala hats, mats, and stuff like that. And Kaipō used to fish and of course work for the Park. He raise lilikoi and stuff like that, and they did farming.

RR: Anybody else beside the few people here.

LP: No.

RR: Lets see you had some other people who had houses. Lets see who I missing here. How about Fred Punahoa? You said he was there in the sixties right. But he use to work in Hilo, contractor. So he used to just come on weekends?

LP: Well they go down there spend the weekend play music and stuff like that eh. Let's see Emma Kauhi was there in the seventies. That right after she retired. She was a nurse, eh?

RR: I trying to look if we missed anybody. So Daisy Pai was John Pai's mother?

LP: Right.

RR: And she moved in during the 70's?

LP: Yeah. Well I say late sixties eh, 68-69. But the property was there already. They just build the little house eh.

RR: Ok, You know this Martha Moa'e, in the late 60's.

RR: So she was already living there when you moved in?

LP: No, no.

RR: The house was there right.

LP: Yeah, but she never move in yet.

RR: She was from where, Hilo or something?

LP: Ahh, from Ka'u too, originally. Then from there to Hilo. Puueo Poi she used to work--not Puueo Poi, but the other poi shop.

RR: So Martha didn't move in there yet?

LP: Martha did after that. She moved in the late 60's.

RR: She still living today, eh?

LP: No, She, Martha Moa'e, she pass away long time.

You know from there she moved to Honolulu. Then from Honolulu she came back home and retired and came back home.

RR: So after she retired she moved into the Kalapana area.

LP: Right. I trying to see if there is anybody I missed. How about Ka'amoku Waipa?

RR: Oh he was there already. In the sixties?

LP: Yeah. Well he was there already when I moved. Well he used to live Pahoia, then he moved down there. Did I say Pahoia no. He used to have a house over there, then he moved from

Kalapana up the hill to Mokuhulu. That where he live when he finally went to the hospital and pass away.

RR: Let's see. So what did he do?

LP: He worked for the county.

RR: How about Akima Ah Hee.

LP: He used to sell, well buy taro make poi and sell like that. Sell taro, make kulolo. He never used to live down there. He used to live Paho, but he always come down. He had animals, eh, down there so he used to come down feed them like that.

RR: And what about Mrs. Johansen?

LP: Johansen them used to live Hilo, and before she died she moved back to Kalapana. And that's where she passed away.

RR: She retired then before she went there?

LP: Yeah, yeah. And her daughter later, her daughter and her son in law later move in with her.

RR: You were telling me about this 'awa factory. Mrs. Young 'awa factory before. We seem to have reference that there was one, but we don't know exactly where. And we don't know much about it, Mrs. Young 'awa factory.

LP: Well they used to say that during the war she used to ship the 'awa to Germany, used to make gun powder. Then after that she was sending it to this medical outlet in the mainland, and they used to make ahh, just like novocaine, it was one of the ingredients to numb, eh? They used to use the 'awa. She used to ship by the bags. If you look at your map, they get Fox and Wolf next to Willie Kaawaloa, by Kupahu'a, that's where the 'awa factory was.

RR: Yeah.

LP: Well, if you look at the map, where Willie's house stay in Kupahu'a, going toward the east, going toward National Park side, the next one to the house. I would say about 500 feet to the National Park side. That's where she had her house. That use to be in the Kupahu'a area.

RR: Another thing is. Well this is just follow up questions to the earlier interviews. You know in the sixties you said that they were a few people who use to make lauhala hat and mats, and go around selling em. Who from Kapaahu use to do that?

LP: Kapaahu, used to be Maria.

RR: Maria Roberts?

LP: Yeah. And that's all from Kapaahu and the rest was from Kupahu'a, and Kalapana.

RR: Well how about your mother in law Annie?

LP: Well she used to, people used to order from her and she used to make em that way and sell em.

RR: Anybody else? The Pai's perhaps?

LP: No the Pai's didn't, Kaipo Roberts wife used to make and sell.

RR: Kaipo Roberts wife?

LP: Yeah. As Maria's daughter in law.

RR: What was her name?

LP: Maize, Maize Roberts. They used to down there long time so she know more or less.

RR: Ok, I know that you frequent down there a lot, but when you finally moved in there, what did it feel like moving in as someone from outside?

LP: Well I know most of the people there anyway, from when I was in military. I used to go down every week with the KMC tours.

RR: So you didn't experience any prejudice or anything? They accepted you as one of the locals down there?

LP: Oh yeah.

RR: How about, in the sixties, they created all kinds of subdivisions, and a lot of the outsiders, haoles moved in. How was the reaction of the people down there?

LP: Well as far as Kapaahu, we didn't care cause they never bothered. And Kapaahu, mostly, people come over, they say hello, come inside, you get fruits you give em. You know what I mean. We never, no animosity at all. Well at least to my recollection.

RR: And how did they feel about the subdivision that was being created over there?

LP: I would say that they felt that it was somebody's property and they can do whatever they please. As how I would look at it, cause I never hear nobody grumbling like that.

RR: Another person, they were two Kaawaloa families down there, right?

LP: Yeah.

RR: Ok, you talk mostly about Sam—

LP: Well Sam guy's, as Kapaahu.

RR: Wasn't Willie and Minnie

LP: Kupahu'a

RR: Yeah, this was the Kupahu'a area. This was by the 'awa factory, right.

LP: Right in Kupahu'a, on top the cliff, mostly cliff on that side. In other words just where that Keone road is.

RR: Where the lava is.

LP: Right, then where 137 you get the Keone road going to 130. And the 'awa factory would be just across the road on the cliff side.

RR: You know in that area, when the parents of these kids got old, did they move in with their kids?

LP: Well who you mean, like who?

RR: Kaapana?

LP: Kaapana, no. George died when he was still young yet cause he was still working. And then Tina moved to Honolulu with her daughter, and the rest of the family was all still there.

RR: So they didn't really have the elders moving in with the kid families then.

LP: No, no. In other words Maria stayed there.

RR: When Kaipō moved, Maria stayed there.

LP: Ahh, yes. She used stay down there, then she use to come up to Hawaiian Beaches. And then she goes and stayed by herself. She stay in the old folks home. She would be about 91-92.

RR: She still living?

LP: She still living.

RR: Ok. Well that's all the questions that I have for now. Now I will have to go home and figure this all out.

LP: Yeah, you got to figure Kupahu‘a and Kapaahu. And there was another ‘awa factory which Mrs. Young had. As on the Kilohana area. By, you know past Pahoia, you past Leilani Estates, then you hit Kilohana, then you go hit the 55 lava flow.

RR: Yeah, yeah.

LP: Ok, just before the lava flow get one house sit inside, nice yard covered by trees in the front, I don't know if you can see. Her grandson stays there. Then she had an ‘awa factory over there and in Kalapana too. See they used to commute, you know, every time.

RR: Well thank you very much.
