

#3

INTERVIEW WITH LOUISE KAMA JOHNS III 5/5/90

LOUISE: You see the volcano?
NO'EAU: Yeah, isn't that great... well, for some people... but that's like a hundred thirty some houses, yeah?
LOUISE: Yeah... hundred thirty or thundred twenty-six I heard yesterday... but Fidelia's house was hundred and six I think...
NO'EAU: Oh, Fidelia's house went huh?
LOUISE: Yeah.
NO'EAU: Oh, so, anyway, today...
LOUISE: You want me to tell about my father...my father was Abner Kama was born and raised in Kalapana and my mother was Annie Campbell and she was born in Honolulu, raised in Honolulu, so it was during the summer, I think, when she came over with her friend. The friend had a family in Puna, so they came over to visit and then, she met my father and they got married and she forgot to go back to Honolulu. They had oh, two, three...my brother, byself, Jennie...
NO'EAU: The first baby.. the first child was...
LOUISE: The first child was William and he died when, I think, he was about six or seven months. Then I was the second child...
NO'EAU: Oh. And, uh, that's Louise...
LOUISE: Yeah, Loika *Luika*
NO'EAU: Loika was your Hawaiian name?
LOUISE: That's what my aunt called me... Loika.
NO'EAU: How you spell that?
LOUISE: L O I
NO'EAU: K A
LOUISE: Yeah.
NO'EAU: Oh. Maika'i. And you were second...
LOUISE: I was the second. then my sister Mrs. Awai, Jennie.
NO'EAU: Jennie...
LOUISE: Jennie...her name was Kaho'oholo.
NO'EAU: Um...and then my other sister, my third Ka'anapu, Edith. She died.
NO'EAU: Young?
LOUISE: No she died when she was 60.
NO'EAU: Oh.
LOUISE: And then my youngest brother, Abner. He died when he was 15.
NO'EAU: And did Abner have a Hawaiian name?
LOUISE: Manena.
NO'EAU: Manena...
LOUISE: Unh hunh. X
NO'EAU: And what was Edith's Hawaiian name?
LOUISE: Edith's Hawaiian name was Ka'anapu.
NO'EAU: Ka'anapu.
LOUISE: Ka'anapu.
NO'EAU: ok>

LOUISE: We lived in Kalapana for, I think, till the Waiakea Homesteads opened up, Waiakea Homesteads opened up, then my father and mother applied for a piece of land up there. So we moved to Waiakea Homesteads and then, uh, when we moved to Waiakea Homesteads, my father well, before that, my father was working for the county.

NO'EAU: OK>

LOUISE: Then, when we moved Waiakea Homesteads, well, he, uh, worked at the stevedore. And, then, when there was no work, then he, uh, what you call it, cleaned the canefields. He and my mother. But in the meantime, the plantation had cleaned all the land and everything and planted the cane, so they just took care of the canefield...and then I stayed home. And then we used to go back to Kalapana. We used to go back and forth.

NO'EAU: Was Abner the last child?

LOUISE: yeah. My mother and father's last child.

NO'EAU: ...was Abner

LOUISE: Abner.

NO'EAU: But then your mother got married again?

LOUISE: Yeah, after my father...

NO'EAU: She married again...

LOUISE: Well, she didn't exactly marry again. She had a friend and then she had, and then I had a half sister, then...

NO'EAU: And that was the first half sister and her name was...

LOUISE: Betsy. Bessie

NO'EAU: Betsy was the first.

LOUISE: Yeah. And then she married, uh...oh, who's that...Lee.

NO'EAU: Lee.

LOUISE: Yeah.

NO'EAU: Over in Kalapana...

LOUISE: Yeah, Then.. Mrs. Ching. My sister Mrs. Ching.

NO'EAU: Ah. What was your sister's first name?

LOUISE: Leilani...Dorothy

NO'EAU: Dorothy Leilani Ching. She married a Ching, yeah?

LOUISE: Yeah. She married

NO'EAU: That's the one after Betsy? Bessie

LOUISE: Yeah, that's the one after Betsy.

NO'EAU: OK.

LOUISE: Then, after that came Baby Dora, and then, she had my brother, my youngest brother, Abner, was named after my brother Abner.

NO'EAU: So who was her last husband?

LOUISE: Her last husband was, uh, wait, let's see...

NO'EAU: Who was Betsy's father? Bessie

LOUISE: Betsy's father was ... I don't know...

NO'EAU: OK... That's not important. OK> Who was Edith's ...

LOUISE: Was Kama...\

NO'EAU: Kama...

LOUISE: Umhm..Not Edith but Leilani.

NO'EAU: Not Edith, but Leilani...\

LOUISE: Leilani...Dorothy

NO'EAU: Dorothy.

LOUISE: Was, us, her father was...what's his Chinese name now...Siching Lee. He had an English name but I don't know his English name. You know a Teresa, Teresa Waipa. You know who Teresa Waipa. It was her oldest brother. Her oldest brother was Dorothy's father.

NO'EAU: That's a Waipa then...

LOUISE: No no! Lee.

NO'EAU: Oh, she was a Lee. Oh, she married a Waipa...

LOUISE: yeah, she married a Waipa.

NO'EAU: I see...I see. So that was Abner and...

LOUISE: No, no, that was only Dorothy.

NO'EAU: That was only Dorothy.

LOUISE: Yeah...

NO'EAU: And Abner...you know who Abner's father was?

LOUISE: Yeah...

NO'EAU: It was just someone...

LOUISE: He was someone that came down to work for some money.

NO'EAU: What was, uh, your grandmother like?

LOUISE: You wanna know her name?

NO'EAU: Her name and what kinda person she was?

LOUISE: My grandmother was Mikala. My father's mother. she was a church lady. Hardworking...

NO'EAU: What kind of...do you remember about her...how did she look?

LOUISE: Well, as you grow older, your hair turn kind of gray. She was 62 when she died. But she didn't stoop over, she was dignified. She held herself...yeah.

NO'EAU: You mean even after weaving all those mats? I weave one bracelet and my back is like...

LOUISE: cause you're not used to it, you know?

NO'EAU: Yeah,that's what it is...

LOUISE: Like they say you have to get used to that...they...whatchewcall...bent over and always kind of...but this is off the subject. My great grandmother, her mother...her mother, well, I don't know; she was really stooped over, maybe from weaving and weaving, she was almost bent double, but I think it's a habit, you know. She could stand up straight, when she be walking straight and all of a sudden you see her stooping over, see? That I think was a habit. But my grandmother knew she was bent and she'd walk straight. Nothing.

NO'EAU: So your grandmother's hair was gray...

LOUISE: Not as gray as mine.

NO'EAU: was it like ehu, maybe?

LOUISE: No, no, no. Not, just like salt and pepper.

NO'EAU: And did she look like she was more Hawaiian?

LOUISE: Oh yeah, she was full blooded Hawaiian.

NO'EAU: Uh huh. Was she big Hawaiian lady?

LOUISE: Not, not real big. Just right size, and not slim.

NO'EAU: Not too slim...

LOUISE: Not too slim, but just right.

NO'EAU: Uh huh...So, um, shen you got married, you moved with your husband, yeah.

LOUISE: Yeah.

NO'EAU: There he lived, up is Waiakea?
LOUISE: Uh...he came down here with his mother first. Then we moved to Waiakea.

NO'EAU: So how was...what did you do when you lived with your husband...did you get a job or...

LOUISE: No, no. I didn't work. I stayed home to take care of my children, until, during the war I went to work.

NO'EAU: The first war...World War I...

LOUISE: Two! Two--I'm not that old!

NO'EAU: Oh! 1940, this was 1940.

LOUISE: I went to work 1943, but not very...baybe about six months.

NO'EAU: So when you got married...how many kinds did you have, name your kids?

LOUISE: Oh, I had...

NO'EAU: Name the first one.

LOUISE: The first one was Florance. Florance...Then Michael, Jr., then Sammie, Samuel, and Leiland, the one out there, and then I had a boy, he died when he was three years old, he was Joseph. And, uh, the youngest is Lorraine. X

NO'EAU: Lorraine.

LOUISE: Six kids...plenty yeah?

NO'EAU: My mother had five.

LOUISE: Yeah?

NO'EAU: Um...so what is the manes of your kids?

LOUISE: The full names of my kids ...the first one is Florence Ku'u lei.

NOE'AU: Ku'u lei.

LOUISE: Yeah. But the full, her full name is Florence Ku'u leianuenue.

NO'EAU: Aunenu.

LOUISE: Um. And then the second one is Michael John Jr, and the third is Samuel Mitsuhashi.

NO'EAU: Mitsuhashi?

LOUISE: Yeah, because of my husband's side, his grandfather was a pure Japanese from Japan.

NO'EAU: Uh huh.

LOUISE: And then, uh, the third one is Louise Leilani, the fourth, Louise Leiland. And the fifth is Joseph Kaholokai, that's the boy that died, and then my youngest daughter is Lorraine Lokelani.

NO'EAU: Lorraine Lokelani.

LOUISE: Umhm.

NO'EAU: Uh...so before you were telling me about the lauhala, you know, how you made lauhala, how you gathered lauhala, the work it took to clean, um you mentioned something about loulu.

LOUISE: Hm?

NO'EAU: You mentioned something about a different type...they didn't always use lauhala, there was something else that was used.

LOUISE: Well, uh, my mother used to make hats, and she used, uh, you know this fine...for fine hats, she used, uh, loulu. That's a palm.

NO'EAU: Loulu is a palm...
 LOUISE: Yeah. And, uh, I don't know, they cut the leaf and everything and they let it dry. And then afterwards, they strip and she weaves it into hats.
 NO'EAU: So her impression of loulu, it...it looks like a fan?
 LOUISE: Yeah.
 NO'EAU: And when they cut it, it gets dried in the sun ofr they have to wash it and wet it?
 LOUISE: I don't think so, I think they just hang it out.
 NO'EAU: They just hang it and let it dry?
 LOUISE: Yeah. And let it...
 NO'EAU: And it just turns white?
 LOUISE: Well, sometimes it's not that white...it's more yellowish white.
 NO'EAU: Ah. They used that to cut small strips.
 LOUISE: Yeah, strip it, you know, oh, so fime...and she'd weave.
 NO'EAU: The she'd weave hats with that.
 LOUISE: Yeah.
 NO'EAU: And mats were used more with lauhala.
 LOUISE: Lauhala, and for mattress, regular mats but for lauhala. The sleeping mats with youg lauhala. It was young, you know, when they'd go in the bushes and get the young lauhala growing--not the tall one, then they'd cut it, and they'd take it home and cook it. Hot water. Cook it...put it in the water and dip it in the hot water and then when it's nice and sunny, like now, they'd dry it. And that's the kind of lauhala they'd strip and they used to roll, they'd strip and use and weave for sleeping mats.
 NO'EAU: Ah. It was the young lauhala.
 LOUISE: Yeah, the young lauhala.
 NO'EAU: Why? was it softer?
 LOUISE: I think the leaves are longer and it's easier to get it. Because the other ones, the trees and so tall, so they'd use the younger short ones and pick it apart, run your water and you dip it in.
 NO'EAU: So you say that you made all kind of different hats...
 LOUISE: Um.
 NO'EAU: What was the difference between the, let's say a working hat and a...
 LOUISE: A holoholo hat? A working hat, you wove a working hat with, you know, kind of big strips and not as fine or as good looking as the holoholo hat. And if you want a really good hat, she'd make it real nice with the...she'd strip it down and then better woven than the working hat.
 NO'EAU: Umhm. Were the working hats, like, bigger to cover the sun, or just...
 LOUISE: Well it, all depends on the type you want. Some people don't want..maybe the women want the big rim hats. The men don't care for too big.
 NO'EAU: The shorter rim hats.
 LOUISE: Yeah, umhm.
 NO'EAU: And the holoholo hat is just, however you'd want it...
 LOUISE: Yeah. All different styles, yeah.

NO'EAU: So, she had rims that went up and turned, not really in those days.

LOUISE: No, no In those days doesn't matter, as long as you have a hat.

NO'EAU: Umhm. And you mentioned about your house, would you tell us again how your house lookded.

LOUISE: Our Kalapana house?

NO'EAU: Your Kalapana house. You know, like it's tow stories and how the rooms...if you could take me, like on a tour of your house?

LOUISE: Well, as you come up the gate, this is from the main road, and then you come up and go into the a...we used to call it the pahale. The pahale is separate from the garden or separate from the pasture and anything else. So you go into the pahale quite a distance then you go up the stairs, and then, wellall depends if we're upstairs, you come upstairs, and if we're downstairs, well you come downstairs. And, uh, we had, you go in, have a parlor, one, two, three, four, five bedrooms. Five bedrooms. And, uh, a little room in the front as you go up the steps. There was another room there, but we used to call it, that's an office.

NO'EAU: You had an office...

LOUISE: (Laughter) No, but we'd just call it an office because that's where you sit down and peek out the window see who's coming. If you don't want nobody to know somebody's home, you can sit there, but if you sit in the parlor--I mean lanai, everybody know you're home. Then, um, we had a dining room and if you come up, we had a dining room outside. And a kitchen. Then ther's the back steps, you go down steps, and down steps, and downstairs we have a big room that's our workroom and our kitchen.

NO'EAU: You had two kitchens, one downstairs and one upstairs?

LOUISE: Yes, the one downstairs was for everyday use, everyday. Upstairs, is maybe Sundays; Sundays we eat upstairs or special occasion. The one downstairs is our hanahana house downstairs if you're working downstairs.

NO'EAU: Oh, and you even ate downstairs...every day?

LOUISE: Oh, yeah. Yeah. We had table, and you know Hawaiians, we had space with the screen around and everything. And the other side, the other half of the house, that's our sleeping room, when we sleep downstairs, and where we, my grandparents and mother weaves mats.

NO'EAU: So, the bedrooms upstairs...

LOUISE: Is for good looks!

NO'EAU: Just for good looks. Where did you put your, like, your clothes, and stuff?

LOUISE: Upstairs.

NO'EAU: Everybody had their own...

LOUISE: Everybody had their own bedroom. Everybody had their own bedroom and if, uh, there was special occasion, you wanna go upstairs, you can go upstairs st=leep up there, but everybody prefer downstairs.

NO'EAU: Everybody slept...

LOUISE: Because in those days, when you hear all da kine stories, you know, they tell you, it's kinda scarey--spooky, yeah? So everybody sleep together, they put the mat, the sleeping mat and sleep on the floor.

NO'EAU: So everybody just pretty much kept their own belongings in each room?

LOUISE: Yeah, Everybody did.

NO'EAU: Did anybody share a room?

LOUISE: No. Because was enough rooms for everybody.

NO'EAU: Wherever did you take a bath?

LOUISE: Oh, we had a bathhouse.

NO'EAU: It was a separate house?

LOUISE: Yeah. We had a bathhouse because my grandmother, I don't know, she had, everytime she hear of a friend selling a water tank, she buys the water tank, so at one time we had one, two, three water tanks, one in the front and two in the back. One water tank was for, to take a bath when there was rain. When we had rain and the water tank was full, you could take a bath. And then one was for drinking and cooking, and one was for wash dishes. Used to take turns to wash our tanks. And then you had little barrels outside the corners, everytime it rains, why it catches all whatever water.

NO'EAU: Did it rain a lot in Kalapana?

LOUISE: Oh, offer times, before, you know before, in summer, winter, whatever, like nowadays, you don't know, it just comes and rains and rains. But during our time, we know the rainy season, and when it was hot and everything else.

NO'EAU: So, in the yard, you folks grew sweet potatoes, and other vegetables?

LOUISE: Not in the yard, the next yard...

NO'EAU: Oh, was in an adjoining lot?

LOUISE: Yeah. Adjoining lot; we grew our sweet potatoes, uh, sweet potatoes and vegetables, whatever we can plant.

NO'EAU: Uh huh. did you grow one type of sweet potato or ...

LOUISE: No, all different types, those days. They had, un, whatchewcall the, at those times we used to call the hua moa, and then we used to have the purple kine sweet potatoes, and they have the white sweet potatoes, and then they have the light yellow or whatever. And they all had different names.

NO'EAU: Did you know any of the names?

LOUISE: Uh, so long ago...

NO'EAU: But you didn't grow only one type ...you grew...

LOUISE: No.

NO'EAU: ...all different types...

LOUISE: Yeah, all different types.

NO'EAU: You know how many different types you grew in your yard?

LOUISE: Three or four kinds...

NO'EAU: Three of four kinds...

LOUISE: Yeah.

NO'EAU: But...there was no taro to be grown.

LOUISE: Oh, well, uh...

NO'EAU: In your area.

LOUISE: My grandmother use to plant taro, but, oh, sometimes it does not grow too good because hot...you have to, whatcha call that, mulch, yeah? You have to deep mulching so, because when it gets hot, the taro shrink, yeah, it doesn't grow as good as in the...where it's kinda cool. so you have to keep mulching the taro so the dirt or the dirt around doesn't get hot. You have to keep it cool all the time.

NO'EAU: So there was little bit taro growing around...

LOUISE: Yeah, there was little bit taro, just enough to cook and eat.

NO'EAU: What did you think about ulu? Did you have to go somewhere to get it?

LOUISE: Oh yeah. We had another friend up there... with ulu trees. I don't know how the thing grew, but...

NO'EAU: That was part of your folks' property?

LOUISE: Yeah, that was all on our property.

NO'EAU: Up in the mountains?

LOUISE: Not too far, about, from here to down the beach.

NO'EAU: To the beach from here? Not even half a mile...

LOUISE: No, but during those days, we were young, small, and strong. So we used to get on the donkey or the horse and then, when we come home, two half bags or four half bags. Otherwise we have to carry on our back, and you know how many, maybe about five or six as much we can carry, but if we take the horse or the donkey, we preferred the donkey because the donkey little bit small, not as tall as the horse was, so you can load the donkey.

NO'EAU: So there was a trail going to where you picked ulu, or...

LOUISE: Yeah. There was always a trail, and , uh, when it gets overgrown, we had to maintaing.

NO'EAU: Clean it up...

LOUISE: yeah, and especially the guava. I guess when the guava start growing, it wasn't as tall as now...nowdays, it's a forest.

NO'EAU: The guava trees.

LOUISE: Yeah. In those days, it was just like bushes, just little.

NO'EAU: Small...

LOUISE: Uh huh.

NO'EAU: Do you remember when the guava trees came in?

LOUISE: No I don't.

NO'EAU: They were there before you?

LOUISE: Yeah.

NO'EAU: But it was still...

LOUISE: It was not as tall as ...

NO'EAU: And it wasn't grown into each other...

LOUISE: No, no.

NO'EAU: What things did you do with ulu?

LOUISE: WHAT?

NO'EAU: How did you take care of ulu?

LOUISE: Cook the ulu? Cut it in half, and you boil it. But, usually we go during the evening to pick and early next morning, we cooked it, the ulu, the breadfruit. Cut it in half, and then, you know, we had this round tub, yeah, put it inside, yeah the pakini, put water, let it cook.

NO'EAU: Over a hot...

LOUISE: Over a hot stove, a stove that you gotta put wook in, and our job was to look for firewood.

NO'EAU: They have Kiawe down there?

LOUISE: No.

NO'EAU: Still no more Kiawe..

LOUISE: No, but, Well, they had, uh, plums--you know those purple plums? They're a nuisance nowadays. Ae...During our time, I think it was from the one plum tree in the whole back yard we have only one plum tree. And that was cherished by everybody, because only had one. And after it was pau, could get the ulu...peel the ulu. And we used the, whatchew call, the opihi shell...

NO'EAU: To peel...

LOUISE: To peel the ulu. Then pound.

NO'EAU: Then you'd just pound the ulu into poi. There was nothing else the ulu was used for, like chips, or...

LOUISE: (laughter) Today, the chips. But those days, they used to make something like kulolo. You know, when the ulu is ripe and soft. I remember my grandmother used to make, like, kulolo, I forgot the name of, what they used to call. You squeeze and then all the thing, you know like, uh, with the stem inside and then put coconut juice, and mix it up. Then what you call, kahlua, like now the kahlua kulolo.

NO'EAU: Was it like pudding?

LOUISE: Yeah, but, uh, orange or yellow instead of brown like the kulolo.

NO'EAU: Oh, they no put sugar, just coconut milk?

LOUISE: They put honey.

NO'EAU: They put honey.

LOUISE: Honey.

NO'EAU: Where did they get the honey from?

LOUISE: Oh, we had plenty of beehives up in the back in the a'a.

NO'EAU: In the a'a lava?

LOUISE: No. In the tree. Maybe there's an old stump of tree, like maybe, a, uh, ulu tree, or a mango tree, they find. But sometimes they, you can find, what you call, a hive in the a'a lava.

NO'EAU: In the lava . . .

LOUISE: Yeah, but how . . I don't know . . I've only seen one in the lava, in the rock. But, I know in the trees, yeah!

NO'EAU: So the bees don't do nothing when you pick the honey?

LOUISE: They do, but you have to know how to take the honey. So that what we used to sweeten the kulolo and the kind that we make out of, uh, the ulu.

NO'EAU: So there was the milk, the honey, and the ulu, mooshed together . .

LOUISE: After you get the kine, the honey, yeah, you gather the honey, ok, now you have to strain the honey . . .

NO'EAU: To take out all the . . .

LOUISE: To separate the comb and the honey.

NO'EAU: How did you do that?

LOUISE: We put a strainer . . .

NO'EAU: Like a bag . . .

LOUISE: Yeah, or a rice bag . . .

NO'EAU: And the honey would just drip out?

LOUISE: Just drip out.

NO'EAU: Of the bag. so that was ulus to make the type of pudding also.

LOUISE: Yes.

NO'EAU: So, you said that one time you were, you were leasing land to a pake man. And you got some taro from him.

LOUISE: No, no. Not from him. Uh, from people that raised taro.

NO'EAU: Uh huh. He didn't raise taro.

LOUISE: No. He raised, uh, whatchew call, cattle.

NO'EAU: That's all he raised, was cattle?

LOUISE: Yeah.

NO'EAU: Never had anything like rise.

LOUISE: No! No! He cleared the land, he raised cows. And, uh, oh, he used to plant limes. The limes, they call it the Mexican limes or Hawaiian limes. He used to raise those.

NO'EAU: Did he sell them?

LOUISE: Yeah, you know, pakes famous for their lemons and their sour lemons and all.

NO'EAU: Did he put them in the sunlight?

LOUISE: I don't know, because he lived in Hilo, and he had working people down there to take care of, uh,

NO'EAU: Of his property.

LOUISE: Of his property.

NO'EAU: Oh, I see. Do you remember making, uh, rope?

LOUISE: No.

NO'EAU: You never make rope with any hou or coconut or . . .

LOUISE: No. Uh. Let me go back . . . no, we didn't make any ropes, but maybe before, maybe when we was real small, I think my granfather made some. We had, whatchew call, leather ropes. We had couple of leather ropes, but I don't know who made those ropes. Another party made those ropes.

NO'EAU: Um, still living in Kalapana, did you have any wants or ambitions, you know, like, to become something or, you know you just . . .

LOUISE: Well, you know, after we were growing up, uh, there was only my grandma and my mother. We didn't have a father, we didn't have a grandfather because they died when we were really young. So, we probably didn't have no ambition. But my uncle was a school teacher. My aunt was a schoolteacher. And she had to look for money, never had scholarships they had nothing, yeah. But my grandfather and my grandmother educated my aunt. They sent her away to school.

NO'EAU: So after you moved here, after you got married and moved here with your husband, um, you didn't work in the beginning, you just watched the kids but then you did go to work.

LOUISE: Yeah, just for six months.

NO'EAU: When was that?

LOUISE: That was in the wartime, 1943.

NO'EAU: 1943, you did go to work. What kind of work?

LOUISE: That was, uh, they used to have a caning factory. You know where Waiakea Villas is, they used to have a caning factory there.

NO'EAU: What kind of factory?

LOUISE: Caning.

NO'EAU: What is caning?

LOUISE: They made the board out of the cane, uh, sugar cane fiber or whatchew call, they made boards. So the army needed them, that's how they used to do the barracks.

NO'EAU: Oh.

LOUISE: And then they used lumber with other canings. All canings. So we made, I don't know, they cook it, they cooked all that thing up, I mean they boil it. And it comes up, I don't know how many pressings it comes up by the time it gets to you, it comes out and the machine cuts it and you just stack it up. Then afterwards, if they want the thing painted white, then you put paint in some kind of stuff, and then it comes down, it washes down, and when it comes down to you, it's all nicely painted and you just stack it up. That's what we used to do.

NO'EAU: Oh. So they had to boil the cane? After they boiled the cane . . .

LOUISE: One thing, after the can . . what do they call it . . the bagasse, I think. You know, after they squeeze the juice out of the cane and evrything and that rubbish . . I think that's how they made those boards. That's what I think. I really don't know, but that's what it's made of.

NO'EAU: Soft like pressed wood, huh.

LOUISE: Something like pressed wood.

NO'EAU: So, because of the war you went to work or . . .

LOUISE: They needed workers.

NO'EAU: They needed workers.

LOUISE: They needed workers.

NO'EAU: Oh, So 1943 was during the war, right? That they needed to make all of these barracks for . . .

LOUISE: Before that, before that they had workers, but after the war go 'long they were asking for workers, everybody went to work.

NO'EAU: OK< so then after that, when that job was done,

LOUISE: No, it was still on but I gave up because I couldn't stay home if the kids wasn't feeling good. You know when you got small children . . .

NO'EAU: Uh huh. so you only worked for how long?

LOUISE: Just about six months.

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NO'EAU: Oh, just for six months, then you go back home to take care of the kids.

LOUISE: Uh hmm.

NO'EAU: And, did you work again?

LOUISE: When I went back to work, I gues, 1950 . . . 51.

NO'EAU: What happened between 1943 and 1951?

LOUISE: I didn't go to work.

NO'EAU: You just stayed home . . . 1951 you went back to work?

LOUISE: Yeah, I went back as, uh, well, uh, what was that, a kitchen helper, a cook, at a Japanese restaurant.

NO'EAU: Oh. In . . .

LOUISE: Down here, in walking distance.

NO'EAU: From the house . . .

LOUISE: Umhm.

NO'EAU: And how long did you do that?

LOUISE: Oh, for about two years.

NO'EAU: You did that for two years. And how old were the kids by then?

LOUISE: Everybody was in school at that time.

NO'EAU: They were in high school...

LOUISE: Yeah, everybody was, and then, uh, my oldest daughter got married, then I came home and baby sat for her. And then, afterwards, yeah, afterwards, I went back to work.

NO'EAU: The same thing?

LOUISE: No. When I went back to work, I went to work for, uh, C. Brewer. Harvesting macs...Macadamia nuts.

NO'EAU: Macadamia nuts? That was in 1955?

LOUISE: No. 19...I think it was 63. 1960? Because my daughter, when she got married, they moved to the mainland, so then I went back to work. I went back to work harvesting nuts, macadamia nuts?

NO'EAU: Uh huh, uh huh, Oh. And how long did you work in the macadamia nuts?

LOUISE: Oh, I worked the macadamia nuts till, uh, 19...65, 66?

NO'EAU: So about four or five years?

LOUISE: umhm.

NO'EAU: So what did you do? Did you have to pick up all the nuts and put them in a bag or what?

LOUISE: You pick them up. You carry a bag around your head, and fill up the bag, and empty them in the hundred pound bag.

NO'EAU: 100 pound bag around your head?

LOUISE: No, no. The one around your head was on an elastic bag... maybe only about 5,6 pounds. Then you empty it in the hundred pound bag, and the men takes care of those.

NO'EAU: Oh.

LOUISE: You only pick up nuts. You walk around under the trees just like a scubie duck.

NO'EAU: Oh, uh huh.

LOUISE: But that was seasonal work, though.

NO'EAU: Oh, right. I didn't believe they had macadamia nuts at that time already.

LOUISE: Yeah, yeah. C. Brewer was the first to have, but Honoka'a had, but it wasn't as big as C. Brewer.

NO'EAU: So, after you got done working the macadamia nuts, did you work anywhere else?

LOUISE: Yeah. The hotel

NO'EAU: You started working at the hotel right after that? What hotel is this?

LOUISE: Orchid Island Hotel.

NO'EAU: Orchid Island...

LOUISE: Reed's Bay.

NO'EAU: Oh, was the old Reeds' Bay.

LOUISE: No, no, there was a hotel Orchid Islad and it was at Reeds' Bay. And the, uh, I worked there for 10 years, and then after so many owners, it went bankrupt. So, a Japanese firm, I think, bought the place out, and, uh, I don't know what happened, the place burned down.

NO'EAU: And that's the one that's not there anymore...

LOUISE: Yes, the one with the fence around.

NO'EAU: The broken building. Ah. So what kind of work did you do?

LOUISE: A roommaid. Housekeeping.

NO'EAU: Housekeeping. Ten years.

LOUISE: Ten years.

NO'EAU: How many rooms did you have to clean a day?

LOUISE: Well, all depends how many workers they had scheduled for the day. Used to be about sixteen rooms.

NO'EAU: Oh. That's a lot, that's how much they clean now. So each person would clean about 16 rooms?

LOUISE: Yeah. But not all check out, like you have all service rooms because, uh, you know, they stay over so you just clean, not like how you clean a check out room. A check out room is general cleanup, yeah.

NO'EAU: The whole thing, yeah?

LOUISE: Yeah. And then you just service the room, clean the bathroom, towels, maybe change sheets, and clean up their bed.

NO'EAU: Um hm...so you did that for ten years. Did you get any job after that one?

LOUISE: No. That was the last job.

NO'EAU: uh huh. So it was in 19...65? no, 75...

LOUISE: 76.

NO'EAU: When that hotel...

LOUISE: Changed owners.

NO'EAU: oh. OK> But it didn't fall down till a couple of months after...

LOUISE: Couple of years after...

NO'EAU: Couple of years after that.

LOUISE: Yeah.

NO'EAU: How did it...did it burn down?

LOUISE: Burned down. A trasient was sleeping...it was still furnished: transients got in and they were sleeping in the rooms. Some of them were smoking cigarettes, yeah, it burned down.

NO'EAU: The whole thing burned down. It must've been a big place...

LOUISE: Yeah, three stories.

NO'EAU: So after that, you just, you retired?
 LOUISE: Yeah.
 NO'EAU: And, you...You never moved back to Kalapana?
 LOUISE: No, no. I didn't go back to Kalapana because my sister Jennie came back here. She was in the hospital in Honolulu during the war years. And then when she and her husband came back to Hilo, that was in the fifties, I think, yeah, the fifties, they went to Kalapana and they tore the house down. They were supposed to rebuild that house, but they did not rebuild the house. He got sick.
 NO'EAU: Jennie's husband...
 LOUISE: Jennie's husband got sick. They weren't supposed to break that house down. But he got sick, still today.
 NO'EAU: Auwe!
 LOUISE: You know why, because my grandmother always told us they had a hard time getting lumber. Hard time because no more money. They had to save money. And I just came back from Honolulu and...
 NO'EAU: Yeah.
 LOUISE: She should have said something, you know, ask forgiveness or what, I don't thing they ever said that because I asked my sister, I asked did you folks say a prayer or say something? And she said, "NO".
 NO'EAU: Uh huh.
 LOUISE: Da kine you don't do because the old people own houses, anything the old people own, you don't hana'ino, because it was hard for them to get those things.
 NO'EAU: So you think all of their, like, all of their, their being like, went into building that house and they're part of the house?
 LOUISE: Yes, that's right.
 NO'EAU: Jennie's husband is still sick or what?
 LOUISE: He's not a well man, he has emphysema now.
 NO'EAU: Oh. But they still live in Kalapana?
 LOUISE: No, no, they...they're my next door neighbors.
 NO'EAU: Oh, they live right here?
 LOUISE: Yeah. Except my sister is in life care center.
 NO'EAU: Jennie is.
 LOUISE: Yeah. Did you meet her, Jennie?
 NO'EAU: No, I never met Jennie. I just came here a year ago, that's all. So Abner came back? That right?
 LOUISE: Yeah, my youngest brother, yeah.
 NO'EAU: Did he Go back?
 LOUISE: No, no. He's living here now?
 NO'EAU: He's living here now?
 LOUISE: Umhm.
 NO'EAU: So, everybody in your family got married and had kids, I mean, like your brothers and sisters.
 LOUISE: Yeah, yeah...
 NO'EAU: Um, OK. Can you go over how you and your husband met, you know, you folks dated and stuff?
 LOUISE: Can't forget about it!
 NO'EAU: There was no courtship? It was just, you just met him and got married.

LOUISE: Yeah.
 NO'EAU: You know when you used to live in Kalapana, it used to take a while to get to Hilo.
 LOUISE: Yeah
 NO'EAU: So when your family, or when your parents, your mother sold mats and stuff, how did they get to Hilo?
 LOUISE: Well, they used to have cars that come to Hilo maybe twice a week. People that owned cars and then, uh, you wanna come Hilo, or you have something to send to Hilo, you let them know; let them know you have a mat you wanna bring or take it to Hilo. so he'll come, and then, you have to carry the mat down to the road...