

Topic Outline to Interviews w. Lydia Makuakane

- #1 b. 1924, 1932 GF died, 1941 GM died (she was in 9th grade--Pahoa school)
p.1 lived in last hse on road; neighbors listed, walked to school
w. their children
teachers
hanai'd by GM (taken first week), GF died 1932, lived w. GM
till she died (when LM 17), went to live w. parents in Pahoa
(June 1941)
p.2 games & toys
GM lived on social security / subsistence ('opihi, pigs & chickens
app. no garden, but had 'ulu--see p. 5)
p.3 school--subjects, May Day
p. 4 baby luaus, went many days, stayed overnite
c hurch; baptized Mormon w. Gma, but went Catholic church (alone)
p.5 New Years big--at Pahoa, not Christmas or Easter
living--kerosene lamp, hand-washing, firewood
feeding chickens and pigs
p.6 going Hilo (Gabriel Pe'a's taxi)
p.7 limu, ponds, canoe-landing
catching shark at Alapana (because ate 'opelu)
food, cooking (kalo and 'ulu for poi in pot over wood-fire)
parents taro operation in mid 40's
getting 'opelu from fishermen
woodstove in Pahoa
sold limes to Chinese for salt-lemon

#2

- pp.1-2 'opelu fishing and gathering, making pau, 'opihi and crabs
p.2 games and social life
sharing w. "family around", what Gma did
p.3 met H after WW2 in Pahoa
school, water, laundry at Queen's bath
p.4 names, her name changed when GM took her
p.5 Elderts family
p.6 taro work
death of GM at Olaa
death of GF, buried family cemetery; GM and GF met at Volcano House
(worked there)
p.8 she and cousins took train to Hilo
pp. 7-10 family poi business

6/24/89 - see notebook for lined up - from parents when she married

- C: This is Charlene Sumarnap doing an oral history project for Anthropology 445-Ethnographic Field Techniques. This project is being done through interviews with Mrs. Lydia Makuakane at her home in Pahoa. Today's date is October 20, 1987. The person I am interviewing is---
- L: Lydia Makuakane
- C: We will be doing a talk story type of interview. She will be telling us a bit about her self and her family. Where she was born, who her parents, and brothers and sisters are, where she lived and other things that were significant in her life. Generally, we'll be covering her experiences, people she remembers and places and events in Kapaahu.
- L: I was born in Pahoa, my parents are Akima and Annie Ah Hee. There's 7 of us in my family with me included, 5 girls and 2 boys. When I was a week old my Gramma took me to Kapaahu. Her name was Leialoha Ah Hee, my father's mother. She raised me for 17 years. I was born August 2, 1924. I go to Kalapana school, I walk 3 miles and 3 miles back in the afternnon. My house is the last house and in front of me they have Kaawaloa, at that time there was Kekaula. There was a little boy there who goes to school too. Then on the other side, well Royal Garden is there now, another person stays there, his name was Akuna, his last name was Akuna. He has a granddaughter too, and she goes to school. And in front of next to the Kekaula house is another home there. That's another Akuna, that's father and son, I don't know the father's name but the son's name is Louie Akuna, he's living in Hilo now. And in front of the Akuna's house ther was Waipa's house. That's where Martha Lum Ho's parents live. There were about 3, 2 sisters and a brother, so we all go to school together, we walk to school.
- C: How old were you when you started school?
- L: About 6, we didn't have kindergarten then so we start when we 6 years old. First grade, first up to sixth grade---2 classroom.
- C: Do you remember your teachers?
- L: Well we have Miss Brown, then we have the principle Miss Ewaliko, yeah and after that we have Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. Matthews.
- C: Did you speak Hawaiian in school?
- L: English---yeah but I had the hardest time because my gramma and I only speak Hawaiian, ah but after that well we had 2 classrooms yeah.
- C: Were you hanai?
- L: Yeah, hanai.
- C: What is your understanding of hanai?
- L: Well like my Gramma, well, they didn't have children, they had but my father was well I have an aunt and my father. So you know after that they took care of me, I guess more for companionship.
- C: Were you the oldest?
- L: Yeah.

- C: You stayed in Kapaahu until you were 17?
- L: Yeah that's right--until my Gramma passed away and then I came to Pahoa with my parents.
- C: What was it like living in Kapaahu?
- L: Well, we have like ah--like the children yeah, we played. We had our own toys then.
- C: What kinds of toys?
- L: Well like the young guavas you know. Well we take another stick and we tie a rope and with a stem we swing the young guavas and we throw it, and the thing go flying, you know. Or else we used to take the broom stick and cut it you know. We used to call it Kamapio--Kamapio you know. 2 sticks, one pointed at both ends and the other one you use and you leave one point and the thing it goes up and you hit. You hit it and it flies away. Team like yeah--so the opposite team tries to catch the stick. Sometimes they come for you and you try to hit, they grab and you hit them on the head. And then you play hop scotch when you go to school and then we used to jump rope. Because on the sand hill they used to have long vines--oh, I can't think of the name now, with leaves. We used to get the thick ones and we used to use that for jump rope.
- C: Oh, so you didn't use rope, you used vines.
- L: Yeah, yeah.
- C: Not morning glory?
- L: No, no--no it's another vine. *pohuehue?*
- C: It's not growing anymore?
- L: I don't know it's, on the sand hill you know, they used to have, in fact down in Kalapana, all those places now, the sand hills used to be high---and ah-h th people coming from Black Sand beach and further up used to pick this thing and bring it to school. They used to break all the leaves. The leaves are round, they break it all up and everybody used to jump rope.
- C: What did your grandparents do for a living?
- L: Well uh, as far as I knew when I was there, my grandfather died in 1932 around there, so it was just Gramma. I was young then so my father was working you know. At that time there was social security but it wasn't that much. So every Friday we used to go to the beach pick opihi and whatever for the week.
- C: Did you have your own garden?
- L: No, no, you don't, you raise pigs. Your own pigs and chickens.
- C: So did your Gramma just live on Social Security?
- L: And plus what she has, she raises around the place and then we have our own eggs and all yeah. (2)

- C: Was it lonely as a child?
- L: Ah no. To me wasn't lonely. No I'm used to and of course not like now with all the guava trees blocking. From where we stay we can see the next house we can see all the houses around.
- C: What about the houses, how were the houses?
- L: Like now.
- C: Like plantation type houses?
- L: Yeah, yeahm well ours had like the veranda all the way around or half-veranda and clothes line. You hang all the clothes the wind blow all the clothes dry.
- C: How early in your life can you remember?
- L: Maybe 6 years old all the way up, yeah.
- C: What did you enjoy most?
- L: Going to school, yeah there was lotsa children.
- C: Did you have vacations?
- L: Well---well come to think about it, I don't remember about school vacations.
- C: You just continued school through the year?
- L: Yeah, I think continued, I don't remember summer vacation, just continue, I don't remember that yeah.
- C: What kinds of subjects did you have in school?
- L: Well we have like now--English, math, penmanship, geography, history.
- C: What about special programs?
- L: Ah, no, I don't remember having May Day program. No---we did--that's right we did because we used to make leis yeah, and the parents would come.
- C: This was about what grade?
- L: Well uh, let's see, when did we start---about third grade, I think 3rd or 4th grade.
- C: After 6th grade where did you go to school?
- L: Pahoa. Then they had the bus from Kalapana to Pahoa. Then Pahoa school only up till about what...9th grade I think. Until war time then they have high school.
- C: Where was you school in Kalapana?
- L: Well it broken down now---where they have the canoe, yeah in there--next to the church they have the stonewall, yeah right across there. There had this Chinese store. We used to buy crackers and crackseed and candies and all that stuff.

C: How much was crackseed back then?

L: Oh was what--5¢ one big package, you know the brown packagem yeah uh-huh 5¢.

C: Did you graduate from Pahoa?

L: Ninth grade and then you have to go to Hilo, but I didn't. My brother went to Hilo High School. He was, I don't know how long and then my sisters after me went.

C: How about the war, did it affect you in Kapaahu?

L: Ah-no, by then I was in Pahoa with my parents because my grandmother died. Ah June--June, I think of '41. The war break out in December, yeah.

C: What about the Depression?

L: I was only about what, 5, yeah so I don't remember those things.

C: What about baby luau--How did they give them?

L: Oh yeah, will usually they have Kapaahu. Kalapana, if you invited you walk the day before. You came and you stay with family, you know to go to the luau.

C: Was it big?

L: Oh yeah, so many days.

C: Do you remember one in particular?

L: Oh no, they had so many to go---Like now you have only so many and thats it. Those days as long as liquor or food there they stay and eat and drink and all that.

C: What about church?

L: In fact they have Catholic church they have Protestant.

C: What church did you and Gramma attend?

L: Well, I used to go to the Catholic church, because it was close to the school. I used to go to the Catholic church.

C: On Sunday you'd walk 3 miles to church with your Gramma?

L: No, myself, I used to come down to go to the Catholic church. In the 30's you know I was baptized.

C: Your Gramma got you baptized in the...

L: Ah, Mormon church. There were people from Keaukaha, they would come to Kalapana--far then--and we were baptized. We were ah baptized ah, at Queen's Bath, Gramma and I. We were dunked. (3)

C: Was it a big baptism with a lot of people?

L: No, no, just ah, my parents and the elders.

C: What about Christmas parties?

L: Ah, we didn't know what is Christmas party. No, not until war time, we had this cousins from Maui came stay with the family for the occasion. Then they start making Christmas from then on we know what is Christmas.

C: So how old were you when you had your first Christmas?

L: Fifteen, I think, 19, around there, maybe younger than that--16 or later.

C: What about Easter?

L: We didn't know what is Easter. The people didn't know what's Christmas and all that.

C: So what were the big events?

L: Oh yeah! Was New Years--Every New Years I remeber people used to come around serenade. They go from house to house. And, then you heah them you turn on your lights and even if you sleep... You go to bed early and then come 12 o'clock you heah them singing, you know. It's kinda far then oh-h-h, we turn on our lights, they come they serenade and we invite them to come in and have something to eat and or else give them money like that.

C: Did you ever go and serenade?

L: No--we were too young, they tell us stay home.

C: Oh these were adults, and they walked through Kapaahu?

L: Oh no, not Kapaahu, Pahoa.

C: In Kapaahu, how did you...

L: Well they didn't have those things only in Pahoa.

C: What was living in Kapaahu Like?

L: We ah, had kerosene lamp. In the 30's I think they have electricity, before that they use kerosene lamp. Everything you wash by hand, and you have to cut firewood to cook and all that.

C: How did you get your kerosene?

L: Well, ah Pahoa--When my parents come down everytime they used to bring. And then in those days was cheap, one gallon, I think was 25¢, I think, or less than that, yeah everything is by hand and walking.

C: What kinds of chores did you do?

L: Well, usually you have chicken you have to feed, you feed the chicken in the morning and the afternoon. Like the pigs, well ah, there's guavas and there's roseapples and all of that. And, when mango season you have mangos so you have too, breadfruit. So the pigs all over. The baby pigs when they so old you have to catch them and uh make a brand like. The ear you cut certain way, they pig's ear yeah, so that peoples all around you knows that, oh, that's so and so's pig.

C: You didn't pen your pigs?

L: No, no, no, they run around, run all over the place. The people never used to pen the pigs, just let 'em run loose. As long as they don't go to people's property, because that's when you have problems.

C: How many pigs did you have?

L: Ah, so many, you know they just, what you call the female and the male get together and all that, next thing you know you missing your pig. When you look then, here comes the mother pig with all the babes coming. They so used to, so either you just call them or you get the big pan and you just hit it, and the pigs come from all angles. You pigs they come from all angles--coming home.

C: How did you call your pigs?

L: Oe--oe--oe--oe, and people can tell, oh, getting ready to feed the pigs. You know around the neighborhood huh- they hear you calling your pig, so oh they getting ready to feed the pig.

C: How far away were your neighbors?

L: From here to that house there (balloon Trailer). From here to the Baptist church overthere. So close you can see the house.

C: While living in Kapaahu did you come to Hilo?

L: Maybe once a month, you have to come to Kalapana and there Pea used to have, they call it the banana wagon you know. So, but you have to let him know ahead of time that you're going to Hilo so he can count how many people going with him on Saturday. Kini Pea's brother, he has a car. We come to Kalapana, we have to be at a certain place, certain time so he picks you up. So you have to let him know how many of you so that there's enough room, on his car plus supplies you gonna buy. So you come to Hilo, then you go shopping in Hilo. The last place you stop is Pahoa town, what you wanna buy from Pahoa you buy and he takes you back. 7:00 o'clock he picks you, so you have to be down the main road before 7:00 o'clock waiting for him. We come the day before, we stay with my Gramma's sister in Kalapana, and then from her place to the car. Just over nite, and then sometimes of course we ride on the horse to Kalapana.

C: What about donkeys?

Kanani Ili?

L: Oh yeah had.

C: Did your grandfather raise goats or cattle?

L: Oh, we had goat, I remember at those times my father folks used to go and corral goats and I had a baby one and I raised her up until she was big. So Filipinos used to come around and they wanna buy and I don't wanna sell her. They insist and my Gramma sold the goat, oh-h-h. And the goat was nice, at night I tied her up, in the morning let her go and she stays around, she follows me around. Yeah, used to have a lot of people who go corral the goats and bring 'em down.

C: What about fishing and picking opihi and limu?

- L: Oh yeah, they have, they have the limu kohu and ah, lipo lipoa, and all those limus, and we know where they are at all times just pick enough for you to eat, so every week you go to the beach they still have limu.
- C: Do they still have lipoa and limu kohu?
- L: I don't know, ah since the volcano cover it up and the National Park took over you cannot go you know, and then the people start picking opihi to sell instead of home use. It's more to sell.
- C: Did you ever think of the volcano as a threat to you as you were growing up?
- L: No-- to us at that time the volcano i more like Halemaumau, it was always inside it never did come out. So only now she's going all over the creation. Something new to me.
- C: What about earthquakes?
- L: They have, but not as bad. Now when have everything start shaking--at that time you don't think about those things, yeah you know.
- C: What about Queen's Bath?
- L: Queen's Bath was there and they have like ah---a lot of like cracks. That's why sometimes my mother and I would just yeah you know, I remember this place we used to walk and go in the bushes and then we used to go down like a steps and have water over there and when you look up and the thing is way up and I used to tell her...I used to wonder if the rocks going fall. So we used to go and catch gold fish you know.
- C: Where did you catch the gold fish?
- L: Oh its under lave right now, in fact that where you know where that Father Damien church um-m, Kapaahu, around there we used to catch gold fish. Yeah until the toad came along, even those small red shrimp, people used to catch for opelu, they had plenty, so, but it's all covered now, yeah.
- C: Did they ever have services in Father Damien's church?
- L: Ah, no it wasn't complete that time. It just had the side walls, that um, frame for the windows and the dooes, no roof and no flooring.
- C: Where did you go to church?
- L: Kalapana. The Catholic Church, the Star of the Sea Church, and then there was a canoe landing. We used to go down and see the people go out and come in and they used to catch sharks. Before they used to have this pole, oh, so long, they used to usn this big lines and the shark would pull it. They let it hang until the thing dies.
- C: What part of Kalapana was this?
- L: Oh--um, I don't know if you remember this Roberts, Kaipo Roberts. Ah, when they had this ah volcanos they had to take their orchid vanda plants out. Further down close to the beach, well some place over there it's on the hill over there.
- C: Is it like a shark hunt?

- L: Yeah, it was a community event, yeah, because they get so angry the sharks come eat all the opelu, like that. And so they used to catch it and hang it couple days until the thing dies and then they just drop 'em in the ocean.
- C: What about turtles?
- L: Yeah they do. They have lot'sa turtles but no, no so far nobody caught the turtles.
- C: While you were at Kapaahu what kinds of food did you eat?
- L: Well, ah-h, we have breadfruit poi and of course we had to go catch fish and like that. And we have plant taro poi and of course we have rice. (4)
- C: How do you make breadfruit poi?
- L: Ah, well you have to liik when the thing gets so big and then you have to steam it. You steam the breadfruit and you peel the skin. And the center part either you pound it or...usually at that time we pound.
- C: So when you were younger you had to...
- L: Yeah pound poi with the stone. They had stone pounder and they had the board yeah. That we used to do once a week. You know enough for my Gramma and I for a week.
- C: So how did you steam it?
- L: Outside with ah, you had to cut wood to steam it outside. Everything is cook outside.
- C: In an imu?
- L: Ah no, like how you--you know when you go to the beach and you make a you know a bon fire like that yeah. And then you have a big pot.
- C: And the poi taro, you did the same thing?
- L: Same thing in fact during the war time you was...like in the middle forties my parents, we used to go down, we used to raise taro. We used to pull taro, about eight bags a week. We used to steam and peel, and my father used to grind it. My father used to get up about 2:00 o'clock in the morning and have the things start because we have it all in the fifty gallon drums already. The taro my father put it in and he lights the fire. We had machinery, yeah machinery. (5)
- C: What about medicines?
- L: Ah medicines, we use mostly for colds. My Gramma used to give me uhaloa to take I had to chew it. She used to give me when I ah, had colds. There things other ones my Gramma used to give me, you have to get so many different things.
- C: She got it from...
- L: Yeah we used to go and maybe look for ah, what they call it...ihi, yeah before certain ones, because they have the green and they have the purple. So we used to go and pick certain ones you know you have to use so much like the hand, and enough for five days. And she used to pick ohia leaves and the liko lehua and

mountain apple bark, oh- oh make something enough for---ihi and mountain apple bark we take 'em out and we make 5 different stuff in one bundle and you have to make another bundle and you pick it for 5 times.

C: What about noni?

L: Yeah, well at that time I don't remember we use at home. That's only for um, like when you cough, just like you have ah, like me when I was smoking, I used to take noni for ah, my chest is all congested and I used to like noni so when I cough the mucous come out fast. Oh yeah and the leaf too, you can use almost like Salompas.

C: What about the opelu, did you go fishing too?

at Kalapana?

L: Oh we used to go when the boat comes in most time. You know the kids, we used to go, you know as long as you touch the boat they give you opelu, they just go- and give you like that. They call it hapai aku. You just touch the boat, everybody get, if you have big family, oh boy, when you come home so much opelu.

C: Did you dry it?

L: Yes dried, tha's the only way, so if you want raw you have to make it enough just for that day because you don't have icebox. So the old time Hawaiians used to put so much salt and sh-h-hish...So they dry it or else they um fry it the most is raw fish though.

C: So you said most of the cooking was done outside?

L: Yeah outside and then you bring it in the house.

C: When you moved to Kalapana was... (C)

L: Same thing, ah-h it was outside. Then in Pahoa my mother folks had a wooden stove. Then at that time about like your ah-h what'cha call almost like your gas stove, you got burners you know and they you have the sizes and all of that and with the chimney going up above your house you cut your iron roof to have a chimney and all that. So they used to order the ohia wood. They use to bring it to the house. They use to cut it just so big and then we have to cut it in half. So every day you have to bring in wood enough to cook. And then wood stoves ah at that time is expensive compared to now, now is worst. You can get a big one for less than \$100.00, and you have you know, like gas stove different size burners. And you know you have this thing you know with the plate-like you know. If you wanna use that you open that plate and you put your pot over it to cook, you know. After that thing is half cooked you get the plate and you cover the hole and can just keep'em warm. And then the thing have oven, too. Really at those times, you know the living to me cheap, but the wages was cheap.

C: What was the wage rate?

L: Well maybe roughly...yeah, maybe 50¢ a day I think. With all the hard work, little bit pay.

C: Did you work?

L: Ah-h, I didn't start work until I had Gail.

C: So you didn't work while in Kapaahu or Kalapana?

L: Yeah.

C: Did your Gramma work?

L: Ah no, they used just work around the place. Ah we used to have lemon trees you know the small lime, yeah. And uh, we used to sell it to the Chinese. The Chinese make it their dry lemon yeah. Because around the place had a lot of lemon trees. You call it lemon or lime? Lime I think, yeah, the small one. Yeah, now people looking for that, the lime, because you cannot get it.

C: What about flowers?

L: Flowers...Well, we used to have all the flowers we have now. You know ah... what you call them now... Chrysanthemums or whatever you call that name. They used to have carnations and all that, they use to have okoleoeoe. You know, you just to plant around the place.