

INTERVIEW WITH REBECCA PAU (QUIHANA)

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Prof Langly^as

Anth 445

On Friday evening Feb 9, 1990 I had the honor of interviewing Auntie Becky Pau, also known as Rebecca Pau Quihano. I drove up to their comfortable home in Paradise Park and 31st and was greeted by their friendly dog, Goofy. Auntie and Louie welcomed me, and I followed Auntie into her private room off the house located in off their garage and kitchen. All rooms of the house had Lauhala, and this one was no exception. We sat on the floor and auntie asked me if she could strip, and cut her Lauhala while we spoke. "Of course" I replied, since this is one of our favorite things we speak of. Her eyes sparkled as her hands busied themselves. Even her voice has so much joy and laughter in it, I can see why she has been nicknamed "The Songbird of Puna". Accompanying her words was their bird alfalfa in the background, chirping away.

I had previously given her our list of Topics for interviewing and we talked about the information to be covered with a new informan well where should we start I asked, and she replied "you ask questions, we both laughed. Me ask questions I thought you could just share, and we both just giggle. Ok I'll ask questions.

GENEALOGY

~~58~~ I asked her about her family genealogy. Her dad, Tomas Quihano born in 1895 in the Philipeans moved to the islands in 1918 when he was 23. He was part of the first wave of immigrants to come to the islands to work in the sugar industry. He came alone he did not come with any other family or friends, from what Rebecca

SIDE #1

could remember he was a very quiet man who did not speak very much
 He lost track of his relatives until in the 1970's when he once
 again found their whereabouts and began a correspondance with them
 Rebecca does not know how many brothers and sisters he had, at
 the time of correspondance in the 70's he was the only surviving
 elder, but their ^{had been} ~~were~~ lots of aunties, uncles and nieces and nephews
 He died October 23, 1988 *Honolulu, Queens Hospital, in Hilo Nxt. to Mom*
in Moelani Cemetery.

In 1925, seven years after being in the islands Annie Nu'uauu and
 Tomas Quihana married *have come to Kaparahu's
 met wife?*

Annie Nu'uauu was born in Ka'u in 1903 she was a full Hawaiian
^{She} ~~Her~~ ^{momma} died ^{April 15,} ^{at home} in Kaparahu, in 1977, this was ^{two} ~~the same years as~~ ^{after}
 fiftieth wedding anniversary. ~~and two years after the~~ *The Big earthquake*
of '75, 2 yrs. after

Annie's family owned property in Ka'u till 1931, when they
 moved to Kapa'ahu Rebecca was two at the time of this move Annie's mom
 birthed 17 children, only 8 or 9 survived The rest of
 them were stillbirths At this time period children died from still-
 births more than miscarriages *Why in Ka'u? Why moved to Kaparahu?
 How - GPa related to Kaparahu folks?*

Annie and Tomas had 11 children, 2 of which died Rebecca
 then spoke of the naming of some of the children Four of the child-
 where named through dreams two of which died, Rebecca expressed
 a great deal of superstition and ritual around naming children
 through dreams, in this families case it names were dreamed by the
 grandmother and mother The two children that lived were Joseph

(Pele) and Starlight (Hokumalama) ^{lamma} For the children whose names were dreamed, they were given a vision and purpose they were born into to live up to. These children's clothing needed to be washed separately. Mothers were reluctant to give names that were dreamed since there were also so many Kapus surrounding these names, since there was a great deal of superstition, Rebecca shared. If the kapu's were abused, the child often became sick and died. Only through prayer and herbs can these children's health sometimes be regained. Each dreamed name was considered sacred and special. For both of the children of Tomas and Annie's that died the belief was that a kapu had been broken. The one child ^(Yoland) Kāuilamakaehaokalani, death was considered mysterious. Her name ^{meant} lightening of the four corners of heaven. The other child was named ~~Yoland~~ ^{Keahi} Keahiēnaēnao— Pele, which meant fiery glow of Pele.

ask for more details

edit
insert

ask about each of 4 names

DE

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HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION DURING CHILDHOOD

My grandmother and grandfather lived with us in our Kau plantation home, and then we all moved to Kapa'ahu. Grandmother died when I was in 3rd or 4th grade, grandfather when I was in 1st or 2nd grade. We also had land in what is now Royal Gardens. It was my grandparents that would ride up the mountain ^(Popouka - in the mt. range) by donkey to live and plant taro ^{one to two weeks} for nine months out of the year. ~~Then when they came down the mountain grandfather would fish and dry the fish to take it back up the mountain.~~

~~but~~
line up kapu boundaries as just stay to plant taro if lined up, requires exchange of taro for fish

FAMILY SUBSISTENCE AND CASH WORK DURING CHILDHOOD

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Besides the taro there were the general crops like sweet potatoe breadfruit, bannana In addition to these foods the men hunted goat, wild pig, wild cows The hunting was in the area that is now considered National Park All the fish was dried with salt My ohana was feed first with the farm foods, the food from the sea and the food from hunting, then ~~what was left over~~ was taken to market in Hilo

to be sold My *Dad would go to market* *and we would get the leftovers*
With the money, mostly canned goods were bought Things like spum, sardine
rice, sugar, flour, *corned beef,*
pork & beans

Food was very simple, we used dried shrimp, and made soups mostly with sweet potato, *green papaya* cabbage, flour and taro For breakfasts we made alot of pancakes, oh they was sooo good *in soups*

Most of our clothes was plain kine made from rice and flour sacks Mom sewed all the clothes, all the school clothes were made from material from the store These clothes were very special She has no memory of jeans as a kid

RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOR FAMILIES

Neighbors down Kalapana were family, whatever you have you trade and share ~~Latter on trade and share~~ Latter on helped one another in building homes

DESIGN OF HOUSE:

The house in Kalapana was built from the wood from our plantation home in Kau The kitchen was a seperate building in from the house Our first woodstove was the iron kind, and then ~~the old one by donkerose the stove of the old, had had quite a few times you break~~

*During the -
- when?*

we got the keroscene kind The house had four big bedrooms and a big livingroom We had no furniture and slept on the floor on lauhala mats, latter on the kids had beds, but our parents still slept on the floor Back when I was a kid there were no diapers, so the kids were allowed to mess on the floor and then the dogs came in and eat the mess You know back in those days there was no such thing as dogfood and the re were little table scraps, so this was part of the dogs diet back then

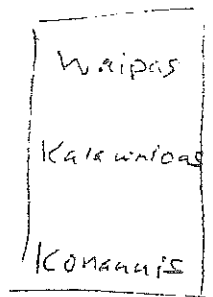
intentional

The roof started to leak real bad when I was a kid , and dad kept patching it , but still it leaked eventually he had to break the house down I remember sharing the bed with my sister and having a galvanized tub in between us to catch the water, we always used to giggle about this

We started to get the Montgomery Ward catalogue and everything looked so foreign and funny, we just took it into the out-house and used it for you kno what

There was a BIG change in life after the war in 1942, life was so simple and loving before that time The kids studied nature, not like the stuff on TV now, where everything is so fast but we were outside for hours and days just playing and watching stuff The kids played card games and played with things we made from the cocnut tree, things like the coconut ball game Yes life was so much simpler back in those days

2 houseplans, big second house - help from?



Martha ^{Haakia} Hauhai Puvaha - Samuel Paul Nuuanu ? about brothers & sisters

twice nursing : 1: 1903 or 1904

Hok
Akunahana
Stu Light
1934

Thompson
~~Tomson~~
(1932)

Rebecca
(1930)

Volanda

ANNIE
(1926)

1099^{pm}
Pala

Haakia

Martha Hauhai Puvaha
↳ sisters / Brothers total

~~Martha~~
haleaka

(genealogy - cousin)

Maire Roberts → 70's

Keipo) Martha Hauhai

Side of the family

→ Lauhala → she sells hats as well

Thomas Sullivan (DB; 9/18/1895

Franklin
(1936-

Leimni
(1938-

(Pete)
Joseph
(1940-

(Hill)
Raymond
(1942-

Floyd
1944-