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Interview Release Form

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Ethnography Project

I, Samuel P. Pua, hereby grant the right to use of information from tape-recordings and/or notes taken at interviews dated 3/3/1999 to Mr Charles Langlas and to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (of the National Park Service). I understand that the interview records will be kept by Mr. Langlas and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and that the information contained in the interview records may be used in reports to be made available to the general public.

Signed & Dated

Samuel P. Pua
(Interviewee)

Charles Langlas
(Interviewer or Witness)
1/6/2000

The following optional conditions may limit the release of information if signed by the interviewee. omit portion pp. 19-20

Only an edited version of the tape and tape-transcript (or the copy of notes taken) is released by me, with sensitive sections deleted at my request. The un-edited tape and tape-transcript (or notes) shall not be used or kept by Mr. Langlas or by Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. (Signed) Samuel P. Pua

The interview records may be used only by Mr. Langlas and by National Park Service personnel. The records shall not be made available to the general public. (Signed) _____

Interview with Sam Pua in Ka'u March 3, 1999 Tape 1 side a
(with his wife Mrs. Susan Pua, shown as M.P)

CL: First thing I'd like to ask you is a little bit about
yourself--what year you were born?

SP: May 16, 1933.

CL: Thirty-three? So you're 66.

SP: Going to be.

CL: And where were you born?

SP: Ka'u, in Na'aleu area.

CL: And were you raised there?

SP: Umhm.

CL: You wanta tell me your full name?

SP: Samuel Puna Pua.

CL: What is the Puna for?

SP: Well that was my grandfather's name before. So, I'm his
namesake.

CL: Did you live all your live out in Ka'u here?

SP: Umhum, yep.

CL: Did you work here in Ka'u?

SP: Right.

CL: What kind of work did you do?

SP: Ka'u sugar.

CL: How long did you work there?

SP: I'd say about 30 years, 31 years.

CL: Until recently.

SP: Until closing time.

CL: Till it closed. Who taught you to fish?

SP: I started when I was a young little boy. My dad. At the age

would be I'd say about eight, nine years old--until today.

CL: How much of the Ka'u area have you fished?

SP: All my life.

CL: How much of Ka'u do you know? How much of the coast.

SP: Well, most likely it's from below Pahala, they call That place Kamehame all the way down to South Point.

CL: Have you ever gone on Puna side of Kamehame?

SP: No.

CL: I don't know how familiar you are with this map. Punalu'u is a little bit off on this side here. I kinda drew it in. Kamehame is here and then it goes on up toward the Park. Do you still go up to fish toward Kamehame?

SP: Uhhuh, once in awhile.

CL: How do you go?

SP: On foot.

CL: How long does it take to walk along?

SP: Well, you see the places that I know, it's an old Hawaiian trail and nobody knows it, not even people like today. Unless the people like you, you know, that knows the area then they can find it. That's why a lot of people wanted me to show them the trail but I wouldn't.

CL: If you walk along, do you think that you can see it?

SP: No. It's pretty hard cause a lot of Hawaiian trails today, they got a lot a this, they call it 'alā stonea. Well they still have it down there but since the people doesn't use it all the time, until today, mostly it's all covered up.

CL: So maybe here and there you can see but not everywhere.

SP: Um-hm. That's right. But it actually it takes me at least from at least from the highway down to the ocean.

CL: If you're going from where?

SP: From here. Straight to Kamehame.

CL: Oh, you go straight down. Not from Punalu'u.

SP: No, no. From Punalu'u it takes longer. Maybe three, four hours at the most. The terrain you know.

CL: I did hear about a trail down from Pahala down to Kamehame. I think Pele Hanoa said that people used to take it. So that's the one you're talking about.

SP: Right.

CL: And it goes directly down to Kamehame?

SP: Straight to Kamehame, yeah.

CL: And you say it takes you about two hours.

SP: Two hours from the highway, on foot, takes two hours.

CL: There's also a... I know there's a four wheel drive road, or used to be. That doesn't go down right to Kamehame does it?

SP: Well they still have it until today. It's still there.

CL: Oh. Is that the same, that's a different.

SP: No. That's different. That was made by the, they had a construction go down before down there. Cause there's a quarry. You have to past the quarry see and go all the way down, below the road. But I don't take that road. It's longer, you know, from on top.

CL: They show one on the map here. Goes like this from the lower road. And then it goes down like this and then kind of straight. But they show it going to this place Pu'u Pili. Is that right?

SP: Yeah.

CL: And then if you want to go to Kamehame you have to come back.

SP: Yep. Maybe another hour or so.

CL: So can you drive over to Kamehame or you have to walk from here [Pu'u Pili]?

SP: No, you can drive.

CL: You can drive all the way.

SP: Yeah. Right now, today, they made a bulldozer road, cause they raising cattle right down here. So there's a bulldozer road straight down to here. Pu'u Pili, then go right across to Kamehame. And from here, from Kamehame then came all the way

down to Punalu'u, you have to go on foot.

CL: Is that Ka'u agribusiness, are they doing the ranching?

SP: Yeah. But if you going out from Punalu'u down out to where Kamehame is, it takes a long ways though. But if you find that old Hawaiian trail, much shorter. I'd say maybe hour and a half.

CL: The one from...

SP: from Punalu'u.

CL: From Punalu'u. Oh yeah. I started at one time, but I didn't go too far, only a little ways. But one time I came down and I took the trail from down here over to Kamehame. I could see it continued on but I didn't go farther.

SP: You see a lot of people that goes down there for shoreline fishing, they always follow the shoreline, but takes em a long time. Cause he's going up and down, in and out. But when you take the old Hawaiian trail, well you gotta go straight you know. It's going in those kinda _____. But other place down the shoreline, there's no trail. So you have to make your own trail.

CL: Yeah it's the same way over Puna side in the Park. They got an old trail that's a little more mauka so it's easier. So did you ever go over this side [Puna side of Pu'u Pili]?

SP: Well only as far as... almost to Pueo. Maybe about two or three miles back. In fact almost to Palima point, almost till there. That's as far as I went. It's only looking for opihi, you know, cause that's all pali place. They call it cliffs eh. There's no net throwing down there, no flat ground, until you come all the way back to Kamehame.

CL: Oh, so all the way from Kamehame over to... it's all pali.

SP: All pali already.

CL: Is it good for opihi?

SP: Opihi ground that. That's where all Kapoho, they all come down eh, Kalapana. I seen em down there those Hawaiian boys.

CL: From Kalapana?

SP: Yeh. I mean, they just come down and camp you know, and do their thing. But they wanted to see that, if they has any areas for throwing nets, but you see this was all rugged country. Mostly for casting, uluas.

CL: People go down there for what, slide-bait?

SP: Yeah. How they go down I don't know.

CL: The guys you saw coming in for opihi, you think they came in by boat?

SP: Few. Most is all they have horseback. You know, from Kalapana they always go down with the horse.

CL: Still today?

SP: Yeah, they still today. All they do ^{they} ~~I~~ just do their thing like pounding opihi, picking opihi. They poke the opihi, put it in the jar with salt. I seen em down there.

CL: You don't know who?

SP: No. Maybe I just don't bother. Because I don't know them.

CL: You don't have relatives over that side, you don't have any relatives in Puna, Kalapana side?

SP: Friends more. But there a lot of opihi down out there but only [the hard part is] to take em out, to pack em out.

CL: If you want to take this four wheel drive road then you have to get permission yeah?

SP: Yeah. MP: From the macnut.

CL: Is there any other way to get in by jeep?

SP: No. That's the only place I can think of. The only thing, the roads down here, they don't fix it see, it's kind of rough. That's the only thing.

CL: Yeah, cause when I went was oh more than ten years ago already.

SP: It's really bad.

CL: Yeah and I heard it's worst now.

SP: It's not like when the sugar company, that was my job to repair the roads.

CL: So from Punalu'u, do you know a name Māwae?

SP: Umhum.

CL: Whereabouts is that?

SP: That's not too far from Punaluu.

CL: Do you think you could show on the map?

SP: I'd say it's right between here and here. Right between there.

CL: Right about here [marked on USGS map at Punalu'u survey station].

SP: That place you can't miss it because that's the first sand, little sand piece as you coming out from Punalu'u.

CL: The first what?

SP: You know from here to Punalu'u, you going out right? ? As you going out, this the heiau, you see. Right above here. You have to pass the heiau to get here. It's not too far. This place they call Mawae.

CL: Oh just past the heiau. What does it look like?

SP: Sandy. Well look like a bulldozer been fixing the place. You can tell it's where they park their cars and all, pāhoehoe.

CL: You can drive over there to there?

SP: Yeah, they still have but they don't have any gate now. They close it up. That is all ranches eh. You know where is Jeanette's house?

CL: Yes.

SP: Okay. As you coming down to Punalu'u, you know from the highway as you coming down, going down, right on the left don't you see a big turn before you get to her house?

CL: Right. And I know that if you take that turn you come out down by where the wharf used to be.

SP: Just above that. Above that, there's an old gate used to be there. That bulldozer will take you straight to Māwae. But right now they don't have any gate right now. They blocked it off eh. Too many outlaws. That's the reason now you have to take the road, go down to the wharf, you have to walk.

CL: Do you think it's half a mile?

SP: I'd say, roughly. Yeah. I'd say about that.

CL: What do you do along this coast? What all kind of fishing do you do?

SP: Mostly it's opihi. Cause I'm walking that's why. But if I go

with a car, just go down to the place where I'm going, Kamehame, and back home, then I take the car. But like I say, right now the road is bad so I don't take the truck. I'd rather walk down and come out Punalu'u. That's where she wait for me. I just tell her what time I be out, but it's going to take awhile. Because the sun is up, hot.

CL: So you walk down from Pahala to Kamehame and then you walk out to Punalu'u.

SP: Walk all the way out to Punlu'u.

CL: So you don't have to walk back uphill.

SP: Right. So as you going out to here, there's no shade. Soon as you get down to the shoreline, it's all open desert. It's all hot lava. So there's no place to hide 'opihi fish. You just go out a few waves, put in the water until you get out. A lot of times, sometimes she get worried. Kind of a little bit too late eh, coming out. But I make it out.

CL: So do you do anything else besides pound opihi?

SP: Well once in awhile throw net, once in a while, but it's a lot of a load, speaking of packin opihi. Pack in the cooler and get lift. So if I'm going only opihi, it's only opihi. If I'm going for throw net, it's only throw net.

CL: So it you go for throw net, do you walk down too?

SP: Umhum.

CL: Oh yeah so that's a load.

SP: But lot of times I don't take lunch, that's why she worry. But get lot of things down there to eat.

CL: What is down there to eat?

SP: Like I used to tell my grandchildren, my sons, my grandchildren, if you're not lazy, the food is there.

CL: Do you pick up hā'uke'uke to eat?

SP: Yeah. MP: Limu. SP: Limu, limu kohu. I know a lot of people, they always ask me that, with all the fishing that I do, what do I do with it, if I sell it. I tell em, no. Mine is for the table. So we got children from Hamakua side, Kona side when they comes home, when they go back, they got something. That's my belief. So I don't sell it. Like they always say, the more you give, the more you receive eh.

CL: How is this coast from Kamehame over? Is there lots of places to throw net?

SP: Well not exactly. It's not like the Ka'ū area, on this side. You know like from Punalu'u down eh. Down there [Puna side of Punalu'u] is more pali places, little flat. More is _____, for opihi, most. But right now kind of slowing down on opihi because a lot of outsiders are down here now. But we don't bother them because we figure they, you know. We not thinking they for selling but we figure they for eat. But we see them in the stores. Where they come from? They selling em. But we can't stop em either. It's not like Kalapana. Kalapana area, well you know from this side all the way down to Kalapana, well. It's different eh?

CL: Yeah, the Park controls it. They try to. Even there too they say outsiders come in plenty.

SP: Mostly by boat though.

CL: Yeah, by boat.

SP: But you can't stop em.

CL: But seems to me, hard for people to come into this area except by boat. I don't know how they would come in.

SP: Cause on this areas down here, you have to get good water for the boat to go in. Cause the swells under is real bad. Unless you swimming. Boy that's a lot of swimming.

CL: Well I know some do that over in the Park here. They let em off outside. You ever heard of 'Opihinehe?

SP: That's right next to Hilina Pali.

CL: Yeah, they drop em off there sometimes and they swim in.

SP: 'Opihinehe. They get Waiwelawela. They all come down through here, coming through there. They got a spot, but you still have to swim in.

CL: So did you hear about any places where people swim in over I guess from Palima on?

SP: No. Like for these areas I don't know. I haven't heard.

CL: I haven't heard either. Only I heard that there was some ulua fishing, somewhere like here.

SP: But like I told lot of people, well I'd sure like to get down there. I'd like to see the area, that's the reason why. See

whether it's good or bad you know. But only trouble is you can't cross the border you know. Unless you have one of the guys who have come from Kalapana, maybe not too bad, you know.

CL: Well actually, this part here, they don't have any special rights in this part. Only once you get to Keauhou. That's the first place their right begins.

SP: That's where they launch a boat eh?

CL: Yeah, that's a good place to, you can go into that bay there. So where down here, around Kamehame over toward Punalu'u, is there any place names in between after Māwae that you know?

SP: That most likely I just know Punalu'u, Māwae, the main spots, you know like Kamehame, they go right down the line, eh? So in between there's a lotta names but I don't know the names. That's too much.

CL: You ever heard them or what?

SP: No. But I sure like to learn, you know, learn the names.

CL: I don't know if anybody knows anymore.

SP: Unless maybe they have a map where it's written out.

CL: There's nothing on em. This is what you got. That's why I asked because there's nothing between. They don't even have Māwae down on here.

SP: That's what I was looking at, I don't see it, yeah.

CL: No, first time I heard it was from Pele Hanoa. That's why I asked you about it.

SP: So all the guys that I know, I mean older than I, I used to ask them, how many water holes do they have from Punalu'u all the way out to Kamehame. So all they told me only one. But no there's not only one. There's twenty-three water holes from Kamehame to Punalu'u.

CL: Twenty-three. Oh you found em?

SP: I found em.

CL: So the one that they knew, which one did they know?

SP: It's not too far from Māwae. That's the only one they knew. It's just like a crack like, uh? But in between that is twenty-three before you catch Pahala. That's why lotta guys start telling, brother you get water? I tell I no more water. But I can

take you to one water place. But they don't want to drink it cause it's brackish. So even guy Palikapu, I don't know if you know if you know him.

CL: Yeah, I know him.

SP: He used to ask me the same thing. I tell him, sorry you talking to the wrong man. Then he tell, no Uncle, it's only one. But he told me he like to follow me one day, but he never did. Because I don't see him around. But he do a lot of walking either. Cause he's a shoreline fisherman, no? like I do. So he was asking me how long I been on the shoreline ever since I was a kid. Just like I brought up on the beach. My home is down the beach. So like the place Pa'ula, That is right below Na'alehu, that was my playground.

CL: Pa'ula?

SP: Pa'ula. It's right below Na'alehu. So lot of guys they heard of that name, Pua Shack, they came and see me. Hawaiian, you own that place on top. No. My dad built a house there before, so that's what they name the shack, Pua Shack.

CL: So when you moved to Pahala?

SP: I forget already. I used to do all odds and ends. In other words jack of all trade eh. All kind of jobs before I got here.

CL: So you were older. You were already married. And that's when you started learning this shore.

SP: Yeah, that's right.

CL: Did you learn just by going or did somebody show you?

SP: No, just by going. For along the ocean. But you see from Na'alehu we used to lotta time down at Honuapo, Punalu'u only for swimming. But as far as going all along the shoreline, that time I wouldn't know about it.

CL: Yeah Na'alehu folks they stay over that side. (SP: Right, right.) Okay, so 23 water holes. Where would you pick limu?

SP: Limu, well, theress only two places that I know but there's a lot of places more. But people want to know about it but I don't show them.

CL: So there's many places along. (SP: Un-huh) Okay.

SP: All the places that they know, that's the places I know cause that's all easy places. But a lotta rugged kind of places you have to get it when there's good water.

CL: Mostly limu kohu?

SP: Yeah.

CL: Any other kind of limu you collect?

SP: Well they have but we prefer more on the limu kohu. You know for with the poke.

CL: Yeah. Cause sometimes I hear people talk about

MP: Oh, līpe'epe'e. They have.

SP: They have.

MP: That līpe'epe'e usually hides, yeah? Underneath the other limu. You gotta look.

CL: I have heard some people say that they got limu kohu at Kamehame.

SP: They have.

CL: I think that was Kapapala folks said they used to go down there for limu kohu. And then when you go throw net, what do you go for, what kind of fish?

SP: For this area below here, to me it's God's country. Usually I go for moi. Usually I go for āholehole. But when you come down to manini, 'api, whatever, to me it's 'ōpala fish, rubbish we call that. You can catch em anytime. But it's there.

CL: So the moi holes are different from the āholehole holes?

SP: Well, they almost the same. They always on the rough side eh. But where you can get it together, you get a full house. in other words āholehole, moi on the bottom. There's a lot of big mois down here. A lot of guys they want me to go, they want them to come along with me. No. It's a no-no.

CL: Yeah, I heard that before too.

SP: A lot of guys tell, why? Sooner or later I'm not going to be around, you know, when years coming. Say well, that's why, that's the reason I got my own sons, I get my grandchildren to teach em.

CL: And did you teach your sons?

SP: No. Well maybe my oldest son yeah. He knows practically everything what I know. But he's married on his own you know. Hopefully like I told my wife, hopefully someday, hope soon, maybe I can take my grandchildren over there, my grandsons over

there. Show what is life, how to survive down there.

CL: Are any of your grandsons living here?

SP: Yeah. But they still young yet.

MP: But he nows fishing, crabbing.

SP: Like I always tell, it's never too late. Your grampa is still living yet.

CL: So do you ever go poleing down here?

SP: Poleing, no. That's out of my line, that.

CL: Okay. You know how?

SP: Oh yeah.

CL: But not interested.

SP: No.

CL: Or do you get some other place.

SP: That is only from Honuapo, down that area, oh yeah, I do a lot of fishing down there too. But most it's all flat ground. It's not like down here.

CL: The places you throw net in here, is it hard? Is it like kind of steep down sometimes?

SP: Yeah.

CL: So maybe not everybody would want to throw net in those places.

SP: Right, that's right. Like down here I say that it's God's country, guess you got to know what you doing, eh? When time to go, when not to go. So when it's really rough, that's the time I want to go. But she don't want. It's dangerous right, but to me is not. I'm so used to it.

SP: He tells me when it's rough the fish comes more in. And when it's not rough than farther out. Common sense yeah. Still.

CL: Can you swim well?

SP: Yeah.

Side B

CL: Did you ever see anybody... we started doing a video actually. These folks who do what they call pipi ulua with a ohia post. They stick out over the water and then they hang the bait down just into the wave tops. They hang up the puhi down. Did you ever hear of or see anybody do that?

SP: Not right now. Before they used to do. They used to call that donkey line. With the pole with the rope down and with the bait, that's what they used to call it before, the donkey line. Right now there's few people that use the sailboat, you know make their own. Some with a small little raft with a long line with the hooks on it and just let it go. That's what the people doing today.

CL: They don't call that slide bait? That's different.

SP: No, that's different.

CL: How do they do the sailboat?

SP: Hoh! Kind of hard to describe. It's like a floater.

MP: And then they have just like a sail yeah. And then the wind takes it out. And the line is on that sail-boat.

CL: Oh, so they got a line to the sail-boat.

SP: Yeah, to the shore line. That's it.

CL: I didn't hear about that kind.

SP: People that what they doing now. It's not like before, where you know if you got a pole to get ulua.

CL: When do you think you last saw that one, that donkey line?

SP: It's quite some time. It's been long back. Cause all the old timers, that's the only ones that use that before. But now the old timers all gone.

CL: Like your dad's generation?

SP: Yeah. Like today's generation, they use all sailboat. They call it sailboat.

CL: Yeah, I didn't hear about that kind over Kalapana side. But there's a few still do this donkey line. Maybe like four or five. Most of them older, but couple younger ones. But they think only Kalapana folks did that. That's why I was curious. I thought probably over this side they did it too but the younger, the

people I talked to, so far they don't know. You're the first one that told me about seeing it.

SP: My dad used to do that before. That's how I knew it. He called it donkey line.

CL: And did he do also this kind, they call it cowboy style where they throw it out?

SP: Yeah, they had that one too. I tried.

SP: There's a scoop net you know and they watch the fish if it's there, then they just hook it up.

CL: For ulua?

SP: Not ulua, it's the kind reef fish. We used to do that before. Not anymore. I see all that too.

CL: Did you used to see people go for ohua?

SP: Way before yeah.

SP: Way back. Now it's kapu eh.

CL: Yeah I guess.

MP: All of us, we used to do that before. You know, they didn't have laws then. But now they have laws on it. Yeah, we need our manini.

CL: Do you miss those, those ohua?

SP: Oh, yeah.

MP: I didn't care for it much. When you try it it pokes you.

CL: Yeah I heard that too. If you're not careful how you eat it it pokes you.

Oh what about 'a'ama. Do you go for a'ama down in this area?

SP: Uh-huh.

CL: You have to go at night for 'a'ama, yeah?

SP: Yep.

CL: But you go in the same area?

SP: Same area.

CL: So you go only for 'a'ama when you go?

MP: Until Kamehame, from Punalu'u out to Kamehame, that's the only place you make crabbing.

SP: Yeah, that's what he asking.

CL: So, you go only for 'a'ama when you go?

SP: Yep. Only for that.

CL: So mostly you're getting fish for yourself and your family. Do you ever go pick up opihi for parties?

SP: Parties too. We always share.

CL: What about diving? Do you ever go diving?

SP: No.

CL: Do you ever see anybody diving in this area?

SP: Like I said, mostly all outside people. Mostly. But they always scuba divers. They goes with tanks and whatnot.

CL: You can't tell what they're going for.

SP: No.

CL: So they come in by boat?

SP: Boat.

CL: The other thing I was going to ask you is whether you know, is there any other Hawaiian fisherman from Pahala or Punalu'u area, shoreline fisherman that go out this side?

SP: There's a lot of em today.

CL: Do you think anybody goes farther over this side [toward the park]?

SP: They do but I don't know how far they go. Cause I pass them coming out eh. You know what I mean, I got my load, I'm going out. I meet them coming in. So they just ask me what area I went so beyond that I don't know how far.

CL: Maybe I can get you to give me some of their names and then I'll try and talk to them too.

SP: They're younger.

CL: Yeah but that's alright because especially I'm interested to see if anybody is going over into this area. Cause if the Park

buys this, they're able to buy it...

SP: Close it off.

CL: Well not close off but they want to manage it. I don't think close off. They'll allow people to go in but they just want to keep track of what's going on.

SP: But they don't give the okay right now there eh?

CL: Yeah you can, you can fish in the park. Only trouble it's hard to get in. Cause even

SP: And to whom you have to get pass from?

CL: I guess to be there, to be in the back country overnight, I guess you need like a camping permit. But if you were to go in by boat or if, I'm not sure during the day. I probably shouldn't say. You wouldn't really go in, you'd have to camp overnight wouldn't you?

SP: Yeah.

CL: I don't think you could. You couldn't go in and come back the same day unless you went by boat. So yeah you have to get a back country permit. But that's all. And then you camp there. But the only thing is it's, used to be you could go in through Roger James. But I think that's closed off.

SP: Roger James go right down to Waiwelawela see.

CL: Right. You ever went down there?

SP: Uhhuh. That's when used to be open before.

CL: How did you go down?

SP: Through Roger James place.

CL: But did you take horse or did you walk?

SP: Horse. We used to go with couple ranchers that we knew that working for the place eh, for Kapapala Ranch. So the only time, that's how I knew about that place. Beyond Kamehame, going down to 'Opihinehe, going with couple cowboys eh. That's how I seen that area. So I told them guys, some day I be back again, but what, on foot? I still get there.

CL: That's a long ways out there.

SP: But it's shorter from Roger James than from Punalu'u.

CL: So you went one time to Waiwelawela or plenty times?

SP: No. Couple times. That's when, I don't know if Roger James still own or take care the place, has the place yet.

CL: He still has it but I think Ken Fujiyama's sub-leasing it from him. I heard that.

SP: We used to pick the opihis down there, was for the football boys, in fact fund raiser. I used to help them out. That's how I seen that place. I told her, oh that place, that's where the goldmine is. Everything is right there. The only thing to pack it out.

CL: Did you do anything else or just pound opihi?

SP: Mostly pound opihis yeah.

CL: Do you remember when you went down there?

SP: When the Pop Warner started?

MP: I think it was in the year 1970 or '71 around there. I'm not sure. That's when Sammy them started.

SP: That's a long time ago.

CL: And about the same year you went down to Opihinehe?

SP: Yeah.

CL: Was it the same trip or different?

SP: well, tn between.

MP: Went for party too, him and he went with Anthony Olivera.

CL: Oh, you went with him?

SP: Oh you know him.

CL: I talked to him about going down there.

SP: I used to go with his brother. Keli'i. But he passed away. He used to be my boss before.

CL: Which one, Keli'i?

SP: Keli'i. We used to go together, the three brothers. Norman, he passed away and Anthony. Three of em. That's how I seen that place. I told that boy, this darn place, boy, you look all over you see me step in the opihis. Cause nobody go eh. Only ranchmen

eh, or people that come from Kalapana. But still yet, from Kalapana to Opihinehe, boy, you gotta pass Hilina Pali.

CL: Only by boat they come now I think yeah. Except those who work in the Park. Maybe they go down there but.

SP: But they don't use that donkey trail. They go...

CL: What donkey trail?

SP: From Hilina Pali top go down.

CL: Only if they're working in the Park. Like working for rangers, like rangers or something. They used to but I think it was only the Park workers, you know from Kalapana Park workers. Yeah some others ~~did~~ sometimes. Sometimes they did. They hiked in or they took horse from Hilina Pali, yeah. Do you feel like from the time that you started pounding opihi down here, what year would that have been you think?

SP: When we moved to Pahala?

MP: 1965. '65 or '63, around in there.

CL: So from that time, what's happened to the amount of opihi? Is it the same or is it less?

SP: Less. It's getting less now. It's not like before. But to me the people from outside they coming in now. We get kind of mad because they picking for sell. And we picking for eat. Then when we go down there there's nothing. Maybe they half this size. That's how you look at it, all you see is the scars on the rocks you know. There's no opihi. But they lucky if you can get at least about quarter bag. It's really bad.

CL: So all that's left is the size of your little finger now?

SP: Yeah. Unless if we have a big storm. The ocean's really rough. Then more chance the opihi from the bottom, they would come up eh. But if you there the first man, you lucky. Before the other people start coming.

CL: So somebody was saying there's some folks from Pahala that are going down, I think over down this side [north of Kamehame] to pound opihi.

SP: Oh, I wouldn't know.

CL: You didn't hear anything?

SP: No.

CL: Filipino boys they said.

SP: But that I would believe. They do anything for get there. So how they go in I don't know.

SP: They even have small-eye net too.

SP: The illegal ones eh. We have em out here too. I look at that, oh, they sure wipe out everything.

CL: So do you know who goes... We don't have to record this.
[turned off recorder for a bit]

SP: [of the shoreline fishermen going in] down at Punalu'u, we already know it's all outsiders.

CL: I misunderstood you.

MP: He's the only one that walks out there. You won't find [anyone else].

[portion omitted by informant's request]

CL: Well I'm gonna talk to Howard too and maybe they'll have some more ideas.

SP: Yeah he know more or less how many guys, who and who goes out. Like he always tells me, you know Hawaiian, you no sleep at night or what. No, no.

CL: Cause that when you like to fish, at night?

SP: No, no. I just go out. Early in the morning see. And they still sleeping. Then I'm coming back, they just getting up.

CL: So how about the fish for throw net. Is that getting less? or is that the same?

SP: Getting less, yeah. It's not like before, you know, you just go along side the beach, you can see the fish. It's not like before. Sometimes can go all day, lucky fill up the cooler.

CL: Even out here by Kamehame?

SP: Same thing. You have to be there first before somebody else. But as a camping trip, lucky chance you get. Cause you there eh.

CL: Do you ever camp down here?

SP: Yeah, lot of times.

CL: Just you go alone or...

SP: Umhum. Like people say cause I'm always alone. Stay down the beach alone, fishing alone and walking alone. But I love it. I still want to learn some more yet. They always tells me, what else you want to learn. There's nothing to teach you.

CL: So when you went in here by horse, you were taking the ranch horses?

SP: Yeah. All ranch horses.

CL: You didn't have your own horses.

SP: No.

CL: Do you think there's anybody who goes in on horse these days?

SP: No, I don't think so. Well maybe they do but I don't know.

CL: I know Anthony said he's got a horse but he doesn't, he can't go down from Roger James so he hasn't gone down recently. You never see anybody going in this side with horse do you?

SP: No, no.

CL: I sort of wonder, maybe it's a good idea to have some kind of informational meeting for the Ka'u fishermen about what the Park policy is.

SP: Oh yeah, yeah. Should do that.

CL: Cause I know the Kalapana folks they know because they've always been engaged with the Park. But it seems like you folks over here, you don't know.

SP: Only very few.

CL: I mean there might be other folks who would want to go in if they knew that they could go. The other thing I thought was that I'm sure that you're suppose to have access to Roger James. I'm sure that it's illegal to close it off.

SP: If they have Hawaiian trails they cannot close it off.

CL: That's right.

SP: They still can go, even by foot or by horse. There is one that we know.

CL: And there is a trail. It's on the early maps and people from Kapapala took it. So it should be open. Oh you were saying that Palikapu fishes. Does he fish in this area?

SP: Not too often. I do more. It's only when he go out for opihi, that's the only time. Like for parties like that eh.

CL: Well, I don't think about anything else. What else would you like to tell me about?

SP: I sure like to learn more of these places here.

CL: Yeah you ought to.

SP: Sure like to learn all those places.

SP: You cannot walk that far anymore. I don't want you to go alone.

CL: Maybe you ought to get together with Kalei. We were talking about going down by horse cause I want to see Papalehau and Waiwelawela. And so I was talking to him about going down, getting some of the Park horses and going down with him. Anthony Oliveira.

SP: Because from Kamehame to Papalehau is not too far.

CL: You don't think so. (SP: No) If you take horse. We can go down through Roger James but it'd be more interesting to go that way by Kamehame. I think he used to do that cause he said there was a trail all the way along.

SP: Horse trail yeah. There's a horse trail. So long as get to Kamehame, then now you going towards Hilo side right? Okay, as soon you hit the first point, you can see Papalehau already. You can see the stone, it's like one stone hat. Just like one hat. It's in the ocean.

CL: Oh a little island.

SP: Papalehau. You can see it. It's not too far. And from Papalehau to Waiwelawela is right next. Opihinehe is right next after that. Then Hilina Pali see. Cause you have to pass a big bend before get in the bay. Not too far. So when I see the opihi down there, boy, hey, brother this is God's country this. (can't understand) Big ones see, cause nobody go. But now since they found out, somehow, they raid everything. But way down there is kinda little bit too far already for walk.

CL: Yeah, you have to go in by boat.

SP: Unless if you... only trouble is it's just like trespassing. You have to come out Roger James place. Going up the hill eh. Although it's shorter but that's the chance gamble you gotta take. If you don't get caught. But there's a lot of trail that comes up where this Ka'u National Park boundary is, on the Ka'u

side, there's a trail coming out through there see.

CL: Yeah I heard that. Did you ever take that?

SP: No. Only I heard about it.

CL: I heard two things. There's this one that's marked on here that goes, let's see, it goes, Roger James is up here. This is

unrecorded notes, after tape ended:

1. He no longer collects salt, but used to collect it--on a hill at Nīnole, at Ka'alu'alu, on the Kona side of Kawā (a lot at this last place).

2. He makes throw-nets. (There were several in the living room.) Susan said he was too impatient to learn from the father, so she learned and then taught him. He knows about five hawaiian patterns for knotting the eyes (kā upena), but doesn't show people who ask how. Except for one guy Pono in Hilo that calls him up and asks over the one. He won't show just anybody.

3. Honu: He used to hunt them before it was illegal. Spoke of a court case where a boy was charged after honu got into his thrownet. They often get into the throw-net when you cast, accidentally, because moi and āholehole are usually in the white water so you can't see if there's a honu there when you throw. Only see it breaking up the net after you throw over it. That's the reason he used to take 4 or 5 nets went he went along the coast, walked from Kaulana Bay to Ka'alu'alu throwing net.

4. back to Waiwelawela: I asked about a cave there. He told about a "sitting chair" (a single rock shaped like a chair, so large that he looked like a baby in it), and a "bed" beside the chair made of 'ili'ili. They were on a hill above the cave. The others slept in the cave while he slept up above. The next morning they asked if he got chickenskin in the night, Kaluna told him place was kapu, associated with the kings.

Also knows of a cave there where they left opihi shells--not to hide them, just because they go there to poke the opihi, to get out of the wind and rain.