

Lane But

Tape Four, 11-6-1987, Side One.

- Q. When I left this morning we were talking about the lava flow that came down close to Henry's place at I'ilewa. What year was that?
- A. About 30-something years ago. Over 30. There was I'ilewa number one, and I'ilewa number two. You can see the crater from the road, you know.
- Q. That's the only lava flow that you remember that came close?
- A. No, there's one other that came near by brother's ranch. That's the same volcano that's flowing down now--it came more Puna side then, down toward my brother's ranch, but it didn't go all the way to the ocean. It came down a little ways and branched into Kalapana Gardens.
- Q. When you lived in Kalapana there weren't any eruptions that came down close to where you lived?
- A. No.

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- Q. Now I want to ask you about superstitions.
- A. What superstitions?
- Q. Did the Chinese have superstitions like the Hawaiians?
- A. Yes, they did.
- Q. What kind of superstitions?
- Q. Well, like my mother and them, they believed--my uncle especially; he takes all the tourists, the people--they didn't have cars, so he took them to the volcano, and he says they're not supposed to shishi by the volcano, it's dirty, yeah?, and ladies during menstruation weren't supposed to go there. They believed--my mother and them believed that.
- Q. The Chinese believed?
- A. Yes, I guess so. My mother believed that. When they go up there and it's cloudy, my uncle would speak in Hawaiian--he could speak Hawaiian--and he said I bet you ladies are "dirty," but my mother always said when you're like that you take orange leaf. The Hawaiians believed in that, and the Chinese, too.
- Q. So if you're menstruating you take orange leaves with you?
- A. Yes. But I don't believe that.
- Q. What about Hawaiian superstitions? Did you learn any while you were in Kalapana?
- A. Oh yes. You know, when they were fixing medication like that, they always pound the medicine, and you're not supposed to go over there. I lived with my godsister's mother--she's Hawaiian--and she was always making medicine. They always pounded them by the steps, and we kids would just jump over them.
- Q. And they got angry because you jumped over them?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you know of any Hawaiians who worshipped Hawaiian gods?
- A. No, I don't think so.
- Q. The Hawaiians were all Christians?
- A. Yes. But, they called them kahunas, yeah?, those are the Hawaiian religion? But they prayed Christian prayers. (2)
- Q. When you were little, how many people do you remember having cars in Kalapana?
- A. Oh, maybe ten families.
- Q. Do you remember who they were?
- A. Yes, Charlie Kaina, and the Kawaloas; the Konanui family, Tomas--he was Filipino--the Pe'as, the Yung Wai Store, and the two teachers --Goo Son, and the Keliihomanus, and Lee Hon; they were Chinese, but part-Hawaiian.
- Q. What kinds of cars did they have?
- A. They all had Model T's except Goo Son had a Chevrolet, I think.
- Q. You folks didn't have a gas station in Kalapana, right? I already asked you that.
- A. No, until now they don't have.
- Q. How did the depression in the 1930s affect Kalapana?
- A. You know, it didn't affect them too much, because they raised their own taro, their own food, chickens, and they went fishing. And in those days they didn't have welfare, like today. And they worked on the county road so many days a week--almost everybody.
- Q. During the depression they were still able to work?
- A. Yes, maybe a couple of days a week. So they had enough money. I know my brother worked so many days. And the ladies weaved lauhala mats, almost every one of them. I know my mother-in-law weaved mats.

Q. Where did they sell them?

A. I think people ordered them. There was a shop in Hilo that sold them, and other people would come down.

Q. How much did they sell them for?

A. I think it was about \$1.50. *a sq. ft.*

Q. That was quite a lot of money *in* those days.

A. And the lauhala was free.

Q. Where did they get the lauhala?

A. From the beach at Kalapana. And along the road. Behind my house we had. Mrs. Kaina used to pick it and charged \$5 a ~~roll~~, and she would pick for a long, long time.

Q. Did any of the men go to work for the government during this time?

A. Yes, on the roads.

Q. Besides the roads?

A. Later, they all went to the National Park. My brother went to work on the roads there, and later all the men went to work there.

Q. So all in all you don't think the depression affected Kalapana very much?

A. No, because they had their pigs and cows and eggs, and when the sea was calm they all went down to the beach. Before, you could pick up opihi and limu and get whole bags in a half-hour--before the Filipinos and the Japanese came. The pond behind the church had millions of fish, but then the Japanese started catching them and they just threw them away, they didn't even eat them.

Q. Where were you when World War II started?

A. In Hilo.

Q. Did the war cause any changes in Kalapana?

A. There were a lot of soldiers in Kalapana.

Q. They lived down there?

A. Yes. See, my brother's place, they took it over for a radar station or something like that. He had a home up in the mountains, so they took that over.

Q. This was Henry?

A. Yes.

Q. What else happened?

A. They had soldiers all over. They would guard the beaches, so they had to stay down there. I think they camped at the school and the churches.

Q. Did they have any restrictions on the people in Kalapana?

A. No, we could still go down to the beach. There were plenty of GI babies.

Q. It never made you feel uncomfortable having all the soldiers around?

A. No, we used to go down and pick lauhala and coconuts and they would be all around. There were a lot of jobs then, and you could sell everything you made.

Q. And your mother was still making mats and things like that?

A. Yes, but my mother died right after the war started--the middle part.

Q. How old was she when she died?

A. 52, I think. My father died when he was 57.

Q. They were still young!

A. Well, as my brother says, in those days they didn't believe in going to the doctor. If they went to the doctor early they

might have saved them.

Q. Did anything else happen in Kalapana while the soldiers were there?

A. A lot of people moved away during the war.

Q. Why did they move away?

A. Well, they all went to work--to Honolulu and Hilo--because there were jobs. Even in the first World War so many people moved away. My mother said there were so many people down there [before WWI]; they lived in the mountains then--the mountains were better because they could grow vegetables and things. They liked it down at the sea because they could go fishing, but the mountains they could grow things.

Q. You said your family moved from the mountains down to the beach. Do you remember when that was?

A. Before I was born. About maybe 80 years ago. They all moved down to the beach. At Haena [sp?] -pali they grew watermelons in the sand. When they went to harvest them they looked for lumps in the sand, because the vines grew under the sand. You cannot believe! And they used to get salt, too, from the Puna side. Just like Kauaii, yeah? I know they used to come home with bags of salt.

Q. When you moved from Kalapana to Hilo, what happened to the family store?

A. Oh, it was closed during the war [WWII] because everybody left.

Q. But you still owned the land?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you tear it down?

A. I think it was used as a warehouse.

Q. Did your parents live in Kalapana all their lives?

A. No, my father came from China when he was 15 or 16.

Q. And he moved right to Kalapana?

A. I don't know, because they had a cousin in Honolulu who was there already, and I don't know why he didn't stay there. I don't know how old he was when he came to Kalapana. But my father was real creative--wherever he went he found something to make money. In those days we always used kerosene cans--5 gallon kerosene cans--and my father would make ovens out of the cans and use them for baking pies and things.

Q. And your mother used them for baking things in the store?

A. Yes. And my father was in the mountains--in those days he didn't meet my mother yet--and my uncle said that wherever my father went he always created things to sell to the people to make money.

Q. That's ~~who~~ ^{how} he was able to buy your mother!

A. Oh, my father always had money--he had cows and pigs and stuff like that. My son says, oh, my father could have bought the whole of Kalapana if he wanted to because he really knew how to make money. He was a real hardworking man. And his brother's not, you know. His other brother, he was always on the go, and smoking opium and stuff like that. But not my father.

Q. So who came up with the idea of the oven that your mother baked her pies in?

A. I don't know. Maybe herself. I know she made her own oven. [Describes the oven]

Q. So your father came over from China at 15 or 16. What about

your mother?

A. My mother was born in Hilo.

Q. ~~So~~ when did she move to Kalapana?

A. When she married my father.

Q. So they met in Hilo?

A. Yes.

[End of Side One]

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- Q. After your dad married your mom, they moved to Kalapana, and they lived there until....
- A. Until my father died. He died in Honolulu.
- Q. Your father died first? What year was that?
- A. He died when I was seven years old. He was about 65 or 66 years old. [1926?]
- Q. So from the time you were 7 until how old were you when you moved to Hilo?
- A. When I was 21.
- Q. So it was just you and your mom who moved to Hilo?
- A. And my younger brothers.
- Q. So, from the time your father died, your mother took care of the whole family and ran the pastry shop....
- A. No, she didn't have the pastry shop already, because the first world war was when she closed the pastry shop, and then the second world war she was in Hilo already. She had retired.
- Q. What about your father's meat market?
- A. He closed that a long time.
- Q. When did he close it?
- A. Before my sister went to Honolulu to school.
- Q. So after he closed that meat market then he....
- that would be before "Miss Enos" came*

- Q. Now I want to ask you more about Virginia Enos.
- A. She was my husband's sister.
- Q. Can you tell me about her? She was your classmate?
- A. Yes.
- Q. She was pure Hawaiian, then, too?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When did she leave Kalapana?
- A. Before me. She lived in Keaau with her brother--with her younger brother, Kalani.
- Q. Where does she live now?
- A. In Keaau, in her own home.
- Q. Do you think she would be willing to have me interview her for an hour or two?
- A. Maybe, but she's on the mainland right now. Her sister is not feeling well. I don't know when she'll be back.
- Q. Who did she marry?
- A. Tony Enos.
- Q. This morning, when you told me about the girl washing clothes in the pond; is that how you folks did your laundry in Kalapana?
- A. Not all the time, but the Hawaiians did. We washed at home; we had a pan--they call them pakini, big pan, and we washed them in there.
- Q. That's a big, round galvanized pan?
- A. Yes. We had water, see--a pump and a big water tank, and we used that water to wash. And when we needed more water we pumped. But it was a pretty big tank.
- Q. So only the Hawaiians washed their clothes in the pond, and you had your own laundry at home. You were lucky.
- A. Yes, the Hawaiians all went down to the ponds--to Queen's Bath, to Kikoa, Puna Wai--that's where the girl got raped, down close to the drive inn--not Black Sands, the other one. Most of the places don't have water now, they're filled with sand.

- Q. So how did your family happen to have a water pump?
A. My father made it.
Q. He made it?
A. He dug a well. Now they have water down there so you don't have to have a well. We had two like that--one further down by where the volcano's coming down. That's underground, a cave like. I don't know how they used that water over there, maybe to water the cows.
- Q. How did the Hawaiians get their water?
A. The rain.
Q. Catchment?
A. Yes.
Q. So you were pretty fancy with your own water!
A. Yes, but some of the Hawaiians had water behind their houses, like the one next to my brother's house. He had a pond in the back, a beautiful pond. Oh yes, our store was rented out to a Chinese man.
- Q. Do you remember the name of your father's meat market in Pahoa?
A. No, I never did.
Q. How about the pastry shop in Kalapana?
A. I don't know.
Q. Just Lee, probably?
A. Probably.
Q. This morning we were talking about the worms. Were they worms or caterpillars?
A. I think caterpillars.
Q. Caterpillars, right? I remember the legend of the caterpillars.
A. The unuhe.
Q. Now, remember when I called you I asked you to think of anything that I might not have asked you that you think may be interesting to tell me.
A. I don't remember; it's hard to remember, I have so many things on my mind.
- Q. How do you feel now when you go "home" to Kalapana?
A. Gee, I don't feel at home, because there's so many different people, people that I never knew. All white people; everywhere you go you see those people. You don't find any Hawaiians.
Q. So you don't feel really at home?
A. No.
Q. You know anybody down there now that you go to visit?
A. No, only to my brother's and daughter's house. No Hawaiians. I still like Kalapana. If it weren't for the volcano I might build a house down there, because my daughter lives there. Royal Gardens. And they like it down there. When I went, I took long walks, but it's different. There's no more forest. All the forest is gone, and the trails.