

SIDE ONE:

- Q. First of all, I want to ask you about the 'amakua.
A. The 'amakua is the worm, they call it the 'anuhe, yeah? And his grandmother wore a necklace around her neck all the time.
Q. And is there a legend?
A. Yes, they said they were both lovers or something, and they were in a cave and they couldn't get them out, so they chained themselves to a worm; that's why they call it 'anuhe, and then in order to get them out they smoked them out. So every year during the summer the 'anuhe go down to the beach and fall into the ocean and the fish just eat them.
Q. How did your family become Catholics?
A. The Catholic church was built on our property and we got to know the priest, so we all became Catholics. We were baptized Catholics.
Q. From when you were young?
A. Yes.
Q. Did your parents go to church, too?
A. No.
Q. They sent only the children?
A. Yes.
Q. Later on the Catholic church moved?
A. Yes, they bought their own property and then they moved--that's the Painted Church.
Q. Did they have a big congregation?
A. Yes, pretty big.
Q. About how many?
A. Oh, about 50, maybe.
Q. Why did you leave Kalapana?
A. My mother wasn't feeling well, so my brother moved us to Hilo. We already had a home in Hilo--on Waianuenue.
Q. When you moved to Hilo your father was already dead?
A. Yes.
Q. So it was only you and who else?
A. My mother and two brothers--the 5th and 6th: Robert Lee and Everest Lee.
Q. And you took care of your mother until....
A. Until she died, she passed away.
Q. But you were married before that?
A. Yes.
Q. So after you were married you lived in Hilo and took care of your mother?
A. Yes.
Q. How are you related to Annie ~~see San~~? Goo San?
A. She is my auntie. My mother's brother married her.
Q. What was his name?
A. They called him Boxer, Boxer ^{Goo San} ~~Gusan~~. I don't know why.
Q. He must have been a boxer?
A. No, he was a baseball player.
Q. Do you remember when your family bought their Model T?
A. Yes, I must have been about 5 years old when my uncle bought the Model T.
Q. Your uncle bought the Model T? Which uncle was this?
A. My father's brother, the one who lived with us.
Q. The one who smoked opium and told you stories?
A. Yes.
Q. The Kon See Wo Store that was owned by Mr. Lee. Was he related to your family.
A. No.
Q. Where was his store located?
A. In the Bay Front.
Q. The Bay Front? You mean it was in Hilo rather than in Kalapana?
A. Yes.

Q. In our earlier interview, you mentioned that your brother-in-law and nephew are buried in Kalapana. What were their names?

A. Kealoha Waipa.

Q. That was your husband's brother?

A. Yes. And James Ah Yo.

Q. That was....

A. My husband's nephew.

Q. Remember you told me about your uncle who buried the gold, the gold coins?

A. Oh, that was my husband's uncle.

Q. And what was his name?

A. Kawaloa.

Q. How much of a problem was it for you in Kalapana not being able to speak Hawaiian?

A. No problem, because we spoke English.

Q. The Hawaiians, too?

A. Yes.

Q. How about prejudice? You said before that there was a lot of fighting.

A. Yes, there was.

Q. Can you tell me about that?

A. They (the Hawaiians) were prejudiced against the Chinese, I think. I don't know. They were always fighting, trying to hit us in school. They were pretty mean, the boys.

Q. How about the girls?

A. Oh, the girls got along fine.

Q. But the boys used to fight a lot?

A. Yes.

Q. But a lot of Hawaiians married Chinese, so what happened?

A. I don't know; they got along, I guess. But they always called them "pake"-- they don't mention names, just "pake."

Q. So how did you feel about that name?

A. I don't like it!

Q. How did you meet your husband?

A. Oh, he worked for us for a while.

Q. Doing what?

A. On our ranch.

Q. Was this when you started dating each other?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did you know him before you got married?

A. About 3 years.

Q. You remember before we were talking about all the land your family owned in Kalapana, and how your cousin sold the land and didn't give any of the money to the rest of the family? Can you tell me about that?

A. My brother bought the land and he gave it to my cousin.

Q. What was his name?

A. Chun Lee.

Q. Why did he give it to your cousin?

A. I don't know.

Q. And then what happened?

A. It was about 300 acres; he had a ranch over there. And he sold it for \$300,000.

Q. How do you feel about that?

A. Nothing.

Q. You're not angry?

A. No, because we had other land.

Q. But when we talked before, you were saying that when you see him on the road it's like he doesn't even know you?

A. Yes. Because he was just like a brother, and I used to wash his clothes, cook for him, every day, 'cause his mother went back to China.

Q. And after all that he didn't show any appreciation?

A. No.

Q. So what other land did you folks have in Kalapana?

A. Well, we had 5 acres in Kalapana, where the house was, and my brother sold the house and gave us back our share. And we still have two ranches--I think one is about 300 acres and the other is 150 acres. Right now my nephew is running the place.

Q. Do you still have property in Kalapana?

A. Yes, right by the volcano! Royal Gardens!

Q. Only you?

A. No, my brother has, and my cousin has.

Q. Which cousin?

A. The one in Honolulu--Ah Choy Lee.

Q. And Robert.

A. Yes.

Q. Anybody else?

A. No, that's all, I think.

Q. We also talked about the Brown family and Aunty Maria, and one of the sisters was a teacher at Kalapana. Can you tell me about that?

A. I forgot the teacher's name....

Q. Louise?

A. Yes, Louise. And the other one is Aunty Maria. They used to come over the house all the time, drink beer with my cousin--the one who owns the land now. He used to make the beer--home brew.

Q. Was Aunty Maria Louise Brown's sister?

A. Yes, her sister.

Q. And was Maria a teacher, also?

A. No.

Q. No? She just came down?

A. Yes. She's the one that used to lead the Haili Church choir.

Q. What is her name?

A. Maria Hendershot.

Q. And where is she now?

A. I think the Life Care Center.

Q. Do you think she's still able to talk to somebody? Can she remember?

A. Yes, I think so, because I saw her down at the Mall one day and she knew who I was and things like that, But she's in a wheel chair. Skinny lady.

Q. She's how old?

A. In her 70s, I think.

Q. Where was your mother's family's tailor shop and who owned it?

A. Oh, it was in the Bayfront, but on the seaside, because right behind you can see the ocean. The tidal wave took it away.

Q. So this was your mother's family?

A. Yes.

Q. And your mother's brother?

A. Father. Goo.

Q. Goo?

A. Yes. I don't know the first name.

Q. And this is where your mother used to get pieces of material and make patchwork?

A. Yes. She made lots and lots of patchwork.

Q. Is that how you learned?

A. No. I learned myself.

Q. What other businesses did they have in Kalapana when you were a girl, besides the store?

A. And the butcher shop and the ranch.

Q. How about other Chinese families that had businesses?

A. Yes, there were two old Chinese who had a store, and then they had another Chinese husband and wife and they adopted one Hawaiian boy and two Chinese girls, and they had a store, too. And then the one that used to own the Catholic church--Wai Leek, or something.

Q. Did they have a barber shop?

A. No.

Q. How did they have their hair cut?

A. I don't know. They used to go to town, I guess.

Q. Was your mother's store her store or your father's store?

A. My father's store.

Q. But your mother ran it?

A. Yes.

Q. Who made the biscuits?

A. My father.

Q. What did you sell besides meat and dried fish?

A. Canned goods; all kinds of canned goods.

Q. Where did they get the canned goods?

A. I don't know; in Hilo, I think.

Q. What other Chinese families lived in Kalapana besides your family?

A. Yung Wai; the Au family--he was a bachelor; Wai Yick. Yung Wai had a store and fished; he caught a lot of turtles--trapped them. Took them to town and sold them--huge ones sometimes. And he fished, too; he caught fish. I don't remember what Wai Yick did--oh, he had a fishing canoe and he had people fish for him; sometimes he went, too. Mainly they caught opelo, using tiny little red shrimps for bait, and sweet papaya. They mixed them together. They caught the tiny red shrimps where the park is now--they don't have now because of the tidal wave. In those days they had huge papayas--not like the small ones now.

Q. And how many opelu did they catch?

A. Oh, sometimes in the hundreds.

Q. How did they sell the opelu?

A. 25¢ for six.

Q. What did Henry do for a living?

A. My bother? He was a mechanic--for Hilo Motors.

Q. Did he get married?

A. Yes.

Q. To whom?

A. Annie Kama.

Q. Do they have any children?

A. One daughter.

Q. What's her name?

A. Leilani Ching; she was Leilani Lee.

Q. When did he move out of Kalapana?

A. When he was about 20, I think.

Q. Was this before he got married?

A. Yes.

Q. So he met his wife in Hilo?

A. No, she's from Kalapana. Actually she's a Honolulu girl, but she came to Kalapana.

Q. And that's where he met her?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell me about Evelyn? When she got married and whom she married?

A. She got married real late, you know. She married B. Y. Yim.

Q. And where did she meet him?

A. In Honolulu.

Q. How did she meet him in Honolulu?

Handwritten note:
 After comparing to
 Pals Lane

A. Well, she went to school there and graduated and became a cafeteria manager. I think she met him when she worked at the cannery; he was with the pineapple cannery.

Q. Did they have children?

A. No, and they both passed away already.

Q. And how about Lin Tim?

A. Lin Tim is married to Josephine Kaipulaua.

Q. And where was Josephine from?

A. Volcano.

Q. And how did he meet her?

A. In Kalapana, because her relatives lived in Kalapana.

Q. And after they were married did they stay in Kalapana?

A. Yes. He worked in a ranch, and now they live in Waimea--Ahualoa, I mean. And they have six children--3 boys and 3 girls.

Q. And Yuk Lan?

A. She lives on the mainland.

Q. Who did she marry?

A. She married Dick Waun, vice consul of China.

Q. How did she meet him?

A. I don't know.

Q. How is it that she went to the mainland?

A. A haole family took her; she was working for them. And they took her to the mainland. And it didn't take long before she married this guy.

Q. Did they have children?

A. No.

Q. And Ah Sam?

A. Yes, he's married to Margaret Wong.

Q. Where did they meet?

A. In Hilo.

Q. Did he move to Hilo after they were married?

A. No, he was in Hilo; he attended school here.

Q. Do you remember when he moved to Hilo?

A. After he finished the 6th grade in Kalapana he came to school in Hilo and met Margaret.

Q. Do they have any children?

A. No.

Q. And Helen; who did Helen marry?

A. K. Y. Low.

Q. Where did she meet him?

A. In Hilo. He owns Sun Sun Lau Restaurant.

Q. When did she leave Kalapana?

A. After she finished 8th grade, I think.

Q. Do they have children?

A. No.

Q. There aren't that many children in your family, are there?!

A. No.

Q. And then there's Robert.

A. Robert. He just got married.

Q. Robert, the bachelor?!

A. Yes, a girl from China--Pam Kwok. He goes to China all the time.

Q. How old is Robert?

A. He's about 67, I think.

Q. And this is the first time he got married?

A. Yes. She's 24 years old.

Q. She must be really special for him to get married.

A. No, she's just a country girl.

Q. To him that must be special. He got married in China or did he bring her back?

A. In China, otherwise he cannot bring her back.
 Q. So when was this? Because the last time I talked to you.... *he wasn't married.*
 A. Not long ago.
 Q. How about Francis?
 A. Still a bachelor.
 Q. That's right; the two of them were bachelors living together. Right?
 A. They're still living together.

SIDE TWO

Q. Who did Everest marry?
 A. Pearl Loo.
 Q. Where did he meet her?
 A. In Honolulu.
 Q. How did he happen to be in Honolulu?
 A. He was working at Pearl Harbor.
 Q. And they have children?
 A. One girl and 3 boys.
 Q. Remember, we talked about crime in Kalapana. Do you remember what you told me?
 A. About that girl getting raped? *[Chinese girl]*
 Q. Yes.
 A. She went to wash clothes and this young boy raped her. And the Catholic priest--well, he goes to their house to eat dinner every day--and her mother talked to him about it and he had the boy arrested and he was sent to reform school. And he got burned and died.
 Q. How did he get burned?
 A. They said from the kerosene lantern or something--I don't know how. And he died and they brought his body back and he didn't have clothes or anything--so the coffin, the priest donated all that, and got his shoes and his clothes and everything, and buried the boy. It was Father Everest, the one who painted the Painted Church.
 Q. What happened to that girl?
 A. Oh, she's fine. She's working at the prison in Hilo. She's a cook over there. And she married a haole guy and had a couple of kids. She has one son who lives in Kalapana--his name is Dons (sp?), because his father is a haole guy.
 Q. So you didn't have anything else happen in Kalapana? Any ^{other} crimes?
 A. No.