

Interview w. Teresa Waipa, 7/7/2001 by C. Langlas

Side A

TW: And you know Maile was kinda like them. But they don't associate, you see Maile always go to work. She used to go Sun Sun Lau on Saturdays and Sundays, and then for holidays. And Clarence, you know, they get somebody always go down Kalapana. Stays down with the uncle. So they never home. So.

CL: And then, Abraham was... How was he related to your husband?

TW: He was my husband's cousin. They were first cousins. His father and Abraham's father were brothers.

CL: Did this Abraham Waipa grow up down Kalapana?

TW: Umhum.

CL: So you knew him.

TW: Yeah. But then he went to Lahainaluna School, with my husband. Him, Akima, and my husband. There were three of them. They still have that school, yeah? Sonia's son went there.

CL: But Akima must have been older than your husband, yeah?

TW: Yeah, yeah. He's still living you know.

CL: Yeah, I saw him one time. Very old.

TW: He drinks ko'oko'olau tea. Say that's what keeps him alive.

CL: So did you take in other foster kids too?

TW: Umhm. Plenty others.

CL: Not for so long a time though, I suppose.

TW: No. These I kept until they graduate. And then I kept another girl, a Portuguese girl. Subica, Silvia. She were... I don't know why they...

CL: I guess when you take in foster kids like that, their parents are still alive always, yeah?

TW: Yeah. They problem kids, that's why you take em in. I never take in little ones, yeah? They had no parents. You know, just _____. They seldom have that kind. But after this kids... Well I used to babysit too, the same time. Babysit the Lo children. They have five girls, you know. Five girls. The Lo children, their mama works for the _____

CL: Your sister's...

TW: Not my sister, my sister's grandchildren. But they come only in the day and then they go home. Was five girls. The one that came was the last one. _____ She still come my house. Every other day, or sometimes every day. Then Silvia. Then one girl from China, she was haole-Chinese. Tina. She don't forget me. She used to work _____. Then we had two girls from Kohala. Three girls. They all had parents, those. Cecilia, I don't know, she Chinese girl, she wanted to get outta the house. She rather go foster home, so they brought her home. And I had another girl, Hannah. She stayed for a little while. Then she went home. Then I had a Filipino girl, she had a baby, yeah? She stayed with me. Until she was 18. Another haole girl—part haole, I guess she's three-fourths. She was in Honolulu, and she had a baby there. Then she wanted to come back, so, social worker brought her here. But she was staying with lots of parents, and she ran away. She never like stick around. So my social worker said, well, I think I know we she could go, and that lady would be kind to her. So they brought me her. He called me up and brought that girl up right away. And I kept her until they found a house. When she got to be 18. She had a haole social worker. And then I had Karen stay with me. Karen

was a schoolteacher, at St. Joseph School. See, I used to work at St. Joseph School quite a while. And then afterwards the sisters tell me. She's from Wisconsin. That's where her parents live. She was born and raised in Honolulu, but she went home to Wisconsin, cause her parents live there. So she came here cause she was lonely for Hawai'i. So she came here, Honolulu, with the job. So they sent her to Hilo and she work at St. Joseph School. She's a first-grade teacher. She was not teacher and she became a first-grade teacher. She lived with me five years. IAnd had these foster kids too. And the Lo girls. And everybody else was in that house. Not this house. She lived here five years, then her mom wanted to come from Wisconsin. And her mother said that she don't want to stay in somebody's house, she wanted her to find an apartment. So she moved out and find an apartment. Afterwards I had adopted my grand-daughter, Danelle. Danelle was _____. And she kinda like my grand-daughter, she kinda took care of her.

CL: This Karen.

TW: Um-hm. Take her here, take her there. Take her to school. She went to pre-school for three years. She didn't go St. Jo's, she went to Waiakea. But Karen is just like her, the father calls her, that's my son, call her the governess.

CL: So Danelle is Clarence's daughter.

TW: Yeah. But actually it's mine. I adopted her. But she's always with Karen. She's with Karen, doing her homework. Every Friday night, she goes to Karen's house. Because that's their night to go out. They don't do no homework or nothing; they go to town. And then they go visit the father, cause he works at night, so. She knows how to find him. He's underneath the truck or something. She can find the father. She's just a small little girl. You saw her? {CL: I think I did. Yeah.) She been working every day, you know. [bit omitted]

CL: So then, one time you said you took care of your niece Iwa?

TW: Yeah, Iwa was one of the foster girls.

CL: That's one of the ones you talked about first?

TW: Um-hm. There're five girls, five girls and four sisters. That's Iwa. She came home. See she went to the mainland and she came home. Cause she married a boy from here. And her father called Gambsky, eh? Promised to give them the piggery, or something. So they sold everything, the house, their land. So she came home. _____ And they didn't get what they want. So they had no place to go. She stayed with the father, the father's house for a while. And then the grandfather or something wanted to rent the house out. So they moved out. Then she lived in Clarence's house. In Kalapana. You know where the papaya farm is? (Yeah.) You go inside. But she had three kids, you know. They had two about Danielle's age and one is older. They had to walk quite a ways, four miles out, to catch the bus. Poor thing. And then lived in a shack. Just—no doors. Then, afterwards, he asked to move to my place. My place was better, had road. So I said go right ahead and they live there. So he built a little house. One bedroom house. At least had doors and everything. And then afterwards he made two partition, had three. And had a icebox and a gas stove. Then the volcano start coming. But they stayed there quite a while, they were happy. He come to do odds and ends for me. I give him money and he buys the tools and stuff. All his tool all burned.

CL: So he's from the mainland?

TW: He went to the mainland with his mom, see. Cause his father and mother was divorced. So he stayed with his mother. And then he said, most of the time he was on the streets. He's a street boy he said. And then he met Iwa and he started dating her. He used to work for a company that made bowling ball. And Iwa worked for a company that made fishing rods. See Iwa is very artistic, she very patient. Then they moved. They was living in Los Angeles; and they moved to near Las Vegas.

CL: That place that Clarence has there, that was the place that Kamau subdivided?

TW: Um-hm. Clarence has five point something acres.

CL: So you know, down there, right where the papaya field is, that's where your father-in-law lived, right?

TW: Further in.

CL: It's further in from there.

TW: I think the land is his though. My brother-in-law owns that place, see.

CL: He doesn't own it still, does he?

TW: No. He sold it.

CL: When your father-in-law lived there, did your brother-in-law own it?

TW: Yeah. Kamoku.

CL: So they maybe deeded it to him, or something.

TW: The deed was under his name. Always under his name. So Clarence bought behind, or beside of his place. It was owned by my husband's cousin. You know, Akima, his sister's property.

CL: Ohh. Do you know her name?

TW: Halana.

CL: Okay. I've heard about people going up, there was a trail up there.

TW: And then... Well after she died. She married Kale Kekuhi or something. And then, he died, and she married a Portuguese man. And see the Portuguese man wanted to sell my husband, \$700 for all that place, I don't know, 30 acres. And my husband came to me. I said "No way. You ain't buying no land in Kalapana. Especially over there, way in the boonies. No way." He could have bought it, and I didn't want him to buy it. Then, I didn't like Kalapana. Cause we worked so hard and everything. So afterwards, Kamau bought the place. And he subdivided.

CL: Was that William Kamau?

TW: Yeah, William Kamau Senior. Had junior too, eh?

CL: He must have been pretty old.

TW: No, not that old. And after him, he had a boy. I think he and the boy were partners. Junior. Junior was in the police. And then the dad was a surveyor.

CL: Ah, that's how he knew all about the land.

TW: Yeah. No, but they are family, yeah? See Kamau and my husband are related. They cousins, through the mother's side. Nice land over there. I went up over _____. Clarence bought. So I told him, why don't you...Because they closed the road. You know the papaya farm, they closed the road, they will not let him pass.

CL: Did it go right through the farm?

TW: Yeah, has to go through the farm. They don't let them pass. So Maile went to see the boss. Say no way. If he let one go, all the rest going go. And lots of people living there, you know? And because of him they all had to walk inside. Mean, yeah? So, one of the Hawaiian girls—Lono I

think, or somebody works in the papaya farm, she says, "Oh, I going beat up that haole." She told Maile like that. Maile laughed at her. And just go inside.

CL: Well, a lot of times they have to give you a right of way.

TW: I think so. And, you know, they have a grave there? See, I didn't know. Yeah, I knew there was a grave there. See my brother-in-law took the grave back, the property, $\frac{3}{4}$ acre, so. That was his brother and his nephew was buried there. So he took that back, he didn't sell. So it's right along side where the papaya farm. So I didn't know who owns that property. So afterwards, my sister-in-law, she was paying the tax. One day she found out that / own that place. It was under my name.

CL: That little grave?

TW: Uh-hm. Cause Robert told me—my brother—oh buy that place. I say, what do I want to own the graves for? He said, well you could always dig it up and put it back in the cemetery. And he say, you can build a house there then. I says, no way. I don't want to live there. He says, no, that's a good place. And I said... Then one day my sister-in-law, my niece told me, she said, Aunty I'm so pleased. I ain't paying no more taxes, because you own the place.

CL: It's right on the road?

TW: On the roadside, little ways inside. You can see it. It's his brother, yeah, had that place. And then it's under my husband's name, and then my husband was gone, so [it went to me].

CL: Well, maybe we should stop for today.