

Lani Best

FIRST INTERVIEW October 9, 1987 (Side One)

- Q. How many children do you have?
A. Two.
Q. You don't have any other name?
A. I have a Chinese name.
Q. What's your Chinese name?
A. Kam Lam.
Q. And Lee was your maiden name?
A. Yes.
Q. You were born in Kalapana at home?
A. Yes. There were ten in the family.
Q. Wow. How many brothers?
A. Six. Three sisters.
Q. What date did you get married? ← *changes subject*
A. When?
Q. What year?
A. Gee, I don't know. When I was 22 years old, I think.
Q. 1940?
A. Yes, about that.
Q. You don't remember what month?
A. I think August.
Q. My husband won't let me forget our anniversary. Every month he counts the months, the days.
A. How long you married to this man?
Q. Three years. December. What's your husband's name?
A. Robert.
Q. He didn't have a Hawaiian name, middle name? *Kahilihiwa?*
A. Kalehihiwa.
Q. Two children; one boy and one girl. Your son's name?
A. Clarence. He's younger, you know, the girl is older.
Q. And the daughter's name?
A. Maile. She used to Moses, but now she's Carr.
Q. Do you have any Hawaiian?
A. No.
Q. No Hawaiian? So you're Chinese married to Hawaiian. Your husband was pure Hawaiian?
A. Yes. My daughter looks like you, fair and....
Q. I have a little Chinese. You speak Hawaiian?
A. A little, but I understand.
Q. Do you speak Chinese?
A. Yes.
Q. So you speak three languages, then.
A. Yes. Cantonese, I speak.
Q. I'm taking Hawaiian this semester. First time. Where were some of the places you lived, besides Kalapana?
A. Just Kalapana and here.
Q. And you left Kalapana when you got married? ← *leading question, elicits further info.*
A. Yes.
Q. How old are your children? *Can you tell me how you came to learn R?*
A. Gee, I don't know. I think the daughter is about 45, or 44, and the boy is about 48. 42 I think.
Q. So you were born here in Hawaii?
A. Yes.
Q. What was your mother's maiden name?
A. Ah Ho Goo. Her last name was Goo. She was born in Hilo, too.

Q. The father's name"

A. Lee Oe.

Q. Was he born here, too?

A. No.

Q. He immigrated. When did he come over? Can you remember about when he came over?

A. I heard it was when he was a young boy, about 15 or 16 years old.

Q. You don't know what year that was?

A. No. He just said that. He said they were just like stowaways. All the way from Punsan [?]. That's real far from Hongkong. They caught the boat, and kept going and they came to Hawaii. I don't know how they got in Hawaii. We went to visit the hometown, the cousin and me. I said, how in the world did they ever get to Hawaii. You know, they lived so far away from Hongkong. Amazing.

Q. What about your maternal grandparents? Do you remember your grandparents on your mother's side?

A. They moved to China. I don't know.

Q. What about your father's side?

A. Same thing. We went to see the grave and all that.

Q. Still have the headstone and all that?

A. Yes.

Q. What about your education? Elementary school education?

A. I went to school in Kalapana. And then I went to St. Joseph.

Q. Intermediate you went to St. Joseph?

A. Yes. I graduated, from 10th grade. Before, St. Joseph only 10th grade. When you graduated 10th grade at St. Joseph it was just like graduating high school today.

That was the old St. Joseph school, and now it's that apartments--Crescent Manor. That's the school I went to. They called it St. Joseph school. And now the new school is St. Joseph school, too.

Q. So that Crescent Manor, that whole building that's apartments now, that used to be St. Joseph's school?

A. There were only girls there, no boys. The boys were St. Mary's.

Way up the other place. They have apartments there, too. That was St. Marys.

Q. Did you go to any other schools after that?

A. No.

Q. How about working? Did you work or were you just a housewife?

A. I was a foster mother for 20 years.

Q. A foster mother. That's a long time.

A. And I worked for Life Care Center. Since the place opened I worked there. As a cook. I think I worked there for about 5 years or 6 years. Then my husband got into an accident, and I had to leave.

Q. Was that just recently?

A. I forget what year, but before I was 65, anyway. When I was in my 60s or 50s.

Q. About how many years ago you stopped working at the Life Care Center?

A. About 7 years, I think.

Q. So about 1975 till 1980?

A. Yes.

Q. And that was it, right? Your husband got into an accident and you stayed home and took care of him?

A. For five years and then he died. But he was fine.

Q. He's fine now?

A. No, he was fine after the accident. Cause he got a blood clot and we went to Queen's Honolulu and he had surgery. And he was okay after the surgery. We came home and he lived for five years.

Q. Oh, he passed away?

A. Yes, ~~he~~ passed away. He died two years ago. He had a little bit memory loss, but he could stay home by himself. And I would go town. And I learned to drive. I never did drive.

Q. You never did drive before?

A. And now I drive, yeah.

Q. Lucky you learned.

A. Yeah. Everybody get after me.

Q. Otherwise you couldn't get around. Especially with you being way up here.

A. Yeah. So I thought I'd never learn to drive because I was so scared and everything else. But you know Charlie Kanoho? He teaches driving. So he taught. He's with the travel agent. He was a friend of mine, so he taught me how to drive. And every day I would go driving, come home, and sometimes the car parked here and my son say, "Come on mom, drive the car!" And you know he was so nervous, he says, "Oh mom, you'll never learn to drive." I said, "Why?" And he said, "You hold the wheel so tight. You're so nervous." So I told Charles. He said, don't worry, don't worry. And I drove around for two weeks. He came every day for me and I went to get my license.

Q. I'm so happy for you, because you know when women get to be your age they don't want to learn, they're afraid.

A. But lots of them, you know. I don't know how, it was just like a miracle.

Q. Yes. It is a miracle. Especially when you're nervous.

A. Because my daughter doesn't live here, you know. She was in Arabia for six years I think, with her husband, and she has three children. Her oldest daughter graduated from the university already. She's a geologist. But she's going for her master's right now. I think December she's through. Then she's going to Washington and apply for a job, and then she might look over here.

Q. I hope she gets a job here at Volcano.

A. Yes, she says she's going to come home, because she's been away from the parents, you know, cause they were in Arabia and she was in Europe and places like that. And she says she wants to come home. She says even if she comes home she can't get a job right away, she'll work as a waitress or something until she finds a job. But she's got a scholarship; she's on her own.

Q. She must be smart.

A. Yes, really smart like my daughter. She's an A student. Even my daughter, she was an A student right through college. And she doesn't show that she's smart; she is so plain and so calm. You would think that she doesn't know anything, but she is a book worm; wherever she goes she is with a book. Always reading, reading.

Q. Tell me some of your hobbies.

A. Oh, I like to clean yard.

Q. I noticed. You have a beautiful yard.

A. When I came home [from the trip to China] the grass was so grown, that I cleaned it. Every day I'm in the yard.

Q. Who took care of your yard while you were gone?

A. Well, I had a yardman, but he didn't show up. Until when I came home, and then he started cleaning. But they will not pull

one weed. They only lawn and weed. So I did all the rest. And I pull weeds and poison.

Q. What else do you do? I see paintings on the wall. Do you paint?

A. No. That one is from my daughter's first husband. That one is from my friend, Don Romero. Do you know him? He's vice principal for Waiakea Intermediate. He just bought it.

Q. He did that? Or he bought it?

A. He bought it. Another friend of ours framed it. And then I have the Great Wall on the balcony. My brother gave it to me because he went to China.

Q. Do you crotchet? Or knit?

A. I used to crotchet, but you tell me to crotchet now I cannot. I forget. And this one is my sister's--the three mountains from Oregon. A friend of ours came from Oregon and he brought that.

Q. What is your religion?

A. Catholic.

Q. All your life?

A. Yes.

Q. So you went to the Catholic Church in Kalapana. The painted church.

A. Yes. We know the priest who painted it, Father Everest. He came back to repaint the church, you know, then afterwards he died. He's a friend of my brothers; he lived at my brother's house when he came back to paint the picture, and my brother loaned him the car. Because he said he couldn't come back because he had no place to stay. So my brother had a spare house in Leilani Estates, so he said you stay over there and I loan you the car....

Q. Do you belong to any organizations?

A. Yes, the Kamehameha Womens Auxiliary. Native Sons and Daughters. Because my husband was Kamehameha Lodge. So I could join, because you have to have Hawaiian blood, but since I was his wife I could join. So I cook for their convention every year.

Q. And what was the other one?

A. Native Sons and Daughters.

Q. And that one, too, you have to have Hawaiian, yeah, or married to a Hawaiian?

A. No, that one you just born in Hawaii you can join. Most Portuguese belong to that club.

Q. What were some of your experiences when you were a little girl in Kalapana? Like how did you get to school?

A. We walked to school.

Q. How far was the school?

A. Oh, not too far. About a fourth mile.

Q. Do you recall your teachers' names?

A. Yes. One was Annie Goo Sun. She was my auntie. Then, Mrs. Pa. I don't know her first name. Mrs. Hoopii. The son, you know plays the organ in Haili Church--Floyd. You know Floyd Hoopii?

Q. I haven't been here that long.

A. You're from Honolulu?

Q. No. Well, I grew up in Honolulu, but then I lived in Waimea for 12 years, and I've been here only since 1982. I'm originally from Ka'u. The Martinson family. What kinds of things did you do after school?

A. Well, when we come home we eat a little bit, because we don't eat lunch. They had no lunches, so we didn't eat lunch at all. We eat a heavy breakfast, we eat rice and everything else, and then

haw?

when we come home we eat something. Then we go gather, you know we go down the beach and we catch opais, not the small ones, the big ones, and we catch crab and these little fishes, and we come home and the parents would cook them for us.

Q. So you folks never had lunch those days?

A. No, no school lunch.

Q. Oh, you folks must have been hungry.

A. No, on the way home we eat guavas. So much guavas, sweet guavas and stuff we eat. And then we'd go gather wood, because we had to use wood stoves. We didn't have no kerosene, or gas, or anything. Everything was wood. My mother had a, she made an oven, I don't know who made 'em, this was an oven and there's no thermometer or anything. She makes bread, cakes, pies. My mother is one of the greatest pie makers. She makes a, I call it old fashioned--I still today make that pie, you know.

Q. What is it called?

A. I call 'em old fashioned coconut pie. And you know I made for many people, and they just love that pie. And one time I made for the nuns, and one of the sisters said, "Oh I can make 'em, it's easy." But she didn't ask me how, but she just felt it what she should add in, and she made it. It didn't turn out like mine, you know. So I told her oh what did you add in. Oh, I did this and that. And said, no sister, you just add coconut--fresh coconut you grate 'em--and you add milk inside and sugar, that's all. It's just real--everybody likes that pie. Until today I'm always making it and putting it in the freezer and somebody asking me for pies. They sell in the stores, too, but there's is made with the prepared coconut, that comes from Taiwan or I don't know where. I use fresh, grated coconut and everybody loves that pie. So everytime there's a potluck they say are you gonna make pie. I say yeah. That's why all the girls that lived with me they know how to make pie. My foster children.

Q. How many foster children?

A. At first they placed five sisters in my home; the social worker said she had never placed so many children in one home at one time, but they didn't want to separate them. They were relatives of my husband; they were his cousin's children or something. They were Portuguese and Hawaii and Chinese. Those five, and then afterwards two come, another two. Altogether about 20 children, I think. And I used to baby sit, too, all the children from Sun Sun Law; they're my relatives, my sister's grandchildren. This lady had five kids, my nephew, and then the other one had I think four or five. And one other, the manager, had 3-4 kids. But that was when they didn't have anybody to take care of their kids, they just bring them to my house.

(More on the foster children--omitted from this transcript as irrelevant to Kalapana oral history project).

Q. What kind of things did you folks do on weekends in Kalapana when you were little?

A. We'd go swimming. And we'd go fishing, try to catch fish. We used to catch oopu. Godi, or what. The black fish. They call it godi, yeah? They catch it in the pond. See, our property had a pond connected to the sea. You know behind the church where everybody swims, it led to way in the back to our property, you see, so we go there and fish. But now you know the tidal wave and everything, the sinking of Kalapana, it like the sea practically went way inside, so can't go fishing and stuff.

Q. Were you living down there when you had a tidal wave?

A. Yes.

Q. Which tidal wave was that?

A. I don't remember. When they had tidal waves before--nowadays they keep you away from the ocean--when they had tidal waves we used to go there and stand on the stone wall, and watch, and it was so exciting. And we had friends, boys like that, and they used to go swim in the water.

Q. How old were you?

A. About 7 or 8 years old. And then after the tidal wave, all the water go down, and we used to catch big fishes like mullets and stuff.

Q. You used to run out on the sand and pick it up?

A. Yes, in the water.

Q. Wasn't that dangerous?

A. No, because we were way inside, cause the waves didn't come in that far. Until now they don't come in that far, but when its high tide you would think the sea is inside. This last time I went down, it was low tide--I was afraid when it was high tide to go in there--so when it got low tide I went down and its mostly sand and it covered all the ponds that we used to swim in, it's all covered, and its only sand in the bottom. And I said, oh is that all. And we spent so much time over there.

Q. You said your mom did a lot of baking.

A. Yes, she had a bakery, see, my mother, and a store. Cause my dad was always a businessman.

Q. What was the name of your store?

A. I don't know.

Q. So your mom was the one who ran the bakery?

A. Yes, she baked bread and pies, like that. And she made cakes, too, but no frosting or anything, and cookies, like that. And no egg beater or anything like that, she just beat, beat with the spoon. She was good at it. She made cookies, too.

Q. Did she sew?

A. Yes, she sewed a lot. She made a lot of patchwork blankets, and she made quilts, too, Hawaiian quilts.

Q. How about gardening. Did your parents have a garden?

A. Yes. They always had. My aunty lived with us, two families in one house, and she came from China. She planted squash, we always had, not this kind of squash we have today, but real Chinese squash--the call 'em ka chai, but the one they have now they call 'em puqua--it's more the Filipino squash, it's more like a gourd. But the one she planted was Chinese. And she always had one plant and we always had squash. And she planted peanuts, and yard-long beans--nowadays you don't see that kind in the market. It's long. But now you don't see that. They have the Filipino beans, but not the long ones. And she planted cabbage.

Q. Did you help?

A. No, I didn't. But my uncle planted tomatoes, watermelon, but he sold them. And he smoked opium. And we used to follow him, and when he laid down we laid down.

Q. And watched him?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did he get the opium?

A. He comes to town, Paho, and he went to some people's house and bought it there. Every week he comes.

Q. Where did your uncle live?

A. He lived with us. He was the one who drove the car and stuff like that; before that we had a wagon with horses.

- Q. Did you folks use the wagon and the horses?
- A. Yes, they did--my uncle and my mom and them.
- Q. But by the time you came they had a car?
- A. Yes, a Model T.

) leading question, prob. fairly
answer
do you remember getting car?

FIRST INTERVIEW October 9, 1987 (SIDE TWO)

Q This uncle was your...

A. My father's brother. We lived in the same house. His name was Akamu.

Q. You called him Uncle Akamu?

A. No, we just called him by his name, no we just called him Uncle. I think in Chinese, I've forgotten what it was.

Q. Did a lot of people smoke opium?

A. Yes, those days they did.

Q. Down in Kalapana?

A. Yes, everyone of those Chinese people they smoke.

And they say oh today, drugs this and that, and you know opium was real popular. And you know after he smokes the opium he comes home and tells us all kinds of stories about Kalapana and about Pele. And they used to take passengers to see the volcano, and then my husband was saying that he was a little boy and he says he tells the Hawaiians, "Why are you so afraid of Madam Pele?!"

They are your ohana and this and that. And he says, you know my husband when the volcano active like that he never goes until the last minute. He says its a waste of time, he says. Like in the olden days when the volcano erupted, the whole crater is erupted you know.

Q. You're talking about Halemaumau, right?

A. Yes.

Q. That was beautiful.

A. Yes. Its not like how now, little cracks here, little cracks there.

Q. I wanted to ask you about the animals. I herd that way back en you were a little girl they used to let the animals run loose?

A. Yes. Everybody let their animals run loose. But we had a place that we kept, but still yet we let the animals run loose, some of them.

Q. What kind of animals did they have?

A. Ccws, horses, pigs.

Q. And all of these animals were loose?

A. Yes, but we feed them, see, they come home. But not the cows, though.

Q. You never had problems with the animals getting lost?

A. No.

Q. They just go and roam all over and then come home?

A. No, they don't come home, but when they want 'em they go look for them, because they always come down to drink water to the pond. Near the school, where they have the canoe races now, well right there they have a lot of ponds over there, cause now the sand just covered them, lots and lots of ponds over there, so the cows come down and drink water.

Q. Did you folks take pictures?

A. No.

Q. You never did?

A. No.

Q. Isn't that a shame? When you think nowadays you can take pictures any time.

A. Yes. Before we never know what was a camera.

Q. Let's see, did you folks buy things from the store, or did you have everything you needed from fishing and hunting or whatever. Your father probably went hunting.

A. Well, he hardly ever hunted because we have our own beef and

pork, like that, and chickens. They raised a lot of chickens, and eggs and chickens, like that.

Q. So what kinds of things did you have to buy from the store?

A. Well sometimes they buy fish, like that, and ~~fish~~ ^{rice}. We bought a lot of rice. And they didn't have ice box, but they made salt meat, dry beef, and you know, stuff like that.

Q. You folks made your own salt meat?

A. Yes, salt meat, salt pork. We always had. And now today you tell me make salt pork. I used to salt all the porks, and before that my mother did. Salt them for three days, I think, and bring them out, and then she'd pour all the water out, and bring it to a boil and then I think she put saltpetre in. And then she cools it off and then she pours back into the meat. And it lasted us a long time, you know. And then when they want to eat, they just soak the meat until the salt all goes away, and then they boil it, put vegetables and stuff inside.

Q. My grandfather used to make salt meat, and when he boiled it and then poured the water out and added the vegetables. I remember a lot of fat.

A. And now they say the fat is no good.

Q. No good, but we're all fine. Do you remember the name of the store?

A. What store?

Q. That your parents bought the rice.

A. Kon See Wo. It's owned by Mr. Lee.

← in Kilo?

Q. That's your brother?

A. No, that's another Chinese man. But they had a big grocery store. He died already; even the son died.

Q. Do you remember if your family exchanged gifts with other people like for instance if you folks went over to visit your aunty or uncle or friend--did your parents take something with them?

A. Always. Chinese style we always had to take something.

Q. Wasn't it Hawaiian style, too?

A. Yes, I think so. I don't know.

Q. Hawaiian style, too, yeah?

A. Always have to bring something. My mother always taught us that. Until today when I go visit I always take a box of candy or some kind of fruit or something.

Q. And when people came to your house they did the same?

A. Yes, they did. But my mother always gave dried beef, and then she would make bread and things like that.

Q. They liked her pastries.

A. Yes, because you know she doesn't have to buy yeast or something; she makes her own yeast; she makes it with potatoes, hops, and I don't know, something else, she put it together, and....

Q. So she made her own yeast?

A. Yes, she made her own yeast. She makes it today, and then she lets it rise. And then she make again another batch, and after that she uses it. And she always keep a little in a bottle, to start out so when she make again she just add that one and keep going. I still remember, see. And they made a lot of salt cabbage, like they call it koko. But those days, ^{she} they make two kinds, see--my aunty makes it--they make dried one, ~~they~~ dry the cabbage, and then they would roll them in salt, and dry it in the salt, then she acid in them, put them in the jar and then she'd turn the jar upside down and that would keep for years, you know. And we'd have cabbage all

through. But they made the other one, the fast one, is they make salt water; I think they boil the water and cool it off, and then they put the cabbage in, mustard cabbage, and it wouldn't be ready for 3-4 days. And that one you could like that. There's two ways of making. But they never did make kim chee those days.

Q. Just salted cabbage.

A. Just salted cabbage, because they plant so much and then they salt it up.

Q. Do you remember having parties?

A. Yes.

Q. What kind of parties did you folks have?

A. Well, according to my husband, they had parties the whole week!

Q. The whole week?

A. They had all kinds of food, like they always have kalua pig and sweet potato, things like that.

Q. They never had reason, then, to have a party.

A. No, they do--birthdays and weddings, just like....

Q. Like you said they had a party for a whole week, what kind of party was that?

A. New Year's.

Q. Oh, New Year's.

A. Yeah, he said they ate all the food, they make again some more kalua pig and stuff like that. And they make their own drink, that pineapple swipe or what they call that? Pineapple, and the sweet potato one, and all that. I don't know. I hear my husband telling that kind. He knows.

Q. You never tried it?

A. No. Their family makes a lot of that. So during the day he makes it drip and drip off. That's why, he was just asking me oh, where is the pork butt cheap. I told him Food Fair, I said we bought them almost all already.

Q. Talking about luaus, what kind of foods did you folks have then that we don't have any more?

A. Well, gee, I don't know. We still have the same things. But opihi, they had so much of it. I remember when we made

two or three people went to gather opihi they came with half a bag and one whole bag, and we had so much ophi, I tell you. Not like now, you gotta buy. Yes, opihi they always had. And then raw fish, and stuff like that. But, they mostly dry fish they used to serve, not too much fresh fish. My mother's store sells a lot of dry fish. And then, during the summer they buy all of the opelu that they go catch, what they couldn't sell, what they couldn't use, they brought them all to my mother's store and she would hire a girl and cut the fish up and salt them and dry them, and he said oh they had stacks. And they never had freezer or ice box, and they just leave them in the corner or whatever. And she said that during the winter months, the sea rough and the weather, and the fishermen's cannot go out and they buy all that fish, dry fish. And then they take to town, too, to sell.

Q. So the drinks that they used to have was the swipe...

A. Pineapple and sweet potato....

Q. How about....

A. And they made their own, they call them home brew or what, no?, beer, no? They used to make their own.

Q. I didn't know they made beer.

A. They do. Home brew, they call it. I don't know. My cousin used to make 'em.

when?

Yeah, I used to drink 'em when I was already kind of old already--60 or 70. I remember one time I was feeling so high, and my cousin he makes it all the time, and he drinks a lot. You know the Brown family, aunty Maria and all them--one of the sisters was a teacher down at Kalapana--so they used to come down, and aunty Maria used to suck up with him. I still remember. Home brew. They called it home brew. I don't know he used, I think they used yeast, and I don't know, something else.

Q. Your mother had hops, right, for her yeast, so that was something they needed for their beer?

A. Yes, and then he bought one thing to cap it. He used to make it in bottles. I still remember that.

Q. So you folks never bought any; you just made your own.

A. They made their own. My did didn't drink that much, or smoke or stuff like that. He was the hardworking one. But he used to hire boys to go and get his cattle and stuff like that. My husband was saying that he used to work for my father when he was little boy, and he used to go catch cows and when he came home with may be

Q. Did you folks have lots of parties?

A. No, not that much.

Q. Just once in awhile?

A. Yes. When they have a party in Kalapana, just like everybody is invited.

Q. It was all family, yeah?

A. Yes.

Q. Almost everybody was related, probably. So when they had a party, everybody was invited to their party, and when you had yours....

A. And when they go fishing, where the canoes go out, you just go down there and wait. When the canoe comes back they give you fish. Even you help or no help, or family or no family, they would give you five or six fish. They give everybody. They call them hapai waha, or something like that.

Q. Hapai waha? — *hapai waha*

A. So every day.....

Q. Hapai waha, that's like carrying the canoe, right. You go carry the canoe up so they give you a little bit fish?

A. Yes. They always catches opelu. And they would give everybody that's there. And then if you want to buy extra you just tell them that you want fish. So much. You buy 25 cents you get enough, they give you about 10 fish. That's why mother always sent me down. You she gives me 25 cents and the man gives me about 5 fish and on top of that I buy, because we had a big family.

Q. I'm curious about the funerals. I know it must have been different from the way we have funerals now, right?

A. Yes, they have it at the house, you know. They put the coffin....

Q. They had it in the house?

A. Yes, but usually they had I think the undertaker you know put the coffin and preserve the body, everything. Then they have it in the house and then they take them themselves to bury and stuff like that.

Q. The family takes it?

A. Yes. And they used to bury them near the lava place, yeah, and they would make a big bed-like, yeah, and build them up high. So I don't know if it's six feet deep or what. But you see lots of that kind of grave in the olden days. And we used to get so scared when we see that. We know it's a grave. It's really high you know.

*perhaps leading
cf p 3
A.C.G.M
H...*

Q. You mean from them digging the hole, they put the dirt on top to make a high....

A. No, there's no dirt, because all rocks. There's no dirt in Kalapana like they have over here. And then they build up high, about this high I think, from the ground and its a big thing like that--the grave--and they put a cross and they put your name on top.

Q. Oh, you mean when they bury the body after they cover the body, around the body they build this thing. Kind of like a stone wall.

A. Yes, stone wall, and it's all covered with stones. The whole thing. It's high like this table.

Q. On top of the grave.

A. On top of the grave. I think they still have that kind of grave.

Q. I never saw that.

A. I know ~~my~~ brother-in-law and my nephew they still have that kind of grave. It's near the roadside, near Kalapaha. You know where the papaya farm is? They have two graves over there. See, my father-in-law used to own that papaya farm place. He used to live further in. And my son still has land on this side--5 acres or 6 acres. And then when they opened up that papaya farm and the factory they closed the road. You cannot go with your car; if you want you just walk in, so long time he never went to his property. And he said it was really scared, afterwards, the people started coming in, and a lot of those haoles they bought land near his place, and when you driving (he likes to go hunting, yeah?), they come out with guns you know. But they recognize his jeep, so they know it's ~~him~~. Cause they used to plant marijuana or something around there.

Q. Pakalolo.

A. Pakalolo. Plenty down there. He used to be so scared, so more better you don't go hunting over there. But now he doesn't go any more.

Q. Did you ever notice or hear of any kahuna who ever came to a funeral and sang, did a chant of the genealogy of the family?

A. No.

Q. You never did see that, or heard of that.

A. No.

Q. I was hoping that you had.

A. But you know I heard about, like, my mother was saying that she used to hear music and stuff like that, and my father used to drive the cows down--sometimes they would sell the whole thing--and they would drive the cows down, and they would go in the morning and come back late in the night and she said that there were people playing some kind of band, you know, parading--the spirits--and they could see lights, yeah, and they said they just moved out of the trail and they pass. They don't bother you. They really see lights and parading and music and all.

Q. Your parents saw this?

A. Yes, my father, and my mother, too, she said. My mother hardly go in the forest like that, but you know they talk about it. She tells us the story, and then they said, like where the park is now they used to have heiaus and stuff, they used to hear music and all that. But my brother lived in the mountains for awhile--when he got married--and he said on a clear night you could hear the flute playing. I said, gee, I cannot believe. I have to see it. And my cousin, he raised papayas. They bought a property way up our place. And he said he built a shed to put his tools and stuff, and he said it was the most spookiest shed you ever came across. ~~Q~~

He said they could be sitting and all of a sudden the roof would be just like caving in or something like that, and he said all kinds of noises you would hear. He looked; there's nothing, you know. And I said no, it cannot be. He says, no, every day is like that. And I said, ho, it's scary, yeah. Hard to believe that kind.

Q. I heard lots of stories, too, but I never saw, myself.
A. Me, too. And I don't believe what my cousin says is really true. And you know he spent a lot of time up there. He was just like my brother because we lived in the same house.

Q. When you were living in Kalapana, was there any special person that you, yourself, or your family most admired or respected?

A. Yeah.

Q. Who was that?

A. The Kahiki family. We would always go to their house. When my mother wanted, you know, maybe she had a sprain or something, she would go there, and then she would make some kind of medication herb or something. The koali root or something.

Q. Koali?

A. Koali. The morning glory flower. And she would pound them and give it to her for to put on. And she was saying that my brother, my oldest brother, when he was young and--I don't know what happened to him--his arm was split in three places, broken, and this family had fixed his arm. They just wrapped 'em up with uluu skin--you know the breadfruit bark--they wrapped it up, I don't know for how many days, and he got cured. His arm was cured. I don't know what they did. They pray a little bit or what, I don't know.

Q. So this Kahiki family, they were like kahuna?

A. Yes, they do.

Q. The husband or the wife?

A. It's more the husband. He was very old, but the wife was younger. You see, my father was married before, to his, I think his wife's sister, something like that. So for almost every little thing we went to them.

Q. You don't remember the first name?

A. Kukoa. He was an old man when I knew him.

Q. He was like a kahuna, huh?

A. Yes. And they slept--they had upstairs and downstairs, and they sleep downstairs, and they put pebbles, sea pebbles on the floor, and then they lay a mat out, and they all sleep there and cook there, everything. And today, you say, oh, not sanitary. But they all lived there underneath the house, they cooked and everything.

Q. Their house was built out of lumber?

A. Lumber.

Q. But the floor was 'ili'ili.

A. Yes, 'ili'ili. The sea kind they put on top, the pebbles from the ocean, and then she makes mat and put over it.

Q. How about your family? You folks slept on the floor?

A. No, we slept on beds. We had spring beds, you know those old fashioned springs. And then my mother had a bed that's made out of bed, and then she put mattress on top. Not mattress, but you know those thick ones, what you call it now? Just like futon. But they had the Chinese one, yeah. And she put that on, and we used to sleep. And she always made the blankets, you know the patchwork blankets. You see my mother's family were tailors, and they had lots of those woolen samples and stuff, and she would put them all together and she made blankets with them and stuff like that. We had a big house, a very big porch, oh, two times bigger than this

and longer--it's a front porch, and then we had a back porch, a big one. That's where we eat. We had a long table.

Q. That's the olden days houses, yeah?

A. Yes. And how many bedrooms?. About five or six bedrooms. But two families lived in there, see. And they all got along, not like nowadays.

Q. Why do you think this Kukoa Kahiki family was well respected by your family?

A. I don't know, every little thing we go to them. Any illness we have, we just go to them.

Q. Seems like a doctor. A family doctor.

A. Yes, he makes all kinds of medications, yeah.

Q. Did he do this for all the people? In Kalapana?

A. Yes.

Q. And did you folks pay him?

A. No.

Q. No?

A. No.

Q. You folks probably gave him something.

A. Yes. They don't accept money. Those days, just like money was nothing. But they said they had lot of gold money and stuff like that. They kept. Especially, my husband's uncle, or what you call him, he kept bags of gold and he hide them and stuff like that.

Q. What did they do with all their gold?

A. He hide 'em. So afterwards I don't know what he did. And they keep saying that until today they never find all the gold, you know.

Q. Who else in Kalapana, besides the Kahiki family, was well respected

A. Well, my neighbor--the Kaapana. I never know he had a wife or anything. *who?* But he as all along, yeah, but he adopted a boy, and the boy became a policeman. Dan Kamelamela. You know the Kamelamela family?

Q. I know the name.

A. Well, that boy he adopted it, and the old man he planted flowers and cococnuts.

Q. What was his name?

A. Kaapana.

Q. First name?

A. I don't know.

Q. And he adopted Dan Kamelamela?

A. But you know, Hawaiian style before, they never had papers made. Real adoption. He just kept him.

Q. Hanae?

A. Hanae. So he goes under Kamelamela. But the other one is Kaapana. He lived right next door to us, our house. And whatever we wanted we went to ask him and he gives it to us. And he would plant flowers an when I was a little girl I used to go over and ask him if I could have some flowers and he would give it to me, and you know, I could not speak Hawaiian, so he would tell me just go pick.

Q. So you just made signs, because you couldn't speak Hawaiian?

A. Yes.

Q. But eventually you learned, huh?

A. Yes. He was really old, but he was really nice.

Q. And you admired him because he was kind?

A. Yes. He was kind. And he had a lot of trees by his yard, and we used to go pick. Because we weaved, I used to weave a lot. My mother didn't weave, but I wove and my older sister weaved. We learned how to make mats and things like that. So the kids stop me, why

explain

don't you make mats for your house.

Q. Yeah, but it's not easy. It's a lot of work.

A. Yes.