

Interview #2 Robert Keliihoomalu in Kaimu 6/30/98 Tape 1 Side A

CL: So Robert, I looked at some of the stuff you told Rita about going fishing, taking trips for fishing into the Park when you were in your young days eh. And I'd like to ask you a little more about that. Maybe start with telling me where you folks usually went to and what you got when you went there.

RK: Yeah. You know, as I was raising my children we make ends meet by going fishing. And we usually planned to go into Apua, Kealakomo, all in that area. Well what we do is, we get our animal ready, before Friday. Because Friday is the last day of working, working construction at that time. So, after working construction we have all our things ready. What we do is take it all the way down to the end of the road down here and saddle up and by the time we leave the road, it's just about dark. So we saddle up and in we go. Usually my cousin and I, or else with my brothers.

CL: Which cousin are you talking about?

RK: And we talking about Sam Kahookaulana, yes. And we get on our horse and start going. By the time we get to Kahue it's dark already. So we don't know where we going. Only the animal know in the dark. So we put our faith and trust in the animal. But they trick us couple of times, especially me. I'm behind of my cousin. Going down I hear the ocean on my left hand side, baim bye, the ocean come on my right ear. I said, hey no sound right. Thought maybe you folks going home. Sure enough, going home. I turn em around give him the spur, back on track again, all the way down to Apua. Usually we plan ourselves where we heading to. And sometime it's Kahue, sometime its Kealakomo, sometime, most times it's Apua because we have bigger ground to throw net, usually thowing net. Then if we going to pound opihi, then we saddle back up again and we come back to Kahue. The fact is that when we get the opihi we can throw em on the horse instead of throw em on our back and coming back to Apua. So that's what we do. And all this fishing that we does is to support the family. Of course we share some when we come back from down there to our families. And when we get down there that night we, we know we reach because the animal stop. So when he stop then we shine our flashlight, we look, oh yes, we are here. So unload, oh we reach down there maybe around 9:30, 10:00 that night. Unload everything, then get our supper ready. After supper cousin say, what, we go throw net? Oh up to you. Let's go. Go throw net in the dark.

CL: Oh, you can do it in the dark?

RK: Yeah. Because we are familiar with the holes where all this different fishes usually hang around. Yeah, we catch quite a bit. Then we come back to camp. Then just leave it in the bag under a cool area. Then the next day we wake up, clean the fish. They cut it up, salt it up then just let it set there. Then we go out to

pound opihi, get what we want and we come back. Then we leave em underneath the shade. We tend the opihi in the evening after we finish throwing net again. That's our job during the night, to shell opihi. And sometime it goes, well would start maybe sometime 7:00, we won't finish until 11:00. Yeah it is a lot of work. So we talking about maybe five gallons like that. So that's it. And we prepare, salt it up and everything, then put it away. Then the following day we usually go out again, throw net. With all the fish we caught that day is, the next day we clean it up, salt it up again and let it set, maybe one hour, two hour. Then we shake the salt off in the salt water and we dry it out. Usually about three quarter of a day, that's good enough, dry. Put it in the bag, hang it up under the tree. Then I used to go hunt goat too. So the second day, the third day, I usually go up to the mountain, chase goat. Get one goat, two goat, three goat, that's good enough. Heading on down the ocean. Reach down there, unload, we skin the goat, then we salt em up. Then maybe after that, two hours, then we shake it off and dry it out. Oh my gosh, that goat taste good. Ummm. So we get all the opihi, we get all the fish. The day that we coming home, then we throw net again and we bring home fresh fish. But the days before then, the two days before then, all what we did was dry all that, then we bring home dried fish, fresh fish, opihi, dried goat. So we have a load coming home. And lot of fun. Of course a lot of work. But we enjoy it, we enjoy that. And I look forward to going back down again. Maybe another month or so. So that's all we do, what we used to do.

CL: Just men went or the ladies went with you too?

RK: Usually was only men. Then after a while, in the '70s, '80s like that, then my wife them used to go, follow the men people. And of course then cannot go way down the beach and pound opihi. We do all that and it's like a picnic and camping out with the wives. And it was nice. But usually we don't take them. It's a man's job.

CL: In the early days when you went down there, was there a shack or shed at Apua?

RK: Yes there was. Of course those days there was a wrecked ship down there and so what they did is get the lumbers from there and build a shack. to where it's passable where you can put your goods and sleep on. But usually we roughed it up yeah, on the ground. Main thing we get the saddle blankets all dried up and we can use em that night, next day. Real pioneering.

CL: I bet they smelled too.

RK: Yeah, after while we get used to. Yeah we don't mind the smell. Main thing it keeps you warm eh. And we use the saddle for our pillow. But the thing is that, you make sure you tied your

animal good. That animal get loose, he's heading on home. Oh my goodness. I tell you. So we tend and mind to all those things and make sure it doesn't run away.

CL: So at Apua, you remember there was different holes for different fish there?

RK: Oh yeah there was. At those days when before the lava came, you can throw as long as your eyes can see. But usually we don't go that far. It's where we feel that if it's enough, it's enough. Sometimes we go one, two, three, four bags of fish. And usually look for the mois or the aholehole. And if we catch the anenui, well we take em too. Throw away the kala. And it's good drying fish, real good. And since the flow took over, that portion over there, it's not of a big area like how it was before, limited yeah.

CL: See if I can show you this map. This is the Apua here yeah. And I think the bay, in this area. And Kealakomo over there. Kahue.

RK: Right.

CL: So when you folks threw at Apua, was in the bay?

RK: Yes, all in the bay. We come to the point, that's it yeah? On the other side there's not no place to throw. There is but pretty rough. Yeah so it's all in the bay from here all the way down this way [toward west]. But you see now, it's all covered up eh, this portion [to the west side of Apua Bay].

CL: Not lava though eh?

RK: Lava. We have only this portion here now, that's it.

CL: This side?

RK: Yeah, this side from this point over here. From here over on this way [to the west], it's all covered. Yep.

CL: Oh. So there was more.

RK: More ground. That's why I say you throw until you tired. And you throw until you feel you got enough. Hey that's enough, going back to camp.

CL: I thought the lava was over Kealakomo.

RK: Oh yes, there was too. It did cover over there and also over here. Actually I think the ground sank, yeah?

CL: Yeah, I know it sank here, yeah.

RK: On this section, site. Nice ground. Nice ground.

CL: Yeah I'm sure it looked different when you were there with Rita folks cause

RK: I was at Keauhou yeah.

CL: Oh no, that's right, you were at Keauhou.

RK: And also Keauhou was, we found it's different. Not like before.

CL: So sometimes you folks went to Keauhou too?

RK: Oh yes. What we do is past Apua, all the way to Keauhou and we stay there, do the same thing. Fish, dry fish, opihi, but not too much goating. The goating is all at Apua. Better ground eh. Chase em with the horse, just like level ground, jumping over cracks and all. Boy you come back, then you think to yourself, you crazy you bugga. How the hell you went jump this crack. Nevermind the fun is good, the fun is going. Bar nothing. But after all you come back, you shake your head and say, oh, lucky you never get killed.

CL: So you could throw at Apua in the day and you could throw at Keauhou, throw net but inbetween was there any place?

RK: Yes there is. But far apart yeah. Far apart.

CL: Did you folks ever go in these places [toward Kealakomo and P_nau]? You must have.

RK: Oh yes. Yeah, we usually only pound opihi. Pound opihi, you gotta go down the cliffs and then come up again go the other side and then go down again. Up and down.

CL: So one of the things I'm trying to do is map out the coast and figure out where the good fishing places were, what the names are, if people know any small names and like that. So that's why I'm asking you some of these questions.

RK: Yeah we usually go down at Halape also too, yeah. But we just go for the day and that's it.

CL: Oh you didn't stay.

RK: No. Only a couple of times I did from, coming from up at the trail, what you call that? Hilina Pali trail, yeah. Then I went up to, of course we would come down with horse and go back up with horse. Yeah. That's where my brother-in-law, John Hauanio was living at that time. And I used to go down with my brother-in-law Edmond Kaawaloa. But we go from this side though. We come from the

other side with my brother-in-law John Haunio. Then we go out to the island and we catch the turtle over there. And that's what we do.

CL: So you went down to Halape, you were saying you left from the Park side.

RK: Yeah, we come from up side come down. But most time it's from this side, Keauhou side we going. And what we do is swim out to the ocean and sometime when it's low tide we get two or three turtle in the hole over there. There's a hole where they cannot come out until high tide. So they stuck in the hole. So when we see em in there we take em and we, what we do is take the meat, everything. We dry out everything and the fat. The fat is one of the most important things from the turtle. And what we do is we take all the green fat from the back there and we take it home, we dry it out, dry it out to where the oil drips from the sun. And we save that for burn, for oiling your leather, oiling your tools and that's what the use on that oil is from the turtle. See those days this is how we also lived from the turtle. And they telling us we cannot eat the turtle. What's the matter with them? That's our livelihood, that's our style. We don't go abuse them like how they used to do in the '60s. '70s they used to catch em and sell em to the hotel. Our people never do that. It's the commercial people that did it and jammed us all up. And you know what? If I want to eat turtle, I catch the turtle and I eat em. Catch me. What they like me, going steal food. Because that's how we was living, on also turtle. And we almost eat the whole thing except the head and the back. But the wing and the chest, we make stew out of that. Oh, broke mouth. Ono. But the meat is good, very good. We dry it.

CL: Was there any place else you found turtle or just down there.

RK: Usually down there.

CL: Did you catch turtle at Apua?

RK: No. Never, never did we catch turtle down near Apua. And usually was down that way. That's one big treat for us. Yeah. That's a big treat.

CL: So that's the main thing to go to Halape for?

RK: Catch the turtle and catch the holehole outside there. And catch lobster inside that bay.

CL: So a holehole, that was off that island?

RK: Yeah. We have to go out there and swim out there with the tube in case we catch a load, then we put em in the tube and come back this way. But not I think it's kind of deeper and plus the current is kind of strong going across. But those days that's what

we do and the crab used to be, whole bunch of crabs over there. You can hear em rattling on the pahoehoe. Oh, okay, we corral em, then we get our net ready, we throw em on top the net, catch em all. Oh sometimes we catch about good two, three gallon of crab. Yeah and big kind crabs. All red the side, the back.

CL: That's on the island too yeah?

RK: Yeah, that's on the island.

CL: You know the name for that island?

RK: I don't know. I don't know. Yeah and now they tell us cannot eat turtle. Ho, me I eat em. Catch me.

CL: You got to catch em first though.

RK: I catch em. And we use, like how I say, that's a great medicine for our people. You know when you get burned? I no care how severe your burn is, you get a turtle oil, you rub em on you, no more scar, no nothing.

CL: That's interesting.

RK: Oh, because I tried it. It burned me too. I get my hand all burned, came home rum all that turtle oil on top. Ooooo my goodness it hurts right there and then. Maybe good ten minutes hurt. Because that thing soaking in eh. Ho, after that just like you didn't have no burn.

CL: So the pain is gone after that short time?

RK: Yeah. The pain is gone. I amazed. And they say us cannot catch a turtle. We catch a turtle for our reason, to save that oil too. Yeah. But no tell them.

CL: So let me ask you about one other place. Kakiiwai.

RK: Kakiiwai, yes I've been there.

CL: Yeah, that's what you told Rita you went there. Only one time or?

RK: I went there couple of times. One time with the boat, one time with the horse. Then I went to Papalehau, all the way to there.

CL: By horse?

RK: By horse. Kakiiwai was better. I don't care for Papalehau. Kakiiwai is a beautiful ground. Nice ground.

CL: Yeah. I went there one time and I'm, you folks came down Hilina pali side?

RK: Yeah, on the other side.

CL: Okay. Let me show you this map. Well maybe this other map is better, this is older. When were you there? What year do you think?

RK: Oh I was there in the '70s.

CL: Oh, then it probably looks like this. '70s. You went with

RK: Oh we went with a whole big gang that time. Yeah quite a bit of horse went down that way.

CL: Was John Hauanio with you?

RK: No, no.

CL: Okay. So let's see, you might have taken this trail or you might have come down, actually maybe you came down here. I think Hilina Pali road comes down right here and then you might have taken this trail down here. I'm not sure. Did you come straight down?

RK: No, no.

CL: I can show you more. Yeah, so the road comes down past Kipuka Nene and then down like this. And the time I came, I came down this trail.

RK: That's the one. Kakiiwai. Yeah, I've been Kalue too.

CL: Yeah that's what I was curious about. That was before the coast sank?

RK: Yeah, way before.

CL: Cause I think now there's not too much left over here. That's what I heard.

RK: I've never gone back there that long again.

CL: So this was just a little place under the pali I guess.

RK: Right.

CL: And did you walk along the shore to get there?

RK: No. Yeah, yeah, right. We had to walk underneath to get to here.

CL: Cause must have been not too much area to walk I think.

RK: Oh there was enough at that time.

CL: Now I think you cannot. That's what I've heard.

RK: Yeah actually straight down eh. Plus the earthquake and all those cinder rolling down. Kalue yeah.

CL: So did you see a waterhole at Kalue?

RK: Yeah. You see a waterhole over there.

CL: What was it like?

RK: It wasn't that great. It was kind of dirty out yeah.

CL: Was in a cave?

RK: No it was back side and on the lower ground that was. Oh many years.

CL: And was there a shed or something around?

RK: No more. Not that I remember. No shed. Nothing at all.

CL: Okay. And over at Kakiiwai, was there any waterhole over there?

RK: I'm not too sure you know.

CL: What do you remember seeing over there, or doing?

RK: Yeah, I'm not too sure. I know I seen a nice fishing ground over there. Throw net. Yeah. Nice fishing ground. Not too long too, it wasn't that long.

CL: More than one hole for throwing?

RK: Oh there was a long stretch of sand like yeah. And of course you have to go over the other side and on the other side. But I know close to the pali here there was a moi hole over there also too, underneath there.

CL: Close to the pali on the

RK: Yeah, coming back. Coming to Kalue.

CL: So the sand, was it white sand?

RK: Yes, white sand, grayish white yeah.

CL: And did you see any kind, some people say there was an old goat corral there.

RK: Oh I never take notice on that one. I didn't go up on the higher ground. We usually stayed down on the close to the ocean. Shucks, I no mind going back there one of these days, but not by horse, by boat. I just waiting for my son-in-law finish his boat. A double hull eh. The sail take us down there. Oh I'm ready.

CL: And then in Kalue, was there any good place for throw net there?

RK: Yeah, there was. There was pretty much.

CL: You know when I was there I saw this low area, kind of like a bay, but that's after the subsidence, so I don't know that that was there. It was kind of, I think more over. Back in here. Not over here, more like over in here. But maybe close to that waterhole. And then was more pali over this side it seemed like. You didn't see any sand at Kalue?

RK: No, this is all pahoehoe yeah? You can come out right to the boat, jump off, throw net and make limu.

CL: Oh you saw limu?

RK: Limu kohu. Limu kohu over there on the papas.

CL: Around Kalue?

RK: Yeah.

CL: That's good. Nobody talked about that.

RK: Long big kind limu over there. Ho you feel like go over there with the sickle. Not too many place has limu now. Behind Kalue is a good place for limu. Kakiiwai too. But you see mostly it's all sandy eh. Then not too good. Go where there's all pahoehoe, no sand, then better.

CL: Yeah, you don't get the sand in the limu. (end of side a)

Side B

CL: Did you folks ever used to collect limu at Apua or any of those places?

RK: If we do is mostly on the [Apua] point. But the point is not that great, also too. Yeah, we have to come back, come more on to, what you call that, by the goat corral?

CL: Oh Kahue.

RK: Kahue yeah. Before Kahue anyhow.

CL: This side of Kahue?

RK: This side of Halape. I mean this side of Apua Point.

CL: Okay. Let me see if I can, I'll show you this other map, put this one away. So I know on the Kalapana side of Apua is these salt poho, yeah?

RK: Yeah, yeah. Talking about salt poho yeah, from where? from Kahue. In fact from Kealakomo you have all that, salt poho. If we down that area making opihi, pounding opihi, what we do is passing by the poho, salt, what we do we rake on the side of the poho and leave it there. As we go down we do the same until where we gonna pound and we go again. We come across salt poho then we scrape em all the way up. Actually away from the water. So the water drain back again. And when we done, then we come back on the way and we harvest all that salt. That's the best salt, ho my goodness. Now days we don't see that.

CL: So all the way from Apua Point to where Kealakomo was was good.

RK: Yeah. From Kealakomo all the way to past Kahue, not too much to Apua Point. On this side [close to the point] is not too great. That I know, but from the middle part of Apua, between Kahue and Kealakomo, yeah is all the salt area over there. When Mr. Pe'a was living at that time

CL: Gabriel.

RK: Yeah, Gabriel, well he camp at Kealakomo and he has a small shack in there. When we past by his shack we see all the salt bag all hanging out. This guy alright. By the time he come in the other way around that thing all dry already. He put em on his mule, coming home. But we don't go get his salt, you know. We have respect and all that. But when we there we do our own thing. We harvest our own. And that's what I do for also to bringing home salt from down there.

CL: So the limu kohu you were talking about, that's where now?

RK: Yeah it's just in between there. Not too far back there. Right in this lower part yeah, this Apua and Kahue, right in there. I don't know if it still exists or what. And around here by the point.

CL: So there was kind of low papas in there.

RK: Yeah kind of low papa.

CL: Past the goat corral, more toward Apua from goat corral. You know any name for that spot in there?

RK: No. All those days that I was going back and forth all we know is this main areas here. And that's Apua Point. Yeah I used to know before. My uncle used to tell me all the names eh. All the way before we reached to Keauhou. But I forget already. It has been long. Back in the '60s in the '70s when my uncle Elia Kahookaulana used to go down. We used to go with him. And his main thing is make ulua. He's a ulua man. Get some big ulua too.

CL: What places did you go?

RK: For the ulua? Apua Point.

CL: Oh, right at the point?

RK: Yeah.

CL: Which side?

RK: This side, straight in the front.

CL: And then off on the

RK: On the Ka'u side. Yeah I catch one, I catch two, okay, that's enough. Come back to camp, cut em up, strip em up, salt em up, dry em up.

CL: He never went that place at Keauhou where Aku went?

RK: No, not too far. No. He was going above here, about here [between Apua and Keauhou]. I don't know the name of this area.

CL: Oh, he went for ulua there too.

RK: Yeah.

CL: You know, Aku was telling me there was a name there.

RK: There is a name, I forget.

CL: He said Sam Kaawaloa knew and then when I talked to Sam

RK: You should talk to Edmond Kaawaloa. He should know. Yeah, he's a old time fisherman over there too. My brother-in-law. Yeah there's a name. My uncle told me about the name. That went into my head and after awhile I haven't been down there so long I forget. My goodness, there is a name.

CL: That's one lae ulua?

RK: That's is a lae ulua. That's where my uncle go, yeah.

CL: And what about on this side toward Kealakomo side, any place he went there?

RK: For ulua? It was Ka`ena. But Ka`ena is all wipe out eh. I think the lava flow went cover em.

CL: I don't think it got that far. It didn't get that far.

RK: Ka`ena was a good point.

CL: Ka`ena is still there.

RK: Ka`ena used to be there. Went wipe out. Till the flow cover it.

CL: No, no. It didn't cover. Oh unless it covered from the Mauna ulu flow. Maybe that one yeah.

RK: Was nice area over there. That's where the donkey used to come down over there drink water. Oh we shoot em. Not me but this man we call Konday. Oh good.

CL: That's Willie Kaawaloa's now.

RK: Step-father.

CL: Sam's father.

RK: No, no. He's my brother-in-law's step-father. Actually what he does is go down there and wait for the donkey come down drink water. Stalking em. Boom! Good meat. Oh shucks. Good meat. What they do is haul em up, dry em up down there. That's the best meat.

CL: Yeah, nobody told me about that lae ulua at Ka`ena.

RK: Yeah there is.

CL: Close to that water hole?

RK: It's somewhere close by. Yeah.

CL: Did you folks go to Ka`ena usually?

RK: I used to go. When I wantta eat crab. I go all the way till the end of the road there then I park there and I walk inside in the night. Catch crab, everything, finish, turn around, coming home.

CL: Was kind of long walk.

RK: Pretty long walk but you think of the crab, never mind the long walk. Catch quite a bit. Coming back time though, you kind of feel somebody following you. The hair all stand up. Ho, you turn around and look. Hey. No problem.

CL: Yeah cause there's some house foundations there isn't there?

RK: Yeah. But that no stop me. I go.

CL: Was there anything else at Ka`ena? For fishing kind.

RK: Yeah, limu too. We throw net over there too. Not too big of an area but they good enough. Pole fishing. Yeah limu kohu. Pole fishing.

CL: So you know this place a little bit more Kalapana side from there, that they called 20 minutes?

RK: Yeah, that's the one they call, I forget what's the name. That's a ulua place where these guys go make ulua. Pole ulua.

CL: With the ohia stick.

RK: Little bit too high over there for ohia stick. Unless you go more far on the Ka'u side. But usually these guys go with the pole fishing yeah. Ulua fishing.

CL: Oh, the newer kind.

RK: Yeah. You could, but you have to find a place where you can stick the ohia pole inside yeah. Make your own.

CL: You know the name Koheo?

RK: Koheo, yeah.

CL: Is that the same as 20 minutes?

RK: Koheo, I think that's within the area, yeah, Koheo. I think that's the one. Yeah Koheo, right. Oh you see, come back, Yeah Koheo.

CL: Aku said that.

RK: That's right. I remember now.

[section omitted]

CL: So let me ask you too Robert, what about the side like Kamoamoia and Lae`apuki and in there. Did you used to go fishing in there too?

RK: Oh yeah. Pole fishing. Not too much, not throwing net. It's all cliff. Certain places. Certain places used to be good for `_holehole, moi, like that. And when I got a little older, I don't go throw em. I tell my sons go throw em. They strong legs. Yeah all in between there, here and there, yeah, there's good spots. But mostly was good for opihi pounding and all that.

CL: So if you went there for throw net, did you go by horseback?

RK: Those day, yes.

CL: Before the road was in.

RK: Yeah, before the road was in. All horseback.

CL: I know there's two different trails.

RK: The up trail and the down trail.

CL: Where did they split?

RK: They split where the parking lot is now, down there.

CL: Which parking lot?

RK: You know where the tourist take that road go down to Apua? What you call that? I forgot the name of that area

CL: Puuloa?

RK: Puuloa yeah. Puuloa. You either can go down side or you can go straight across. And actually the road splits from Kaena. No, the road splits from Kamoamo.

CL: That's what I thought.

RK: Yeah, you take that road, that trail going down Kamoamo all the way on the ocean side and from over there if you want a faster route, then you take the one going along side the cliff. I used to travel with that back side. Used to take that trail, back trail before.

CL: So if you want to go fish by Lae`apuki, Kamoamo side in there, then you take that trail. Did you ever hear the name Willie Pe'a?

RK: Willie Pe'a. Is it a person name?

CL: Place name.

RK: Place name. No. Willie Pe'a. Not close to where

CL: It's down on the ocean. They show it, nobody knows this name almost. Nobody knows this name. I think it might be a mistake.

RK: Try mention it to Edmond Kaawaloa.

CL: I will. It's down by, past Lae`apuki.

RK: Willie Pe'a. Maybe that's another namesake for this Pe'a family.

CL: Maybe. Yeah.

RK: Because their land is upside eh.

CL: Yeah, that's right.

RK: Ah I forget the name, what you call that name, back up there?

CL: Panau?

RK: Panau. Panau nui, Panau iki. Yeah.

CL: That's another thing I was going to ask you about. I know you told Rita that your father used to live up Panau.

RK: Yeah my dad used to live down there before because his cousin married to Pe'a. And what they used to do is, everybody has their own job to do. One go hunting, one go fishing, you make firewood, they go do this, you do that. Everybody has its own job to do.

CL: That was when Kahale Pe'a was still alive?

RK: Yeah. And he say was good, good.

CL: What did he used to do?

RK: I think he was rounding up goats at that time. Ten cents a hide. Big money eh those days. Say the people come they like all the goat they like eat, take. But they take the hide eh.

CL: Was they only living up mauka?

RK: Up mauka. Only mauka. Then they had their own taro patch growing up there. Anything, yeah. They was self-sufficient.

CL: You know whether it was close to the house?

RK: Our taro patch? I think more inside I think. Yeah where the higher ohia trees is at with all the hapu'us up there. I guess they had poho here, poho there yeah. And they said they had their own wild pigs up there too. Pipi, they most got everything up there. A town of itself. How come they don't let us Hawaiians go

up there go live? I tried to say if they can make a homestead up there for our people. Make the road go inside. But see, they don't want to put road eh. You gotta go on the trail. That's going backwards.

CL: Anything else he told you about that place up there, living up there those days?

RK: No, that's about it. Only the lifestyle, how they used to live, what they gotta do. Everybody has their own job at that time.

CL: That was before he was married?

RK: Yep. Before he was married. Everything was plentiful. Only went hunting, make salt meat, salt pork. The gang go down catch fish, make dry fish, fresh fish. Yeah the other one grow taro patch. The other one make firewood.

CL: Let me bring you back to this Kamoamo side I guess. What I did was, I've been talking to Kaipō Roberts and Ben Hauanio about places and so every place they know, lae ulua or poho moi, I marked it on here. Did you ever go on this side where Wahaula is?

RK: No, you know what, I never did. Usually I pass em, pass em by.

CL: How come?

RK: Usually well the trail goes upside yeah. So we don't go close by. We going go we go far place.

CL: Where you went start?

RK: You mean our riding? Usually our riding was at Queen's Bath before. We bring all the animal over there and load em up and everything. Okay, adios, going.

CL: So if you were going throw net, would you start at Kamoamo?

RK: No. We pass em. Yeah we go all the way Apua. Then we do our net throwing over there. We stay there by the days. Maybe two, three days. Then we know we can get more things around there. But if only for home use like that, then you going short place eh. But those days we don't fool around with a shorter place over here like Kaena. Just recently that we.... Yeah those days, if we gonna go, we go far place. We head to.... Yeah we usually go for two, three days, sometimes four days and we go all the way to Apua and then from there we either work our way back this way or go more farther.

CL: So this side in here, this Kamoamo side, you didn't use much.

RK: No. Then just recently yeah, after the road got in then we

CL: Was easier.

RK: Yeah easier. Go with the car then from home. But good fishing area though all these place before. Yeah. Brought home a lot of fish for my family. Yeah good fun too.

CL: So Robert, did you learn ulua fishing yourself?

RK: I did, through my uncle. Yeah. And I used to go by myself too.

CL: What places did you go? Down here or in the Park?

RK: Oh I used to go in the Park. But at the end of the, actually where the road, turn goes up.

CL: Oh yeah, I know.

RK: Near Puuloa. Yeah, I used to go in there.

CL: Where the high pali is?

RK: Yeah. Further, more inside. And put my stick over there and start pounding. Oh he come. See em all underneath.

CL: That's the same place Ben Hauanio used to go?

RK: I don't know where he go.

CL: He said he went one place here where there was high pali. Right around the bend. That's where you went?

RK: No. I go more further in on the lower pali side.

CL: Okay. He's the only one I know went on that high pali.

RK: Bring em up, ho. Hundred fifty pound.

CL: So it must have been more towards, let's see, it's past there. Was it as far as 20 minutes?

RK: No, no. Just maybe about 100 yards away from the high pali, 100, 150 yards inside.

CL: Okay. Is there a name for that area?

RK: No. I went go over there and made my own. Just ran around and find to where the ulua does come. He come.

CL: Oh, nobody told you, you figured it out?

RK: Yeah, I just went out and look and search and until oh I think this is the right place.

CL: That place right where the road curbs up, you ever hear a name for that spot? Ben's wife was saying that there was some name, something to do with the olohe. She forgot the name.

RK: Holei? Olohe?

CL: Yeah, you know that story. I figured you knew it.

RK: Holei?

CL: Well she didn't think Holei.

RK: Holei is way over.

CL: Yeah Holei is farther over.

RK: I don't know the name of that area.

CL: Maybe, I'll try another time. She might remember another time. What about, did you ever hear the name Kaheka?

RK: Kaheka. No, Ke`ena yes, not that one.

CL: So then Robert, when you, what year did you get married?

RK: I got married 1962, '63.

CL: '63.

RK: Yeah. I would say around there.

CL: And when do you think you would have started going into the Park with your children? When they got a little older?

RK: Yeah, I'd say about '64. After I got married to her then I started to get together with my cousin and we used to go in and also we walked down to Kaena go fishing, pole fishing.

CL: Cause the road was already in then yeah.

RK: Actually no. The road was building at that time. But we just sneak em in. Pull out the chain over there, we go in. Actually they put the chain so then don't cause em bust up the road after they lay all those materail eh. But somehow we got the key. But our purpose was to go in and to get food not to go in there and make monkey business or whatever.

CL: So before that time, before they started building the road, were you still going in by horse to Apua?

RK: Yeah.

Tape 2, Side A

CL: Did you folks still go in by horseback to Apua?

RK: Yes. All by horseback. Course closer better yet.

CL: Trailer into Puuloa?

RK: Trailer. Trailer all the way to Puuloa. Unload, load up, take off.

CL: And how long did you keep going in there by horse? Till what year?

RK: Till '80, in the '80s. Between there. Yeah around there. Yeah I enjoyed my time. And I'm glad that I was fortunate to get my children and show them the area and they got to fish the area.

CL: So right now, none of them go in there?

RK: They do. Right now there are four of them in there.

CL: Oh yeah. They went by boat or they

RK: They walked, walked in. My son's getting married on August 15th so they going in there to gather opihi if they can get. Probably sleep overnight and catch some crab. Yeah, two of them getting married in August. August 1st, August 15th. Why don't you join us for their wedding.

CL: Okay. Sure. I'll be glad to.

RK: So they called me this morning, said, oh dad, I got the wrong number. I was supposed to call somebody else, I called your house. What's the scoop boy? He said, oh we going in, we going in. Oh. Okay, good luck, be careful. So my other two sons that works up in the National Park joining them. Paul and Kukui.

CL: Two of them work there now.

RK: Yeah. And Primo is in there. He went last night fishing so probably pick him up and in they go. Then Prince, four of them.

CL: Yeah, opihi is not as big as it used to be.

RK: Well you see there's guys that coming in with the boat. And nobody keeping tab on them. What's the matter with these guys. They know when the ocean good, go down there. Wait for em. No when the ocean rough then go. When the ocean is good you going find them coming in. They catch one or two or three of them, the word pass around. Then they won't come in. Come in to town for sell. Usually it's for selling. Don't take all the stuff. Leave em

alone. When we want you know, every day I have something to bank on. How they going to manage to cure that, to heal that? You gotta go to the doctor and spend big bucks. No guarantee come out no more scar. But the turtle oil got no scar, brand new. I know for the fact because it had happened to me.

CL: Every house used to have turtle oil before.

RK: Every house used to have turtle oil. And that was a must because we don't know when we going get burned.

CL: Do you know what year they said no more hunting turtles?

RK: Maybe in the '80s or the '70s.

CL: Kind of recent eh.

RK: Yeah. And they tell us Hawaiians too. That's our native food. We never abuse em before. It's all this commercialize guys that did it and that effect us. And we know how much to take and when to and when not to. Never did see our people go and get and go sell em. But I know there's lots of them on the outside that does that. We just take what we need and that's it. Why I say, catch me. I eat em and I'll save the oil for burn and for tools, oiling, leather, great, real great.

CL: So I can't think anything more to ask. Can you think of anything else that we need to cover.

RK: No, no, I think we've covered all the base. I hope. But if there's anything that have been missed, give me a call. (end of interview)

after recording ended:

Robert said he saw a place up mauka in the park which has a cistern made w. cooked coral; they carried coral up in coconut baskets and cooked it in an imu so it's like concrete.

- p. 1-2 fishing trips w. children to Apua, Kealakomo--thrownet & salt fish, `opihi, goat
- p. 3 throw-net holes at Apua Bay and on west
- p. 4 goat hunting better at Apua than Keauhou
Kealakomo & Panau--usually just pound `opihi
- p. 5 Halape-got turtle & crab at island, lobster in bay
- p. 8 waterhole at Kalue--on back side/no shed
Kakiiwai--good ground for thrownet, stretch of gray sand, moi hole on west side, unsure if waterhole
- p. 9 Kalue--all pahoehoe, nice limu kohu on papas, places to thrownet (Kakiiwai also limu but sandy)
limu at Apua, but better farther east on Apua side of Kahue goat corral
- p. 10 salt poho--good in Kahue to Kealakomo (not right east of Apua point)
- p. 11 Elia Kahookaulana went for ulua at Apua point, also at spot between Apua & Keauhou (he forgets name), also at Ka`ena
- p. 12 went to Ka`ena for crab after road put in
- p. 13 Twenty Minutes = Koheo, used for pole ulua
- p. 14 up and down trails to Apua, unfamiliar w. name Wilipe`a
- p. 15 before took upside trail to Apua, passed by Kamoamoā,
etc.; only recently went there after road put in
- p. 17 went pipi ulua just west of where road curves inland from coast, spot west of high pali
- p. 18 unfamiliar w. name Kaheka
- p. 19 kept going in by horse to Apua until 80s