

doors leading from the living room to the enclosed glass porch, and from the porch to the front steps, the man was able to pull out the long chair from the rattan set. But that was all that was salvaged from the house. Only ashes remained of our lovely home.

Uncle Henry, who lived two houses away from us, invited us to stay with them. It was only for one night. Because Dad was a teacher at the Pa'auilo school, the education department offered Dad and his family a two bedroom duplex reserved for teachers at the school. The Red Cross and the LDS church helped with food and clothing. David and Abigail Kailimai, good family friends, gave us a stove and refrigerator for the kitchen.

By this time, brother Nāwai had enlisted in the U.S. Army, and sister Katy was graduating from the Kamehameha School for Girls in Honolulu. Dad and Mom went to her graduation, and we stayed for a few days with our Aunty Miriam Bailado and her family in Kūka'iau, not too far from the school.

Katy came home to visit, but returned to Honolulu to find a job. I started my senior year at Honoka'a and planned to enter the University of Hawai'i in Honolulu after graduation. Mom did not want Dad to build another house on the same property in Kalōpā, so Dad decided that we should all move to Honolulu after I graduated.

Families That Lived In Kalōpā When We Were There

The families living in Kalōpā that I can remember were:

1. Japanese - Tsuji
 Yoshikami
 Wachi
 Beatrice Okamoto

2. Hawaiian - Nāwai Keko'olani
 Henry Keomalu
 John Kamauoha
 Andrew Kamauoha
 George Needham
 Annie Lau
 Gabriel Kapeliela Heaukulani
 Keli'i Paiva (John Souza)

3. Portuguese- Antone Ferreira
Henry Freitas
Manuel Freitas
Manuel Cordeiro
Alfred Cordeiro
Christian Alfonso
Ernest Alfonso
Joseph Gomes
Frank Carvalho
Manuel Rodrigues
4. Filipino - Quentin Baroseros

For the purpose of this book, I mailed out a questionnaire to some of the families who had lived in Kalōpā or who may still live there, with such questions as:

In what year did your family settle in Kalōpā?

Were you born in Kalōpā?

Where did you go to school?

Who were some of your best friends growing up there?

Any special childhood sweetheart?

What religion did you belong to?

Some activities participated in?

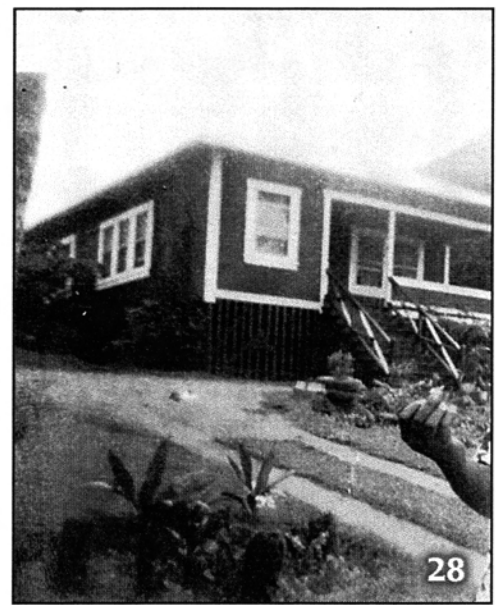
Your life in Kalōpā?

Your family?

Special memories?



Henry Keomalu, Jr. (center) sitting on running board of a 1929 Sampam Bus with other family members: Charlie Kekoolani (boy) inside bus with uncle George Hussey (the 3rd); Nawai Kekoolani standing outside bus in front of son Charlie; cousin Daniel Thomas in front of Nawai; cousin Harrison Kanekoa standing in long-sleeve white shirt; and friend Joe White. c.1940.



Uncle Henry Keomalu's house. 1951.

Henry Keomalu

Henry's daughter, Ellarine Keomalu Teves, had this to say about her family:

"My dad told me that while working at a school in Ka'ū, he contacted his friend, Frank Texeira, the principal of Kapa'ahu school, just above Kalōpā. My dad wanted to live near Pa'auilo, where he was born. Subsequently, he was hired as a sixth grade teacher at Kapa'ahu.

"Because Mr. Texeira was a huge land owner of sugar cane in Kalōpā, Dad asked him if he had some land to sell. He surveyed a piece of his property and sold it to my dad. It was a lovely property, overlooking the vast Pacific ocean. My parents had a beautiful, spacious four-bedroom house built on it. It was very comfortable and accommodating. I loved it. My dad grew fruit trees around the house: grapes, peaches, bananas, papaya, Washington cherries, lychee, stone cherries, and red waiawi.

"We had a vegetable garden with lettuce, beans, cabbage, onion, radishes, carrots, potatoes, and pipinola. We also raised chickens and rabbits to eat and dogs and a horse named Sonny Girl. Dad used her to go fishing and pick 'opihi down the cliffs of the Hāmākua coast. He took our dog to stay with Sonny Girl who was tied to a big ironwood tree. Dad tied one end of a rope around his waist, and the other end to a strong tree, then he climbed down the high cliff to fish and pick 'opihi for the family to eat.

"Dad would share his catch with the Japanese families, Wachi and Beatrice Okamoto, and they would reciprocate with vegetables from their gardens.

"We never had a telephone in our house, and Dad bought us a washing machine when I was about 16 years old. We always had a suitable car as Dad needed it to go to school. He was able to transfer to Pa'auilo school to teach.

"My dad was the best man on earth that I ever knew. He was very learned, patient, and

loving. He played the guitar, 'ukulele, the violin, and also the piano. We had a pianola in our house. Dad was also the chorister in church for as long as I lived in Kalōpā.

“Besides being a great gardener and fisherman, Dad was a great cook. He also knew how to make kulolo and kālua pig, and he even pounded our own poi, right in our back yard.

“Dad was also an avid and star baseball player, and a polished billiard ball player.

“Dad lost four wives during his lifetime, and in between them, he became both a father and mother to us children.

“My mother, Ellarine Hussey, was born in Waimea, Hawai'i, but she died when I was only eight months old. Her mother, Tūtū Pāpa'i, took care of me until my dad married Rebecca Haraguchi. As a stepmom, she sewed our clothes, she was a beautiful dressmaker.

“Dad and Rebecca adopted my aunty Miriam's son, Joseph, and raised him with us. Miriam was my dad's sister. Rebecca was a wife to my dad for 11 years.

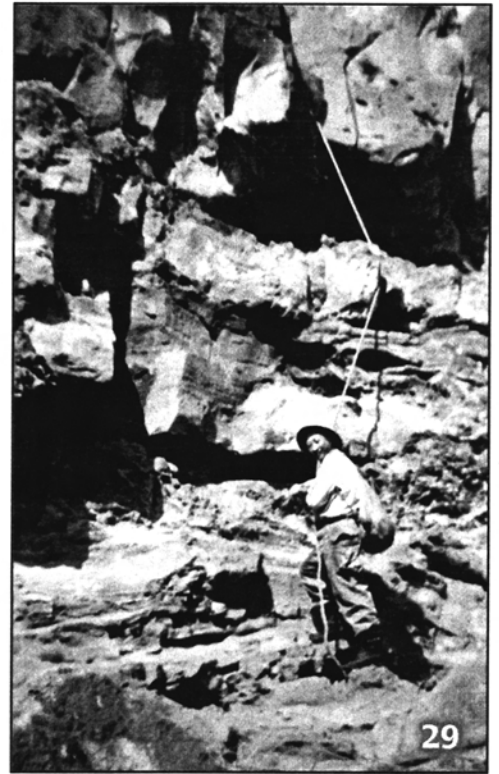
“While living in Kalōpā, we purchased necessities for our house from the Nakahara and Awong Stores in Honoka'a, but clothing was bought mostly in Hilo. Ishii Store in Kalōpā was where we bought our shoes, rice, and canned goods. And whenever we had a nickel to spare, we walked to the store to buy the best cracked seeds in the world. I loved the gulch alongside this store, with the water flowing daily. It was a real beautiful sight to see.

“I attended the Kapa'ahu Elementary School and rode to school with my dad, but I rode the bus when I transferred to Honoka'a School; So did my brothers and sisters.

“Our family belonged to the mormon church, and we had our own little branch in Kalōpā. George Needham and his wife, Pi'ilani; David and Lily Chong; the Kamauohas; Uncle Nāwai and Aunty Emily Keko'olani; and the Manuwa family. When we began holding meetings in Honoka'a, I began playing the organ; I was about 14 years old. I didn't play well, but there was no one else to do it, so I practiced real hard to be perfect.

“I also danced hula for Aunty Emily's hālau at Christmas time at the Kūka'iau Ranch, the Honoka'a club, and other affairs when asked.

“I worked in the cane fields, for Frank Texeira, for extra money. It was real hard labor. We



Uncle Henry Keomalu scaling cliffs of Hamakua after fishing and picking opihi. c.1940s

planted and hoed the grass, row by row. During the dry spells, we washed our clothes at the ditch below our house.

“The holidays in Kalōpā were exciting—Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and the Holy Ghost Feast. The neighbors met and had an enjoyable time eating, and sharing with friends.

“My best friends growing up with me in Kalōpā were Bessie Gomes (our next door neighbor); Beatrice Okamoto, who lived below the ditch and whose father was the ditch caretaker; and Daisy Chong, from Honoka‘a.

“I experienced my first love while living in Kalōpā. His name was Arnold Teves from Honoka‘a. He was a good friend of my two brothers, Henry and George. He played basketball with them, but used his track record to run the five miles or so from Honoka‘a to see me. I was only 14 years old when I became his friend, and I attended his senior prom.

“The Pearl Harbor attack affected all of us. We had to use gas masks, build air raid shelters, and blackout the windows of our house. Gas was rationed and food shipments short, so we relied heavily on our own gardens for food.

“During my 10th, 11th, and 12th grades at Honoka‘a High School, I was involved in basketball. I also played for the MIA (Mutual Improvement Association) in the LDS church program, and even joined the Catholic team because they asked me. Of course, playing for the school took priority since we competed with other high schools.

“I left Kalōpā in 1944 when I graduated from Honoka‘a High School, and attended the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa on O‘ahu. The belt highway had not yet been built. My family left Kalōpā and moved to Hawaiian Homes land in Kamuela.

“As I look back on those years in Kalōpā, I must say that I lived in most beautiful surroundings. My home was beautiful, the yard and all in it. Our view of the blue pacific ocean was so exhilarating—I think of Kalōpā as a bit of paradise where I was raised.

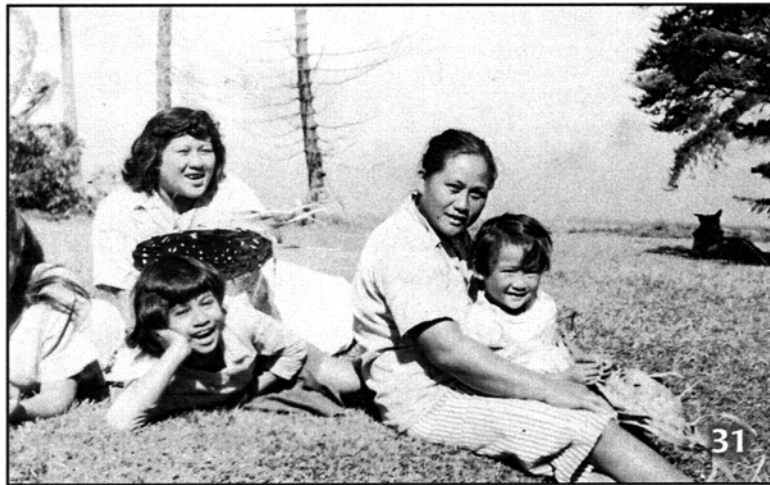
“May I add that in 1990, while my husband, Arnold, and I lived in Honoka‘a, the Anderson family who bought our house in Kalōpā found out that we were the original owners. They invited me to the house and I was thrilled to see that it was well kept, and that they enjoy living there. He even gave me fruits from the yard.”



Uncle Henry Keomalū's house. 1990.

(Note: Ella's mother was my mother's sister, and her father was my father's first cousin, so we were related on both sides.)

I might add here that Uncle Henry's fourth wife was Melia Ah Puck Coelho, a widow with five children - Myrtle, Frank, Lorna, Johnny and Madeleine. She had two girls, Alma 'Iwalani and Norma Ku'ulei, with Uncle Henry.



Aunty Melia Keomalū with her children, Myrtle, Madeleine, and Ku'ulei. c.1940s.



Aunty Melia Keomalū, Uncle Henry Keomalū, Ella, Iwalani and grandchildren. Date unknown

The Ferreira Family

Antone Louis Ferreira and Virginia Gouveia Ferreira settled in Kalōpā about 1915 on homestead land they acquired. Their daughter, Rose (married to Alfred Ferreira), writes:

“There were five members in our family: Dad, Mom, my sister Violet, brothers William and George, and myself.



Antone Ferreira's house. 2001.

“I was born in Kalōpā. Our house was located close to Sand Gulch and the Kalōpā Catholic church. Our closest neighbors were the Kalili and Campbell families. We lived in a large home it had three bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room and parlor, and a large porch.

“Dad operated a grocery store in front of our home; he was a good businessman. We owned a pickup truck which was used to deliver groceries, and a Chevrolet sedan, as well as a Ford sedan. We also had a dog and cat, but did not use horses for transportation.

“There was coffee, avocado, lemon, and orange in our yard, as well as one coconut tree. We also enjoyed the modern conveniences of a telephone, electric stove, and refrigerator in our home.

“I really admired my father because he was a good man, and he did a lot for the family. He also worked as a truant officer for the school, and was employed with the Hāmākua district as an overseer. Besides that, he planted sugar cane on his land and sold it to the plantation.

“My mother was a very kindhearted woman. Besides raising her own children, she also raised her nieces and nephews when their mother died. She would also work in the grocery store, in addition to her household duties.

“My mother sewed some of our school clothes, but the family shopped for household necessities at Honoka‘a and Hilo.

“Some of my best friends while growing up in Kalōpā were Adeline Nobriga; Jeannette Keomalū; the Kamauoha sisters; and my cousins, the Alfonsos.

“I belonged to the Catholic religion, and I participated in the church parades. Leaders of the church Holy Ghost Feasts were Joe Nobriga and Joe Gomes.

“We celebrated the Fourth of July in nearby Honoka‘a. There was always a grand parade, baseball games, and sports for the children, and dancing for the adults at the Honoka‘a school auditorium.

“Many ethnic groups settled in Kalōpā; Hawaiians: Kamauoha, Keomalū, Mahoe, Campbell, Kepano, Akana, Hussey; Portuguese: Joe Gomes, Manuel Nobriga, Antone Ferreira, Alfred Cordeiro, Joe Pestana, Manuel Branco, John Alfonso, Christian Alfonso, Joe Souza, John Souza, Frank Olival, Manuel Rapozo; Japanese: Mitsuru Wachi, Yoshio Murakami, Torao Sonomura, Ebesu, Tsuji; Puerto Rican: Elizares, Gonsalves, Feliciano. Everybody got along like good neighbors do.

“As of this writing (July 1999), my husband Alfred and I still live in Kalōpā, and so do my brothers, William and George. George lives in our old family home.

“Some of the changes that I have witnessed while living here in Kalōpā are 1) the belt highway was built along the Hāmākua coast from Hilo, and bypasses the homestead of Kalōpā; 2) the Kalōpā State Park was built and opened to the public in August 1970; and 3) the plantations around Kalōpā were closed.”

The Wachi Family

Mitsuru Wachi and his family lived right next door to us, on the Hilo side. He had about a half acre of land, like ours, and except for the corner where his house was built near the main road and a tiny yard, the rest of the land was used for growing vegetables which I’m sure he sold to the markets. He and his wife were such hard workers, toiling in their gardens constantly. I think they had about three children; the oldest girl was Kazue.

Mr. Wachi always shared his vegetables with Dad, and Dad reciprocated with what Mr. Wachi didn’t have. His tomatoes were huge and luscious, and along his property by the main road, he had some peach trees from which we would steal when nobody was looking. My father always told us to ask Mr. Wachi if we wanted some, but we were too afraid to ask.

Mrs. Wachi had the reddest cheeks. She also had a lot of gold fillings in her teeth, and they sparkled when she smiled. I

always remember her carrying one of the babies on her back in a sling, while working alongside her husband in the garden.

The Wachi family was one of the few families in Kalōpā that owned a telephone. Only in dire emergencies did Dad send us to borrow the phone from them. I guess we just couldn’t afford to have a phone.



Mitsu Wachi's house. 2001.

Needham Family

Pi'ilani Knight was a teacher at the Kapa'ahu school, not far from Kalōpā, in the early 1900s. When some of the public lands in Kalōpā were opened up for homesteading, Pi'ilani decided to buy a piece of property, even though she was still a young single woman.

She had told me in the early 1970s that the property cost \$50.00; that was a lot of money at that time, but she had saved enough to pay for it.

Pi'ilani later married George Needham, who was employed by the Pa'auhau sugar plantation as an accountant. They both became the stalwart leaders in the LDS church in the Hāmākua district. One of their children, Ruth, relates life in Kalōpā as she remembers it:

“Because Mother had the land, which was located about one fourth of a mile beyond the second hairpin curve on the left side of the road (going up from the old government road to the Kalōpā State Park), we lived there for a while. There were four children in our family - the oldest was Nephi (a boy), and three girls - Odetta, me, and Leah.

“Our closest neighbors were the Gomes, Alfonsos, and Gouveias. All the land around us was planted with sugar cane.

“I attended Pa'auhau Elementary School up to the eight grade and later went to the Kamehameha Girls School in Honolulu and graduated there.

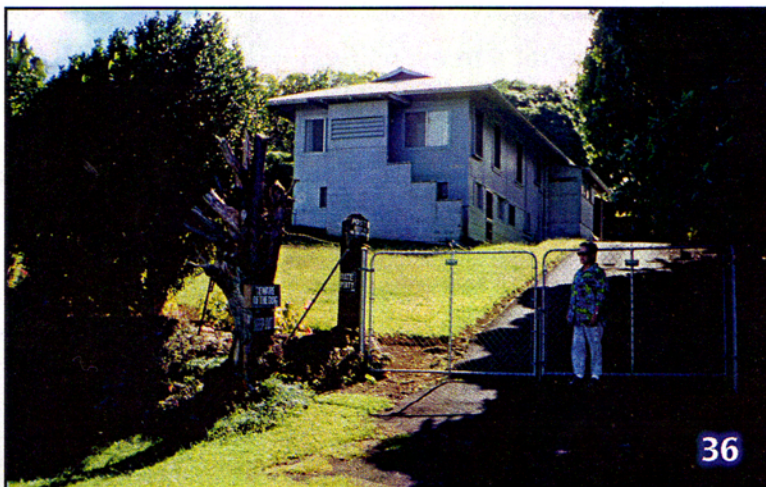
“Some of my best friends growing up were Tamae Gyotoku and Betty Gibson.”



Manuel Rodrigues and Charles Kekoolani. 1990.

Rodrigues Family

Manuel and Mary Rodrigues lived next door to us, on the Honoka'a side. They were both hard working people. I think Mr. Rodrigues had cane land which was located above where we lived, and Mary was a housewife although she spent a lot of time working in the vegetable and flower gardens in their yard. She



Manuel Rodrigues house. 2002.

always came to talk to my dad as he worked in his garden. I can still see her standing next to the high link fence that divided our properties. In the afternoons, Mr. Rodrigues would sit on their front porch and read the daily newspaper. He would come to the fence also to discuss the events published in the paper. Mary always baked her delicious Portuguese bread and shared it with us.

Their daughter, Cozy, must have been four or five years older than the rest of us girls in the neighborhood, but she was always a part of the gang.

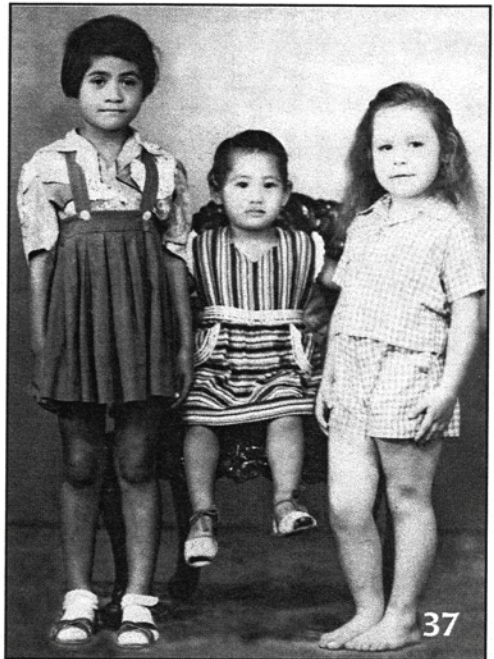
Gomes Family

Joe Gomes and his family lived between the Rodrigues and uncle Henry Keomalu, going towards the direction of Honoka'a. They had a large two story home and a very big yard where most of our baseball and other games were played. We used to climb up their cypress tree along side the main road to watch the games if we were not participating in them. Mr. Gomes owned many acres of cane land behind his house.

Mr. and Mrs. Gomes had a large family - Helen, Balbina, Bessie, and Sista were the girls; Joseph and Moses were the boys. Bessie and Moses were closer in age to us so I knew them better. They also had a little niece, I think, named Judy, who was much younger than us.

Mr. Gomes' sister, Mrs. Frank Carvalho, and her husband lived in a little house between the Gomes and the Rodrigues for a while. They had three children: Ethel, the oldest; James

(Jimmy), a year older than me; and Frankie, the youngest. Jimmy and Frankie spent a lot of time at our house playing. Later on, the Carvalho family moved to another house closer to Ishii Store.



Madeline Coelho, Iwalani Keomalu, and Judy Gomes. c.1945.



Joe Gomes' house. 2001.



Albert Muller Hussey with first wife Florence Kamauoha Hussey. Date unknown.

Kamauoha Family

John Kamauoha Sr. was small in stature, a little over five feet, but I knew him as a very hard worker, homesteading the 20 or so acres of sugar cane to provide for his family. John was married to Ella Brunt, a Samoan woman, who loved him and the church and accompanied him to Skull Valley in Utah in the early 1900s to be near the LDS temple there.

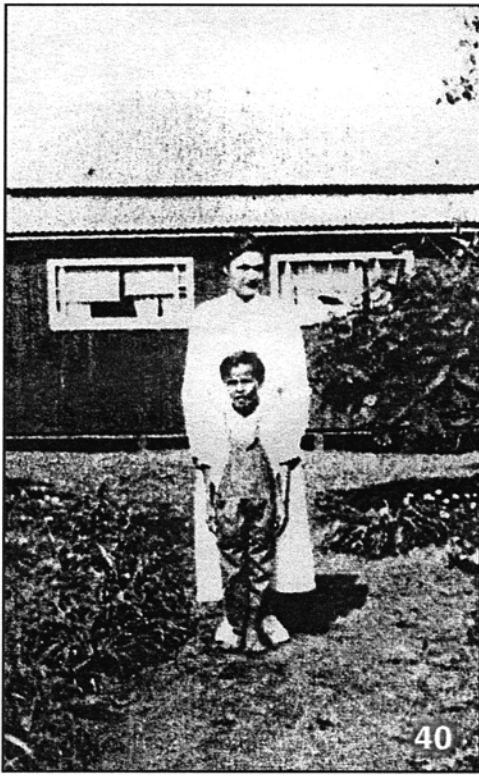
After being baptized in the church here in Hawai'i, a group of Hawaiians accepted the invitation from the president of the church (I think it was Joseph F. Smith) to settle in the remote valley outside of Salt Lake City.

The winters in Skull Valley were severe and not being accustomed to such a cold climate, many of the Hawaiian saints endured unbearable hardship. Many died and were buried there, including some of the Kamauoha children.

When news was received that a temple would be built in Lā'ie on O'ahu, the president recommended that the Hawaiians in Utah move back to their homeland. About that time, homestead land was made available to people who were interested. On May 2, 1918, John was awarded lot 16 in Kalōpā. John Koahou Kamauoha Jr., son of John Sr. and Ella Brunt, was born in Kalōpā on June 10, 1928. His story follows:

"I was born at home with my dad as the midwife to my mother, as far as I know. There were nine children in our family. We lived in a little two-bedroom house below the main road. I don't know who built the original house, but Mr. Manuel Rodrigues, one of the neighbors, helped my father add on a living room and a porch.

"We had a vegetable garden with sweet potatoes, carrots, and string beans. We also had a large mango tree as well as avocado, banana, and papaya trees. My dad also planted a large patch of 'ākulikuli flowers for my mother to make leis and other flowers like gardenia, 'ōhai ali'i, and golden day lilies that lined the path from the yard to the road.



Johnny Kamauoha with Laura (Andrew Kamauoha's wife) in front of Kamauoha house. 1938.



Johnny, Edwin and Ella Kamauoha in front of their house. 1938.

“We also had a dog and one or more cats. We also had a horse, and when it died, we got a mule to help us with the cultivation of the sugar cane fields that partly surrounded the house.

“My dad was a very hard worker. Besides raising the 20 acres of cane, he also worked for the County of Hawai‘i, cutting grass along the sides of the main highway. As children, we all had to work in the cane fields. I can remember working in there when I was six years old. After school, we worked until it was dark. I planted the cane, hoed the grass, and even walked behind the plow being pulled by the mule. When the cane was ready to be cut, Dad hired people to do it.

“My father was a very kind, loving man. He never hit us when we were naughty. He would just talk to us, and we felt worse than if he did hit us.

“My dad was also a good cook, and he loved to play slack key on his guitar. He was also a talented violinist and played his violin in church often. Both of my parents were staunch members of the mormon church; Dad and my older brother, Andrew, were leaders in our small Kalōpā branch of the church, along with George Needham, Henry Keomalu, and Nāwai Keko‘olani.

“Unlike my dad, my mother disciplined us. She was very fast with her hands, yet she was a loving mother. She was a hard worker at home, and even helped in the cane field work. She also loved the gospel and took an active part in the activities of the women’s organization in the church. Whenever there was a church conference, she was sure to have a lei or two of the

beautiful 'ākulikuli to grace the necks of the visiting authorities.

“The district of the LDS church in our area extended to 'O'ōkala, where meetings were held at the Sanborn home, and also in member's homes in Kūka'iau. Dad would take me and my brothers along with him. My father never drove a car even though my brother, Andrew, who was married to Laura Lorenzo, had bought him a 1934 Chevrolet sedan in 1939.

“I remember many of the church outings we attended at Kawaihae beach. It was fun swimming, eating, and playing games with the members of the other branches in the district.



Johnny Kamauoha and George Ferreira. Date unknown.

“I went to the Kapa'ahu Elementary School. We had to walk to school, which was about four or five miles away. But it was fun because we walked with friends in the neighborhood. Some of my best friends were William and George Ferreira; Lawrence and Manuel Freitas; Fred and Manuel Cordero; Amy, Myra and Katherine Keko'olani; Ella Keomalu; and Irene Freitas, who was special to me though she broke my heart.

“Even though we were mormon, we all attended the Catholic church's annual Holy Ghost feasts in Kalōpā. It was fun; lots of good food and games. The whole community enjoyed the festivities.

“During intermediate school, we rode Henry Freitas' bus to Honoka'a, which was too far away to walk. The 4th of July was a special time in Honoka'a. There was always a big parade through town which ended at the high school park where prizes were given out. There

were lots of sporting events, baseball, boxing, and racing contests, and so much good food to eat.

“Another special time in Kalōpā was Christmas. Neighbors invited other neighbors to parties where we ate kālua pig, laulau, sushi, and Portuguese sweet bread. Me and my brother, Ed, along with the Ferreira brothers, the Corderos, the Freitas', and



Myra "Kolani" Kekoolani, Amy Kekoolani, with Irene Freitas. 2000.

Jimmy Carvalho used to go around and serenade. One year, someone gave us sake (Japanese wine), beer, and regular wine to drink. I got so drunk and punched out Ross Moniz. The Portuguese wanted to kill me.

“I also remember walking the few miles to Ishii Store to buy candies and other things that we needed for the house. But mainly, our family shopping was done at the Kaneshiro and Nakashima stores in Honoka‘a. Once in a while, we took the bus to Hilo. Since we had a big family, our clothes were passed down from the older ones to the younger ones. We did not have any modern conveniences in our home; no electricity until 1939. We got our water for the house from the ditch below us even though we had a large water tank to catch the rain water for us to drink. And sometimes, we used to swim naked in the reservoir that was next to the ditch. We also swam in the ponds of the nearby gulches, especially after the heavy rains stopped.

“During World War II, the little church branch in Kalōpā was closed because the membership decreased. Some people moved out and those who remained had to go to Honoka‘a. The church building was dismantled and taken to Kukuihaele for the members there. Afterwards, it was sold to someone to live in.

“The military took over some of the schools to take care of the troops. We had to paint our windows black, curfews were set, and we had to carry gas masks and IDs.

“I enlisted in the Army, and my brothers also left home. After Dad died, there was no one to keep up with the sugar cane, so the family left Kalōpā and moved to Honolulu.

“While growing up in Kalōpā, I was very happy. We didn’t have any material things, but we had love in our home. We had our religion and we had each other; we were satisfied. I have fond memories of Kalōpā. I remember you, Amy, and your brothers and sisters, and all our other friends. It was a good time.”

Meeting Up With Johnny Again

It was a very long time after we moved from Kalōpā that I met up with Johnny Kamauoha again. I saw him again in 1972 when me, Myra, and Wini moved here to Hilo with our 12 children, Papa, and two dogs, Prince and Queenie. We had left our husbands in Honolulu to become single parents.

Johnny Kamauoha was the bishop of the Kilauea 2nd ward which we attended. He assigned the men in the ward to take our boys (seven of them) under their wings. They became active boy scouts and priesthood bearers under such leaders as Louis Akiona Sr., Fritz Kua, Reginald Chong, and others.

Johnny had retired from the Army, worked at the Payless Store, and was hired as an adult