

**TRANSCRIPT: Puluolo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview - May 11, 2001**

Ke ‘Ano Wikiō (Type)	Oral History Interview
Nā Helu Wikiō (Tape #s)	HPS 0021 (pg. 2), HPS 0022 (pg. 35)
Lā (Date)	May 23, 2001
Wahi (Location)	Kailua, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu
Kanaka Nīnauele (Interviewer(s))	Maile Loo
Kanaka Ho‘opa‘a Mo‘olelo (Videographer)	Gene Kois
Nā hoa kipa (Others present)	None



<p>Nā Loina Ho‘ohana (Access & Use)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>This Transcript is provided as a research tool; Each document represents one (1) multi-hour session</i> ➤ <i>HPS does not include Hawaiian diacritical markings in peoples’ names, mele titles, or commercial names/locations that do not historically use them (i.e. Halekulani Hotel)</i> ➤ <i>Information in brackets reflect physical movement, background sounds, censored content, clarifications, colloquialisms, and "sic" terms (words likely intended by the speaker)</i> ➤ <i>DISCLAIMER: Please be advised that this transcript may contain content of a mature nature that may not be suitable for youth</i> ➤ <i>When citing this resource, please use: “Hula Preservation Society”</i> ➤ <i>For questions regarding use of content contained herein, please contact archive@hulapreservation.org or call (808) 247-9440</i> ➤ <i>We acknowledge there may still be corrections needed. If you find items of question (content, spelling, etc.), please take note and kindly contact us at archive@hulapreservation.org We appreciate your kōkua!</i>
--	--

PULUELO NAIPO PARK

Tape #: HPS 0021 (MV042)

Date: May 23, 2001

Location: Kailua, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu

Subject: Oral History Interview

Interviewer(s): Maile Loo

Videographer: Gene Kois

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

(02:25)

ML: Um, when we had lunch a few weeks ago, you were telling me this fantastical story about how your-you got your name. Or how-

PNP: Oh.

ML: --the name came to be in the family and now it's yours. And I'd love to hear it again.

PNP: [CHUCKLES]

ML: It was so amazing.

PNP: Oh, that Puluolo.

ML: Yes.

PNP: Well, um, grandma, great-grandma, I should say, great-great—great-great-grandma uh ... lives right near kahakai, yeah?

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And they were-like I told you, the Bell family was a little bit on the elite side, yeah. So they had a huge home. And they uh, when it was almost like maybe a month before, all the midwives come and live. And they don't have one midwife, they have several. She had about ... six midwives.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Stay with them. They live in one month before their time.

ML: Oh.

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: So Tutu Man, every morning goes out, and he goes out to the reef. Which is not far. It's-it's-here's the home, and it was like uh, maybe couple of homes away from-and maybe another street. That's-that's the-the reef.

ML: How far the reef is.

PNP: Yeah. And so he would get on the canoe and go every morning and make uh, get one kākā line of uh, fish. You know, all kind of fish. And mostly, it was the 'ū'ū's. And-

ML: M-m.

PNP: Uh, Auntie loved 'ū'ū's. You know, the red fish, the menpachi's and all that. Ah, that was their thing. So he would go out and get, and they always clean or fry or whatever. Midwives were so happy, 'cause they all live and-and make sure the mama eats what she wants. Well, this last time, she begged her husband. She got up and she saw him getting ready to go out to the reef. So she said-of course, she only spoke in Hawaiian. They never spoke English. So she says, oh, she want to go out to the uh, reef with him on the canoe. He said, No, pretty soon your time.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And she said, No, I know my time! He goes, no, no, no, no. Then he was arguing. No, you stay. I go and I come back quickly. She said, No, I want to go, because I want to see how you fish and how you dive. And oh, she argued with him. And then he said, All right then, I take you. So he walk her out to the canoe. And all the midwives go and say, No, no! He says, She wants to go. Oh, maybe I go. No, only one can go on that canoe.

(05:00)

He doesn't want uh, people. So he carry his wife, he put her on the canoe. And then he rode out to the reef, anchored there. Then he says, All right, Mama, he says, I'm going down to get uh, um, a kākā line of fish. He-she said, Oh, all right. She was so happy. And-and she loved it, so she's sitting on the canoe, waiting and waiting. While he was down there, maybe-I don't know how long it was. All of a sudden, she had this pain. Now, on the uh, shore there's a huge mound. And every morning, this high chiefess goes up there. They call her Kahuna Woman. High chiefess is always up on that mound, every single morning. And she-when she sees things, she chants, she oli's.

ML: M-m.

PNP: So she's watching that canoe. She's watching the canoe. Then she sees my great-great-grandmother lie down. And she goes-she sits straight up and look. And then she lies down and she's kinda pushing, you see.

ML: [COUGHS]

TRANSCRIPT: Puluolo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: --looking and looking. And then she sees-she knew that uh, my grandmother was having um, pain for the baby. And then she sees my grandmother going like that and grab, and that's when she knew that the baby had-was out. Not fully-

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: --but was out, and-'cause my grandmother was trying to hide. And so um, she started oli. When she oli, all the midwives ran, 'cause they all know what she was saying. And-and she was coming down from that mound, and she was oli. She's-she's pointing out to the boat. And all-all the midwives was-aaah, uh, they-they everything and-and Tutu Man was still underneath. He went down. When he came up, he says, Oh, Mama, I get the-and then he look, he said, Ah. He threw the-the kākā line, he grabbed the rope, and he started-well, you know, uh, swimming instead of uh, rowing. He swam and pushed the boat in. And while he was going in this-old, uh, the high chiefess was still chanting. And they-all the midwives lined-they had the water going and everything. That fast, you know. And he rushes, then just before he reached that-like say this is the shore. Just before he reached there, now the-mind you, the ocean is glassy. It's beautiful. There was no whitecaps, no nothing. When he got just about here, not shore yet, a huge 'ale--you know what a 'ale is.

ML: M-hm

PNP: All of a sudden, this huge 'ale just came right over the boat. And she got all wet-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --down there. And that baby's head was out. And that's what they call baptismal. And the ocean, when the baby not fully born. It's a blessed child, yeah. And-and then he got there. He lifted her up. She's holding the baby in her clothes, now, like this. And he's lifting her and he's talking Hawaiian to uh, the midwives. They're all running. He's running with her. He gets her right on the bed, and boom, the baby comes out. Waaa. Like that.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: [CHUCKLES] And then the uh, high chiefess just reach her door. She hears that uwē. She goes-she-she calls through the door, If that baby is a boy, it shall be called Puluikaale. If it's a girl, it shall be called Puluolo. They says, Why the 'elo. See, that's the hidden meaning of that name.

ML: M-m.

PNP: If you would look in the dictionary, you would see Puluolo is a wet this and that.

ML: M-hm.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: But this isn't the-the meaning. See, that's why lot of people say, Oh, but in the-I said, I-my name does not go by the dictionary. [CHUCKLES] I said, You don't know the meaning. 'Elo is a hidden meaning for uh, for this name. And the hidden meaning is the baby was baptized not fully born.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And that's why they call that the blessed child, yeah, of-of uh, my grandma. 'Cause she had given-and that was my grandmother that gave birth-she gave birth to.

ML: Oh. So that would-

PNP: Puelo.

ML: --be about almost-what, the early 1800s or so?

PNP: Yeah. Was about-

ML: When was your grandmother born?

PNP: Yeah. The 18-I-I forgot when was Grandma. Grandma was-

ML: [COUGHS]

PNP: No, right now, Grandma is about ... um ... almost the age of Liliuokalani. Um-

ML: Wow. So ...

PNP: Yeah, she would be-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --about that. 'Cause Liliuokalani was a young woman that time, going to school.

ML: Oh.

PNP: When uh-no, she was young, younger than that.

ML: She was younger than-

PNP: She was still a child.

ML: --Liliuokalani.

PNP: Yeah. So uh, my-my grandma was born after Liliu, or before Liliu. I cannot really tell you.

(10:00)

ML: M-hm.

PNP: 'Cause, see, I tried to look for her uh, birth certificate, but they were not registered-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --at all.

ML: Really.

PNP: Yeah. All we had was my gran-when she married my grandfather. That's the name.

ML: Oh, okay.

PNP: But they-they never uh-and her name was Puluelo Alice, and uh-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --Bell. That was her name.

ML: That's her maiden name?

PNP: That's her maiden name, Bell.

ML: So when did the Bell come into the family, then? Was it the generation before that that they married Bell? Like what was your-

PNP: Um-

ML: --Hawaiian family name?

PNP: Yeah. My grandma uh, married the Bell. Yeah-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --she married the Bell.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

ML: Oh.

PNP: And he was um, that time uh, more white, yeah. White uh ... he was haole. They said that he was from-according to Napua, who's my cousin-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Um, she said uh, our grandparents came from Scotland. I said, Scotland? No. [CHUCKLES] I argue with her. I said-

ML: [COUGHS]

PNP: --Mama told me different. That we-uh, they came from Ireland. Ireland?

ML: [COUGHS]

PNP: See, we both don't know.

ML: M-m.

PNP: So I told, When you go Scotland, go look for their name. And if I go--[CHUCKLES].

ML: [CHUCKLES] That's hard.

PNP: If I go to the other, I'll look for the-for the name, yeah, uh, Bell.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: But um, it was my grandfather who was hapa-uh, I mean, was fully haole.

ML: That was the Bell?

PNP: Uh, the Bell.

ML: M-m.

PNP: So they say. But um, but I think how can he be fully, if he was a fisherman. You know.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I-I keep thinking. He-he knew all the fish, he spoke Hawaiian. Unless he lived quite long with her and he learned it from her or I—

ML: M-m.

PNP: But I know they were all white.

ML: M-m.

PNP: 'Cause if you look at Napua, they're all blue eyes and what not.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Yeah. Those are the cousins that we-gee, are you sure you're my cousin? [CHUCKLES]

ML: I can't tell.

PNP: 'Cause they're all white. White with blue eyes.

ML: Oh.

PNP: And that's how the name came about, though. And-

ML: Oh.

PNP: At first, I didn't like that name, because my uh, my kumu thought it was a weird name. Meaning that I'm uh, all wet. See, she was thinking of the dictionary too.

ML: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

PNP: And then when I went home, I told my mom, You change my name. I hate that name. I says, Where did I get that goofy name from anyway? And then she sat me down and she started telling me the story, and I was so shocked. I says, What? And she said, And that's your name. And so she picks the phone up and call Lokalia.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And she told Lokalia, Don't you ever, ever say-uh, try to translate a name when you don't know. You ask me. Oh, she was upset because Lokalia had said my name was weird. [CHUCKLES]

ML: Sure. Yeah, not knowing, yeah.

PNP: And not knowing. So-and when she explained, she told my mama, I'm very sorry.

ML: M-m.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: I will never do that again, she says. She's not even in the dictionary. That what you see in the dictionary is on the surface, it's just wet. But this the true story of her name.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And uh, my mama told me, and then so you know, her mother was-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --the baby that was born to that name. So ...

ML: Is uh-

PNP: It's a kapu name.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: They call that a kapu name, because it was given by a kahuna.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Yeah. But see, when my mom asked her-my mom was only fourteen years old, now, and her mother was dying.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And uh, she went in. She was the only daughter that had walked in and says, Mama, you know, no one is carrying your name. And-and uh, she looked at my mama and she said, And? She said, Well, I want to name my first daughter your name, Puelo. She said, No. Don't give her that name. It's a kapu name. She says, But that's your name. She said, Yes, but it's kapu. I gotta tell you this. And uh, she was dying now, and so my mama was sad. She walked away. And I think towards her last breath, just before she passed, she called my mama back in. And my mama said, Yes. And she says, If you can still remember, now listen to me. If you remember when you get married and your first child, you want to give the name Puelo, you be very sure you name that girl. Otherwise that girl not gonna live. And my mama says, What? She says, You have to name the name, you want that name, that name is kapu. That's why I'm telling you. You have to name, if I give you permission to name your first child. She said, Oh, I promise, Mama. I-I promise I will give her my-my daughter your name.

ML: M-m.

(15:00)

PNP: That's when she told her the story why.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: She didn't-your mom didn't know all those years.

PNP: No, my mom didn't know.

ML: Wow.

PNP: And she told-uh, and she said, And it is a kapu name. Don't-don't give.

ML: M-m.

PNP: So-uh, unless they know how to carry. Do you know my mama brought me up exactly ali'i?

ML: M-m.

PNP: Oh, I tell you. I could not play with other children. I could not-ho, I was like uh, jail and I would see others playing, and I would try to run. She would grab me and take in the house. She brought me up like that. And ironically, when I got my own, I trained them all like that.

ML: [COUGHS]

PNP: No playing with neighbor children.

ML: M-m.

PNP: No going to neighbor's house and stay over there. Can I go sleep my girlfriend's house? Nothing like that.

ML: M-m.

PNP: All my daught-uh, children, daughters and sons, could not sleep other people's house.

ML: H-m.

PNP: Even their coaches come and ask. I said, No.

ML: M-m.

PNP: The rules in this house, our children don't go to people's house and sleep.

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

ML: H-m. Is that just what came naturally to you?

PNP: Yeah. And-'cause it was my-

ML: That's how you were raised.

PNP: Yeah. 'Cause I was that way. But when that name was told to me, and then uh, for a long time, I never told my children about it.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Then one day, I was sitting at the ... my oldest son's first wedding. I was sitting there, and my daughter came. Uh, she had-she was ready to give birth. That's my third daughter, Soo Sung. And she came up to me, she says, Mom, I found out I'm gonna have a baby girl. I says, Oh, that's nice. She said, and I-I'm asking your permission. I says, What? She said, Can I name my baby after you? I says, What name? Immediately, I said, What name? And she said, Puluelo. I said, No. No. I said, the name is kapu. She says, Why? Why kapu? What's all this kapu? And you know, was hard for me, 'cause I never did tell them the story about my name and what not. I said, No, Soo Sung, don't do that. 'Cause Mommy don't want. And she said, But when she was born, she was just like you. She was telling me. 'Cause I was telling them when I was born--[CHUCKLES].

ML: Oh-oh.

PNP: That's how the name came about. I have to tell you that. I missed that one.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: When I was born, my mama says there was a puddle of-puddle of uh, uh, perspiration on my nose, on my upper lip, and on my lower chin. It was just puddles of it. And she said, Oh, funny kine this baby got--[CHUCKLES]. And-and funny thing, my mo'opuna was born that way too.

ML: Really?

PNP: And that's why when my daughter asked me, she said, I want to name-and she said, You know why? 'Cause I always look at her and you know you, you always doing this.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: Same thing, Christie have the puddle over there. I said, She did? I said, Oh, blessed-give her the name.

ML: Yeah.

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: And-and it puka'd that with uh, 'cause I said, You have to explain to Christie the name is kapu. And-and they gotta be brought-she brought that girl up just exactly that I did. You would not believe it. That's-she's such a pretty girl.

ML: M-m.

oooooooo

PNP: God bless. And that's the name of Puluelo, anyway.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: That was Grandma's name, and-

ML: Wow.

PNP: Uh, that's why uh, Christie carries the name very well. Yeah.

ML: How old is she now?

PNP: Um, Christie is twenty-three.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Yeah. No boyfriends.

ML: Really.

PNP: Don't go out. Only serve the Lord.

ML: Wow.

PNP: And she's now administrator for the pastor at New Hope.

ML: Oh.

PNP: That was my-Kimmie's job.

ML: Oh, yeah.

PNP: You know, the-Puamana.

ML: The one that went.

PNP: The one that went.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: So she turned it over to this niece, because she's sharp and-

ML: Oh, yeah.

PNP: --a lot of things. And she watch the aunties, so she knew what to do. And the pastor is very happy to have her.

ML: Oh, good.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: Your daughter looks healthy, though.

PNP: Yeah, she looks good, yeah?

ML: She's doing okay? Yeah, she looks good.

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞

ML: Did you ever have a uh, a conflict with Western religion or belief in God, versus Hawaiian reli-religion through hula? You know, was there ever this conflict, where you felt like you had to choose one or the other? You know, how-

PNP: Uh, no. Uh, see, that's why I-I kinda wonder about these people, how they're-how they're thinking, yeah? To me, um, hula is hula.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: But yet, you have to remember that He's-He's the Father, the Almighty. And no matter what, we always say prayers when we go and uh, any dances of Pele, any dance, it's not worshipping. It is something that our people once wor-worshipped. We don't have to worship.

ML: M-hm.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: But when we do say, He inoa nō Pele, we're actually just saying the name of the person. But the Lord knows in our heart, we're not. That's why I try to explain that to uh, my mo'opuna.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: The la-the day of the performance, he turned around and he says, Grandma, I can't dance that dance. I says, Why not? He says, I'm not supposed to be honoring Pele. She's not a god. I said, Who told you she was a god for you? He says, Well, that's why we say, He inoa nō Pele. I said, No, you see, you got that all mixed up. And so I tried to tell him. I says, God is our Father. Not Pele. She is no goddess. She is once believed by the Hawaiian people, who said she was the fire goddess. Like how you pick a tree, you go up the tree, they thought that tree was a god also. I said, But in their minds, they had their own belief, their own gods. I said, Some of 'em believed Kukai--uh ... uh, what's his name? Kukai ... which is that dog's name or whatever? Uh-

ML: Kama-uh-

PNP: Kuka-he-no. Oh, now I'm thinking of a ... Anyway, it was a god of the dog.

ML: Uh-huh.

PNP: You remember that dog-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --that we had. Okay. I said, Some of our Hawaiians believe that was a god. Because they had no god. They had nobody to teach them that we had a-a Supreme Being above all. But he would not dance that dance.

ML: H-m.

PNP: That day of the performance, he stepped down and he said, No, I'm not going out there. So, okay. It's okay. We had the other boys.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And they looked at him like, how dare you. [CHUCKLES]

ML: M-m.

PNP: Just like we're a bunch of-and-but-

ML: M-m.

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: I-I told them, you know, sometimes the young, uh, somebody puts it in their mind. And uh, it was my daughter, Soo Sung--

ML: M-m.

PNP: --told uh, him, Don't you dare dance that dance. You're worshipping. An uh-

ML: H-m.

PNP: An idol. And there was no worship. And I tried to tell Soo Sung that. But she wouldn't listen. She said, Mom, you're saying, He inoa nō Pele. I says, Hey, that's just-we praise the-the fire um, uh, itself.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: Right there. I said, If she-there is a god, I don't know. I said, How do you know if that was a goddess? So we just call her name, Pele. She said, Yeah, but you're still worshipping. I said, No, I'm not worshipping. The worship is when you go there and you cry, and you take your belongings and throw it to her and all that. I did that one time.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: But ... not knowing, see. We uh-remember I told you about Momi? She took me up-did I tell you this story?

ML: M-m, I don't think you told me that story.

PNP: Oh. I must have told so many people, I forget. [CHUCKLES]

ML: Okay, my turn. [CHUCKLES] Tell me the story. [CHUCKLES]

PNP: Uh, I went to Hilo. Momi called me. You gotta come up here, our Tutu Lady, let's see our Tutu Lady. I said, What? She said, You gotta com! You never met this tūtū. I said, I didn't? She said, No. Because she asked me one time, Have you ever been to the volcano? I said, No. I don't want to go up there. For what? She says, Oh, it's good to go and see. I said, Ah, I don't want to go. So this time, she went and she called me. She said, Catch the next plane and come up. I said ... Oh. She said, You gotta meet our Tutu Lady. Okay. So I go up there. She meets me. Was pouring heavy. I says, Why did I come, it's too bad. Look at all this rain. I was so mad with her. I says, What are we gonna see a tūtū in the heavy rain like this? She says ... Ah, shoots, it's been like this for one week. And I said, Why do you call me to come up here? She said, Never mind, don't talk. Papa is in the-her dad was in the car. I said, Oh no. [CHUCKLES] So I go in there. And uh, her dad was-Dewey Mookini, he was chief of police here.

(30:00)

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

And he says, Oh, hello, my dear. I said, Oh, hello, Uncle. He says, Oh, too bad you come when the ua. I said, Yeah, what a time for Momi to call me up, going like that, making--and she said, Eh, keep quiet. [CHUCKLES] She was-we always arguing. So we go up there, and I says, Oh, look at all this, I can't even see the road. [CHUCKLES] She-and she's so irritated with me. [CHUCKLES] So we get to the hou-oh, nice home. It's a British home, you know, right next to the uh, volcano. It's across the street all those British-built homes. I says, Wow, beautiful home! I says, How much you had to pay for this? [CHUCKLES]

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: She says, Just keep quiet. 'Cause I'm always making cracks. I says, Wow! Polished floors and all, boy. Oh. Eh, you live it up, huh, Cousin? [CHUCKLES] She said, Oh, no, this is a dear friend's home. I said, Oh, good to know these kinda friends. [CHUCKLES] So okay. We get over there. And then oh, she had dinner cooked. She was one of the police-first police woman to be a crack shooter.

ML: Wow.

PNP: You've heard of her uh, Momi Mookini.

ML: Mm-mm.

PNP: Well, she was the first police woman that could ever shoot straight.

ML: Wow.

PNP: And she'd get her man where-whenever they'd go. Stop or shoot. Bang. [CHUCKLES]

ML: Oh, no.

PNP: I go, oh. [CHUCKLES] And-well, you can see that she has that commanding uh, type of-and very aloof and cocky, and ... well, I-I used to not like her that much. [CHUCKLES] Even though she was my cousin. I used to think she always want to throw her weight around.

ML: M-m.

PNP: She had-she does not have uh, ha'aha'a in her.

ML: M-m.

PNP: It's-it's that-that uh ... I'm it.

ML: M-m.

PNP: You know, I'm a policeman. That kind of deal and—

ML: M-m.

PNP: Okay. So I go over there. And she said, You brought the 'ōmole? I says, By the way, our tūtū drinks this uh, thing? This is gin!

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: I didn't even know what was Beefeaters.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: She tells me.

ML: Oh. I think that's the fan.

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

PNP: So um-

ML: Okay.

PNP: She says, uh ... We're going tomorrow. I says, No, I'm not going in this heavy rain. I said, That's silly. Where is this place? She said, Just around the corner. I didn't even know that was the volcano over there. [CHUCKLES]

ML: Oh. You couldn't see it.

PNP: Because this is my first time.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I go to Hilo, but I never go to the volcano. Because I hear all kinda weird stories, so eh, that's not for me, you know, me to hear that. [CHUCKLES] So uh, I-I says, Okay. So we're gonna meet this tūtū tomorrow. Yeah. You got your 'omole? Yeah, I got it. So I told-I was-I asked, you know, What's this Beefeater? This is gin. I said, How dare you make me go in the store and buy liquor. I never buy liquor. [CHUCKLES]

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: I said, My-my husband would shoot me if he found out I went buy liquor. [CHUCKLES] She says, Just keep quiet. That's what our tūtū like. I says, Oh. I said, She's a drinker? I said, Wow, what a tūtū. [LAUGHS] I said, Gin? You know, gin is powerful. I said, Don't you have mix? [LAUGHS] But-and I never knew about this

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

volcano bit. So okay. She said, Don't ask questions. Tomorrow we're going. And next morning, I got up really early. And I look outside, was so beautiful.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Ho, I saw all the beautiful flowers in the garden, and I said, Wow, this is so nice. Oh, I couldn't sleep. I got so anxious, I jump out of bed, I run in the bathroom. Brush my teeth, and oh, get ready, brush my hair. I said, I gotta get out in that garden. And I walk in the garden, and I felt like a princess.

ML: M-m.

PNP: So, so beautiful. Oh the flowers, I put in my hair, and I-I'm smelling all the pua's. [CHUCKLES] And I said-and then she heard. She looked out the window and she said, Nice, yeah? I said, Where-oh, Momi, this is so beautiful. She said, I know. This is the place we come to relax. Daddy and I. I says, this is a beautiful place to relax. Oh, thank you, Momi. And I said, And it's not raining. She said, I know. And I-I said, Oh, you know what Momi? I smell something so good. Somebody baking. She said, It's right here in this house, you goofy.

(35:00)

[CHUCKLES] I said, Who's baking? She said, Our cook. I said, Oh, we got a cook too? [LAUGHS] I didn't even know that. [CHUCKLES] 'Cause we came in in the evening. I said, Oh, wow. All right. So I walk in there. She had muffins, biscuits-

ML: M-m.

PNP: Pancakes. You name it, she had it all lined up. I said, Oh, this is so lovely, so-having break-I said, Let's all sit down and-oh, pule first. All right, pule. We-uh, it was a beautiful breakfast. And I says, Okay now, let's clean up quickly so we can go see Tūtū. She said, No, you don't clean. We just leave. I said-and I'm looking at her, I'm going, What? I says, No, who's gonna clean? She said ... We leave it. She's gonna come. I said, Oh Momi, that's terrible. She said, No, no, no, she's hired to-see, I didn't know-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --about uh, her having maids in there, see.

ML: Right, right.

PNP: So I said, uh, Oh. She said, No, we-they're paid to do. I said, Oh, okay. I didn't say any more. I said-sorry. So I got ready. All of us got in the car and to the volcano. Got right over there. Parked the car. She said, Don't get out of the car yet. Tourists coming down. I says, Oh, okay. So I waited. And she said, Okay, now the coast is clear. So she opens my door. My uncle comes around and open the door for me. Uh, rather, he opened the door. I stepped out. And the minute I stepped out, it began to rain. That soft Kiowao rain, you know. The-

ML: M-m.

PNP: That kind that touches and you don't feel wet.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Yet, it's cool. And I jumped out and he said, Oh, go back. He was pushing me back. And I says, What? He said, Go back, it's raining. The ua is coming. I says-I pushed the door open and I says, Oh, Uncle, the ua is-I don't-I have to go in. He says, Why? You going get wet. I said, No. Remember my name. I never run away from the rain. And he goes, Oh, that's right, you told us about that. I said, Yeah. So I said, That's all right. I'm going. And the minute I stepped on the sidewalk, the rain stopped. But guess what? All the mist moved to the side when I walked. And-and my-my uncle went, Oh my gosh, look. And he's talking to Momi. Look at that. She's walking and the-the mist is moving.

ML: Wow.

PNP: [LAUGHS] I could see the sidewalk. Momi said, Wait, wait. You cannot see, you know. I said, I see the sidewalk. And she said, Okay, follow that sidewalk right to the end. So I followed the sidewalk. And nobody was coming down the path, and I got right to there. And I felt that iron, and I says, Oh, I guess we stop here. And she said, Yeah. I said, Now where is Tutu Lady? She said, Wait. I said, What? She said, Wait, you can't see nothing. I said, I don't see anything. There was nothing but fog there in the front of me. I says, Why? How come so much fog. And I'm looking out. And then all of a sudden, I says-I-suddenly, I says, Oh that's so funny. So much fog. Then I see the fog lifting like this. Moving. Right in front of my eyes, now, moving. And the one daughter that was with me was Soonie. I says, Soonie, look. And-and she-and-Oh, Mommy. You know, she was about twelve years old. Or fourteen. I can't even remember. She said, Oh Mommy, look at that. Oh, it's moving. So-and then I'm looking down. There was nothing but a pit, right there.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I says, Wait a minute. She said we're gonna see Tutu Lady. There's nothing but one hole over here. And Soonie says, There is nothing down there, Mommy. I said, I know. And I'm looking for Momi. I said, Momi. And-and she said, I'm here. I says, There's nothing down there. And all of a sudden, I said, Wait a minute. And I'm looking up in the heavens. I'm looking down again. Five white doves on the bottom. Can you believe that?

ML: M-m.

PNP: Even I couldn't believe it. I still talk about it, and yet I cannot believe it. Five white doves were flying on the bottom. And I'm looking up at the heavens, I says, What are they doing there instead of up there? You know, my mind. And I says, [GASPS] It's unreal. Five doves. They didn't even fly in front my face.

ML: M-hm.

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: Where the heck did they come from? Then I saw that sunlight on the bottom, now. There's a-like a puka. The- the sunlight was-I said, Oh, there's sun down there. I said, Oh, how funny. And you know, my mind couldn't register at that time. And I said, Look at the five doves. Oh, they're so pretty. But I can't imagine. And then all of a sudden, one by one, was missing

(40:00)

Oh-I said, Oh. Oh now, there's no more doves. But that light is there. It's the sun. That's how I went. And then Momi poked me like this. She said, Pulu, Puluelo. And I turned around to look at her. I says, What? She said, Look up, your head. Had the five doves was flying right above my head. Oh, got the-I said, Is that bad sign? [CHUCKLES] Oh, I was so scared. I was so scared. I said, Oh, Momi, is that bad sign? They're flying right over my head. And my uncle just stared at me. He just stared at me. And I go, What? Oh, I was so scared. He said, Oh my goodness. He said, Wahine ali'i. And he started to talk in Hawaiian. And I said, No. I said, No. It's proven. From there to there, right over your head. I was so-I never-I came home, I told my papa, and he-he was so shocked. And he looked at me and said, Uncle did say you are, you were chosen one. There. I said, Oh, oh my goodness. I said, and I tell my children that. I says, I-even Soonie, she comes home, she said, That's the most amazing thing I have ever seen in my life as a little-she wrote up a story of it in her uh, in school. And she-she passed. She was going to sacred-uh, I mean, uh ... um ... that's not Sacred Hearts. Um ...

ML: St. John's?

PNP: The one in Mānoa.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Oh. St. Francis.

ML: St. Francis.

PNP: She was going to St. Francis. She wrote up her thesis about-uh, story about that. And she got A-plus for that.

ML: Wow.

PNP: She said, Oh Mom, she said, that was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen in my life. So I always ask her, Soonie, you still remember that five doves that we saw down there? She said, How can I ever forget that.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Yeah. I says, Well, that's a story that even my mama was so happy to hear that.

ML: M-hm.

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: She said, You were blessed that day when you went. You were innocent. And then I told 'em about throwing-
this-I says, You know what, Momi, what did I bring this over here?

ML: M-hm.

PNP: She said, That's a gift. You going give out. I said, But where's our Tutu Lady? She said, That's it. I says ...
What? She said, Pele was supposed to be our Tutu Lady. I said ... Momi, that's not nice. My mama said she's not
... she's nothing. She said, You do as I tell you. You throw that bottle in. You were shown good signs. Now you
throw it as your gift. So I said my prayers and I said, If I said something to-to offend you, I'm sorry. But you
know, you're not my god. My God is up there. And I believe in the Lord. I said, Father, you have to believe me
that I love you. And I said, But I'm giving this as a gift, and I threw it. And I threw it. Guess what? Oh, that's
right. So many things happened. When I threw that bottle, you know the tip of the ... the-the-

ML: The crater?

PNP: That thing opened up, that cap. It was a-a striking-uh, it opened the cap and it went like that, down. Go, go. You
could smell that-

ML: Oh, my gosh.

PNP: That gin going. And you can hear gurgle, gurgle, going down. Ah ... like it's drinking. Ah, I flipped out. I said-I
said, I don't want to see no more. I was-

ML: [COUGHS]

PNP: --scared. I tell you, I-I couldn't forget that for months. I kept thinking, how did she drink that? 'Cause it sounded
like it was-gurgle. You know, that-when you go [MAKES GURGLING SOUND]--you're drinking from a bottle.

ML: Wow.

PNP: And yet you can smell that liquor. It was that strong. Came right up, the smell. Like it was a thank you, yeah.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And that's what my uncle said. It's like a thank you. Uh, for your uh, makana that you had given. I don't know. I
says, You know what, there's so much tricks. I want to go home. [LAUGHS] And he says, No, no, no. That was
good, Baby. I said, Ah, you know what. My mama and papa not with me, and so they cannot explain to me, and-
and yet, I'm trying to listen to him. But you know when you believe in your own family giving you all the ins and
outs of things. So when I came home, my mama said, You should have listened. She said, It was blessed that
your uncle-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --never could believe who you were, really are.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And that you children are ali'i. 'Cause he knows my father has the royal blood, 'cause of my grandfather who was a high chief. But he did not know that we carried that symbol throughout, yeah.

(45:00)

And I suppose, because you know, we are my father's children. So-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Um, he was very pleased, yeah.

ML: Wow.

PNP: And Uncle Dewey said that's a story that he will never forgot. And he died-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --with it. So many times, when I see Momi, I go up to the uh, volcano-uh, not volcano, Kohala. She runs that uh, heiau. That's the only place I refuse to go in. Because my dad had said uh, no women allowed in there.

ML: Is that Puukohola?

PNP: No.

ML: M-m, which one?

PNP: The other one. Um ... Mookini Heiau, she-

ML: Oh.

PNP: --calls it.

ML: Oh, oh, oh.

PNP: Yeah. Because that was where they sacrificed-

**TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001**

ML: M-m.

PNP: --the men, and they never wanted women in there.

ML: M-m.

PNP: My dad used to be uh, the caretaker for that when he was a young man, about twenty-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --five years old, around there. He was the caretaker. And no women allowed.

ML: H-m.

PNP: So when uh, I went up there, and I told my papa, I said, Oh, I'm going with Momi up to uh, Mookini Heiau. He said, Don't you step in that heiau. I says, What? I said, Why? He says, No. The Kamehameha line people never step in there. All their women never go in there.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I said, Tell me why. He said, Because that's where we sacrificed the men. You know, the kind that disobeyed the King.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: They chopped the neck and-oooh. When he told me that, I said, Ah.

ML: I don't want to go there.

PNP: I said, No, I don't need to go over there.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: It's not that important. But she still show people.

ML: H-m.

PNP: She-she made herself kuhina nui for that.

ML: M-m.

PNP: So I said, Let's bless her. You know, that's her thing.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I'm not with heiau's.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I-I like-I go this one here in Kailua. It's a good one, that's why.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And I olioli there with my uh-I belong to the Hawaiian Civic Club here. And so Kawao Durante and I-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --always, we-you heard of her husband passing?

ML: M-m ...

PNP: You know Kawao Durante?

ML: Mm-mm.

PNP: She worked with Kamehameha Schools for how many years.

ML: No.

PNP: Um ... she is-she's a graduate too of Kamehameha.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Uh ... her husband just passed away, uh, na-Nappy.

ML: Oh, okay. Okay.

PNP: He-he was also a graduate of-

ML: Oh, right, you were telling me. Yeah.

PNP: Napoleon, yeah.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Oh, that was some funeral, boy. Whooo.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Some-the Kamehameha theme, I-I was so proud of them.

ML: M-m.

PNP: [SINGS] Imua Kamehameha-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: They sang for him. But I didn't hear Sail On, uh, my-my-you folks always sang that.

ML: Oh, well, that was before my time.

PNP: Sail On, uh.

ML: But yeah, they use-that used to be standard, yeah?

PNP: Yeah. But I wonder why they stopped it?

ML: I don't know.

PNP: And that's the one I wanted to hear.

ML: Oh, too bad.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: How do you reconcile, then, you know, this experience at the volcano? I mean, obviously, there's something, you know, happening from our ancestors that's related to you as who you are and who your family was, to [CLEARS THROAT]-

PNP: To bring on signs like that.

ML: Yeah. To-

PNP: I-

ML: With your beliefs. You know, it's like-

PNP: Yeah.

ML: --something real happened.

PNP: Oh, yeah.

ML: Then you have your beliefs too. So how do you, you know, kinda come to terms with that?

PNP: I-I try to-I try to think about uh, why. Why that happened.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: But I also uh ... see, because I always walk with prayers in my heart, you know.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I'm-I'm always praying. Uh ... I want to know if I'm doing right or wrong. Or where I go, if I step in the right-right places or not. And um ... I don't know, for that reason, some reason, I didn't trust Momi that time.

ML: H-m.

PNP: I don't know why I didn't trust her. I-I just felt like she was gonna try and make a fool of me.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And then-

ML: 'Cause of how-

PNP: When-

ML: --she was.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: Her, yeah.

PNP: Because of the type of person-

ML: Yeah.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: --she was, yeah. And then uh ... when I-when I did see that, she was shocked too. She didn't expect that. Uh, and so I thought, what was she expecting?

ML: Yeah.

PNP: To make a fool of me or what. You know, I-I didn't know. But she too was shocked. And then the father spoke to her. And uh, told her, Oh my gosh, we uh, we know that your cousin-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --is way more high than you are.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: In that way, he's talking Hawaiian to her. But he-he don't know that I knew what he was saying. So-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --I kept quiet. And she says, We'll see. He says, No, you don't see. You better know it right now. 'Cause she has that high maka maka--

ML: Oh.

(55:00)

PNP: --way of acting, you know. And I never did like that cousin. I don't know why she even called me up there. But it was like uh, a blessing. She needed to know who I really was, yeah.

ML: M-m.

PNP: 'Cause we didn't live in such a beautiful home like she did. You know, Mama and Papa had a house out in Damon Tract, and was old and-well, it was brand new when we moved in. But ... the carpenter just cheated Papa.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Stole all the lumber and just made the house look like one cracker box.

ML: Oh, no.

PNP: And uh, so we really didn't have a beautiful kinda home and we stayed in cramped uh, house and what not. So she considered me uh ... a cousin that's on the poor level. But that's when she had found out, through her daddy-- [CHUCKLES]--that we were more higher than she was.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Actually, as-as uh, by line.

ML: Through your bloodline.

PNP: Yeah, bloodline. And that's what made her come down to my level.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And she never used to [INDISTINCT]. She was way up there, Do this, Do that. She's ordering me around. And then one day I told her, I said, Eh, don't order me around. I don't have to do what you want me to do. She said, Just go do it! I said, No, you go do it! [CHUCKLES]

ML: Yeah, yeah.

PNP: And she was ordering my kids around too. And that's not me.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Uh-uh. And you don't tell my kids what uh ... eh, I'm-you better watch it, you're gonna get it.

ML: Right.

PNP: Just because she's a policeman. No.

ML: I guess she's kinda used to being in that-

PNP: Yeah.

ML: --role, yeah?

PNP: Yeah. She-I heard she was not very good.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Very mean policeman to-to the women, yeah.

ML: So think-you think that her intention for wanting to take you to Volcano was less than ... honorable, but the-but she was shown what ... your background was-

PNP: Yeah.

ML: --through-through nature.

PNP: Yeah, 'cause she-she always thought we-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: See, she didn't know anything about Kohala, now.

ML: M-m.

PNP: She didn't know that we come from the elite family. We didn't come from ... because we lived in Honolulu. Yes, Honolulu, my father had to struggle.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: They didn't have to. But because my grandfather never liked my father-uh, not his father, but ... her father. He beat her up. He beat my dad up so badly that ...

ML: M-m.

PNP: Uh, my mom said, That's it. She was moving out of there. She's the one that made the big move. But she said, Oh my gosh, when we suffered like that, she wish she didn't even ... but she struggled.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: The thing is, she struggled with us.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Eight children.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And then um ...

ML: Wow.

PNP: But she came out a winner at the end. Uh, he came down. He says, You're still the same-he's telling my dad. You're still the same, you got a junk house. Well, it wasn't his fault.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: It was the carpenter's fault.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And we were old enough to know that. So ...

ML: M-m.

PNP: We used to tell my tūtū, Don't talk. You think you live in a castle? Oh, I was shocked. [CHUCKLES]

ML: Oh.

PNP: I didn't know that. I was eighteen. I said, Don't you call my house a-a junk house. [CHUCKLES] I didn't even know he had a mansion up there. [LAUGHS]

ML: Well.

PNP: I go up Kohala. Now, I go up to Kohala. And I'm thinking, well, we're going to a-one small shack like that. Like our shack over here. And then bumbye, I come-going to this taxi man taking me to the garden. I says-I says, Wait a minute. Are you in the--[CHUCKLES]

ML: In the right place.

PNP: Are you in the right place? He said-he turned around, he says, What?

ML: [COUGHS]

PNP: I said, Are you in the right place? I said, You know what, I'm looking for Billy Merseburgh. Billy Merseburgh, you Puluolo, huh? I said, Yes. He said, This is Billy Merseburgh's. I said, Oh, no, no, no, no. He does not-[LAUGHS]-'cause I don't know. [LAUGHS] I said, No, no, no, this is wrong. Well-'cause naturally-they get the queen's chair-

ML: M-m.

PNP: You know the-the trimming of the-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --the garden. [GASPS] I never saw anything like that, so beautiful. Queen's chair, the king's chair, the table, you know. All cut so beautiful. The grass looked like velvet. Eh, I could not believe this was my grandfa-and we're

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

going through a driveway which-it was arched with all waiwī's [sic waiawī's]. You know the small little guavas. I call-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I used to call it guavas, but had waiwī's [sic waiawī's]. So sweet. I said, Wait, wait, wait. [CHUCKLES] I was just really like one Honolulu, yeah. Then I just-no, no, no, no, no. This-my grandfather no own this kine place. [CHUCKLES] See, I didn't know. My mom never told us. She never, ever told us that she had lived in-

ML: Oh.

PNP: --the big home. That we lived wealthy over there. We had maids or-nothing like that. She never, ever said it, because she was married to my dad.

(55:00)

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Okay, and so ...

ML: M-m.

PNP: I told the driver, Don't take my bags out. You go find out if this is the place.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: Because I know it's not my grandfather's house. [CHUCKLES] He said, No, no, no-

ML: You weren't-

PNP: No, you come, you come. He grabbed the bag. I said, No, no, don't take my bags. He's going up there. Come, come, come, girl. And so he's going up the steps. I said, You wait, you wait. So I go up the steps and I look down. Wow, it's far down. All the way. You know, they have verandas right around the house. All glass, intricate German cut in glass, you know. Whoa, I'm looking at it. So I said, My grandfather could never own something like that. I'm looking down. I see this lady pushing bread out, you know, from-big, fat lady. I says, Oh, I wonder who that is? So I go ... he says, That's your mom. I said, No, my mom is not that fat. And she's been gone uh, three weeks from home, you know. She was up there helping her dad. I said, No, my mom is not that big. He said, Eva. Eva. She turns around. Oh, Nambu. Oh, Pulu. [CHUCKLES]

ML: That was your mom? Wow. [LAUGHS]

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: I went, Mom? I says, Is this your father's house? She says, Yeah, this is Tūtū's house. I said, Oh my go-Mama, you never ever told us! And she laugh and she said, Come, come. Oh, what a mansion. I walk in there. His carpet is that thick. When you walk, it's-you sink in it. All from Germany, you know. All this. Oh. And then I saw that huge picture of the Kaiser family. We're not the Merseburghs. We're the Kaisers.

ML: H-m.

PNP: But they had to change their name when they came here, because they were gonna be killed.

ML: M-m.

PNP: You know. Uh, they ran away. Remember the Kaiser-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --that killed all those people?

ML: M-hm.

PNP: These-these are the children that ran away.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And they came here, they changed their name to Merseburgh.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And so-but truthfully, their name-their last name is Kaiser.

ML: Kaiser.

PNP: So I see this big, huge picture on the wall, and I'm looking, and I says, Who's that ugly man and he don't even smile, that whole picture, junk that picture. [CHUCKLES] I'm telling my grandfather. He go, Ho, ho, ho. Just like, you know, he look really like Hitler.

ML: Oh, my god.

PNP: My grandfather looks like Hitler. Yeah. Only thing, his face is bigger.

ML: Oh.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: And he's ... oh, he's masculine. He's big and he's tall. Six-foot-five, yeah. You know, he-he even talk like a giant. Anyway, I just says, Tūtū, who's all this ugly looking faces up there? [CHUCKLES] And he said, Can you find Tūtū in there? I go, What? He says-I said, Oh, no, that's not you. Those people not even smiling. He said, You look for Tutu Man inside there. So I'm looking each one. I said, Oh, what ugly looking people. [LAUGHS] He was getting irritated with me. He said, Keep looking, keep looking. I said, Nah, I can't find you. The bi-the li-the littlest baby was him.

ML: Was him.

PNP: He was three years old when they came over.

ML: Oh, my gosh.

PNP: And I said, That's you? I says, Oh, ha, ha. I said, You look like the babies over here. He starts laughing. He said, That's me. He said, And that's the Kaiser family. That's why when he had it up on the first world war, they were gonna shoot him if he didn't take that picture down.

ML: Oh.

PNP: They found out it-that was the Kaiser family.

ML: Oh.

PNP: But he never, ever told them he was in that picture.

ML: Oh.

PNP: They said, Take that picture down.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: So he had to put it away until after the war.

ML: How interesting.

PNP: And-and then he-that's when we come in.

ML: When you come in, yeah.

PNP: Yeah. But I-you know, I tried to get that picture. My cousin went in the house and stole it and took it with him.

ML: M-m.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: That's-that's a treasure.

ML: M-m.

PNP: You know, the intricate frame.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: That's a treasure, and I was so upset with my mama. She couldn't afford to go back home.

ML: Oh.

PNP: She owned the place. My cousins went in there and rip off.

ML: Okay. Really.

PNP: Yeah, rip off everything.

ML: Too bad.

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

[END]

PULUELO NAIPO PARK

Tape #: HPS 0022 (MV043)

Date: May 23, 2001

Location: Kailua, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu

Subject: Oral History Interview

Interviewer(s): Maile Loo

Videographer: Gene Kois

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

(01:35)

PNP: --just him and this old man.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Live in the boondocks. [CHUCKLES] Way off in Texas, some-you know, um, oil-uh, engineering-what do you call that engineering?

GENE KOIS: Oil derrick.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: Oh, really?

PNP: Petroleum? Petroleum, yeah.

ML: Oh.

PNP: And oh, he was-he says, I did not-if I knew that, I would not have taken this opportunity.

ML: Yeah, yeah.

PNP: ‘Cause he had to be wo-working way out there. And he stayed a month and he-

ML: Didn’t like it.

PNP: --wrote the father and told the father, I’m coming home. I’m not-I’m quitting this job. We were so upset. Then when he showed us pictures, he said no stores.

ML: Oh.

**TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001**

PNP: There's no stores. You have to go miles for stores. He doesn't have a car, he can't use the guy's car and truck.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: That's why he told the father, No, I'm not-I'm not staying.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: The pay is good, yes, but what am I gonna do. Come Saturday, I got no place to go.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And he-he couldn't-he said had only him and his wife, the um, manager and his wife. They get to go-

ML: M-m.

PNP: He go to their house. And their daughters, silly daughters. He says they're so silly. [CHUCKLES] Yeah, they travel miles too, to go to school.

ML: Oh, it sounds like it. So he's back here now?

PNP: Kaulana?

ML: M-hm.

PNP: He's a big whip with OHA. You never know that?

ML: Mm-mm.

PNP: [CHUCKLES] Naw.

ML: No, I didn't know that.

PNP: Not that big whip. But he's a financial uh ... officer uh-

ML: Oh, I didn't know that.

PNP: If you need money for your business, you go see him.

ML: Oh, that's right. You were telling me.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: Okay. Oh.

PNP: Yeah. Malia went to see him.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: He back her up.

ML: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Has he been with them a long time?

PNP: M-m, after Bank of America. He was manager.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Then they lowered the pay. That's when he quit.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: OHA picked him up right away.

ML: Oh. Good.

PNP: They says, Come, Kaulana uh, after you get through with them.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Come over. The position is yours.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: So he's been there, but I told him, Go back school, get your Masters. 'Cause he's-he said, I not going back for engineering. I said, No, but go back for your Masters. Take another subject, whatever. Oh, we're doing financial work. Go do that. No, I'll try and see. I'm going back with Manu. You know, Manu Boyd.

ML: M-hm, m-hm, m-hm.

PNP: They both never went back yet.

ML: [CHUCKLES] They're waiting for each other.

PNP: No, I'm-I'm saying that a man needs to go.

ML: [COUGHS]

PNP: For the Masters. Because you need to get better pay. And-and if I know him, he likes better pay. But you gotta go school to get the better pay.

ML: Yeah, you need the paper, yeah.

PNP: Oh, yeah.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And then Radford. I've been getting after Radford. Get back for your masters. But the poor boy have two jobs.

ML: Oh.

PNP: He's manager at Hawaiian Airlines, and he's manager at-not manager. But he's with the Fire Department.

ML: M-m.

PNP: So-

ML: Boy.

PNP: He never gets a day off.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Four days on one job, four days off on the other job, and he's on with ano-other job.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Never gets a day off. That's why I said, Eh, you know, the Lord give you good life. Use that life.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And make wor-uh, make it worthwhile, 'cause your family come first. But he is a wonderful father.

ML: M-m.

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞

TRANSCRIPT: Puluolo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: So he go the Fire Department, yeah. Then he goes home, he take care his babies and give 'em bath-

ML: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

PNP: --everything. Okay. Daddy gotta go back work now. Stay with your auntie or whoever he is, yeah. And he's the one that worries about them. Takes them everywhere. What a good-I said, uh, you know, I'm very proud of you. And so now Kaulana's gonna have one, so I'm hoping-

ML: Oh.

PNP: --that boy settles down.

ML: M-m.

PNP: They're having one, yeah.

ML: Good. Oh, congratulations.

PNP: In September, yeah.

ML: Wow.

PNP: I said, Oh, Diane, I'm so happy. She said, And it's a boy. I said, Oh, three. Radford got two, you got one. I hope you folks have a girl next time. She said, Tell Kuulei to get her girl first. [CHUCKLES]

ML: [CHUCKLES] Wow.

PNP: Ah, yeah. But the wife is ... very, very, very, very intelligent. She got her-

ML: Kaulana's wife?

PNP: Yeah.

ML: M-m.

PNP: She got her um, Masters from Washington.

ML: Oh.

PNP: She's from Washington uh, University.

ML: M-m.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: She handles all the um, drugs uh, that comes into the island. She goes and buy it for Longs Drug Store and all the drug stores.

ML: Oh, I see.

PNP: She is the uh, the one that-

ML: Uh-huh.

PNP: --flies and-and picks what needs to go into the ...

ML: Oh.

PNP: The retail stores. She's the main head.

ML: Wow.

PNP: She get free car.

ML: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

PNP: And every five years they change her car, brand new car.

ML: M-hm, m-hm, m-hm. Wow.

PNP: I said, You know what Diane, stay with that job.

ML: [CHUCKLES] Sounds good.

PNP: She said, I know, Mom. I-I said, You stay with that, you don't have to worry.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And she gets such good pay.

ML: M-m.

PNP: That's why I'm telling, Will you please tell your husband go back school, get the Masters.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: So he can get better uh-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: 'Cause now he getting kinda jealous of her, she make good money. [CHUCKLES] Better than him.
[CHUCKLES]

ML: His ego is getting bruised, huh?

PNP: Yeah, yeah.

ML: You were telling me earlier that um, your-your sons also danced when they were growing up with you.

PNP: Oh, yeah. All four.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Kaulana was the star baby. [CHUCKLES] He was a baby up until he-eight years old. They-they all quit.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Yeah, 'cause that's when they were Pop Warners-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --football, yeah.

ML: When you were growing up, was it common for the boys to dance too, or was it mostly just the girls?

PNP: I never did. I only saw my uncles. Mayor-Mayor Neal Blaisdell is my uncle.

ML: Right.

PNP: He was the one that I saw dance. Then I saw my other uncle, uh, Billy Lincoln.

ML: Uh-huh.

PNP: He danced too.

ML: So-

PNP: Those are my uncles.

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And then um ... I never saw anyone else dance but those two uncles, until I came to Honolulu and for the first time, I had seen a man dance like a woman. And that was [PERSON 2].

ML: M-hm.

PNP: When I was uh-

ML: Right.

PNP: --going to Lokalia. That's the first time I-he actually dances like a woman.

ML: H-m.

PNP: You know the-that-the ways and movements and-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --the body.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Yeah. Only the face is a man.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: I couldn't believe it and I was so shocked.

ML: H-m.

PNP: I couldn't even do my own chant. [CHUCKLES]

ML: So distracted.

PNP: I was-I was the chanter, and--[CHUCKLES]--I'm-then Lokalia looks at me, what is the problem. I said, Oh, nothing, nothing.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Is something wrong? I said, no, nothing. I-I was so shocked. Because I never met māhū's in my life.

ML: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

PNP: You know. I-I never saw that-that kind. Nobody tells me-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --whether it's a māhū. I know it's a man, that's all. But uh, that's when they told me, Don't you know what a māhū is? I says, No.

ML: M-m.

PNP: That's how much we-

ML: You were-

PNP: --do not-

ML: --sheltered.

PNP: --associate with people. Yeah, we were sheltered. And our mama never tells us anything bad. Uh, we not supposed to be uh, talking bad about somebody else.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: M-hm.

ML: Do-

PNP: It's a no-no.

ML: Do you teach boys or men now?

PNP: I do.

ML: Or have you over the years?

PNP: Oh, yes.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I have a lawyer. You know him. Keoni Agard.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

ML: Oh.

PNP: And I have um, [STUDENT], who is one of my--[CHUCKLES]—poor [GUY] [STUDENT]. [STUDENT] He tries so hard.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: And we always tell him—that's all right, [STUDENT], you keep trying. [CHUCKLES] Poor thing! He-he cannot even go down. He says, Oh, I'm trying, I'm trying. You know, to sit on the popo. I said, Okay, sit on the-on the rug, and put your feet over there. All right. Oh. [CHUCKLES]

ML: [CHUCKLES] Cannot.

PNP: I said, Don't try it if you cannot do it. But Pumehana, my daughter, I hear him struggling, and he's going, Oh, oh. He's doing that. I come back, I ... No, Soo Whan, don't do that. She says, Mom, get out of here.

ML: [CHUCKLES] Slave driver.

PNP: Yeah. She is. She said, You can. You keep trying. You keep try--[CHUCKLES]. The poor thing is going, Yes, yes, I can do it. I can do it. [CHUCKLES] Oh. I tell you, they-it's so funny. [CHUCKLES] And yet, he tries so hard. And then I have a boy named Josh, who's gone to college. And now he's finished. He's coming home in October.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Um, he always come back to me and he-he learns. But he was dancing while in college too. Because uh, Keola was teaching up there, he goes and learn.

ML: Oh.

PNP: From Keola, you know, at the hi-uh, college.

ML: Uh-huh.

PNP: And uh, so I had told him, when you learn, it's good you learn from different kumu's. Because uh, since you're in school. And that paid off, because he went up there and he's-he makes his money by teaching hula. [CHUCKLES]

ML: Oh.

PNP: Whoever is in school, they want to learn, okay.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

ML: Very good.

PNP: I charge you this and that, and he's doing fine. He said, Oh guess what, Kumu, I'm doing--[CHUCKLES]. But I need to come back, learn some more. I said-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Well, when you come back, we're going talk about Merrie Monarch, you know.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And he's so excited. I says, But-he wanted to be on it. I says, We gotta find at least five men. And I can't put [STUDENT] on, you know why. And they all start-he start laughing. I know. I says, And I don't know about Keoni. Keoni has to commit. But Keoni is so busy too-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --with that Hawaiian Affairs or whatever.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: And he tell me, Oh, I miss my hula, but confound it, I can't get back. I said, Take care your business first.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Never mind that. And he said, Josh. I said, Josh is in school. But now Josh come back, now. I-I'm telling Josh, Well, if we find five boys, uh, four including you, then uh, it's okay, you can go. He wants to get on there so badly.

ML: M-m. Yeah, it's a big year for you. It's your fiftieth-

PNP: Oh, yeah.

ML: --anniversary.

PNP: And-and-and I know-uh, I've always taught men. Yeah, we had some fabulous guys on. I mean, I-at one time, I taught Hawaii Loa College. Used to be Hawaii Loa.

ML: Oh, uh-huh.

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: All the men was in here. We to-we went on shows. I tell you, the people scream, laugh, and these guys are funny too. [CHUCKLES] I tell them what to do, yeah? And then they-they get on, they do their own thing.

ML: Oh-oh.

PNP: Yeah. They were really good. Until I went Japan.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Then I told 'em to take over until I get back. But three months is kinda long.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: And uh, and then those guys, they graduated from college, so-

ML: Oh.

PNP: --they all got on with their lives and ... and that's how come.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: One of 'em was Bobby Cazimero, is with Bobby. Uh, was he-the ra-uh, he used to always dance with me from young boy.

ML: M-m.

PNP: But I told him, Listen, if you have to go, go.

ML: M-m.

PNP: 'Cause he says, Oh, Auntie, he says um, being that my friends are. I said, Yeah. You live in town, go, go. So now he's-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --dancing with. He's an older man now. He's married with children, but he still dance for Bobby.

ML: Oh, really?

PNP: Yeah. He likes it.

ML: Wow. 'Cause it seems to-like there's a lot fewer men dancing-

PNP: Yeah, now they-

ML: --now than women.

PNP: --cutting out and-

ML: But I was trying to get a sense of how it was when you were younger. You know, was it the same?

PNP: No.

ML: There was more men?

PNP: They-they cut out long time. Yeah. When-when I was on, there was no more men.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Nobody wanted to come. Oh, don't tell them that. They don't want to be class. And I didn't know that. And when I came into the hula business, there-there were no men. The only ones were the māhū's.

ML: Oh, I see. So they wa-they didn't want to be perceived as māhū's, so they didn't dance hula?

PNP: Yeah. And then too, they change uh, their sex life.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: They dress more like uh, like a woman.

ML: M-m.

PNP: No kumu's wanted to pick them up.

ML: H-m.

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞

PNP: But in my time-

ML: Uh-huh.

PNP: No, there were no men.

ML: Only-so your uncles-

PNP: The only one was uh, um ... what's his name ... Henry Pa. But he was a teacher already. Not a dancer, I saw him as a teacher.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Um ... another one was uh, Kawai Cockett. He was teaching. Did you know that?

ML: No, I didn't know that.

PNP: Yeah. First time I met Kawai, he was a teacher.

ML: H-m.

PNP: Then all of a sudden, he cut it out and he went for music.

ML: Right, Auntie Genoa too, yeah?

PNP: Yeah.

ML: She used to teach.

PNP: Yeah. Auntie Genoa used to teach-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --down uh, by um, Ala Moana some place.

ML: Oh. Yeah.

PNP: That's where her hālau used to be.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And then I heard she was up Kaimuki some place too.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Oh, she was doing good, then she gave it up. Wasn't worth it, she said.

**TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001**

ML: M-m.

PNP: Linda Dela Cruz was another one. She opened a big hālau in Kāne‘ohe. One month, and it was closed.

ML: Really?

PNP: I says, what the heck these people? Well, of course, the rent high. And then uh, most of the students didn't stay.

ML: M-m.

PNP: At first, she had like over hundred students.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Bang--in a month, they were gone. She thought that wasn't worth it, she quit.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And when we heard she closed down, we said, Oh, how fast. You just opened, and closed.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Well, I'm glad I didn't go to that uh-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --opening. 'Cause you know, I-I didn't know Linda-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --uh, to be a kumu hula. I knew her as a singer, not as a kumu hula.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I was shocked to find out that she had gone to Lokalia. Because see, I don't know Lokalia's private students. We were all private students.

ML: Right.

PNP: But I didn't know her private students. The only one I knew was Joanie Lindsey. And she's-her husband is my 'ohana too.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

ML: M-m.

PNP: But that's all I knew. And the rest of them, I didn't know. I was shocked to hear that she had gone.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I don't know when. Must have been way after me, 'cause-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --I was pau already.

ML: How do you-how did your uncles who danced learn hula, then? I mean, if it was so-

PNP: My-my tūtū's. Um, oh, all right. The men. Yes. Uh, now I see what you're getting at. The men at one time were hula dancers in Kohala. They would come to a gathering, and they were the ones that got up. Not women.

ML: M-m.

PNP: They were the ones that danced at the lū'au. And it was so-you know how they-they move their bodies, like this. And then they would go and just-not-not effeminate way, but it's the way they carry themselves. That's the way Uncle was like that. Everything was ...

ML: Very solid and-

PNP: He would move-yeah, his body. The body was more important than the motion.

ML: H-m.

PNP: It's how you turn, how you look. You know, that-that kinda deal. He-he was so fabulous that um, uh ... I-oh, I as a youngster watch all my uncles dancing, um, in a different, different style than today.

ML: H-m.

PNP: No such thing that uh, you can ever see any dance like that. They had the way of turning, and it was a meaningful thing.

(20:00)

You could tell, just by the way they talking. On-on their hands, their movements. If it was a body connection, and you would see how their bodies move. Only the bodies, now, not the hands. Oh, it was just ... something

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

awesome. And I was such a young one. I used to think, why they do this? I used to ask my mama. She said, You don't understand, but they-they telling the story with the body.

ML: H-m.

PNP: Very little with the hands. And the eyes, if you watch the face. So I used to sit down and watch, and I used to just admire them. But when I saw my Uncle Neal Blaisdell dance down here-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And I said, he should, because he-I saw him dance at Tūtū's house. I said, That's the uncle that really dance the hula. And he can 'ami, you know. He used to be a good dancer. He would go around, yeah, around the world. That-that's what-and then he would be looking at them. Oh, the women used to go crazy for Uncle Neal. But poor thing, the wife, she used to sit over there. [CHUCKLES] But Uncle Neal was that-he was rascal, but he was very-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --wonderful.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Wonderful person. Not a flirt. You know.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: He was not a flirt. I never knew that uncle to be a flirt.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: He was a dancer, though. And a good one, and a good uh, mayor. When business time, he was very business uh-yeah. He was that type of uncle.

ML: Did you know that-of anything that made Kohala hula different than hula from other places? On the Big Island or on other islands. I know you were young at the time, but ... was there anything to make it different?

PNP: You know, uh, well [CLEARS THROAT], the only one that I had seen dance different ... um, on the Big Island ... Molokai and ... what other island ...oh, that small island. Uh-

ML: Lāna'i?

**TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001**

- PNP: Lāna'i. Now, their-I-I watched their hulas. And every one had its own style. If you really watch. John Kaimikaua was the first guy, I says, what a dance. You know, the way he-he teaches his uh, men and women. And one of the men, are my dear friend's son. Kai--he lives here, Kalama.
- ML: M-m.
- PNP: And they used to dance all the dog dance, you know, yeah-
- ML: Yeah. Uh-huh.
- PNP: And he looked really masculine. And then his wife dance alongside with him. She would look half masculine and half women. Uh, you know.
- ML: Yeah.
- PNP: What I mean, they-they had to do what they were doing, but-
- ML: [COUGHS]
- PNP: --she looked like uh ... not so feminine.
- ML: Yeah. It's not feminine-
- PNP: Yeah.
- ML: At all.
- PNP: And I-I-
- ML: [CLEARS THROAT]
- PNP: I love women to be feminine. To me, women is beauty. Yeah.
- ML: M-hm.
- PNP: That's how I see it.
- ML: M-m.
- PNP: Men are handsome, strong, and their type of dancing should go towards that level. But for a woman to follow that type of dancing, that's what I didn't approve of John Kaimikaua's dancing.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: 'Cause I watch every single thing. And you know, to do dog dance and-and here the girls are going-oooh, ah, like that.

ML: Yeah. [CHUCKLES]

PNP: [CHUCKLES] You know my mama?

ML: Yeah.

PNP: She was living when that first happened. [CHUCKLES] She went-she said, Aw, shoots. [CHUCKLES] She said-[CHUCKLES]—he's calling for the kepalō's.

ML: Oh, no.

PNP: I said, No, that's a dog dance. Ah, yeah, uh-huh. That's how the dog wail when somebody--[CHUCKLES]. Oh, I was so mad with my mom. I said-

ML: Oh.

PNP: --Look at you, you don't know no hula. But she was old already. So she said, I-turn that thing off. I don't want to hear. [LAUGHS]

ML: Oh, interesting.

PNP: Yeah. Hawaiians are very superstitious when come to dogs wailing.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And that same thing with Johnny Lum Ho.

ML: M-m.

PNP: This one night he did uh, a whole thing of uh, funeral uh, procession.

ML: Oh.

PNP: When they singing and ... this whole night, he came with-Auwē, auwē, auwē. All the-the g-dancers going, Oh-you know.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: On the floor and what not. As they were doing that, his sister died right there. In the Merrie Monarch.

ML: Johnny's sister?

PNP: Johnny's sister died right there.

ML: Oh, my gosh.

PNP: You know, when-when we saw that--[CHUCKLES]--I thought, what the heck. I see all the ambulance, the guys running inside there. Right in the front row.

ML: Oh.

PNP: And they said, oh, eh, something happened up there. Who-who's that? Nobody knew. We were all behind stage, watching. They stopped the show. And then we see the doctors pumping. And the one was pumping was uh, Melveen Leed's husband.

ML: Oh, Saul.

PNP: He was there.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Sitting right next to her too. And he was take-giving her mouth to mouth until that ambulance guys came in and they gave her-they tried pumping her.

(25:00)

ML: M-m.

PNP: But she was dead already. Put her on-pretend that, put the oxygen. You know, just so-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --the people don't get aroused. And we were on that year. My uh, ex-son-in-law uh, was the pianist. And that's why I said, That's Johnny Lum Ho's sister. She's sitting in that chair. And then Johnny's-they told Johnny to stop, because he didn't want to stop. And then the-we saw somebody run upstairs, he said stop the-you know-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --stop the dance for now.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And told him it's your sister. It was just like nothing. He just slowly walk off the stage and go over there and look.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And then-and my-my mama says that was his warning.

ML: M-m.

PNP: The sister, that sister, had ask him please don't put that number on. That was before they came to-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: She said, Do anything else, but not that number. He wouldn't listen. After she died, he tried to come back and do it. Was-was like nothing. That the whole thing was like-like it was lost.

ML: M-m.

PNP: He lost that year.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Okay. And uh, when-when uh, they went out, then my ex-son-in-law turned around and he says, In honor of uh ... we would like to say a little prayer for the sister of Johnny Lum Ho. Uh, we'd like you to bow your heads-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --for a little while. And then he said something in Hawaiian, yeah. He said, Father, um, uh, bless her as she goes. If she's going home to you, take her. Yeah. And then-and he says-and uh, we were on next.

ML: Wow.

PNP: I-I was so scared. I didn't want to go on.

ML: Yeah, really.

PNP: We were on right after him. So uh, but it was the year we won too. [CHUCKLES]

ML: Oh, my.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: Oh. I was more-I was uh, so sick, uh, to-we win over-over Johnny's-

ML: Oh.

PNP: Uh, but uh ... we did our thing. And then after that, I said, Oh my gosh, I don't think I want to come back to this- these things get spooks, I said.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: You know, we were all sick over that, you know. Then we found out-they didn't tell us she was dead there.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: But the next day, they announced that she had died.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And that Johnny uh, refuses to stop his show. He came back next day and finished the show. So-

ML: H-m.

PNP: See, that's how they think. So I told my mama, What-why is uh-she said, sometimes things happen like that, but she's shocked to hear that that boy had no respect.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And not cut it out. 'Cause the-the whole Merrie Monarch would understand.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: But no. He—

ML: Well, and there's a lot of superstitions in-

PNP: Yeah.

ML: --in Hawaiian belief. And a lot of it has to sort of ... it sort of has a tone of-of religious, you know?

PNP: Yes.

ML: Yeah?

PNP: Yes.

ML: So it's kinda like how do you ... you know.

PNP: You know, where-where do you go from-yes.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I-I try to think of that too.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I wonder how they-they use God and-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --and um, how they cope with this kinda stuff. I don't-never do uwēuwē the-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: You know, the [COUGHS]-that type of dance.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Never. Not even chanting. If uh, they want chanters, I have chanters, but I do good stuff, yeah?

ML: Right.

PNP: Things that I believe that would be very beneficial to our children and even to our tūtū's.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: They appreciate.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: You know. They say, Oh, maika'i, that chant, you know.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: But not something where it's dreadful like-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --the dirge and ... no.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: You know.

ML: 'Cause uh, the Hawaiian-

PNP: Why.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Why bring back the dead?

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Yeah. Let 'em rest in peace. But we have people that feel that they're gonna win for some reason or other if they brought that kinda stuff back. No, not me. I ... I'm sorry, but uh, I like happy things.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And I feel that if every dancer is a happy one, um ... you have better chances of-of surviving in the hula.

ML: M-m.

PNP: But if you have mixed thoughts, like oh, I want to go that way and ... believe in yourself too.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: That's important. Yeah. What-what you teach is-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --is what-how you believe in yourself.

ML: Right.

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: I um-many times, I get um ... disturbed, you know, of things that uh, I hear or people talking and what not. And I sit down and I say my prayers. I say, Oh, you know, I'm sorry I hurt some people, but which is not me to mean to hurt anybody.

(30:00)

But I need your help. I always call like that. I says, And I know you're here with me. But I need for you to give me good sense of direction. I close my eyes. And then funny, I get my answer. Yeah, I just feel like I have my-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --answer. I stand up and oh, I stretch or do what I want to do. And all of a sudden, you know, I gotta go here and I-you don't even think about what you just said. And then, oh there it is, it came. Right upon me.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: That's what I believe, that if you believe in you and Him-you bring that thought, like I always pray before I start my hula. And I always ask the Lord to bring His spiritual being into each and every one of whoever is in that hālau. Including me and their parents. Because you see, the 'ōlelo from the mouth has a uh, strong weapon. If the parents get some kinda huhū, they say it's going to affect the child in hula.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And I don't know it. Only He would know it. So I would see it. I would know. Oh, you got problems? You got-Oh, yes, my mommy said this and-oh, okay. Let's fix that. You see, that's how I believe, that you leave yourself to-in connection with Him, you won't get nobody hurt in your hālau. 'Cause that's the one thing I-I have to tell you that it happened to me one time, that's why.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I didn't listen. I went and take a chant which was not supposed to be, from Bishop Museum. I didn't ask for permission. That's why I told you, protocol, you ask before you-you do anything. I just thought, oh, it's so-it's so nice on the top, but I didn't know what the kaona was under. See what I mean? There is chants that have kaona under-that looks beautiful on the top. But I used that chant. And I came back, I trained my girls. The first one got whipped was my daughter, Puamana. She was riding brand new bike, now, brand new bike. The father had just bought for her. She rounded this corner. That chain ripped and-and um, break her ankle up.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Oh-oh. When I heard her leg was dangling, I ran like nuts. I didn't know. Okay. Rush her off to the hospital, had her bandage. For months, she couldn't dance hula. Right the next day, three of my girls-now, these are the

TRANSCRIPT: Puluolo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

girls that's all studying this dance, this chant-ended up in the hospital. Car accident in Kāne' ohe. The last two ended up with the families fighting and hurt one girl with a knife.

ML: M-m.

PNP: When that happened, I says, oh my god. I call my mama. My mama said, Get down here. I says, What happened? And my father said, Let me see that chant you chanting for this-'cause we were to go on show in a week. And then he-I showed him, he says, Where did you get this chant from? Oh, he was so angry.

ML: Oh.

PNP: And I says, Why? What's wrong with that chant? He said, Where did you get it from? I said, I went Bishop Museum. And he says, You don't even ask permission? He said, Let me tell you something. This chant is not for anybody. This chant was made for one particular person. And the mother or father, whoever made this chant, made it for only that person.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Not for you. Further, you don't even know what the meaning is. I said, Yes, I-I-no. This is not the meaning. That's when he told me it was the below meaning-

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: --that was talking about their problems in there. Ho. Uh, after he got through telling me that chant-the translation, I was sick. And-and I says, Oh my gosh, my daughter. And he said, Yeah, you good-you-you lucky. Almost wipe out your whole hālau. And I think I had about twenty-five girls. And these were uh, consistent. Every evening, one girl was ending up in the hospital. I couldn't stand it. I-

ML: Wow.

PNP: Then they came, they prayed. I-I had Reverend Keala come back here and pray over the girls, bless the hālau again. And-and watch. Guess what? We found one spear poked right in the front. Nobody fishes in this house. All my spear and things are all down Hau'ula. We have our own home there. Why would a spear be right poked right by my door. Who brought the spear? We asked all my kids. No, Mommy, we don't know.

ML: H-m.

(35:00)

PNP: So there again, you see. There's so many things that I don't know, that I have to call my papa. Now I don't have, but I'm glad that he made me aware of how to react now.

ML: Right.

PNP: See, and I'm-and this is what I tell my children.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Even when you go Hawaiian house, you know.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: We're not allowed to sit on chairs or-you know, they have pūne'e's.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: Don't you dare sit on the pūne'e. And if you going notice, I-I will always look and say thank you. Come, come, sit down. I sit on the floor.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I was taught that in Kohala, and until today, I teach all my children. Go to the house, you see a couch, don't you dare sit on the couch. You hit the floor. Why, Mommy? And I tell them why. Oh, this-I'm talking only about Hawaiians, now. There might be some Chinese that have that same uh-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --tradition.

ML: M-hm, m-hm.

PNP: But I said, to be safe, just take the floor and sit down.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: And they-they all laugh. They say, Ho, boy, after hard day's work. No, take the floor. [CHUCKLES] But that's uh ... it's-I-I thought for a while they was-my parents were superstition. But after that, I have been very careful. And I dedicate myself to the Lord.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Every morning, I go to church. This morning, I didn't go. Excuse me, 'cause my husband didn't have the electric. I was kinda worried that-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: He was busy working under the house and what not. But um ... I'm always in church.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I like to open my day with Him. And then I'm happy. If I don't, then I-I do my prayers here.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: I sit down and I pray.

ML: When the-in the case of like going to Bishop Museum and finding a chant, um ... you know, if-how do you-what do you suggest for someone who doesn't know who to ask permission from? You know what I mean? Like what if ... they want to-they want to do the right thing, but they don't know. Should they just not use it? Or should-

PNP: They-they should ask.

ML: Well, who do they ask? You know?

PNP: Well, you-you have Namaka Bacon there.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And uh, you also have um ... there's another one there. Uh, I know of Irma Thompson. Unless she-she uh, she-unless she went and um-

ML: I don't know.

PNP: --resigned or she's ...

ML: So ask-

PNP: 'Cause she was pretty old that time. So I don't know now if she's there. I haven't gone up there quite some time. But I still know Namaka is there.

ML: Yeah, yeah.

PNP: Um, you might go to her. But I don't know whether she knows as much as her mama.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: See, that's why I don't go Bishop Museum.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Anymore.

ML: That's why it's hard, yeah?

PNP: Yeah. It's hard, because you see, I don't think she knew that much in-in Hawaiian stuff.

ML: M-m.

PNP: She just know what her mama taught her, but-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --not-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --to delve into Hawaiians, like-like my dad did-you know, tell us what and what. If I tell somebody else this, they going say, Ho, wow, superstition.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: No, but I used to think that. Now I don't think like that.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: I kinda weigh uh, things out and I-I know exactly what to do.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: If-if I don't feel too comfortable, I won't touch it. And if somebody brings me a chant and say, Oh, can we use this chant and you know, this and that. Then I would look at it. And then I would think of a second kaona in the back. See, that's the thing that I'm blessed with, because my dad taught me that. That you always look on the bottom, if there is another kaona. You never know. It looks beautiful on the top.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: But what's on the bottom. And I-Oh, see, that's something I didn't know. But now I picked it up from him.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

ML: M-hm.

PNP: So I always look at a chant and I say, Oh, who wrote this chant. You know. Oh, yeah? Oh. Okay, let me see it and I-I'll let you know.

ML: H-m.

PNP: Then I even try to look for the kaona too.

ML: Right.

PNP: Myself.

ML: Right.

PNP: So that kinda stuff, you have to be uh, aware.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Um, yet, hula is beautiful. If you could take hula and make it a beauty, then nothing will be wrong.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: But if you take hula and you expect to go delving into somebody's territory, just because you saw it, then you're in trouble. Yeah.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Just like-

ML: It's not right.

PNP: I would like to do-say I want to do a dance of a ... say for instance a pōpoki. Now, you know that Hawaiians not too good with pōpoki's also. So-but I want to do it, because I can bring out the-the ... how the cat acts-

ML: The movement. Yeah.

PNP: --and stuff like that. Hey, you better be careful. You better know what you're doing. That's why Johnny Lum Ho, he's always-but although his dance looks good and everything.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: That's why I was so sad, because he did the mo'o--

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --dance this time. And that's what I was gonna do. You know, my family.

ML: Oh, yeah. Right.

(40:00)

PNP: My family line. I haven't told you a lot of things yet, but my family line is the mo'o.

ML: M-m.

PNP: And we have-I was gonna talk about how my aunt-my great-grandaunt was born. She was black all on one side, and white all on the other. But before she came, there was a mo'o. There was a mo'o that just came out. I'm thinking it's a tadpole. You know the baby, not fully born, it's just a tadpole. Well, this baby, before this baby came out, was this little tadpole. And it wasn't a tadpole. It was a mo'o. Crawled. Here's my grandmother lying down. She's waiting for. Mo'o climb, went right up above her head. And the blood trail going follow that mo'o. Stayed up uh-oh, I didn't tell you this story, did I? Okay. [CHUCKLES] So many stories in my family.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Okay, the mo'o climbed over Grandma's uh, head. Stayed there. The next thing came out was the manō. Okay, this is all by birth, now, I'm talking about birth. I'm not talking about-this is the story that my great-grandmother and my mom told us.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And that's why-I have to tell you why I cannot. Okay. This um, manō came out. The midwife picked it up and put it in the corner. 'Cause she was screaming, the-now the baby was coming. When the baby came, they were-she was shocked. The baby was-right there, this portion, split. All white. White like a white sheet. All the way down to the feet. And the other side, black all the way down to the other side. And this baby coming-it's a human being. And she went, [WHISPERS] Oh my gosh. You know, the-the midwives were-although talking in Hawaiian, yeah, 'cause that-those days. So they wrapped the baby quickly and put it-they took care the mama. And after then, they told her that ... they think her-the baby, the baby that they have cannot touch floor. And she says, What do you mean? And then when they brought the baby-the mother was kinda-my-my-my great-great grandmother was kinda caught back 'cause she moved back. And she says, Oh, is that my baby? They said, Yeah. Oh my goodness. Can you-even I would, I think-

ML: Yeah.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: --would jump too, yeah? When see the baby half white and half black, all the way down. This-the whole leg too, you know. Right down to the toes. Then I says, And what happened? She said, Well the baby could not touch floor. For one year. Now, I said, For one year? And they said, One year. So Tutu Lady used to wrap up baby. Every day, she feeds the baby. Nobody touches that baby. She feeds the baby. She cleans the baby. Bath and then, everything. And she-right after finish, they put everything away, she holds her baby. One year, she had to do that. The last day, in the evening-just like something-and uh, I said, Must have been God leading her away from the child. She told the-the husband, Papa, hold the baby. I'm going to-they have the out toilets, you know.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: I need to use the bathroom. You hold her and I'll be back. He said, All right. The minute she put 'em his lap, he was rocking, he rocked himself to sleep. Rocked himself to sleep. Fell asleep, his hand relaxes. Uh, the baby rolled down to the floor. Didn't get hurt, but ra-rolled in the blanket.

ML: M-m.

PNP: But the baby touched floor. Next day, that baby was to be one year old. When the-Tutu Lady came back, she saw the baby, she screamed, screamed, screamed. She knew she was gonna lose the baby. Next day, it was dead.

ML: H-m.

PNP: But my mama says, God took the baby, because what would happen-they questioned all of us. What would happen if that baby lived? I says, People would make fun of 'em. That's why the Lord says, No, the baby don't belong here. Gotta go back to Him. But my grandma cried. Was such a beautiful baby. You know in the one year, her hair grew. All white, all bla-oh, I can just imagine. So I told my mama, Oh, I-you know, I'd like to put that into a song or a-a dance or-she said, Don't you dare. [CHUCKLES] I says, Why? She says, That's our family secret.

(45:00)

I said, Oh, that would be-eh, that's blessed. We-we were given something, now let's portray it. And that's what I was gonna do at Merrie Monarch. Ah, that's why-

ML: Oh.

PNP: --when I saw his, I says, oh, then he's gonna think I'm following him.

ML: M-m.

PNP: But the thing is, she was a mo'o. She belonged to the mo'o clan. And the manō. So we are the mo'o and the ka-I cannot kill lizard. And I cannot kill a-a shark. That's why you don't see my drums with shark skin. It's uh—

ML: Right, right.

PNP: Because uh, I cannot have shark skin. 'Cause, you know, the beating.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I can go paralyzed, yeah. So ...

ML: M-m.

PNP: I don't touch, yeah-but um, when-when I heard that, I says, Oh my gosh. My mama said, Yes, and she was very beautiful.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And she was my mom's auntie, Caroline.

ML: Your mom's aunt.

PNP: Yeah, and that was to be her auntie, because it was her Tutu Lady, yeah?

ML: Yeah.

PNP: That uh-well, what would they be? Auntie?

ML: Her ...

PNP: It was her Tutu Lady.

ML: Her tūtū's sister.

PNP: So it's-the sister would be what? It's just like her-her mother. Remember, her-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --mother was given birth by-

ML: Right.

PNP: --by that tūtū. So that would be her auntie, yeah?

ML: M-hm.

PNP: She calls her Auntie Caroline.

ML: Wow.

PNP: She said the thing is, she was sad, she wish they would-at that time, there were movies-

ML: Oh.

PNP: --where the picture could have been taken. That's the only thing-

ML: Oh, yeah.

PNP: --they were sad. There were no-no camera, no nothing.

ML: Do you know about what-what year that would have been?

GENE KOIS: Two minutes left.

ML: Okay.

PNP: Oh.

ML: What year-what year that would have been?

PNP: Oh, the year, the year.

ML: Just roughly.

PNP: Oh, Grandma-see, I need to go and look up.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Uh, what time Grandma was born.

ML: Okay.

PNP: And uh, after that, I can give you-

ML: Okay.

PNP: --the uh-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: That's the thing, I have tried to search for Grandma's uh, um ... um ... birth certificate.

ML: Her records, yeah.

PNP: But they said they didn't have it on record.

ML: H-m.

PNP: I have to go by her husband.

ML: Oh, okay.

PNP: She married Tutu Man.

ML: Right.

PNP: And that's how I can tell her age. If they would have-

ML: Right.

PNP: They gotta uh, put twenty-three, eighteen or whatever, when she was married.

ML: Yeah, put their age.

PNP: Then I have to figure it out myself.

ML: [COUGHS]

PNP: Just about, yeah.

ML: The-the thing-going back before the baby was born, I mean, the mo'o and the manō, I mean, was that a normal thing to happen? I mean, does-what was-what happened ... you know, what would they-what was the-what was passed down to the family about why she gave birth to this mo'o and a manō first? I mean, did she know she had given birth-

PNP: No.

ML: --to those things?

PNP: Well, she knew after.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: 'Cause the midwives told her.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And they were-they were pretty shocked, too, but-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Um ... she said how come that she-she-they had no idea about why-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --it was that. And I was shocked too, to hear that. I said, I don't believe it. Uh, Mom!

ML: M-hm.

PNP: But she said, But that's what my-my own mother told us about. I said, Wait a minute, confound it.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: I said, it could have been a tadpole. You know, I'm thinking of you know, when you first hāpai and stuff like that. You have that little-that's what I'm thinking. I says, But the manō. Wait a minute, now. Manō. Oh. Even 'til today, I always think, where is the manō coming from? How can a manō-- and then she told me about how Grandma goes to the ocean and feed-feed the baby.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And-and I says, What? She said, She goes down to the ocean every morning with a can of milk and crackers. And she calls. And the manō comes up.

ML: The same one she gave birth to?

PNP: Yeah. The same manō. And he know the mama.

ML: Wow.

PNP: 'Cause he was only a baby when he went back-you know, when-just stay near shore. And she calls. She calls him. And she feeds him with the-with the milk and crackers. I almost--[CHUCKLES].

ML: Wow.

PNP: When I heard that story, I said, You know what, I-I don't know whether I can believe that. And uh, my mama gets upset because--[CHUCKLES]--she said, You know, you folks are young. Don't ask me. I don't want to tell you--[CHUCKLES].

ML: Yeah.

PNP: No, no, no. But I want to hear. See, and ... when I tell those stories-you know, this um, Dave, uh, Malia's dad. Don't say any more. I'm gonna write a book about it. [CHUCKLES] I said, You're not writing the book. I'm writing the book [CHUCKLES]. Okay, you write the book, but don't say any more. I says-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --No. Oh, children are children. And you know, the children, they would look at me and says-you know, how questions fly at you-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: I says, That's all my mom told me, so-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --I gotta-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Do you believe your mom? They all look at me like ...

(50:00)

I said, I believed my mom. But ... I questioned too. Don't worry. I still have that question in my mind.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: I said, Because I've never seen anything like that in my life, and I don't know whether anybody ever had that in their lives. So I says, it's-it's unreal.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: You know, it's-uh, couldn't happen to a-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --human being. But then I says, Or did it? [LAUGHS]

ML: Yeah.

PNP: We never know. I said, so I-we just have to guess. They say, Oh, Kupuna, but that's a beautiful story.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Yeah, beautiful, but I'm still ... 'til today, I still think, When; how?

ML: Yeah.

PNP: How did that happen?

ML: How did it really happen.

PNP: And-and manō--uh, with the mo'o, I was thinking tadpole. You know, the-the beginning of having your child. But with the manō, how I going do that one.

ML: [LAUGHS]

PNP: I said, ah-huh, I don't know. But I'm gonna have to just listen to that story. And I thought, that would be a nice story to write.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Whether it be fiction or--[CHUCKLES]

ML: [LAUGHS] Did they take the manō to the ocean then?

PNP: Oh, yeah. No, the manō--while they were preparing the mother and-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --cleaning the baby, this manō just went out the door. 'Cause they live right near the beach, right there, down the beach. Went right-and they followed the trail. And then they knew, Ah, the manō went to the ocean.

ML: Amazing.

**TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001**

PNP: But every time, she would go. Every morning and evening, she would be there to feed the baby.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Cracker and milk.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: Soda cra-you know those Hilo soda crackers?

ML: Yeah. Yeah.

PNP: And milk, she would take and feed. I said, Oh, how amazing. I says, at least she could give him fish, because he live in the ocean. Oh, she fed him fish too.

ML: [CHUCKLES]

PNP: But cracker and milk was first, because you see, babies don't eat fish, you know.

ML: [LAUGHS] What happened to the mo'o?

PNP: The mo'o, 'til today-

ML: Uh-huh.

PNP: Oh, okay. 'Til today-this is no lie, now. The-whenver any of us gonna give birth, any of us-can be even my own children-the minute the baby gonna come, you will see a mo'o up by the bed of-

ML: M-m.

PNP: --who-wherever she sleeps. Whether she's in the hospital, the mo'o will be home, up there on the-on the wall. And I never believed that, but when I had my first child, that's the first thing I looked for. [CHUCKLES]

ML: [CHUCKLES] And you saw it, right?

PNP: When I saw that darn mo'o, I went, [GASPS]. [LAUGHS]

ML: Wow.

PNP: And I told my--Oh my gosh, that mo'o is up there. [CHUCKLES] But it will not come down. It stays there.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Until baby comes home.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And then it just uh, it just goes all around. You know. And that's why little mo'o's all over the house.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And when they make noise, it's ... especially if one of my girls are gonna give birth.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I get the singing groups in here. The mo'o's [MAKES CHIRPS] You know how they-and I know, oh-oh. She gave birth, or something. Oh, yeah.

ML: Oh.

PNP: It's just like a uh ... a little song, sound so witchy, yeah, but-

ML: Interesting.

PNP: But uh, I-I have uh, seen it and I've witnessed it. It's true, what my mom said.

ML: Wow.

PNP: Every time-and even when it was with my mom-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: She used to come home with the baby, and she said, Try look up there if the mo'o up there. And sure enough, it's there.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Yeah. She said, Oh.

ML: What about the one that she gave birth to? Did they-like the shark went into the ocean. What-do you know what happened to that mo'o that she gave birth to? Did it stay in-it just stayed with her?

PNP: Oh, yes.

ML: In the house?

PNP: Stayed in the house. Yeah.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Never-and that's why we have so much mo'o's and we cannot even do nothing about it.

ML: Yeah. Yeah.

PNP: Sometimes I get scared of 'em. I don't like-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: The little things slimy, you know.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: But I say, Oh, it's a mo'o. I say, Oh my gosh. They say, Oh, get the broom. I said, No, no, no. [CHUCKLES]

ML: Don't touch it. [CHUCKLES]

PNP: And they say, Oh yeah, Mommy. [CHUCKLES] They go, it's your 'ao'ao. [LAUGHS] And even-even the kids in school. Oh, Kumu, there's a mo'o right above your head. I says, So? That's your 'ao'ao. [LAUGHS] Yeah, that's my 'ao'ao, leave him alone.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: It's not hurting you.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Uh, and now, the kids will take the mo'o and they say, Oh, nice, this mo'o-yeah, they don't kill anymore.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I teach all the whole school not to kill the mo'o. They don't hurt you, so don't kill 'em.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Ah, yeah.

ML: Oh, good.

PNP: [LAUGHS]

ML: Oh, interesting.

PNP: I get weird stories, yeah?

ML: No, but so interesting, though.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Well, I thought-oh, when I heard it, I says, Oh my god. I didn't want to believe my mama.

ML: Sure, it sounds-

PNP: But then-

ML: --unbelievable.

PNP: Then my papa comes in and he comes and say, You-you folks don't know, that's why. Young, that's why. He always said that.

(55:00)

He said, But you better learn, because it's your-it's your family tradition. It's all the way back.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: All right. So we do.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: We-yeah.

ML: They-they must have witnessed a lot of those things growing up.

PNP: Oh, yeah.

ML: Yeah?

TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

PNP: Papa and Mama have wit-well, they come from Kohala.

ML: Right.

PNP: That's why we were ... uh, Mama was so ... leery of people. And you know, I have to give her credit. Because um, I had a friend who lived in Kunawai Lane. And they were mo'o's over there galore. That friend evidently don't kill mo'o's also. But when there was a message, the whole house would be filled with mo'o's.

ML: H-m.

PNP: And I used to wonder why so much mo'o's. She says, Oh, somebody's trying to tell me something some place. I says, Good or bad? She says, Sometimes good, sometimes bad. I said, Oh my goodness, I would be worried. I said, Oh, no, not me. The mo'o doesn't come and give me message. She said, Mine does. Then she started telling me about her mother. [POPPING SOUND] Her mother was a witch of Kunawai Lane. [CHUCKLES] Right here in Ko--[CHUCKLES] On Liliha street, you know.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Where Kunawai Lane is, where that Japanese uh-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Uh ... eating house is.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Right next door was uh, uh, Sula and her mother. And that's a Maunakea girl. She was adopted by the-by these people. Ah, and she tells me, and I just crack up. She tell me, You know, they used to call my-my mom-you know, my hānai mama. I says, Oh, yeah. She said, They used to call her the witch of Kunawai Lane. I said, Why she get-'cause she look like one witch. I said, Oh, you terrible, you talk about your mother. [CHUCKLES] I-she said, No, she does.

ML: Uh-huh.

PNP: You know, she get hunchback, huh. And she-her hair always in front of her face. And she's always peeking through the curtain. I says, She does? She said, Yeah. Why does she peek? No, that's her nature. She's very nīele, she like wa-see who's going by. And then she talks only Hawaiian, yeah. [GIBBERISH LIKE MUMBLED WORDS] And I says, Mama, what are you saying? Are you cursing those people? Shah. [CHUCKLES] Like that, you know. I said, Really? Your mama was like that? She said, Yeah, they used to call her the witch of Kunawai Lane. 'Cause she always [CHUCKLES] —

ML: [CHUCKLES] Oh, my.

PNP: I says, Oh, how terrible. I says, I never call my mama a witch. I love my mama. And she said, Well, yeah. But you love 'em, but you-you don't know my-this is my adopted parents, it's not my real parents.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I said, But they love you. Look what they gave you, all these houses is yours.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And she says, I know. But she-I don't know, she's-act weird by the time-before she died. Then she tell me how she used to-going-the mama go walking up the street. All the kids disappear, they all run home-get out! They running. [CHUCKLES] I said, What? She said, Yeah, they treat my mama uh, that's why I said they-she's called the witch of Kunawai Lane. [CHUCKLES]

ML: Poor thing. [CHUCKLES]

PNP: But when-remember when I was telling you that I tell my children never to go on the-

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --on the couch and sit?

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Well, it happened to me, that's why I'm telling you.

ML: Oh.

PNP: I lived with her in that house. Not with her parents. Her parents died already. But I didn't know that the mother had put a kapu on that couch.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Being that she's alone, she's a young girl, she was my age. We were only eighteen years old. I didn't even think about her parents. They're dead. Only her live in the house. So here is this couch.

ML: M-m.

PNP: I go and lie down on it, I sit on it, and I never, ever thought about anything wrong. About ... two years later, I ended up in the doctor's office. Something was wrong with me. They could not find what was wrong with me.

TRANSCRIPT: Puelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001

Then one day-and now I got married. One day, I was in the bathroom. And I felt like something was crawling inside of my body. You know, like-like if something was crawling outside of your body. This was inside.

ML: M-m.

PNP: Inside of me.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I felt like something was crawling. And I-I didn't know what to do with myself, you know. Oh. And then so I called my mom. And she said, What? And then-hi Dad.

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

(01:00:00)

PNP: I'll try to make it one minute. And so she tells me, oh, um ... what was I saying?

ML: The couch and getting sick.

PNP: The couch, yeah.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I-I was on the couch. And then I went to my mother, doc-doctor said nothing wrong. So I went to my mama. I said, You know what, I'm sick.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Something inside of me. It's killing me. I don't know what it was.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: Finally, it came out. It was like a whole bunch of like worms were coming out from me.

ML: Ooh.

PNP: So she said, oh my gosh. She says, You did something. I could not think what I did. I never go Hawaiian homes.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: You know, to any Hawaiian homes. Not thinking-this is my dear friend, now.

**TRANSCRIPT: Puluelo Naipo Park
Oral History Interview: May 23, 2001**

ML: Yeah.

PNP: So she took me to my Tutu Lady, right across of Liliha Street, right across. She took me there. And my-the minute my grandmother opened that door-she's a God of-you know-

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --woman of God. And she start uwē, she start crying. She says, Ah, I know why you come. I know why you come. Mama was chanting back, and olioli back to her that something's wrong. And she said she knows, she know already. Come in. Then she made me sit down and read the Bible. She showed me the passage. And then I picked the passage. She says, You go Hawaiian house. I said, No. You sure? I said, No. You-yes, you go Hawaiian house. You don't-you-you tell me what Hawaiian house you go. I said, No.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: No, Tūtū, I don't go Hawaiian house. You have a friend, Hawaiian? I said, Yes, but she's young girl. Only sixteen-uh, seventeen years old. This is the one. I said, No, she don't do stuff like that. She don't do, but her mama. You went sit on this couch? She sees this all in her dreams.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Did you sit on this-she gave exact the spot. I said, Yes. Uh, inside there is a ka-kapa, kapu, kapa. Oh. And this mama who died left that ka--You gona be the next one to go. Oh, when she said that, I started crying. I said, Oh, Tūtū. She said, But you gotta work three days and my mom had to go to church, light candle, pray—

[END]