

Author's Foward

Gladys Suzuki and I (Lynne Wolforth) are honored to be a part of the Paniolo Hall of Fame oral history project. We would like to introduce ourselves and talk about how we edited this year's interview transcripts.

Gladys is a Hilo girl with many years of association with the Big Island ranching community. You may have seen her award winning photographs of rodeo events. They are usually the ones that catch the horse and rider with both feet and four hoofs off of the ground.

I have conducted interviews for oral history projects since the late Eighties, before I arrived in Hawai'i. In 1997, I worked for the Lyman Museum on an exhibition about the Big Island ranching community. This popular exhibition showed at various times and places but was recently retired as finally out-of-date. Since that time, I have been involved in various projects either with the ranching community (Ainahou Ranch and Anna Ranch) or with large oral history projects such as one with the elders of Kohala.

The current project for the Oahu Cattlemen's Association was well organized so that I knew what topics the Association wanted to focus on. For the current group, we focused on aspects of being a Cattlemen and on early memories of ranch work. We encountered so much wonderful, touching, amusing, and substantial information, reminding me that it is vitally important to collect the knowledge of our elders.

Editing the transcripts of any interview is always an important task. The transcript is the best record of an interview but it is often difficult to read. It helps to have an expert like Gladys who also transcribes the Hawaii County Council meetings that are used for televised presentation. We are thankful that the Oahu Cattlemen's Association and Awards Committee provided Gladys and I the opportunity to edit these transcripts. We were able to preserve the best parts of each interview while editing the unnecessary expressions that are part of verbal conversations. In the past, I have consulted with Norman Nishimoto of the Center for Oral History at UH-Manoa and he agreed that this type of editing is standard. Personally, I am of the opinion that oral history interviews are for the community, and therefore, must be in a form that is easily shared from kupuna to keiki.

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to work with the current inductees, all of whom were very gracious and generous with their time and information. It is also with great respect and aloha that Gladys and I present to you the 2007 inductees to the Paniolo Hall of Fame.