

GODFREY KAINOA
Oral History Interview
Honokoa, HI, April 15, 2017

LW: Today is April 15th, 2017, and I am sitting in the Kainoa kitchen in Honokoa between Kawaihae and Mahu Kona on the Kohala coast with Godfrey (GK, see below) and Amoo Kainoa (AK, see below). (Begins.) I agree that it's kind of unusual to have three generations of people.

GK: I think we're the first... three generations.

LW: So, it would be your grandfather. And what was his name?

GK: Peter... Peter Kainoa, Senior. And then my dad, John Kainoa, Senior, and now me.

AK: You know we forgot to mention... his what... third great-great...

GK: My grandpa's grandpa...

AK: His grandpa's grandpa was one of the first vaqueros that Kamehameha brought... to teach the Paniolo. Ramon Baesa. So would be your grandpa's grandpa.

GK: Great-great grandpa. Yeah.

AK: Great-grandpa was one of the first vaqueros.

GK: Had three of them came over.

AK: So, he married Mary Kainoa Kupuna from Pololū...

GK: Pololū Valley.

AK: Which was the Kainoa family 'āina. So that's how they became the descendants of this... one of the three.

LW: So the Kainoa family does have its original home in Pololū?

GK: So I understand.

AK: And the grandma they say was like a *kahuna*... the doctor kind but... you know she lived down in the valley. So he comes from this line.

LW: I'm glad you remembered it. But these were Spanish guys, right? Or were they Mexican?

GK: Espaniol... I guess Mexicans, yuh. Vaquero... is Spanish, probably...Mexican brought from California. Yeah, I forgot to mention about my great, great, grandpa.

LW: So, Godfrey is an unusual name.

GK: Yeah. I go that name through... I don't know if you remember Arthur Godfrey? He was and actor on TV. That's how my dad got my name. I'm number ten. Ten kids in my family so... I'm the last. I'm the baby. And the only cowboy.

LW: Now are your sons going to follow you?

GK: I have one son. He's cowboy but he's a weekend cowboy and weekdays he's a heavy equipment operator.

LW: You have how many children?

GK: Five.

LW: And what are their names?

GK: Jingles (nickname), Junior... Godfrey, Junior... and then Keoki. And then Michelle. Leslie and Christine. Three girls, two boys.

LW: Tell me the story of how you got your name. Because you have this other nickname, Jingles.

GK: Jingles came from one of my uncles. My Uncle Peter, Jr. and I don't know... I was probably four or five years old when he gave me that nickname. I really don't remember but that's what I answer to... Jingles, Jingles... I hated that name. So when my second son was born I said your name is "Jingles." And he loves it. Call him "Godfrey" he hates it. (Laughter.)

LW: Where was your family's origin place?

GK: My father's side was all in Kohala. So they pretty much worked the Kahuā Ranch area. Kohala... whatever ranches was in Kohala. Up at Kahuā... my grandpa worked there and had five uncles with my dad working with my grandpa. They were all cowboys.

LW: Your grandpa's five sons?

GK: Six of them.

LW: Six of them worked with him...

GK: Yeah... on the ranch.

LW: On Kahuā...

GK: Yeah. And then all of them just played that out. They left the ranch. They did something else, you know. Only my dad stayed with Kahuā. My grandpa retired... I don't remember when... the early '60s. My grandpa retired from Kahuā, then my dad took over as a foreman there. My grandpa was a foreman there.

LW: So, they were foremen. What area were they foremen in?

GK: My grandpa was a foreman for the breaking pens. He broke horses... and the slaughterhouse. They ran a slaughterhouse up at Kahuā so he took care of that. He was the foreman.

LW: And your dad?

GK: My dad worked under my grandpa.

LW: And he was a foreman, too?

GK: When my grandpa retired, my dad took over.

LW: I see, I see.

GK: I have an uncle who worked there, too, with my grandpa. My Uncle John Iokepa. He was the cowboy foreman up at Kahuā. I guess Von Holt... Ronald Von Holt, who ran the ranch at that time, brought my Uncle John in as his cowboy foreman. That's pretty much what I remember about my grandpa and uncle.

LW: So that uncle's name was...

GK: John Iokepa... Iokepa. He was a very stern man.

LW: What do you mean by stern?

GK: Not mean... but he's very serious. If the boss made him mad, he'd tell the boss where to go. (Chuckles.) That's the kind of man he was. Yeah!

LW: What kind of man was your grandpa?

GK: Kind of like laid back. He was the happy type. I mean he loved what he did. But hard to explain that.

AK: Mellow...

GK: Yeah, very mellow man. My grandpa was very mellow. You put him and my dad together, you wouldn't believe how that was my grandpa and my dad. 'Cause my dad was a very hard man to work with.

LW: He was not laid back.

GK: No... no. He was very hard on me. But that's what made me what I am, I guess. My grandpa was ahh... whatever. But he was a very nice man. I liked my grandpa.

LW: But your dad wanted you to live up to standards?

GK: Yeah. Getting back to it, growing up as a kid... I was supposed to be left handed. I was left handed. You were left handed, you weren't normal. He taught us how to be right handed. I had another brother, John, Jr. He was left handed, too. But we pretty much caught cracks for that. You know every time he'd tell us do something, if you grabbed it with your left hand. Whack! So we learned to use our right hand. My dad was left handed, too. He taught himself how to be right handed. 'Cause cowboys... you're not normal left handed. (Laughs.) But my left hand is worthless. I was supposed to be left handed but...

AK I think it's weaker. Because if you're left handed everything's like...

LW: Oh, because everything's right. Yeah, that's true. You got to kind of crick your hand to do...

GK: Yeah. Like me... my father, my brother and I. We were supposed to write our names on the paper and it's all identical. Our handwriting. Pretty much chicken scratch but it's all the same. Same handwriting. We could sign each other's pay checks. (Laughs.)

LW: So your brothers... are you the only one that worked with your dad?

GK: My brothers as soon as they got out of school, they were out of here. They hated the life.

LW: What are the names of those brothers?

GK: Gordon, Melvin and John.

LW: And at least one of them was left handed.

GK: John was left handed.

LW: So that really gives us an idea of what your dad was like.

GK: He was stern. Yup.

LW: But I imagine you learned a lot from him.

GK: I was pretty much forced to learn. But I always envied he and my grandpa and from when I was little I used to watch them all the time... cowboying. I always wanted to be like them, you know. And I remember my dad telling me on his death bed... he didn't want me to become a cowboy... a paniolo on the ranch. And he told me if you become a cowboy you promise me one thing. You be the best.

AK: Tell her the story about when you were young and you forgot your rope.

GK: We were working up at Kahuā one day. We were outside. We were driving cattle and some of the calves were running away. My dad told me "Pull your rope out and rope the calf." I left the rope back in the stable. I pretty much got cracks for that. We got back to the stable and he says... "Where's your rope?" I went inside the locker, bring the rope to him. He gave me licking with that rope. So from that day and till today when I get on... I would always grab the rope, throw it on the pommel and I never forgot my rope... my lariat. I never forgot it.

LW: About how old were you then?

GK: Maybe like six.

AK: But that goes to show you what you're taught... how it lives on.

GK: Yeah. I started working with him. Maybe like four years old. I was like a little too young yet so... he used to put me on the horse, leave me in the corral and then he goes to work. Because I was too young to go to school, so the horse was my baby sitter. Until he comes back for lunch.

LW: What do you mean the horse was your baby sitter?

GK: He'd throw me on the horse and leave me in the corral and I'd just stay on the horse, ride around in the big corral all...

LW: Well, you couldn't get off it, could you?

GK: Nope. Nope. (Laughter.) So I just stayed on the horse. I was more afraid of my dad than the horse. And he'd come back for lunch, take me off. Feed me lunch. Take his lunch hour. After that, throw me back on the horse and he goes back to work. (Laughter.)

LW: Wow... so you literally grew up on horseback?

GK: Yeah, I did. And then by the time I was five I was a little older so he started taking me to work with him and that's how I started ... drive cattle and six, seven years old, I started roping already. By the time I was eight years old, I was kinda like riding bucking horses with him already.

LW: Wow... (laughter)

GK: And my dad took me to Hilo... and the old Ho'olulu Race Track. That's where the Edith Kanakaole Stadium is at. We used to race for Kahuā Ranch. I was one of the jockeys for my dad.

LW: That's a long time ago.

GK: Yeah... I was a little boy.

LW: So, what year was that? What years would that be? 'Cause that... when did that come down...? With one of the tsunami?

GK: No, that was after the tsunami. I was eight years old... it would have been '63... 1963. I was real young.

AK: But he can show you where the palm trees are.

GK: If you go by the Edith Kanakaole Stadium, you look by the... where the football field is at... there's a row of palm trees. There's a circle right around there. That was the outside of the race track. Because those trees were on the outside. It was a round track. A big round track. And then they moved it out of there probably in the late sixties. They moved it up to Panaewa.

LW: Is that where they do the dirt bike racing now?

GK: I'm not sure. There's a race track and a rodeo arena up at Panaewa... by the zoo.

LW: Oh... by the zoo?

AK: The equestrian center.

LW: Maybe I've never been there. Okay. So this is a photograph we're looking at in a book called "Our Family of Paniolos." It's about the men... Peter, Godfrey and John. Here's a photo of... are you there?

GK: It's up at Kahuā Ranch... this is me.

LW: Oh... you're a boy.

GK: Yeah, I was a boy. I was like seven or eight years old. And this man here with the white cowboy hat... the was Kimo Hoopai, Senior. This man here was Clement Kelekuli. This is my father John... John Kainoa. And this is old man John Iokepa. He was the cowboy foreman.

LW: This is a corral with lots of beef in it. They all look like...

GK: We were working cattle in the corral. Hereford cattle.

LW: You can see that Godfrey is a boy. He's really a boy here. How old are you?

GK: Eight, seven... I was probably seven or eight years old in this picture.

LW: That's cool. That's a really neat photo. And you have a date based on eight years old. Nice photo. That's great.

GK: My racing pictures... you know my mom had several pictures of when I was little. When I used to race with my dad but... it all got lost... the pictures. My mom passed away. I don't know what happened to the pictures.

LW: Because you were racing already? How old were you then?

GK: Eight.

AK: This is like the team he would race with so you can see the stadium and all the cowboys and they're dressed up, you know.

GK: After this I started racing. My brother filled in for somebody and then after that my dad put me in his place.

LW: Melvin... that was his brother Melvin in the photograph.

AK: And that's his dad.

LW: And this is inside... what is it? Ho'olulu...

GK: Ho'olulu park.

AK: Too bad no more a picture of him.

GK: I know my mom had a picture of me on a horse. A big horse. Small little kid with the cap on backwards and my ears like that. (Laughter.)

AK: And his older sister... she's seventy-five now. She says she remembers going to the races and just dropping tears 'cause "That's my baby." She was the oldest and he was the baby. "Going that fast in the track..."

GK: I remember everybody would say "Weren't you afraid?" I was more afraid of my dad than the horse, you know. (Laughter.)

LW: So, you would be a ranch team...

GK: Yeah, we represented Kahuā...

LW: Competing against other ranch teams. And was that 4th of July or...

GK: Actually, it was like Labor Day Races. Merry Monarch. What else used to have... I think it was 4th of July... no, no... 4th of July was at Parker. I remember it was Hilo Paniolo Club, I think was the name of the club that used to put on the races. I remember Merry Monarch... was on Labor Day. I'm not sure what else. I guess about three or four...

LW: I guess Merry Monarch's always been a big deal in Hilo.

GK: Back in those days, too, right by the Civic (Auditorium) in Hilo. On the back side the stables... there were long stables back there before. And then after that I guess they wanted to move everything out of Hilo. Move it outside, you know. So they tore down the race track.

LW: So everybody would just...all the ranches would come in from all over. And they'd have a place to put their horses and feed them and...

GK: Yeah, pretty much... yeah... but we used to come just for the day so... each ranch had their own mango tree over there. Was all cattle trucks those days so the ranch would pull in with their cattle trucks, unload their horses and then each cattle truck park under the mango tree and tie your horses to the cattle truck. It was all... there was no trailers back in those days, yuh.

AK: Alex Penovaroff is twenty years older than him and would always tell him stories about when he was small racing against Alex.

LW: This is Alex who?

GK: Penovaroff. Alex Penovaroff and Donnie... Donnie DeSilva. I used to race against those guys.

AK: But they have stories about how he was so small... I guess being a jock small, yuh... so he'd beat them.

LW: Right. The horse doesn't have to work so hard, right?

GK: They used to call me the pain in the ass! (Laughter.) Still today sometimes I get together with Alex sometimes and just rub it in. "Alex, remember when I used to kick your ass in the track?" "Shut up!" (Laughter.) "You pain in the ass, shut the hell up!" (More laughter.)

LW: So, where's Alex?

GK: He's in Waimea. Actually, the last I heard he went for a by-pass or something. I don't know. I know he's living in Waimea, though.

AK: But he still rode and all that, right?

GK: Yeah but I don't know what he's doing now, yuh.

LW: Okay, let's go back to... so your dad and your grandfather both worked for...

GK: Kahuā.

LW: What other kind of cowboys do you remember from that time, old-time cowboys. Like there's Hoopai, Sr.

GK: Kimo... he was my idol. I was stuck to him like glue. He pretty much worked with my dad. The two were like bread and butter. Yeah. And I always stuck to him because he was a good cowboy so I always followed him.

LW: So, what was he like?

GK: He was a man who enjoyed his job. I mean he broke horses with my dad. Rope... that's where I learned how to rope... with him. Outside. In this country here, we used to come down here and drive cattle. This was all Kahuā before. So, we drive all the way down to the ocean and I always used to stay with Kimo. We'd end up down at the beach... go drive cattle... go back *mauka*... you know. I always was stick to him like glue. My dad was mean to me so I would rather go with Kimo... he was like my big brother. My dad wasn't mean... he was just grouchy, you know.

LW: And sounds strict, too.

GK: Yeah. So I always used to listened to him... I just stuck to Kimo... my big brother. He took care of me, too.

LW: Do you remember him teaching you how to rope or did you just imitate?

GK: Yeah, yeah.

LW: Did he give you pointers or how...

GK: Well, my dad pretty much taught me how to rope but... going along with Kimo he was a more young and rough type, yuh. Kimo was maybe like ten years younger... or maybe twenty years younger than my dad. But my dad took him under his wing when he was young and he started at Kahuā so... but yeah, my dad pretty much taught me how to rope but I just kept going on around with Kimo.

LW: So, when you remember your dad teaching you how to rope was that like something that's happening while you're working or do you do it Sunday afternoon at home?

GK: OJT... on the job training. O J T, yup. He taught me how to rope a bucket. Get on the horse it's something different. You know the target's moving. It's not standing there. Get on a horse and then... actually he started me roping was at brandings. The pens... just rope the calves in the pens and bring them out. Then from there you get the feeling of swinging the rope outside at a moving target.

LW: So, do you remember Kelekuli? Is that who?

GK: Clement Kelekuli. He was pretty much... when I was working with my dad up at Kahuā he was pretty much a water man. He rode from Kahuā to Kawaihae every day. Check the water lines... every day... that was his route.

LW: That's a big route.

GK: Yeah. I mean he leaves like 6:30 in the morning, and he gets back up the ranch about 4:00 or 4:30 in the afternoon. That's all-day trip. Every day he did that.

LW: And that was on horseback.

GK: Horseback... was all horse.

LW: Did he do it alone?

GK: Yeah. He did the long line. They call this... when you come towards Kawaihae area... that was the long line. And then they had the short line. That was on the Kohala end of Kahuā Ranch. That used to be done by Mac Kahoopii. He was another water man but he took that route. Was pretty much all day. That's all they do. Is ride a horse slow all day, go check the water lines. Broken pipes, whatever... they fix. Carry tools on the horse. But that was their life.

LW: What were those guys like?

GK: Quiet, very quiet. They weren't foremen or anything but they just...

LW: Liked that kind of solitary life.

GK: Yeah.

LW: Were they married?

GK: Yeah. I don't remember Mac too much. I don't remember his wife but Clement Kelekuli... I remember his wife was because... after my mom and dad could afford to get a babysitter, my dad used to take me up there and leave me with Clement Kelekuli's wife.

Then that was the baby sitter after my horse. And then he... Clement Kelekuli... he adopted one of my sisters. She's above me... like two years older than I am. He *hanaied* her. But we still...

AK: You could tell them the story... how it happened.

GK: Over a bottle of wine. I guess they were drinking... my dad and Clement Kelekuli... and Clement said "Oh, the next baby." (my mom was pregnant)... I want to take that baby and *hanai*. My dad said "Sure." He was drinking wine, he gave the baby away. (Laughter.)

AK: No even ask the mom.

GK: And at birth. Well he had nine more kids, you know. Actually, was eight and then I came was number nine. Was the last... number ten. She was before me.

AK: So she was raised on the ranch, too, and she said she was one family that had two families... the Kainoas and the Kelekulis.

LW: That's right. There were both of them.

GK: I remember every time we was brandings she used to come and ask my dad... she used to call my dad "Small daddy." "Can I borrow a horse, small daddy?" I guess her father's horse were all water line horses. You know like old nags. They were lazy type horses, yuh. So, my dad used to put her on his horses. Yeah.

LW: So, on Kahuā... in those days did you have a string of horses?

GK: Yeah, my dad had a string of horses. He trained a lot of horses. I remember when we were growing up my dad had like maybe had thirty... forty horses on his string. But yeah... they had lots of horses on Kahuā.

LW: That's a lot of horses. So there must be groupings in there. So some of them were for this, and some of them were for that...

GK: Yeah.

LW: Tell me about that.

GK: Some he get to come down to this rough country. You got those type of horses and...

LW: What makes them work good down here?

GK: It's how rugged, this country. You get your favorites, you don't want to bring them down into the rugged country, you know. You going keep your favorite up in the good country.

LW: Oh, I see.

GK: And then you got your rugged horses, you bring them down into the rocky country. They going last down here you know. But you got your good ropers and you get your... maybe some of them that buck, you know. You get all different temperament of horses. And then you get your kids' horses. But pretty much my dad's horses was all us kids rode'um. We rode all his horses. We got bucked off some of them but... "Get up." He said "Get up and get back on the horse."

AK: But you know I think when he was at Parker Ranch it's similar to what the dad had, too. And he says stories of racing horses. While training them from nothing to be race horses to go superfast and then you could one baby on top one of the horses.

GK: Yeah... I had... when I worked at Parker...

AK: Horse could do both.

GK: I had horses when I worked at Parker... you run one race... I come out, jump off the horse, throw one baby up on top and the horse would just drop his head and just walk with the baby.

LW: Oh... sweet.

AK: Not much people can say they can do that.

LW: Yeah... train a horse to do that.

GK: You know when I was growing up on the ranch, my dad... plus we had our race horses, too. That was another category. You know those race horses, they stay on the ranch we use them for work but just around the ranch. We don't bring them to the rough country. The race horse that I had to ride, the horse could buck. He could buck and was really hard to handle in the track and my dad, he had the confidence that I could handle the horse. And I did. 'Cause that horse used to rear up in the track and leap and do all those crazy things in the track. But I could handle him. And I was eight years old. And she said... I remember my sister telling me, "I cried...I see the horse leaping with you through the track and everything. And it's my baby. Jerking her mouth. Hanging on to the horse and..." Come up to the starting line oops... I'm gone.

LW: So, he was a fast horse but not very well behaved, huh?

GK: When you get into the race track, they know they got to race, you know.

LW: They really want to.

GK: Yeah. I mean they just... they liven up.

LW: Okay... when do you kind of actually start working at the ranch. We're talking about when you were a boy...

GK: Eight.... Seven, eight... I was cowboying already.

AK: No pay.

GK: No pay.

LW: When do you start getting paid?

GK: I worked the ranch until I was about fifteen when I started getting paid. But I cowboied right through.

LW: But fifteen's pretty young. So, they... what did they...

GK: That was the law. You can start work at fifteen. But you know, by the time I was old enough to get paid I was one of the main cowboys on that ranch. All that Monty used hire... these school kids that come up they did lot of fence work and everything. I was with the cowboys. And those school kids had to go fencing. I was one of the main cowboys with my dad, them.

LW: So at that time... that's like the late '60's, right?

GK: Yeah... late '60's... yeah.

LW: At that time what was the work of the cowboy in the late '60's? So, you were fifteen or so and you were working with the regular paid cowboys so what was your guys' jobs?

GK: Chee... we had all kinds of jobs. I remember we had like weaning and branding and then we had this AI breeding and it's all done on horse. You know you go outside... to get those cattle, you had to artificially inseminate the cattle. You got to go out and heat detect them. I mean you got look at cows that's in heat, you have to bring them in and sort them out. That was one of the jobs. Branding, weaning... moving cattle. Like when we're going to start branding season, all the cattle on this section and all down towards the ocean so we come down maybe like a month before and then we start moving them up because here's a paddock, and above here is another fence and you know you keep everything... keep moving them up because the corrals are all up at Kahuā so... they moving the cattle from the lower countries... from the beach countries up to the higher country for weanings and brandings. Put in a lot of bulls to breed and then...

LW: So how long... it took a month to get the cattle...?

GK: A month before because you got to stage them before you start branding. By the time you're branding, you got them pretty much way up *mauka*.

LW: And so they have their calves...

GK: They calve down here.

LW: Oh... by the water sources?

GK: Yeah.

LW: Where are the water sources here?

GK: Well, they had brackish water down here. They had windmills...

LW: Oh, I see.

GK: They had windmills along the shoreline and pump brackish water. That's what the cows used to live on down there.

LW: And they calve down here?

GK: They would calve down here, right.

LW: How many times a year did they calve?

GK: Once a year. You handle them twice a year, branding and weaning, yuh. Then after the weaning you turn the cows back. Open the gates they all come back *makai*. And then they're bred again for next year.

AK: But at that time, they all had herds up here. Way up there.

GK: Yeah. They had herds here. The next section over had three... maybe four different herds on this bottom section. And up in the mountain section, there were different herds up on the mountainside. There were cattle all over on this ranch, yuh.

LW: Three or four herds down here... were they different or were they just separate herds?

GK: Separate herds.

LW: Okay... so you had four down *makai* here. Right.

GK: Yeah.

LW: That is a lot of work, to bring three or four herds up. Okay. Do you put the bulls on them at different times or... or did you do them all at once?

GK: When they're calving... they start calving... Maybe it would take them two and a half, three months to calve out. You put the bulls in while they're calving, you know. And leave the bulls like... I don't know... back in those days I'm pretty sure they left them about three months. They left the bulls out to breed. And then after that you got to come down and get the bulls out. That was the worse job... I hated it.

LW: How come?

GK: Those bulls were hard headed. Down in this country it was all thick with *kiawe*. *Kiawe* and the *panini*, you know... the cactus? Those bulls when they hide... oh man! (Laughs.) But we did it. It was a way of life.

LW: Would you try to put them on a truck or... what would you take the bull out?

GK: No. There was no road here. You take 'um out.

LW: Oh, you just have to collect them and herd them up the mountain?

GK: Yeah. Some of them might die of an accident... you know. (Laughter.) It always happens some of them die from accident.

LW: Because they're so hardheaded?

GK: Oh man... but some of them they just go. You know you put them with a bunch of cows you go to water and everything. Together they keep going. But actually, what we do... because we had water from up here, too, in the water troughs we would shut the water off. So they would normally go to one place to water. Or they go up *mauka*. They like to go *mauka* for water. 'Cause cattle... their instinct is if they don't have water down *makai*... they going to move *mauka*.

LW: So, did you have to turn the water off in one corral and turn it on in another?

GK: All in the paddocks you go turn the water off and they'll move. Only the hardheaded ones, they don't move and you gotta go find them and bring them up. You short one and you got to come down and... 8,000 acres... find for one bull? (Laughs.) I know.

LW: So you said you handle them twice a year?

GK: Yeah, the herds.

LW: One to...

GK: Brand.

LW: ...brand the babies. But don't you wean time at the same time you brand them?

GK: No... no... you brand them and maybe three months later you come and wean... three or four months later and you wean.

LW: Oh... so you brand them real little?

GK: Yeah.

LW: And those were the only two times you handled the herds?

GK: At the... those years. That was all in... what you call that... extensive grazing. Not like nowadays all intensive. Intensive now you work with them all the time, they're tame, yuh. Every four or five days you go out there call them, they move. Move them, yuh.

LW: So that's why we want to keep working on describing this extensive grazing. What herds were up *mauka* then? You said there three or four herds down here.

GK: They were all commercial breed whereas up *mauka*... one of the main herds up *mauka* was our purebred herd. That was the AI (artificial insemination) herd. They were kept up *mauka* side.

LW: You bought semen for them and they were artificially inseminated?

GK: Yeah, the ranch did.

LW: So, you handled those cows differently?

GK: Pretty much. At calving... ROP... they call it the ROP herd. Record of performance is what it means... ROP. At birth, you got to go out there and catch those calves. You got to tag, and tattoo and weigh so... so it's every day work you have to go. I remember those days we used to go out on horseback... rain or shine. They call it the calf hunt. You got to go up there and rope the calves.

AK: Calf hunt.

GK: Hunt.

AK: But they have to match, yuh.

GK: You have to match them with the cow. But nowadays these cows they got tags so we can read them. But those days, numbers would change. Had a big brass tag on it. So you got to make sure you can find the number. So that for make it easier, they just looking at the tag on the neck. They put the brands on the side. The numbers... big numbers on the side of the cow so you got to go match the cow with the calf, so you look at the number, you catch the calf, then you tag the calf and everything according to the cow's number.

LW: Do you have to weigh the calf or...?

GK: Yeah... at birth. You got to have the birth weight. Then you tattoo, in case the calf loses the tag, you got to tattoo in one ear. There's the thing that your cow get numbers, the same number as the tag. You squeeze it, you press it, then you put ink. And years go by if they lose the tag, then you put them in the chute and look at the ear, and there is a tattoo in the ear.

LW: So the tattoo in the ear is with ink that you press onto their ear. Like permanent ink.

GK: Yeah, yeah. You turn the dial with numbers and supposed to match the tag.

LW: So that was the herd of record...

GK: Record of performance herd.

LW: Record of performance herd.

GK: R O P. That's why we call it the ROP herd.

LW: The record of performance herd. Okay. And that's the herd where you're really trying for certain parameters and size and weight and performance... and the way they take on weight.

GK: Yeah... yeah... yeah... And then when you go to wean them off, then each calf when you wean off you have to run them up the chute, give them the shots... the weaning shots. Then you brand them... well, you can brand them at that time but what we do first is run them up the chute, give them all their shots, run them on the scale, you get your weaning weights. Each thing is recorded.

LW: So, you have the birth weight and a weaning weight. But you know to catch all the calves at birth, that's a major job.

GK: Every day! It goes on for like two or three months, you know.

LW: Yeah? To catch them when they're born. Okay...

GK: Back in those days was all on a horse, you know. You go all morning, you come back, eat lunch, and go back again in the afternoon... all day on the horse.

AK: Cause they drop all different times.

GK: Nowadays, you know when I was at the ranch, all ATVs. You just go out there with the bikes.

LW: But you had to change horses at mid-day?

GK: My dad them normally did that. Come back change horses.

LW: Take a different one out?

GK: Yeah. Pretty much that's how you train the young horses on the rope. You kill two birds with one stone, you know.

LW: Oh, I see. You take your young horses out to do that...?

GK: You train them. While you train them, you teach them how to rope. They're learning, too, the horses. Rope calves...

LW: So the tattoo in the ear went on at birth...?

GK: Yeah... tattoo, tag, everything at birth.

LW: And the brands...

GK: The branding was at weaning.

LW: So that ROP herd, the weaned calves, what do you do with them?

GK: You got to actually score them. The bull calves, you don't castrate them until after you decide which bulls you're going to keep through your records. You know how they perform, the weaning weights and... you keep the good bulls and then there are some that won't make the cut, you separate them off the herd and you run them up the chute and you castrate them. And like the heifers, some of them not going to make it. You see these heifers go back to the... ROP program. They're going to be replacements for the older cows. They're going to replace the older cows.

LW: They're going to keep reproducing.

GK: Yeah, yeah. So if the ones that don't make the cut with the ROP herd, we put them in the commercial herd to breed. See we don't get rid of them.

LW: Right. So the best performing are going back...

GK: Yeah, going back into breed.

LW: And the other ones are coming down here to the regular...

GK: Yeah... going to the commercial herds.

LW: And a percentage of them go off to market... the commercial herds goes off to market.

GK: We normally keep the heifers from the commercial herds... maybe like 20%... 25% of what we wean per herd, we keep back as replacements. And the rest we ship them off to the mainland.

LW: Right. Well in that day... in the late '60's they weren't shipping them, right?

GK: They were shipping them to Honolulu. Feedlots in Honolulu... it was in Ewa. Campbell Industrial... wherever it was.

AK: Kahuā had their own in Honolulu.

LW: Oh, in Honolulu.

AK: Kahuā had...

GK: Kahuā even had a ranch down in Waialua, I think.

LW: Somebody was telling me about that... maybe Lani Petrie. Cran-Petrie. 'Cause her dad...

GK: Gordon. Gordon Cran.

LW: He worked for them over there. What other herds were up there?

GK: Up in the *mauka* section?

LW: Yeah.

GK: The growing herds. They kept the bull herd... the bull battery was up in Kahuā. The growing heifers.

LW: So they're not quite ready to breed yet?

GK: Yeah.

LW: And you keep them on the nice grass up there?

GK: Pretty much that's what I remembered up at Kahuā. Feeders... whatever they're going to ship and the breeding herds were pretty much kept away from the ranch. The bigger section. But at *makai* here was all big country, you know. I remember one paddock we called... what was the name of the... Pu'ulepo... that was the name of that. Pu'ulepo. It ran like... I'm not sure... maybe eight, nine hundred cows. That paddock took like about a week. It was so big it comes all the way down to the ocean, all the way back up to the mountain road. Big... all open. So we used to drive one section at a time and take them, brand them, whatever. Then the last of it you bring them down. They was out there... that corral out down there they call the middle pen. You bring whatever... the last, you

know... put them there, and you brand them there. You let them go right there. But weaning time... that was fun...weaning... because everything got to go back *mauka*. So I guess that's when the ranch started cutting up the bigger paddocks into... to them was smaller, but it was still huge, those paddocks. Real huge.

LW: So, the wean offs go up... Kahuā.

GK: Yeah... 'cause they gotta be processed for weaning... shots. Pretty much that's what I remember on the ranch. Not knowing that I would come back to Kahuā and take over the ranch in a way years later.

LW: Okay... so how long before you go... you go off to Parker at some point.

GK: My dad passed away when I was eighteen. So, I had left for the service. I was in the service... like six months, I think. And I put in for hardship discharge. I got out and then came back and then I started working at Parker. I started working at Parker it was '73, I think. 1973, 1974.

LW: So, you didn't come work Kahuā when you came back. You were at Parker Ranch.

GK: No. I was at Parker for 30 years and then I went back to Kahuā... I can't remember. About fifteen years I've been at Kahuā.

LW: So, in '73 you start at Parker.

GK: Yeah.

LW: And you were eighteen?

GK: Yeah. And then my dad passed away and he had a Hawaiian Homes ranch. I took over that ranch, too. My dad's homestead ranch. I still have that today.

LW: That's JK Ranch.

GK: Yeah... three hundred acres. I had it for about 44 years I've been running that now.

LW: And is that Hawaiian Homes down here or up in...

GK: It's Pu'ukapu... up by... actually it's called Ni'eni'e... the name of that place.

LW: And that's up by Waimea?

GK: Past the side of Waimea. It's above of Honoka'a. Way up above Honoka'a. You can go old Āhualoa Road and go up to my place. Yeah.

LW: And you still have cattle up there?

GK: Yeah... I run eighty cows... eighty head of cows over there. Still keeping busy. I'm retired but I work my own ranch now.

LW: Wow, that's a lot of responsibility for an 18 year old.

GK: Yeah. I took over that ranch when I was young. I was still a kid yet, you know.

LW: Yeah. Totally. At eighteen you're still a kid. But look at us... we can say that right?

GK: And I went to Parker Ranch.

LW: What was Parker like in '73?

GK: Ooh, I was a baby compared to most of those guys there. They were rough, those cowboys. Mean! They chew me up and spit me out. But you know... I was young. But they were amazed what I knew, you know, what my dad taught me. After that you see me train horses at my age and... what else can you do? Like at brandings, you know. Before had brandings at Parker. Only the foremen castrate. Do the castrating and branding. And plenty of them, they were getting old already. They ask me "Boy..." 'cause they see me everything I do I run back and forth, you know. Everything I do, I was so active. But they call that ADD. (Laughter.) But I was just active. That's how I grew up that way. They ask me if I castrate? I say yeah. They say yeah, go. They watch me run back and forth and then we're branding it's like ten ropers dragging calves to the fire... and I run back and forth with ten ropers I had. I was stuck with that job for years, I'll tell you that. (Laughter.) Every time come to the corral for brand, I figure hoo... I going get to rope. They go like that... "Here." They give me the emasculator. "Here." You know your job.

LW: Do... the male cows get castrated right there?

GK: All the commercial herds, yeah. Everything get castrated. They're branding. They're like about two months old. At Parker, when we start branding, we start branding like January... and used to be like one season branding back in those days. All one season. Winter breeding so... we finish our branding in June. June is the last branding. Then from July into December we go back and wean. We go back to the same where we started branding and start weaning off for the year. Pretty much year-round you were on horseback. I mean Parker every day... you know what I mean... you're on horseback year-round.

LW: Yeah, because it's so big.

GK: Yeah, yeah... it's really huge.

LW: Okay. All right. Then in the '70's they're doing extensive... they're not doing intensive.

GK: No. They didn't do intensive until... I think... the late '80's I think they started intensive grazing. And then even with the big cow herds, you know all the big sections they started maybe in the '90's. They started handling the cows more but hoo... those cows to move was real hard to teach because all they knew was... those paddocks were huge, you know.

LW: How big is huge? Tell how big is huge.

GK: The biggest paddock we had was like... 12,000 acres!

LW: Geez... (Laughter.) Okay, yeah, that is huge.

GK: When we brand, we ran like 2,000 head of cows in that. You try to move 2,000 head of cows go into the next paddy... ummm... and they live there all their life... oh we had a hell of a time trying to teach these cows how to move.

LW: How would you do it then? How did you do it?

GK: Shut off water and whatever... but what the ranch did was combine herds so... that herd from 2,000 came out to be like about 2,800... almost 3,000 head of cows so... The cows... you put them all together then some of the cows that come from that side came. Then when you go for drive'um... they'll go so some of these cows might follow.

LW: Oh, I see.

GK: Yeah, it's all like playing mind games with these cows.

LW: So how many cowboys would be working?

GK: Hmmm... just you and your section men. If you got five guys working with you... that's all you get. (Chuckles) so you've got five me.

LW: To herd 2,800 cows?

GK: Yeah, to move that. Yeah. Yeah.

LW: That's a lot of work

GK: And then when Robbie Hind came in... actually it was Robbie Hind... he was our Livestock Manager and he started cutting up the paddocks so that they were smaller. He cut them in half or maybe in fourths. So that made it kind of easier to work.

LW: So, what did he do? Just run electric (fencing)...?

GK: Some places. Some places we did hard fences, you know. Barb wire fences, yeah.

LW: But Parker must have had a fencing crew.

GK: Yeah, yeah, they had... but it was too much work for them and the paddocks were so huge that it was faster if you just contracted it out. So we had these contractors come in and make fence.

LW: To somebody who made their living on making Parker Ranch fences. Who was that?

GK: They brought in guys from the mainland, I think. Had guys come in from the mainland. They were doing fencing. That guy had a bunch of... he had a crew of Mexican fence men. They come in... I mean ten miles of fence in two, three days it's up, man. The faster they got work done I guess the faster they got paid. Time is money. I can't remember the names of the fence companies but yeah... two of them came from the mainland.

LW: Okay. I want to make sure because Parker is a real complicated subject so I'm trying to get the picture of it. Dr. Bergin's books have done a lot for explaining Parker Ranch, which is a really good thing but...

GK: I'm in the last edition.

LW: We were talking about the huge paddocks and so... let's get a picture of Parker so... are there dry areas and wet areas like you described here at Kahuā?

GK: Yeah.

LW: Is there some herds in one area and another herds in another area? Did they do that at Parker?

GK: Pretty much the ranch was broken up into divisions. One division had maybe several herds in the big divisions. I worked for the Ke'āmuku/Humu'ula Division. Humu'ula was all one herd. The whole mountain was like wide open but we used to brand a section at a time. Humu'ula ran maybe like 11,000 head of their cows down there... their mama cows, yuh.

AK: Were they all the same breed?

GK: At that time, when I started working for Parker it was all Hereford cows. And then during the mid '80's that's when they started cross-breeding and brought in the Angus and Brangus and all those different breeds. Like Kohala Division... that was another division... they ran only probably like maybe 4,000 cows... 6,000. Ke'āmuku we ran like about a thousand head of cows. The biggest division we had was the Mauna Kea Division. That was part of Waiki'i and Waimea section. This mountain... Kohala mountain. That was the biggest section. That ran oh... almost 20,000 head of cows, that one. You know. That was big numbers... lots of numbers. And then we had our Mānā Division. That was the eastern division of the ranch. That goes that side of Mauna Kea

next to... going towards the Kūka‘iau Ranch. They ran like maybe another 8,000 head of cows, too, up there. I mean when we used to brand... bring the herds into the corral, I mean, you going brand, there's 900... at least 900. The most we branded one day was 1,700.

LW: I was going to say how many days did that take... (Laughter.) You do it all in one day?

GK: Four and a half hours.

LW: Gee...? How many men would be working then?

GK: That was the biggest branding we had so... everybody comes. Like the truck drivers, the carpenters, utility gang... pipe crew, cowboys... everybody come and brand that day. So we get like twenty ropers out there. Then branding ovens... there's like six or seven lined up in the corral. I mean that's why it takes like four and a half hours. We stop for breaks, too. You know we break like for half an hour... but everybody knows what's going on. We had a system on the ranch. We start like 6:30 in the morning... 6:00 (a.m.) o'clock we start branding so 10:00 (a.m.) o'clock we're done... 10:30 (a.m.) we're done.

LW: Who developed that system? Who figured out how to make that...

GK: Parker... the old timers on Parker Ranch.

LW: Wait... to get that many calves together you got to get the mama cows together. How long did it take to get them?

GK: Yeah, well we drove them the day before. I mean we drive the herd come down the before, bring them all down to the corral and we sort out the cows from the babies. Lock all the babies up in one other pen. Then we go through the cows because we pull all the cull cows out, you know. The cows that are not productive. So you got to yank all those cows out because they don't have a calf... and then that takes the rest of the day. I mean it's 2,000 cows. We sort that all on horses.

AK: And they all speak in Hawaiian.

GK: Everything was spoken in Hawaiian. There's one man, he stands by the gate that the cows run through and then, he go yell'um all in Hawaiian... you better know what he's talking about!

LW: What is he yelling?

GK: The color of the cow or... the first one, the second one... the middle one... all in Hawaiian, you know. But I mean... it's a full day's work. And the last job we do at the end of the day... put the cows away and then the so-called dry cows that we pull out of the herd, we lock them up separate. And then all the calves, we got to count these calves. I mean that takes about two hours to count.

AK: How much *kane*, how much *wahine*.

GK: And you got to count the total and difference, you know. The total calves and then the difference. *Kane, wahine*, you know. Pens are full! You have one ten acre corral... it's full with cattle. The corral is huge. The Parker Ranch corral is huge!

LW: So, this is out behind...

GK: Waiki'i.

LW: Oh, up at Waiki'i.

GK: Waiki'i... this is up at Waiki'i.

LW: So, this is branding. And then you put them all back together and drive'um back out to the...

GK: Right there... turn them loose. Right back out. They go back home.

LW: You're talking about a two thousand cow...

GK: Yeah... that was the biggest herd we branded. That was the biggest herd we branded. That was the last branding so all... everybody gets together. And then we have a party after that. You know... Hawaiian food... we dig an *imu*, we kalua pig and big party we have after that branding.

LW: But that's in June?

GK: That used to be in June. Yeah. Then everything changed and they're doing this two seasons of breeding. Winter and summer breeding so...

LW: Okay. When did they start that?

GK: Pretty much during the '80's. It was the mid '80's, I think.

LW: But before it was you started branding in January...

GK: Yeah... and done in June...

LW: And done in June. And the last one was the biggest one and a party afterwards.

GK: In June, yeah. And then July you start weaning off before you start branding.

LW: So you brought each of those groups of cows down or up or around to Waiki'i?

GK: Wherever the section is they all have corrals.

LW: They have a big corral in each division?

GK: Yeah. They would have to all have working corrals.

LW: And you would do the branding in each division.

GK: Yeah.

LW: Now would all those extra guys come for the... each branding in each division?

GK: Well, no. Mostly the other divisions we send them all the cowboys. All the cowboys with one division go to the next. Everybody get together.

LW: But that big one everybody... that last big one everybody came?

GK: Yeah. Everybody comes, yeah. From truck drivers, fencemen, pipe guys or whatever.

AK: Maybe you can share what time you wake up, how much horses are in the corral and all that. In the morning, it's dark.

GK: I remember when we did brandings up at Humu'ula we stay at Keanakolu in the Keanakolu cabins, you know. It's like thirty cowboys up there bringing the horses in. My job was... as the youngest, to bring the horses in the morning. At 1:00 in the morning... 1:30... get up and drive those horses, bring them in the corral. You're out there with the kerosene lantern trying to catch horses. And there's two hundred horses in that corral. So, you gotta make sure you know which one is your horse. (Laughs.) That's the kind of life I lived. You know... 1:00 o'clock in the morning... get up... everybody still sleeping... the cook gets up at... you can hear bouncing pans around in the kitchen and... well, I get up, I go outside, five miles in the dark, 'cause I sleep my horse always lock up around there... saddle'um up. He start bucking with me in the dark... this is like one o'clock. Get out there and go get the horses and it's dark... go get the horses bring'um home. The paddock where all the work horses are... maybe it's like twenty, twenty-five acres. And it's pitch black. You better make sure you bring all the horses in because those old guys going chew you up and spit you out! (Laughter.)

LW: If you don't get the right ones?

GK: You don't bring them all in... "Where's my horse, boy?"

AK: And he remembers even when it snowed a little bit.

LW: Pretty high up there, huh.

GK: It snowed on the horses twice up that mountain.

LW: So, you bring the group of working horses into a corral so that when the older guys get up they can...

GK: Everybody... yeah...

LW: ...just saddle their horse and...

GK: They get up, eat your breakfast, catch your horses, you know. Each cowboy, we go up in the mountain, each cowboy brings like four or five horses each. Sometimes six horses each guy, you know. Times thirty cowboys... (Laughter.) I mean horses every color you can think of... pink, orange, yellow, blue... I mean those horses are out there, you know. Then when the branding season is over up in the mountain, up in Keanakolu, guess who has to drive them down to Waimea? Me! I got to drive them down from Keanakolu all the way to Waimea.

LW: The horses or cattle?

GK: The horses. Bring the horses home to Waimea. And there's horses from Waiki'i Division, Makahālau Division, Pa'auhau Division, Humu'ula Division, Ke'amuku, Mauna Kea, Waiki'i... you know... I mean...

AK: And he has to drop off like...

GK: And so, on the way home with the horses, you know each division... you bring 'um back to the corral and sort off their horses. Then you keep going home... bringing the horses down to Waimea. (Laughs.)

LW: So, the horse kind of knows which is home...

GK: Yeah, they pretty much know, these horses. When they get home they pretty much know... you see them kind of cut off. They know where their home is. The rest of the horses they know where their home is, they're going to keep going. But sometimes every so far you go, you got to stop. And count the horses as they come through the gate because you go up there with 250 horses, you better reach home with 250 horses. (Laughter.) Me and this other man used to do it all the time. He's a little older than I was. But he was always in the front and I bring up the back because 'cause there's times you got to stop and count, make sure you got your horses because a thick fog comes in... and you don't know. Some might wander off in the fog. So he would stop certain areas... and especially if there's a gathering area there, I see him by the gate, I see him, he's counting the horses by the gate. Then he makes me like that (makes a motion). Then he goes... he keeps going, he opens the next gate and he goes and I keep following him. Yeah, we leave Keanakolu... they take us up in the morning like 8:00... 9:00 o'clock we get up there, and we reach back Waimea like 6:30 or quarter to seven (o'clock) at night. We get back to Waimea. It's a long ride all day on horseback.

LW: And you've got how many other horses with you to take home.

GK: Right there where they pick us up, if it's a Friday we just leave them there. Monday we'll deal with it.

LW: Well, I remember the one time... but okay... so that's branding. So weaning... I watched one and it must have been in '98 or '99. And filled the container ship at Kawaihae. Or... not a container ship. It was a...

GK: The boat? The Canada boat?

LW: The Canada boat.

GK: I worked on that, too.

LW: And every half an hour, another truck... those trucks hold what...

GK: Hundred.

LW: ...a hundred calves.

GK: We put a hundred calves on each truck, yeah.

LW: Every half an hour...

GK: Three thousand head we stick on the boat.

LW: ... come in. So there must have been about ten... no, thirty trucks come in, right? Three thousand head.

GK: Yeah. We used to use a contractor trucking out, too. So we had fifteen trucks, I think, pulling cattle for us when I was at Parker. So ten trucks come in that's a thousand head right there. But they got to pick up cattle like from Waiki'i or Makahālau. And the last place was my section in Kohala. Kohala used to put up the most. Fifteen hundred to two thousand calves, I used to ship out of the Kohala section.

LW: But that was in the '90's. So, in the '70's and you had all these divisions, where were the cattle going?

GK: They were shipped to O'ahu to the feedlots in O'ahu. That's where the feedlots were.

LW: Okay. So they didn't have to go on a...

GK: No, they didn't have to go to the mainland. Until that (the feedlot) shut down and then we started shipping them off to the mainland.

LW: What did they ship them on to go... how did they get them to O'ahu?

GK: Do you know those double decker containers that they put them in?

LW: Just those kind.

GK: Yeah, they just drive them right onto the barge and then...

LW: Oh, on the barge to go...?

GK: Yeah. Then they unload them in O'ahu and they ship the containers back.

LW: They're empty?

GK: Yeah.

LW: Oh yeah, that's a lot easier.

GK: Yeah. Even cows. I remember we used to ship cows every week to... what the name of the slaughterhouse in Honolulu was? I can't remember. But we used to put forty cows to eighty cows... I think it was Monday. Mondays and Thursday, I think was shipping days. We used to put cows on the boat, too. Would be in the double-decker containers. Forty cows per container, yuh.

LW: Full size cows that aren't producing?

GK: Yeah. Just go straight to slaughter in Honolulu.

LW: Or didn't get pregnant?

GK: Yeah. Yeah.

LW: How many a week?

GK: At least eighty. Forty to eighty head a week. Sometimes more. Sometimes we send eighty on Monday and eighty on Thursday, you know.

LW: Depending on what's going on? What area you're working from...

GK: Yeah.

LW: So, in the '70's who's the foreman then?

GK: '70's?

LW: You started in '73, right?

GK: Yeah, right. The livestock manager was Walter Slater. And then our General Manager was Gordon Lent at that time. And we went through managers like wow! I can't remember them all.

LW: We'll leave that to Dr. Bergin.

AK: But he does have stories of how generous Richard Smart was when Richard Smart was around, and how he took care of his cowboys. Like very personal relationships with the cowboys, which is unique, you know. For owning so much and having so much and to be that down to earth for these men.

GK: He took care of the ranch family pretty much.

LW: How did he do that?

GK: Anything from helping if you got delinquent bills and you know... you needed assistance like maybe if one of your children needs this surgery... it's life threatening... he paid for it. He paid for it out of his pocket. "Pay me back if you can. If not, don't worry about it." He was really nice man.

AK: Even to like the... Christmas parties and the bar for the cowboys at Parker Ranch.

GK: Yeah... he built the Parker Ranch Broiler. He built that back in the '70's... late '70's, I think it was. He said "I built this for my cowboys." And then somewhere along the line he hired these two managers from Boston. One was the dining manager... the other was... I don't know... anyway we went in there after pau hana one day. And he threw us out because we were all dirty...

LW: Wait... you're supposed to be.

GK: Richard Smart heard about it. Man, he fired the two guys, he sent them back to Boston. He said "You don't throw my cowboys out of the bar. I built that bar for them."
(Laughter.)

LW: That's a good story. I used to hear that there was meat portion and did you get like...

GK: Married men was ten pounds a week, and single guys was five pounds a week. Yeah. So, ten pounds a week, you know... that's a lot. Yeah, it is.

AK: And housing.

GK: He paid us. We got housing allowance and then if we lived in a ranch house it was for free. You didn't pay house rent. After he passed away, well that all came to an end. We paid house rent... and then we had meat but we paid... we had to pay the taxes on it, you know. They taxed us on the meat.

LW: They had to pay tax so they asked you just to pay the tax?

GK: The housing, they charged all of us rent. We started paying house rent. Wow. The old man must be rolling in his grave... we paid house rent.

LW: So when did Richard Smart die?

GK: '92, I think it was. Yeah... I think so... it was in '92. Yeah... I think so it was in '92. Someplace around there. He was a real gentle man. A kind man.

LW: So did you see him at Christmas time and what was the Christmas party like?

GK: It was okay. He made a Christmas party... everybody was all... each family got turkey, ham, two cases of soda. A case of beer.

AK: And then someone said he used to get a present... what was it? For all the kids?

GK: And all the kids. All the kids got Christmas presents, you know. Christmas presents. But I remember back when I grew up all the kids from Waimea School used to get presents from Parker Ranch. But the town grew so big, you know... and then...

LW: Yeah... they couldn't do it.

GK: Only now it was only the ranch family but we had about a hundred employees on the ranch and when we had a Christmas party there were plenty... there was a lot of people... plenty kids. And I remember every year... Christmas bonuses. The Ranch didn't have the money to give out Christmas bonuses. He would pull out of his pocket and give. To each employee... one pay check. Your regular pay scale, he'd give you... that was your bonus. He gave you out of his pocket. That's how generous he was.

AK: He even made personal loans if you went to him and couldn't get a bank loan.

GK: Yeah... sometimes if you needed money... delinquent... you know you can't make a payment or something, you go see him. "What you need?" Call his secretary, cut one check for him. "Here."

AK: So down to earth.

GK: He's so nice. Such a nice man.

LW: And not stuck on his wealth.

GK: No.

- AK: When he told me the stories I just be like wow... you know. If you don't hear this about the man, you don't know how giving he was and how he took care of his people that made Parker Ranch, you know... the cowboys.
- GK: I remember him making cocktail parties at his house. Pu'u Opelo. Our family used to go down there. They'd have cocktails and then where Parker School is now, that used to be the old Kahilu (Theater). He'd have a full on dinner up there, dance music and everything for the employees. We go to his house for cocktails and go up there, we have prime rib dinner. Prime rib dinners for the families and dancing music. That's the kind of stuff he did for us. He appreciated all of us that worked for him. He was so appreciative.
- AK: He took care of his employees for a long time. They worked there. You'd figure he was there thirty years.
- LW: So when did you retire from there?
- GK: I left there in '02... 2002. They came up with these voluntary separation... you know they cut back... cutbacks... I think there was like thirty of us left the ranch.
- LW: Yeah. I think I remember that, I'm sure. It was kind of a thing when... because that was a big group.
- GK: For me, thirty years of my life, I spent there. Broke my heart when I had to leave. And if didn't leave I would have gotten laid off. Let me go.
- AK: But after Richard Smart passed away that's when all of this happened. They sold the land to make money. You know... the Board... the trustees...
- GK: You know... because the beneficiaries... That was the thing see... when he died he has beneficiaries like the hospital, the school, or for that... what else? He had five or six so each one gotta get money. The ranch was rich in land but they didn't have the money so... they cannot make the payments, that's why they were selling off the land. They used to pay the... not inheritance but beneficiaries paid... them off.
- LW: So let's go back to the '80's... the 1980's. We talked about the '70's, I think. Got some sense of the ranch in the '70's. So you're in your twenties going towards thirty. So in the '80's... what were the '80's like at Parker Ranch?
- GK: Just like every normal day, I guess.
- LW: Who was managing then, in those days?
- GK: '80's... I think Charlie Kimura was the manager of the ranch at that time. I think. Yeah... was Charlie Kimura. Then they had before him... there was Don Hanson. He was from California, I think. He was the General Manager. And then Walter Slater was

the livestock manager and then finally Richard got rid of them and put Charlie in as the manager of the ranch... Charlie Kimura. And then Charlie started bringing in most of these crossbreeding programs. You know, like Brangus and Angus.

LW: What did you think about the crossbreeding program?

GK: It bettered the ranch. It did. The Herefords were so delicate animals, you know. When there's a drought, they wouldn't eat anything. I mean they'd rather die than live. They were soft type of animals. They wouldn't eat anything, those cattle. When they crossbred the herds and then... at first with the Brangus. Oh, the Brangus... they climb the kiawe trees to eat. (Laughter.) I mean they'd do anything, you know. Even like the fountain grass out that side of the country... on the Ke'āmuku side... they would they call that pepe's grass... that was a pest. Those cattle would eat it. They'll eat anything in their way. The only thing they'd (eat or leave?) was rocks.

LW: That's kind of good.

GK: Yeah, the crossbreeding program been kind of boosted the ranch.

LW: In those big, huge divisions did they manage the grass?

GK: No. Year round the cattle was in there. And then we started trying to do this extensive grazing by moving the cattle, it was kind of too late because the cattle already chewed the place down. So, the fire weed started coming in. And that took over. But pretty much that's how we started to manage the pastures. We had to. And there's no rain. Nothing grows. You know the ranch tried to raise... we had maybe like 20,000 head of cows at that time. Back in the '90's. 20,000... 28,000. They wanted to go up to like 30,000. We had maybe like twenty... maybe twenty-two thousand head of cows. They wanted to raise it up to 28... 29,000. We couldn't because we were in a state of drought. I mean the cows were starving. The cows were dying all over the ranch. It was sickening whenever you go to work you see cows dead all over the ranch because no grass.

LW: Right.

GK: We tried feeding them. We had like supplements, you know, like molasses and all that but still yet that wasn't enough. And we had these big super herds, you know. Like I said. We combined herds to where you got to move them all over. Those cows, they go through one place, they chew it down like locusts. When they leave there's only dirt and when they come back to it there's nothing growing when they come back. There's no rain. So that pretty much scarred the land, too, with that.

LW: You mean because there wasn't quite the balance between...?

GK: Yeah. And no rain, you know. We were like scarring the lands, you know. It wasn't managed right. But the word is when you got too much animals, is destock. You try mention that word before the Parker Ranch... destock... that was a bad word. Oh, you

don't know what the hell you're talking about... you know. When you come out every day with me and you go help pull dead cows with me, you know... it's not mismanaging our herds. It's just they're starving out there.

LW: Yeah, right. You got to match the herd to the feed.

GK: Yeah... yeah. So they brought in this guy from... New Mexico... Kirk Gadzia. He put on the classes for us. We learned a lot from him, too. And I used it on my own ranch. And it helps, you know, how you manage your grass. Like he says we're all farmers, we're not... ranchers. We're farmers. We grow grass to raise animals. You grow grass. You don't grow grass, you don't have animals. You don't have nice animals.

LW: So there was real drought in the late '80's, '90's.

GK: Yeah... in '80's... '90's... it was dry.

LW: And the total herd kind of... you had to shrink the herd.

GK: Well we had to. Better than to let them die on their own. Go through the herds and try to pull out... what would I say... salvage from the herd and send them to slaughter. You know... make something off of them instead of just throwing them away.

LW: Right. That's tough. Those are hard decisions.

GK: Yeah. It is.

LW: So, who was having to make... what managers were having to make those decisions?

GK: That was around Robbie Hind's time, I think. Robbie Hind and who else was there? I know Robbie was our livestock manager at the time. And the trustees in the office. We had trustees in the office.

LW: 'Cause it was after... '92.

GK: Yeah... during the '90's that's when it was really bad, the drought.

LW: So that's the time period where you started to make smaller... the divisions smaller... pastures smaller.

GK: Back in the '80's is when they kind of cut up the pastures there. And then the '90's it was easier for us to move the cattle but still yet, there wasn't enough feed for the cattle to eat.

LW: Even in those times.

GK: Once the cows go they chew it down to nothing. And there's no rain, it's not going to come back. It's just like the plant dies, you know.

LW: But the Kohala Division's pretty wet.

GK: Yeah. I took over that division in '93... '94... around there. It was a gold mine. They ran like five... maybe four thousand ... five thousand head there. About five thousand head there. I took over that place. That place was like thirty thousand acres. At one time, I had over twelve thousand head up there. That's the most that place ever held. Being that side was so dry, they were just dumping cows on me on this side. Rounding them up, bring them to me. Brought those cows back. We lost some but you know... pretty much... the double deck trailers pull in with cows. Some of the cows laying down in the truck. Cannot get up, you know. So we move them... dead in the truck or they were bad. But we took care of them. And we lost a few like I said. We came back. We came back okay.

LW: So was that division... where... describe that area for me.

GK: It's from up right past Kahuā. In fact, Pono Holo Ranch... from there you go down the hill till about... actually you go this side, past the Kohala Ranch. There's a black point beach down here. From that side over to Mahu Kona, that was all Parker. And then go up all way up to the mountain, up to the forest. But this was the dry side, and that was the wet side.

LW: Did you have any herds down in the dry area? It's so dry.

GK: I mean I used to put mostly old cull cows down there. The kind when I wean off, these cows are old, I put them down there. Because they survive in the dry country. And then I let them calve there... let them have their last calf. When time to brand, bring them up. Brand the calves and then weaning. After we wean the calves then send those cows off to slaughter.

LW: So, most of the herd was up higher up?

GK: Pretty much. All over. On the higher sections I ran like... 2,800 cows at the highest sections. That's two herds... 1,400 per herd. That's big herds, that.

LW: Yeah.

GK: Coming down the lower country had... one section had 1,200 cows and then you go to Maliu Ridge... I had another section there. I had to run around 1,100 cows there, and then as you go makai, you go a little more makai, and they call that Pu'ukea Section. I had maybe another six or seven hundred cows down there. Yeah.

LW: And those sections are all with hard fence or electric...?

GK: They put electric fences and hard fences. Both.

LW: A combination?

GK: Yeah.

LW: So that's in the '90's then?

GK: I took over there in the '90's.

LW: And then went up until 2003...?

GK: 2002... yeah.

LW: So what was the yearly round over there in Kohala in that time period? When did you start the management cycle like... when did you put the bulls in and...?

GK: What was it now? Towards the mountain side... that was my summer breeding program. Bulls go out June of every year. And the makai sections, that was like the winter months. The bulls go out in January.

LW: Then how long would they stay?

GK: They would stay ninety days.

LW: Ninety days. And then you have to pick them out to move them...? When you take the bulls out... I'm confused about how you take the bulls out. You do it at the same time as something else?

GK: No. You go back and you ride through the herds. And you just pick up bulls as you go and then you take them out. But you got to keep hunting for them all the time. You got to hunt for these bulls. I mean paddocks were huge, too.

LW: How big were those paddocks? I mean sections.

GK: Maybe like thousand acres.

LW: Each one?

GK: Yeah. It varies... maybe hundreds... maybe eight... nine hundred acres. Yeah.

LW: What herds did you have in the lush areas?

GK: In the back section. Those were our summer herds. We'd breed them in the summer. And they start calving... we'd breed in June and they'd start calving in April the next year.

LW: So you'd calve them and... did you change technology on what you did with the calves? Because you gave that great description of what you did with the calves in the '70's. What did you do with them by 2000?

GK: Same thing. Pretty much was all the same. Every year it's the same thing. It's just different year. You do the same thing, every year, all year long. That's Kahuā. That's a little bit different because it's small, yuh. Much smaller scale.

LW: I don't want to let Parker go yet.

GK: Oh, okay.

LW: So by the time of the late '90's... 2000 at Parker Ranch, you're a foreman there.

GK: I was a supervisor already... I was superintendent. I was a foreman... I think back in '79 I became a foreman at Ke'āmuku... I mean for Parker. And then by the time I was... those late '80's I became a superintendent. I can't remember the year.

LW: Okay. So what's the difference between a foreman and a superintendent?

GK: The foreman... he oversees his section... like this Kohala Section there's one foreman and one superintendent. And then the Mauna Kea Division... like the Waimea section has two foremen. There was a foreman for the Waik'i Section, a foreman for the Waiemi Section. Then one superintendent, he's over all that. That's why I ran Ke'āmuku and Kohala, the last Division I had. I had a foreman there; he was Neil Asai... and my other foreman in Waimea was Mark Yamaguchi. He was my foreman for the Ke'āmuku Division. So, I call the shots on everything.

LW: You decide when to do things and you keep the records, too...? You got to keep the records?

GK: Yeah... the inventory and all that, yeah... you got to keep everything. That's where the journals came in. You had cattle counts... everything. That was your memory.

LW: Right. And do you have to make reports at certain times.

GK: I remember when being a foreman, yeah. When I was a foreman we had to make monthly reports. Condition of cattle, condition of the pastures, and how projects and works done for the month. You know... what fencing, whatever you did. Pipe work. You got to put all that down. So you got to go back to your diary and look at what you did.

LW: So, you guys were talking about your records. You kept climate records... you kept rain...

GK: Yeah... rain... the rainfall. Pretty much was rainfall. Compared to... you know you compare them as you go to every year, yuh. In fact, monthly, you know. But you had in January and you look what you get in February... March, April...

LW: Then you look back at what you had last year?

GK: Yeah.

LW: Did you have to think about how many head you have compared to rainfall? Do you have to do anything like that?

GK: Pretty much yeah, you got to. But you know you got people above you trying to run the ranch and telling you what to do... well, you got to try just work it out. If it doesn't work, it doesn't even work. Then you got to destock, you know. I just did it. That's the way I was taught. That's the way I figured it. Because when it gets dry and you got all these animals what are you going to feed them? You start to get rid of them. You might as well make money on them now and... it's salvageable.

LW: So, the superintendent would just make those decisions?

GK: Pretty much you would go with the livestock manager and work things out with him. And then he talk to you.

LW: So the superintendent talks to the Livestock Manager?

GK: Yeah. Yeah. It's his job to do all that. And then you go out there and carry on. With what you going do.

LW: Amoo is saying that when you wrote in your notebooks, you were very specific. What did call it Amoo? You said...

LW: So, what all exactly did you keep in your notebooks, then?

GK: Just what was done for the day. The counts. What you got... shipping cattle, I mean you got breeding head. I mean... you got replacements, shipping steers, you got market and grass-fed animals. Anything happens... everything that I do during the day, I keep it in there. I write it in my notebook and I come home, and sit down, have a beer and then write it in my journal, you know.

AK: What he moved, what... where he took this ten cows down to this pasture because of whatever reason. All of that little moves... he was very...

GK: Take twenty cows to Kulana... whatever. All that. Write it all down.

LW: And did you have to make a report out of that?

GK: I make a cattle report and then I have the girls in the office put it in the computer. I mean, put it on the spreadsheet. 'Cause I can't... I don't even know how to turn on a computer. (Laughter.) But you know... every time they got to come back to me and find out the actual count... because to me, you guys get the computer. What the hell's going on? (Laughter.)

LW: Yeah... it's supposed to be there somewhere.

AK: It crashed or they lost it.

GK: They lost it or... like I said...

LW: They don't know which file it is.

GK: Like I said a month ago when the girls call me up... "You got the numbers of days? You got the numbers in there?" You know what... you wait. Give me a little time. I got to go look at my journal. I'll call you back then. I find my journal. I go and find 'um and call her. She always say, "Oh, thank you." I ask, "What happened to the copies I gave you?" "I lost it." What?? Lost it?"

LW: You know there was all that about training the cattle more.

GK: Yeah. Yeah. After handling them more the cattle came real docile. Being on a ranch, especially Parker. You know what I mean... with these big paddocks and you handle the cows twice a year. These cows... some of them are wild, man! I mean you couldn't even herd them. But you know after we started this intensive grazing, we started moving them from paddocks to paddocks every... maybe like three weeks. You move them. The cows started being tamer and tamer. Easy to handle. That taught us a lot, though. About what it does to the animals, yuh.

AK: What was it called? Low stress handling.

GK: Yeah. You bring them in the corral, the cow is a lot less excited because you handle them all the time, every time you're moving them. So, like I said you made them real docile like. They were good cattle, yeah.

LW: So, you would have stayed on Parker.

GK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

LW: So 2000... what happens now... 2003 comes around and Parker's changed a lot, yuh?

GK: Yeah... I think they were went down to like ten cowboys, I think, after we all left.

LW: So how many in '72 were there? When you started?

GK: Cowboys?

LW: Yeah.

GK: Oh... must have had thirty... thirty-five cowboys.

LW: You go down to ten. But the herd must be much, much, much smaller.

GK: But still yet that's a big ranch to cover.

LW: But some of it you're suggesting just can't be used. Did it ever come back?

GK: Some of the ranch?

LW: Yeah.

GK: It came back. It did but all it needed was rest. You got to rest your land, you know. That's all it came down to... you needed to rest the 'āina.

LW: But how did they miss not managing the grass?

GK: You know, at first, they tried to make us raise more cattle on the land. Numbers. So they didn't have to get rid of the... like us. Being that it didn't work, they tried to raise more cattle because the cattle wasn't making any money. I mean it wasn't... it was just dry, you know. You couldn't raise any more cattle and so... well, you cannot raise the cow count. Got to get rid of some of these people. That's what they did to us. So they came up with a plan. They called it the VS-1 Plan. Voluntary Separation. They made us an offer and everything and made it juicy.

LW: Early retirement, yuh?

AK: They made it like they're not going to hire you back. You take this or you get nothing 'cause you're not going to have a job here.

GK: 'Cause I went in... like I said, they gave us the forms if we wanted to sign on anything. So, at that time I was married to my former wife. She passed away like ten years ago so... her and we met... that's the one... right there in the picture.

LW: I can't remember. You know I've been doing this for a while but I cannot always remember the wives. (Laughs.)

GK: But she and I went into the office. Saw the head trustee. Made an appointment that morning. Was about a week from the deadline before we had to sign in. He asked me "What's on your mind?" "I like talk to you about this Voluntary Separation." "Are you going to take it?" "That's what I like talk to you about. If I stay am I guaranteed my job and my position?" He told me, "You know, you're the best I got. I can't guarantee your

job and your position,” he said. “All right.” I stood up. “Thank you.” Shake his hand. I’m all upset. She broke down in tears. She started crying. She said “We raised our family. Our kids grew up on his ranch.” “Is that the kind of answer you’re giving?” “Yup. I’m sorry.” I said “Well, come on, let’s go.” I went into the next office to the secretaries. “Give me the paper. Give me the paper.” I signed it. “You leaving?” “Yup. Thank you.”

LW: I know I mean frankly it made gossip, you know, when that happened. I’m serious. We heard about it. Even people like me who are in the outside circle where I do this work but I’m not part of the ranching community. But even that outside circle like me... we heard about it.

GK: They called it like a retirement for us. Which it wasn’t, you know. The pay they were paying us for the two more years... it was full pay, I mean. And they wasn’t pulling the taxes. I think it was the first six months we went through that. Then all of a sudden...

LW: Who were the ten that stayed? They got less money or...

GK: No. They didn’t qualify for the VS-1 plan. The VS 1, it’s like you get two years vacation. Full pay for the next two years. You get your medical, your dental till you’re sixty-five. You get your meat allowance, you know. All that and then tax free. And then all of a sudden six months after we left the ranch, we get our pay checks. They paid us once a month. There’s nothing in the paycheck. They started taking the tax again. Whoa... wait a minute. ‘Cause that was the agreement they’d made, you know. So seven of us... I think twenty something of us went to this VS 1 plan. Seven of us... we stood back and we fought it. And we got the lawyers from Honolulu and... and we won. We won the case.

LW: Oh, you mean they were going to sort of stiff you?

GK: Yeah.

LW: Oh, my gosh!

GK: Each of us paid like \$5,000 per person for the lawyers’ fees. Retainer fees, you know. And then it was every time they work on our case it was like three hundred dollars an hour or something.

LW: Sure.

GK: And it all added up and then it was maybe two years later. We won. They had to pay our lawyer fees and all. The ranch paid everything. So I went, I took my meat allowance for the rest... I took my meat allowance out and they had to pay me for that. And for what else? They had to give us all the money that they took. It was a breach of contract. That’s what they said. But we came out ahead, you know. We didn’t get a hundred percent but I got 98% of what I was promised. The ranch messed with my life, you

know. Too many times. I said I'm not going sit back and watch these guys do this to me. I'm done with the ranch.

LW: That makes good sense. I didn't hear that part.

GK: Seven cowboys... we went there and we did it. Till today I still get my medical from Parker Ranch. That's the only thing. My medical and dental is still from the ranch.

LW: So, you still get that medical and dental. That's good, that's good. That's a lot of money.

GK: Supposed to have my meat allowance, too, but like I said, I took it all in cash for the rest. They just paid me off. I don't want meat. I get my own ranch.

LW: Well... how are you guys feeling. I think we have your more recent... the fifteen years at Kahuā to sort of talk about yet. We can do it in a second time and do another interview or we could just keep going.

GK: Up to you.

AK: I'm not in a rush to go nowhere. It depends on your schedule.

LW: Well, you want to keep going?

AK: We might as well keep talking... talking.

AK: Did he share with you when he was the supervisor of so many acres total and all that he was really in charge of?

LW: No. You could tell me that, though.

AK: He took care of the what... Humu'ula... Kohala...

GK: Ke'amuku.

AK: Ke'amuku...

LW: I didn't know there were the three of them. I knew there the two.

AK: Total of what was that?

GK: Maybe like hundred thousand acres.

LW: Oh, wow. That's a lot.

GK: Was a lot of land to ride, I'll tell you. I'll tell you in those days... well, we had trailers so not too bad. My daddy's days, I remember growing up on this ranch, those trailers... I

mean you got to go Kawaihae, you going to ride down on the horse and ride back up to the ranch. That's how.

LW: Oh, so this way you put your horse in the trailer?

GK: Yeah... but right, you can drive to where you going and then unload your horses and go do your job.

LW: So each of those areas is kind of... for instance Humu'ula is way high up.

GK: Yeah... that's Mauna Kea.

LW: And where are the other two?

GK: Ke'amuku... Ke'amuku is Waikoloa section. From Waikoloa Village all the way up to Saddle Road. That division... I worked in that desert, too. (Laughs.)

LW: Is there cattle in there now?

GK: No, no. Parker sold that land. The Pohakuloa Training Area... you know... it's the military that bought that place out.

LW: Oh... the whole thing?

GK: The whole Ke'amuku Section is gone. Parker sold it.

LW: When were you supervising there? What years was that?

GK: Wait now... I'm not sure... it's got to be the late '80's. Like '88, '89, I think I was supervisor. Yeah, I ran the Ke'amuku, Humu'ula together. And then when it came to '93... they added Kohala Section on with me. So, I took over that, too. Yeah.

LW: In '93?

GK: Yeah.

LW: And that's really the productive one.

GK: It was, yeah.

LW: 'Cause I think there are only goats over there in the other areas now.

GK: Ke'amuku was productive. It was very productive.

LW: It was?

GK: Yeah because we ran about five... six thousand head cows over there. When it rained then it was very productive. When it was dry whoa, it sucked out there. Man, it was rough on the cattle out there.

LW: So where's the water over there?

GK: The water was piped in from Waiki'i.

LW: Oh... it comes down from Waiki'i?

GK: Yeah. It was pumped from Waimea up to Waiki'i and then gravity flowed down to Ke'āmuku... the lower divisions on the ranch. Yeah.

LW: How many head did you say you...?

GK: About 6,000 cows out there.

AK: So, the total with three divisions...

GK: I ran like 6,000 cows there... and then bulls... Waikoloa... you know, Waikoloa Village side and the other side... both side of the highway I ran like... had bulls down that side. Like maybe 700 bulls... that I kept down there, too.

LW: That's a lot.

GK: Yeah, yeah. I live a long hard life, man. I talk about it, I'm like wow... I did that much? Wow.

AK: Even when we were trying to add it up like 15,000 head of cattle in all these divisions, and hundreds of acres you know.

LW: Yeah, hundreds of acres to care for and take care. Yeah, that's a lot. And to kind of manage the... 'cause I bet you each herd was kind of different, yuh.

GK: Yeah... it was different. We had smaller herds, maybe. Like Ke'āmuku had like... at one time we had different herds. They had like six different herds... seven herds. Then all of a sudden it's oh... you just take them and combine the whole thing together and come out wow!

LW: Oh, really.

GK: Yeah, combine them and just move them around the ranch like that. That division. Like I say if it doesn't rain, when you move to that pasture and you move them out there's nothing left back there. I mean it's dirt.

AK: But then Kohala, too, you had to deal with wild cattle, yuh?

GK: Yeah. There's a lot of wild cattle we brought out of the mountain, too, up in Kohala.

LW: Oh... because it's brushy and...

GK: That was back in the forest area. Yeah, there's all wild cattle back there. So we had traps back there and just trap 'um and haul them out. And then we set the traps and turn the tame cattle out there with them and when you go out there you move the thing. You call 'um... you yell, the cows come home. So some of these wild cattle they come. They move.

LW: They come with the regular herd?

GK: Yeah, they come with the cattle and when you get them through the gate we get one trap right there. Shut the gate. As soon as you ride through with the horse, the cattle... as soon as they see you they all going back home. And they run right into the trap. You set the trap cage and by the time you get eighty, ninety in the trap. I mean... cows... calves... wean offs... bulls... big bulls.

LW: Wild... big wild bulls?

GK: Yeah, wild. All wild cattle.

AK: Remember when Uncle Billy asked you for Dougie's service one...

GK: In fact, one of my journals, the last count I got from in there... that'd be... from maybe like five years... maybe less than that of trapping cattle it was like 28... almost 3,000 head of cattle that we trapped out of the forest... wild cattle. We salvaged those animals. We made money with them. Parker Ranch made lot of money with the wild cattle.

LW: Yeah, 'cause they're kind of not on the books.

GK: No, they're not. It's free animals, you know that.

LW: Oh... you had a big trap. I was imagining a trap like...

GK: No, it's a fence. But it's long... it's long but maybe same width... maybe a little wider than but when it come back it's like one shape that goes like this and like that and then that's all. If they stay in there and then we had gates and we section them off, then we'd back up the trailers to the gate. Get in the beginning of the trap and then we try drive them into the trailer. The bulls... I mean we load them in the trailer, those big horn bulls. And if you don't tie them up, those big horned bulls, whatever comes in the trailer... they'd kill it inside there. And you know cows, baby calves... everything. I mean they just get mean inside the trailer. As soon as we got them in the trailer like that we used to throw the rope over the horns, tie them so that they won't hurt the other animals. We'd tie 'um up, man. Sometime we'd just stuff the trailer full and then just shut the gates.

They can't move. Then we just take 'um... from there... from the mountain we drive them all the way down to out where the corral is... in our division headquarters. Unload 'um in the corral there. Mean... those bulls big... they're mean. You try to load these bulls in the trailer and they walk form behind the trailer and stick their horn under the trailer and pick up the whole gooseneck. They lift it up. They lift it off the ground. (Much laughter.) They're strong, those bulls back there.

LW: And they've been out in the wild for a long time.

GK: Yeah, they born and raised back there in the forest, yuh. Big bulls out there, man!

LW: Is that Kahuā cattle that have gone wild or...?

GK: That was between Kahuā and Parker Ranch. The same. The same...

LW: Both of them.

GK: Yeah... the same forest and it's all wild. It's all the wilds back there.

LW: Okay... so how many years before you go back to Kahuā, then? 2002 you kind of quit at Parker... right?

GK: 2002. And then it was I think March... the last day in March. That was my last day at Parker. Then I was home for like... in fact that same year. September of that year I started working for Kahuā.

LW: Oh, yeah, yeah. Not too long. Six months or five?

GK: Yeah. They called me. So I said, "Tim..." Tim called me. He asked me... in fact the week I was getting ready to leave and I called him. I said "You know, Tim, Kahuā get job?" "Oh, why?" I said, "It's kind of like my last week working for Parker." He said, "You're leaving??" I said "Yeah." He said, "Oh. I'll get back to you. I don't have an answer for you now. I'll get back to you." Maybe like a month later... "I need you, man. I need you now!" (Laughs.) I said okay, yeah, so I started.

LW: 'Cause you have your own ranch this whole time; you have your own horses. Did you have to leave some horses at Parker?

GK: Oh... that was the hardest part in my life. All my horses I left back there.

LW: How many was that?

GK: Oh, I had a pile of them. The ranch allowed us only like eight horses per employee. I had like... they allowed me... I had like twelve, I think. That was on the record. I had like thirty horses. (Laugh.)

LW: That you'd given some sort of training?

GK: Yeah. I mean I had like thirty horses plus my own, you know. The last work day, they said all the horses that we had, we had to take them to Waimea and drop it off, you know, at the breaking pens. Sort of broke my heart, you know... all my horses. You know... it's hard you know? You train 'um from young and then...

LW: And they work with you. Really with you. That must have been hard.

GK: Yeah, it brought some tears to my eyes that day. Drive the trailer, and open and let them go. Let all the horses go. It was hard. Like leaving the kids behind.

LW: You had some you had that were yours and...?

GK: My own and then the ranch... being that it was like a retirement clause they said... you can take one for retirement. Parker, that's what they did for their cowboys. When the cowboys retire, you're allowed to take one of your horses. So, they let us take one of them. I pretty much had two favorites. So I said why don't we buy one. So, we take one and buy one. Yeah, sure. Okay, what you folks like for the horses. Oh, you know... we make this much at the horse sale so twenty-five hundred if you guys want to buy one. Jesus Christ, thanks a lot. We work for the ranch you know. Twenty-five is what we paid. You want the horse take 'um. We want paid twenty-five hundred so... I took two of them. I bought one and took one for retirement.

LW: So, in September you started working at Kahuā?

GK: Yeah, I left in March... of that year, and in September I started working in Kahuā.

LW: And what position did you take then?

GK: I was like the supervisor up at Kahuā, and I ran pretty much everything.

LW: So, it must have been totally different when you went back in 2002.

GK: Oh yeah, it was a walk in the park for me, you know. I mean the size of that ranch, one of my paddocks where I worked was bigger than that ranch. Kahuā was only like 9,000 acres.

LW: Oh yeah. 'Cause already Pono Holo was split off from there.

GK: Yeah, it was split off.

LW: It was half the size of when you were there as a kid.

GK: Yeah.

LW: So, you come in at a supervisory level?

GK: Yeah. I had to take care of livestock. When I went to the ranch nobody had a clue about the ranch up there. They did it but they did it because that's how they did it every year but... to pick the quality of animals, I did all that, you know. From selecting breeding cows and your market animals and your replacement heifers. I took over the all that responsibility. Marketing animals... everything.

LW: So, what you learned about how to recognize good animals...

GK: From being at Parker. I had good teachers at Parker Ranch, you know. You must know Walter Stevens. He was inducted in the Hall of Fame. He was my boss. But he was my mentor, too, at Parker. Taught me how to train horses. His brother, Charles... Kale Stevens... he was more of a cattleman than Walter. I learned all the good qualities from them. And then I got... a few more old timers that wasn't inducted. Dan Kaniho... all the old guys. Henry Ah Sam. Jiro Yamaguchi. You know I worked with all those guys and that pretty much kind of... what you call... put a finishing product on me... they gave me the finishing touches, you know. I just came from Kahuā as a rough, tough cowboy and then I learned about cattle quality and everything. I learned from those guys at Parker.

LW: Who do you think taught you the most about cattle quality?

GK: Walter Stevens. That man, yeah. He was like my second dad. Yeah.

LW: So, what makes a good cow, then or...? I mean what are you looking for in good quality?

GK: Size. Number one is size. Confirmation in their build. You know... like one small, scrawny, little heifer for be one breeding cow. You like something like big. Big, wide cows we had. That's the way I picked my cows. But you know if you're looking at heifers that's not even yearlings, you know. You got to picture what she's going look like in two years. That's how much I learned from these old guys. Because you can tell, you know. You going pick one scrawny one, you going get one scrawny cow. You going pick one nice, big heifer, you going get one nice cow.

LW: So, Kale Steven, he was a cowboy?

GK: He was a cowboy. He was Walter's brother. He was more the cattleman type. Walter was more of the horseman. Walter did train a lot of horses but Walter was a smart cattleman, too. He was both horseman and cattleman. I remember when I was like... cheezus... he was my boss. Maybe I was like twenty-one, twenty two years old. And then I remember we going run heifers up the chute so he tells me "Climb on the cutting chute, boy." I climb up on the chute. "Pick... pick what comes through the chutes." And so I tell him, "Does color matter?" He tell me, "Nope. You got the eye, boy, you pick these animals." And I picked all the replacements. He looks; he tell me "I taught

you, right boy.” He said he’s so proud that... he said “Yeah, look at these cattle; you know what you’re looking at.”

LW: That was Walter?

GK: Yeah, yeah... Walter. Most times the bosses say you climb on the chute and I’ll call you the one I want. Not him... climb on the chute and you pick’um. I guess that was a test for me, yuh.

LW: To see how much you learned.

GK: Yeah... “We run three thousand up the chute, you pick. We need nine hundred for our division. Climb on the chute and pick’um. Okay, boss. Yeah. (Laughs.)

LW: Okay, so you mentioned a Kaniho...

GK: Dan Kaniho. I think his father is inside the Hall of Fame. Willie... Willie Kaniho, yeah. Dan, I no think Dan got inducted. His brother, Tommy, too. Tommy is in there.

LW: Yeah, yeah. I interviewed Tommy Kaniho. He’s way down in Ka’u.

GK: Yeah... he passed away last year, I think it was.

LW: He didn’t seem like he was even that old or that infirm. So... you get up to Kahuā and what kind of cattle are they running.

GK: Mostly like Angus... Herefords... Charolais cross.

LW: A bunch of different things.

GK: Yeah. I mean what we do is they crossbreed the Charolais back to the Angus. Commercial breeding pretty much the Angus cows... we put Angus and Charolais bulls out with those commercial herd for breeding. And then we get one that we used to breed them that we put Herefords, Angus, Charolais... you know, all different types bull on them. But pretty much was all Angus cows with Charolais and Angus bulls that we’d crossbreed them with.

LW: So the commercial herds were...

GK: Pretty much cows were Angus. Had some Angus cross, what I meant was Hereford/Angus cows. But they’re black cows.

LW: How do you tell a Hereford/Angus cow?

GK: They’re black... and they got white face. Gotta be a Hereford trait, yuh. And then we have Red Angus up there with Red Angus Hereford crossing... the red is real darker than

the regular Hereford cow. And it's with a white face, too. And then we get pure Red Angus up there. Yeah. Yeah.

AK: When you went to Kahuā was there Wagyu already.

GK: Yeah. They just started. They had the Wagyu up there, too. That's the Kobe... The beef is Kobe. The breed is Wagyu. The cow's Wagyu. It's the breed. When I started work there, they just started the Wagyu herd. They had like maybe about sixteen... maybe fifteen head... you know, cows... and one bull. And then maybe like five years later... maybe a little more. We ended up with two different herds. 250 cows each. 250 Wagyu cows for the summer breeding, and 250 Wagyu cows for the winter breeding. Two different seasons. But we started off with fifteen.

LW: Who buys that? Does it stay in the State?

GK: We ship all the calves to the mainland. Nebraska.

AK: What they called? Wagyu Imperial or...

GK: Imperial Wagyu. That's where these calves go to.

LW: Are they more profitable than other beef?

GK: Yeah, but kind of... they're slow to mature. Yeah, they go in the feedlot, they got to stay like one year. Versus the commercial... commercial goes in there like four, five months... three months even. But these Wagyu, they're expensive animals.

LW: But they decide to have those... That's a commitment to have two herds like that. It must be profitable.

GK: It was when I took over the operation, yeah. When Monty put Tim out and I took over the livestock operation we made some money on them.

LW: Tim was managing the livestock?

GK: Actually, it was me. He was just the boss there. He was the President.

LW: Because he's really a doctor, right?

AK: Yeah, a vet.

LW: He's a vet.

GK: I pretty much ran it.

AK: He made the calls; Tim let him choose; he did all the...

GK: He don't know which end of the cows... I hate to say it but... he looks at the cows... he looks at you. They look like cows, that's it, you know. But you know how it is. Like the quality... select the quality of the animals, yuh. But the Wagyu has been... it made a lot of money for the ranch.

LW: So, you go from managing 9,000 acres with how many herds?

GK: Had two Wagyu herds... commercial herds, we had. Summer herds we had... well now we have only two summer herds. With the Wagyu, three summer herds. And then the Winter herds is one, two. There's only two. When we had Ka'u... we had that Kahuku Ranch. We took over. That was another one there. And then we had down in Kohala... we had another place down there.

LW: You mean with Parker?

GK: No... it was with Union Mill when we ran a herd of cows down in Kohala, too. Ran like two hundred cows down there. And this was at Kahuku... for Kahuā. But we lost our lease. We gave it all up. The Ka'u one they gave it up.

LW: It was at Kahuku in Ka'u?

GK: It was at Kahuku and then... we gave up Kahuku because they wanted us to downsize on our herd. And we wasn't making the money to pay the lease there so... we had up in the mountain first. Until that ran out. We had that place for like about five years, then we had to get out of there.

AK: That's National Park.

GK: We had the house... you know... Kahuku Ranch regular, the headquarters. We had to get out of there because we wasn't making enough money to pay the lease there. And we moved all our animals to... plenty of them we brought back to Kahuā. And then the rest went up to above Na'alehu. On top of Na'alehu. Makino... they call that place Makino. Above of Na'alehu. Then below of Na'alehu, too. That's... we ran cows down there, too.

LW: Oh. It's still a pretty big operation.

GK: Yeah. But in the last year or so they got rid of the outside leases. And we only have Kahuā now.

LW: I talked to them in '98. And they were all excited about... you must have been there then... oh, no... shortly after. They were all excited about intensive grazing and...

GK: Who is this now?

LW: I talked to Monty at that point.

GK: The “Big Kahuā?”

LW: Yeah...

GK: Kahuā was the first ranch, I think. Back in the '80's, I think, they did all that intensive, yuh.

LW: Yeah. So was that different for you to go to the intensive grazing?

GK: Yeah... they had a little bit of it at Parker. But yeah... it was real intensive when I got there. I mean put the cows in there half a day and the grass is gone. I mean that small, the paddocks were then.

LW: And they were using the ATVs a lot.

GK: Yeah. It was all ATVs. I don't know about that, but the horses were all getting fat out in the pasture. Until I came back. Then we started using horses again, yuh.

LW: Why'd you start using horses again? Just to...

GK: I would rather use the horse, you know. And I was afraid of the ATVs, that's why. When I working at Parker I never had an ATV. I would just rather do everything on horse. Like I said, you go check paddies, you move cows. You get one horse, you're training, like I said. You ride there, go out, move the cows. At least you're putting miles on them. You know what I mean? You're training this horse.

LW: So, did you have to kind of train some of the young guys to go back to horse work?

GK: Actually when I went there, there was one guy who was older than me. We used to work together up there when we were summer kids. He's the old timer up there now. Was he and I.

LW: Is that the one... the Hoopai?

GK: No. Kailiawa. The Hoopai's was gone already.

LW: They'd retired or something.

GK: Kimo was still working. Kimo was working for Pono. In fact, Kimo was retired but he was still working with Pono. He used to go.

LW: And the son worked for Pono.

GK: Yeah, Bernard. Yeah. And then Kahuā, we never had much young guys, you know.

LW: So how many guys did you have working with you?

GK: When I got there was only one. Was only Harold. Harold Kailiawa. And then the lady Danette Caires... she was there. And then we had one truck driver. Gwendol Ah Lip. And that was it. That was the four of us. And then finally... Tim hired Wayne. You remember Wayne Tachera? That's my boy. I taught him everything. He knows. That's my boy, that. He came to Kahuā work with us.

LW: Well, that's so different from Parker, right?

GK: In fact, he quit Parker. You know he was at Parker. I left... broke his heart when I left the ranch because he was my ace cowboy. When I left the ranch, he stayed there for like... not even a year. And he said... I'm out of here.

LW: So that's a totally different operation.

GK: But he came to Kahuā with me and we pretty much put the ranch back on the map again. Because I had Harold plus Wayne and the three of us... that was my cowboy right there. And if we needed help, we used to ask Kimo. Kimo Hoopai, Sr. He was riding for Pono. He used to come out, help us do cattle drives and whatever.

LW: I noticed that that was happening when I talked to the ranches in '98. Those ranches that needed the help, but they couldn't really pay for it all the time. So, then everybody would come help. They'd do them a little bit different week and they'd all go help one ranch and then all go help the other ranch and then...

GK: Weekends... they tried do'um weekends so everybody can... they can get more help on weekend, yuh. And that's what I did. At Kahuā they never used to do brandings on weekends so. When I took over... I mean when I went there, I said you know... we make them weekend brandings. These families want to come you know. Kids from school they like to come, too, you know. So, we hold one winter branding on a Saturday and one summer branding on a Saturday. So, we get twice a year, one in August and one in February. It's the weekend. So all the families and the kids come and after that, we all have lunch. The ranch makes the lunch. And party. The cowboys get together and we get the guitars and they sing. Reminisce about the old days out there.

AK: And even the singing part... he said about his grandpa playing the banjo.

GK: The mandolin.

LW: No kidding? Where'd your grandpa learn to play a mandolin?

GK: I don't know. My grandma was a very small, wild Spanish. I remember my dad telling me, she grabbed the thing and broke it over my grandpa's head. (Laughter.)

AK: But music back then and music now is still with aloha, yuh.

GK: Even our shipping done on the ranch... we used to do it all in cowtainers, you know. Put'um in the boxes and put'um on the ocean and then... my last four years there on the ranch. We put'um on the 747 and fly them out of Kona.

LW: Oh, really?

GK: Yeah.

LW: That's different.

GK: That's what I said... back in the old days. My grandpa swam the cows out to the ocean. My grandpa and my dad swam the cows out in the ocean at Kawaihae. I put'um on the 747, I fly'um to LA. (Laughs.)

LW: What are going on the plane?

GK: Whatever... commercial calves, everything, I shipped them out on the plane.

LW: So how many would that be?

GK: A hundred thousand pounds. So that would be if 400 weights that would be two hundred twenty at the most. Two hundred twenty head on the plane.

LW: Whoa... so is that the only thing on the plane?

GK: Sometimes, yeah. A hundred thousand, yeah.

LW: And where does that go?

GK: We put them in a double deck trucks, we take them to Kona Airport. In Kona. And there's a (?) Airlines that flies in and then they have these boxes that they bring out off the jet. They bring it to us and we load like maybe twelve head per box. And then they take them down and put them right back on the plane.

LW: And they don't have to do much, just water them 'cause they get there in five hours, right?

GK: Right. They get more leg room than you do. (Laughter.) I like to crack up over that.

LW: And that was profitable? They could afford that, too?

GK: Yeah, it was better for the animals.

LW: Totally better than five days on the ocean.

GK: We put them on the plane. Normally we shipped out on Saturdays. And by Monday they're at their destination. Monday... Tuesday. The commercial cattle they get there Sunday morning. I don't know what time, but. Then we truck'um to Texas.

LW: Takes longer to truck'um to Texas than it would to fly to LA, right?

GK: I think like fourteen hours... they're in Texas. Something like that.

LW: How come Parker doesn't do that?

GK: I guess probably too many head. They used to ship a lot on the plane. But I think they still do, you know I'm not sure about it. But they the ones that started shipping cattle on the plane. They started this thing, man.

LW: Oh... Parker did?

GK: Yeah.

LW: But they just couldn't keep... too many head...

GK: Yeah, too much cattle, yuh.

LW: So, did you ship them out any other way?

GK: The only other way was on the cowntainer... on the boats. And they stay on the ocean like eight or nine days, yuh. They travel good, though. But still yet... I'd rather just put'um on the plane and just fly'um.

LW: Well, if it's profitable, why not?

GK: It cost the same. Only you couldn't send that many, you know. But cost the same.

LW: Well maybe it fit the size of Kahuā.

GK: And our Wagys, we fly'um into LA and then they truck them to Nebraska. The Wagys... all the way to Nebraska.

LW: Wow... amazing.

AK: The times have changed, yuh.

GK: Modern technology, yuh... everybody say my grandpa used to swim'um out in the ocean. Me? I put'um on the 747, I fly'um to LA.

AK: But you know he did have something he shared with me about... they want to increase the herd and the numbers and this is what we used to do or this is what we want. But he is the old school... with your eyes you got to look at what the... you know...the hiring, and all... the rain and...

GK: The *āina* cannot provide, yuh. Just tell them. You know what I mean? You going run into trouble. Before we never had this much fireweed and... at least the ranch... the grazing lands... 90% of the grazing lands, the fireweed took over, you know. Back in the days was all grazing, you know. Not anymore.

LW: You know you've seen a lot of progress over the years. What do you think is a good change? What was a good progression? What was good in progress, then? That isn't coming out well.

GK: It was good for me. So I retired. (Laughter.) I don't have to worry about all that bullshit!

LW: You're at Kahuā way back in the '70's, right? And then you come in the 2000s.

GK: Yeah.

LW: I mean you must have thought, oh, I'm so glad that this is the way it is now.

AK: He had to kind of clean up when he went back there. The whole herds. The camp... the housing... the people... you know it was in...

GK: You know one of the things that I really brought back when I went back there was a meat allowance. We used to kill and send to Kulana three cows and split up for like fifteen employees... you know the maid, the mechanic... and each person took home for two months like two hundred pounds of beef. That's a lot of meat. But that's one thing that it's good that I brought back because back, because the employees, you know.

AK: Take care of your people.

GK: Yeah.

LW: Right. You mean you felt like you had to clean up the...

GK: The place was a mess. The headquarters... everywhere. I mean it was junks all over.

AK: Yards... the people's yards. No more pride.

GK: No pride. As far as number one thing was I had to put pride back in that ranch because nobody took pride in it, that ranch. Then I went back there... you know you lead by example. I moved up there. I'm all house... I clean my yard and my place was clean. And everybody was like wow... I tell you guys you know... you have one free roof over

your head. The ranch give you free meat every three months. Clean it up. Take pride in this place. And then everybody was... oh yeah, you know... and pretty much that place was a mess. Yeah... Hawaiian word... *kapulu*... that's what it was, that place. Clean'um all up, man.

LW: So, what about the fencing? And the... waterlines and all that?

GK: The waterline, some of them was still there when my father was there, you know. But we changed it all. We upgraded everything, you know. The water (?) stones... and fencing was pretty much average, the fencing. Some places were falling apart... but we worked on it. We built it back up again. Not all of it got done, you know. But was pretty much one operational ranch, you know what I mean. Everything was set to go. I mean you know dakine... oh, we cannot put cows there because there's no water. That's how it was when I got there. There's no water here. So, what you guys use for water? Well it never was intensive grazing before. It all was extensive. Was all open. The cattle go up there eat and come down here for water. But now the water's here and there's fences. They cannot go up the... you know. Think about it...how we going to do everything, you know and then... yeah, we figured a way to get water up there... I mean. So on the ranch we make water go uphill. We did! Yeah. But pretty much everything we worked hard at it. We put it back together. And plus, I had the help of my two cowboys. I had Wayne and Harold with me all the time, yuh.

LW: Yeah, that's a much smaller operation.

GK: Just like Parker... we bring the herds and we separate... you stay on horse and you separating your herds... and then you got to stop, go change horse, because your horse is tired, you know. Versus Kahuā, you know... wow... it's all empty, you know. You still on one horse. Three hundred cows in the crowd separated. It's a walk in the park for me, you know. Whereas at Parker you got eight, nine hundred cows in the crowd. Oh, brother.

AK: But Tim did pick up lots of... So, he had like Mahiki, he had Napela's, he had Kohala... he had all these different... where he had to travel to go check.

GK: And then Ka'ū was the farthest, yuh.

AK: So that was different for him. For that part. But that's to make money, yuh. You gotta go do stuff.

GK: To make money you got to spend money.

LW: Yeah, you got to check on everything.

GK: You got to do things... to make money, you got to spend money.

LW: You can't just let it go. You got to work on it, yuh.

GK: I think I was pau already from up there... and then they decided to throw away the Ka‘ū lease, yuh. And that’s a real productive place is down there. So they got rid of the Ka‘ū lands and got rid of my two cowboys down there. Man... that was the hardest thing for me. My cowboys down there.

LW: So, compared to Parker, what did you like best about Kahuā?

GK: The smaller scale... yeah, the smaller scale of work. Everything was smaller, you know. Yeah. Something that I didn’t have to... I mean still was hard work, but at Parker was, ho, man. Those days at Parker lucky I was a young man, you know. I could handle all that. Working for Parker Ranch, I broke all bones in my body. Been a cowboy all my life and I broke all my bones, you know. And that takes a toll on your body.

LW: Yeah, it’s a hard life.

GK: It is. Well I love living down here because I got arthritis in all my shoulders, my hips, my knees. Down here is warm.

LW: My friend, she’s a Lindsey. She said her dad was a cowboy. I don’t know which Lindsey cowboy. She said his hands were so hard he wouldn’t... you know from working all the time... that he would never spank his kids because it would hurt them too much. He said “You don’t want me to hurt you because I will really hurt you. My hands are so hard.”

GK: My dad’s, too. He told me... his hands like clubs, you know. Man, I mean he could slap you and knock you on your ass, man. (Laughter.) Every time I look at that... hoo... I don’t want to feel those hands. (More laughter.) They were solid, man. Solid.

LW: So do you think you like ranching at the end of Kahuā... or the early one? I’m trying to get you to compare the two.

GK: Actually, you know working from when I started working for Parker... progress is what made me a better person... smarter man. I learned as I went on through the years... I didn’t just go work and forget about it. But I learned a lot at Parker and I went back to Kahuā, took back there what I learned and kind of shaped the Kahuā Ranch, too. Versus when I got there, I thought wow, this ranch is so... I mean everything was poor, you know. Fencing... well fencing was average. The cattle well... not very much... eye appealing, you know. To me. So, I just work at it and try selecting better... breeding stock. Just kind of upgrade your herd. But last couple of months when I worked there... and we’re bringing home the herds to wean... that was towards the ending part of last year ‘cause I was going retire in January. October, November was our weaning months... and I bring those herds home and when you run the cows up the chute because we got to preg check the whole herd... and I look at these beautiful cows, I tell myself... look at all my hard work, you know. You know these cows are so beautiful cows... and

they're so nice. I said wow... that's something that I feel good that I accomplished that put better breeding stock on the ranch.

AK: That's why we say everything happens for a reason. The whole Parker Ranch thing... and then he was led to go back home where he started as a little boy to bring everything back, you know.

LW: Upgrade. Nice. A fitting way to end the career.

GK: I remember when we were getting ready for branding. Maybe Monday we go work. We're going brand Tuesday. Okay. Or we're going brand Wednesday. We go work. The day before we're going brand. starts pouring rain up there. I say "C'mon, daddy... I said clean this shit up we got to brand tomorrow. (Laughter.) Ho man, I worry. You cannot cancel branding, you know. And it's pouring rain. There's times you're branding in the pouring rain, though.

LW: Yeah, I bet...

GK: And cold days... remember that? It's cold days we're out and branding. I always say "C'mon, dad... clear this place up." "C'mon, grandpa... you, too."

LW: Was it clear the next day?

GK: Yeah... it had pretty much cleared up. We come in the morning there's rain hitting the stables. We're saddling horses, going ugh... ugh...! And it just made it miserable for me. You just put your horses in the trailer. It's raining all wet... the saddle and I say you just doing it to wet the saddle... so we got to climb on that saddle in the wet. Then after we start moving the cattle into the corral it clears up. Yeah.

LW: Well do you think there's always going to be ranching on the Big Island?

GK: I think so. Yeah, pretty much, you know. Kahuā... yeah, as long as Monty's here, you know. I don't how... I know his ranch is split for the four kids so I don't know how long that ranch is going to last.

LW: Yeah, I see.

GK: 'Cause the kids pretty much see eye to eye... some of them, you know. So... I don't know how that's going to work out. Parker... until they run out of ranch land that's when I think that's going to be it. Yeah, Parker... I think they're still selling off some of their land. But you never know because they're selling their land and now they're leasing property... I think some places in Kohala they're leasing some of the property, you know. But pretty much ranching is dying out. It is.

LW: Well now you have your own family ranch. You kids interested in it?

GK: My son... my son, Jingles. Actually, it's going to be his. It's for him and his family. And he has two boys, too. Two sons, yeah.

LW: And are they interested?

GK: Well they're young, yet. You never know.

LW: But are they coming to you to train them and stuff? Teach me how to break a horse or...?

GK: No, not really. (Mimics keying a cell phone with your thumbs.) They like those games, you know.

AK: Social media... what everybody else doing or what's going on...

GK: Talking about the two boys... Kolua and Grady... if they're ever taking an interest in ranching. I don't know, they're young yet.

LW: How old are they? These are the grandkids.

GK: Yeah.

AK: Eight and ten.

LW: Well what were you doing at eight, now?

GK: I was with my father riding bucking horses. And you know... When I was with my dad, by the time I was eleven I was breaking horses with my dad, anyway. That's how rough I was. That's how rough I had it, you know. So, my brothers... my sisters... I had sisters, too, cowgirls, yuh. When they came of age, they said... they left home and they don't want...

LW: They got out.

GK: And my brothers, too. They didn't want it.

LW: So, I guess maybe you just have to wait to see if that fourth generation... how if your grandkids are going to be interested, right?

GK: Yeah.

LW: They may be... do they go with you, any of them?

GK: Up at the ranch they come. They ride horse and stuff like that.

LW: Yeah... one or another of them is going to love that forever...

GK: And I keep pushing my son... "Jingles, take'um up the ranch. And put'um on a horse," you know... 'cause those kids don't want to go with me. I would rather take'um with me but they don't want to go with me.

AK: But you know when you have a Hawaiian Homes ranch and you don't have to pay a lease and all that, you do make a profit with what you raise. So maybe when the dollars come in, in the future, they might be... "Hoo... no wonder papa did this." You know... and they might want to take an interest on getting up there and doing it. 'Cause that's extra income for them.

LW: Yeah, yeah.

GK: Mmmhmm.

AK: I mean it's hard work.

GK: I took over that at eighteen. I've been happy forty something years now... at that ranch. I told my son, as long as I'm here... when I turn over that ranch to you, you want to sell it, you sell it. I don't know... whatever you want to do with it as long as I'm dead and gone. I don't want to see what you do with the ranch. "No, dad... I'm not going to get rid of it."

LW: Oh, that's tough. That's good. I'm glad to hear that. Any final "wise words" for the future generations, guys?

GK: If I had to do it all over again, I'd do it again. Yeah... yeah... yeah. Has to be yeah. A lot or rough years I lived. I'd do it again. Yeah.

AK: And the thing is... it's about... like him... stewarding the land, you know. Taking care of the land and just knowing your area.

GK: *Malama* the 'āina... *malama* the *pipi*. That's what I was taught to do, you know.

AK: And we need more of that... in the younger generation. To know that... to learn that. It's about what you have and what you take care of. He knows every area. If you would take him riding, he will tell you what pu'u this is, what ahupua'a this is... he knows place... his place... where he comes from, yuh.

GK: It's like this place here. This was known as Honokoa. Come down here they call the place Kailapa. I say "Who wen name this place Kailapa?" You know. I moved in like maybe... how long now?

AK: Eight years.

GK: “Who wen name this Kailapa?” he asks. “Oh, some person from down the Association, eh.” (answers.) He asks, “Don’t you know this place is Honokoa?” “Really??” (answers.) “Yup,” (GK says). So I got the Association to change the name to Honokoa. It’s going to change this year.

AK: Through the history of his ranching, driving cattle with his dad...

GK: I said I rode this ‘āina on horseback. This is Honokoa. I named’um “Pu‘u Kamali‘i... Honokoa. Waikai‘ili‘u, Pu‘u Ula‘ula... Wow! I knew all these places from when I was a little kid. I rode down here with my papa and my daddy down here. And my brother, Kimo. Yeah...

AK: I mean just the land itself has so much to offer. Like I tell him, I say “Maybe cowboy pay isn’t a lot. But you get to go out there, breathe the fresh air. You know... be out in...,” you know... the ‘āina. This beauty. We’re stuck in the office. (Laughter.)

GK: Yeah and then you know... I... I sometimes walk around up there. I go walking around the sub division. He goes “Oh, exercise, every day?” I never thought I’d be living here, you know. I used to cowboy down here... this was all kiawe, you know. Rough. This place so rough. I never thought they would build homes here. I’m living here. Even like Kohala Ranch. That was Kahuā. They sold all that land. And you go there you look those big houses with swimming pools... when I left this ranch here when I was eighteen, it was all ranchland, you know. (Now)... you know what it is... million dollar homes with swimming pools... and wow!

AK: You know I think anybody who would want history or want to learn be it... whatever it is... he did it for fifty years, you know. He’s one of the last that can relate to that or share.

GK: Yeah... old school... same time I was working Kahuā... once a week I used to visit with Kimo Hoopai, Sr. He cannot ride horse any more but... you know he’s getting old. So, I go down every once a week. Like I say pau hana I go. Have a few beers with him... and we talk and then... I’m the only one can relate to him because his boys, they don’t know. I relate to the old times, you know. We talk about the old times when we used to come down here and drive cattle. Breaking horses with my father. And yeah... he likes that because he can relate to me. I relate to his stories, you know. (Kimo says) ... “Remember the time...” (GK answers) ... “Yeah, I remember the time. I was one small boy, I used to bum cigarettes from you. Remember that?” (Laughter.) (Kimo replies) ... “Yup... yup...” So, I say “You taught me from a very young age how to smoke cigarettes.” (More laughter.)