

# Abraham Akau Kualoa Ranch, O`ahu



As Kualoa Ranch hand and foreman for over 45 years, Uncle Abraham can still ride, rope, herd, brand, and handle horses and cattle better than anyone on the place. Even though he claims to be retired, everyone knows it isn't true because a true Paniolo never stops doing what he does best. Uncle Manny was first hired at age 15 by Parker Ranch to train wild horses. I got into that breaking pen and I just loved it. The wilder they came, the better, he says. The rough and tumble cowboy later broke his back in five places when he fell from his horse while going after a runaway steer. The late Francis Morgan who established Kualoa Ranch, saw Abe's special qualities when he arrived there in 1953. Mr. Morgan said, "Of all the things I've ever done for Kualoa Ranch, the best thing was to hire Abraham Akau." His skill and knowledge, decades of dedicated service, love for and patience with horses as well as people; and the respect people hold for him as a cowboy and a teacher make him a true Paniolo.

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Series 1, Tape 6  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW  
with

Abraham Akau, Sr. (AA)

on October 31, 2000

at Kualoa Ranch

BY: Anna Loomis (AL)

AL: This interview is with Abraham Akau on October 31, 2000 at Kualoa Ranch. The interviewer is Anna Loomis.

AL: Maybe you can just start by telling me when and where you were born.

AA: I was born on Waimea, Big Island. Went to school over there. Went school for nothing, for eat lunch. Don't know nothing, only like ride horse. And from over there I come out of school, I was about fifteen, sixteen, I started to—I work Parker Ranch. Stay over there training the wild horses for the ranch. I stay over there '46, '47, '48, '49. And then I had a bad experience (laughs), so ....

That's where I started to work with the Parker—that was a good life over there. Was young, you know, having a good fun. We had eleven rough-riders altogether. And that's only our job is train horses every day, every day. I mean the horses was old; we even ride them up to sixteen years old, we used to ride them. But we was young, we don't care, you know. And then, in 1949 I left Parker Ranch. Then I went to Shipman Ranch, worked over there for about two

years ...

AL: Is that on the Big Island?

AA: On the Big Island. Shipman Ranch. And I was there—I went there for train horses over there. Oh, the horses was wild, was mean over there. Because they just let the horses loose, they don't train them, they don't handle them, nothing, you know. And when you want the horse, they bring the whole bunch inside, you rope the one you like, you tie him to the post and let the rest go. And that's how you start training horse, you know. And that's what I did over there. I was learn how to rope wild cattle, you know, from the mountain, the forest, you know. And I did that for about two years and a half out there, and train wild horses, and roping wild cattle.

Yeah, that was a beautiful experience, because I work with the old people, eh? And they had the—I guess that was their life, they had a talent for that, you know. And I learn a lot from them. I learn a lot, I learn how to rope, learn how to—you know, it was a rough life because we have to rope the—the bulls, and whatever we catch we tie 'em to the tree. Rope 'um with two horse, bring 'um up around to the tree. And we tie 'um to the tree, we leave 'um there overnight. And the next day we got to go lead 'em out of the forest.

So the next day we go up there, and huh the bull is fighting, you know! So we jump down, we throw our lashing rope to them, then they hook 'em up to the rope that was tied to the bull, then they let the bull go and—here we go, boy! Through the forest, you know, coming home. Sometime we have to cut trail for us, you know—where we go inside that's where we got to come out, yeah? But the—the mud up to the horse stomach! But the horse, they knew what to do already. That's what we used to do, that was good fun. That was good life over there.

And to me was good, but the [other] part about it [was that] we live a rough life, we don't care. And I grew up like that. And then I through with that job, I came to Honolulu, 1950, I think so. I came down here and then I work contract for about two years. Then Mr. [Francis] Morgan [of Kualoa Ranch], he called. I don't know how he got a hold of me—I was a drunkard, alcoholic already at 22 years old. He found me, called my mother-in-law's house, then he called my auntie, so they got a hold of me.

Then Mr. Morgan—I couldn't speak like I'm speaking now, because I come from the country, and heavy tongue, (exaggerates) “*da kine* stuff,” you know, “you go bringum,” you know, all that. I couldn't speak like this. I went down and I meet Mr. Morgan, and then he ask me if I want to work at the ranch here. I

said, “well, I need to—I need a job. I going get [fired] in one week. I going get married in one week. And I need a house—I need a place to stay.” So he told me okay. He told me, “you come down here, you look at the ranch.”

So I came down and I look—oh, wow. He took me to meet this guy Eddie Hederman is the manager over here. So I talked with him, and then, oh, okay, was nice, I look—oh, wow, this is good. I like ranching, I like cowboy, you know. And I told my wife we go stay. Ho, she didn’t like! Because she come from town, eh? I tell you, almost one year I drive back and forth, come here. But until now I’m still here. Almost 47 years, I’m over here with Mr. Morgan and—he was a nice man, nice family, and they took care of us, especially Mr. Morgan. And the whole family, in fact. They really took care of us, and I’ll never forget him.

Before I came, just before I came to the ranch—this where come the spiritual part—ah, I met Jesus. And anyway I met my wife too, in the church, same time. All in this—this one year, 1951, I think, or ’52, I forget. I met my wife, in church. We got married. But I fell in love with Jesus, because I never know, I never had love, because I was young, I ran away from home, and I didn’t care.

But I was led to the Lord mysteriously. This same auntie, I said—no mind if I say all this kine stuff, eh? It’s okay, yeah?

AL: Yeah.

AA: An den ... my auntie, this the one, she used to come to our house and tell us on the Big Island, “oh, you have to know the Lord,” you know. We see her come, we dig out, boy—we don’t want to listen, eh! But funny, I went to her house one day, down here. I told her—she said she wanted to see me, eh? So I said, okay. So I got on my motorcycle, I went home. So I couldn’t, sleep that night—“I wonder what she wanted to say to me?”

So I went to work, then I went out to her house—she lived Kalihi. I said, “oh, I came to see Auntie.” They said, “oh, that’s funny, she went to church.” I said, “[how we going to meet, then, if] she went church?” So I don’t know what made me, I got on my bike, I went up to the church. I went up to the church, and lot of slide doors. So I look in at them, she tell me (beckoning, whispers) “come inside, come in”—so I went inside, and I sat on the side her. You know, the minister was talking.

So I said, (whispers) “what you want?” “Oh, I just wanted to ask you to come church.” Oh, I got mad! I got angry [she] caught me in there. But while I was listening, the minister touch my heart, you know. I never knew that I was that lonely. And then [she] went, “how you like?” [I said,] (makes face) “Aah, I don’t want.” But from that day to today, I go church.

But what I'm trying to say, when I went to church one day in between that week, the minister stood up and she said—she got on the pulpit and she said, “anybody want to have a request?” So I stood up. She said, “yes?” I said, (meekly) “could you pray for me, please? I need a job. I—I going get married, and I going get laid off from my job.” They said, “okay, brother, sit down.” They prayed for me. Prayed for me—one week after, Mr. Morgan call. And God answer prayer.

And that's why I'm here; I stayed over here, I enjoy myself, with the family—I did most everything that I could. Mr. Morgan asked me in the first place, when I first met him, he tell me, “you know how to rope? you know how to do—” I said, “a little bit of everything, I'm not good, but I can do it.” So he said okay.

Then I told him, “you know something, Franny.” I say, “before I accept your job I want to tell you something.” I said, “my life was no good. I did everything wrong, I land in jail.” I told him that, then I said, “I'd like to start a new life, I'd like to start something new.” He said that's good—he cried, Mr. Morgan. And I said, wow, this is good. And then he said okay, so I accepted the job, and in two weeks, I came. I came over here, and I stayed over here, and .... I learn a lot over here. I learn a lot because—I'm 69 now—from 22 to now, I stayed here. And he taught me a lot of things, and a lot of opportunities I had—send me halfway around the world, I think, buy cattle, and buy horses, lot of horses. And send me to school, little bit.

I go to horse training school. The thing is that I thought I knew it all; but I didn't know. But I want to—I thank God that I have learned something that—before I went, I open up my mind, I don't know nothing. And when I went to this horse trainer, wow, it was beautiful. It was an old, elderly fellow. Man, he bring the horses inside, and he just watch the horses, he watch the head, he watch the ear, he watch the tail, he watch everything. And that's how he get the command from the horse. He know that the horse is responding to him.

And I learn all the stuffs and, aw man—I remember one thing that I learned over there. I had a bad horse over here, for Mr. Morgan. And the horse one night, we went early in the morning, about five o'clock, the horse bang him—run through the gate and hit him. So this trainer—that was a bad horse, so they put the horse to reverse. He let the horse reverse, the horse didn't reverse. So he try again, the horse didn't reverse and he got him by the halter, you know? So what he did, he let the horse go around, [and] he rope him by one back leg. He hang on the leg and let the horse, kick, kick, man. He just hang on the horse's leg. And then the horse is stopped kicking. He went as close as this to the horse, to the back leg. He lift up [the rope], the horse back up. He put down, the horse back up. Wow, oh look at that! Then he took off the rope from the horse. He went in front. He touch the horse head, the horse went—pshew!—went backwards. Then he said, “well, what I did, I loosen up the back. The back was tight. When you push it, the horse go like this, the back not open, eh?” And that's what he did, he loosened up the back, by the kicking, and the horse back up.

And there was another lady—I mean, I learn a lot from that—but, another lady, small lady, I think she maybe five feet, I think. She was a secretary, I think. And [she] say, “yes, how do you put the halter, the bridle on the horse? The horse is big, I am small.” He said, “well, let's see, let's see.” So what he

did, he put the halter on the horse. And he start, from here [on the cheek], he rub the horse on the face like this, and everything came loose, you hear the teeth *clack, clack* around, the jaw making like (shows a slack-jawed face). And he put his hand, and the horse put its head to the ground. And he put bridle on top. I mean, things like that—what I'm saying, I had an opportunity from Mr. Morgan to send me, to go learn, you know? And learn a lot of stuff.

And I've learned so much, in my life, because I just want to do it. I didn't [used to] care for life, that's why—I just live with the "I," because I had a hard life with my family, eh? But all in all, when I met the Lord, I chose to make right with my family. He just touch my heart. I went home, talk to my father, with my brothers, and tell them, "I'm sorry for all the things that I have done." Because I was bad, I was terrible, I had no respect. I told them I'm sorry. So that was okay.

So I came home, maybe about two years after that my father took cancer. So he came Honolulu, he stayed with my sister. Then he sit with me little bit, couple of days. I took him out riding, you know, on the horse. And he could **ride**, my dad—I didn't know that, because I don't know him. I told him, "Papa when you go outside, you go slow, you take it easy." But I gave him my good horse and I think, go slow. (With emotion) I was on top the hill, I saw the cattle going and I saw my **father**, man. He was directing the cattle—going—you know! I tell him, "oh, no I cut them"—I was down the hill—I said, "Papa, what you doing?" He go, "wheew!" He only go, "wheew! **good!**"

And when the bull is okay, he tell me, "you saw me? You saw me running?" Aw, but after that I said, "okay, that's alright," he was alright. Till we came home; we're sitting on the porch, I said, "hey, Papa. Wow, I never know! I didn't know you can ride like this. I think I learn from you—I get from **you**, I think!" He go—(makes an embarrassed face). He only make face and then look down. But that was the good part with me and my dad, the ending.

AL: Was your dad a *paniolo*?

AA: He was! I didn't know! Oh, all my family—they were **good**. I have an uncle, my grandfather was good too. In fact, the story is, my grandfather was supposed to go with Ikua Purdy. Ikua Purdy, the champion roper—was supposed to go. But he didn't want to go, because those days, if you good, they make you any kine, eh? They either kill you, or they—and that's what they do to Ikua them. My grandfather did, and I have uncles—oh, my uncles, they could **rope**, boy.

AL: Could you explain more about that, why he didn't want to go with Ikua Purdy? Because if they too good, they ...

AA: Yeah, if you too good over there they don't like it. That's what they did with Ikua Purdy, they gave him the junk horses over there.

AL: When they come—

AA: When they went to—went to—Cheyenne. They gave them bad horses. So but what they did—this is the story that I heard—that this Ikua Purdy, and Eben Low and all them—in the night, when everybody go sleep, they take the horse inside the river, the ocean or something, and that's where they train them. Because they ship cattle, eh, over here. And the horses go in the water, make them swim. And that's that—when they came that day they caught the—(wheew!) they caught the horse, they caught the cattle, they caught everything. But that's what my grandfather—he didn't want to go. This is the old folks telling me this, not something that I thought, but that's what they tell me, so....

But they were good, they were good *paniolos*, my—we—we come down the line from my brother, my uncles. Some of my cousins, they want that, but their dad didn't want to let them do that stuff, because hard life, eh? My brother was the same way. He didn't let them. Only me, I get my son doing, but. I— I got to free choice, eh? It's up to him, I don't force him. But he likes it. And that's the story of my life.

That's the story of my life, because I didn't care—I'm so thankful, I'm so thankful that I came here. My children didn't see my life, how I was. I have three children: my daughter Kanani, my daughter Miracle, and my son Abraham. Now I have two grandchildren. That's my life. I'm so happy because they didn't see how I was before. My oldest daughter, she seen little bit, you know, my wild side. But, eh, it's good. It's good, and I'm so thankful that I'm done.

But the best part of my life, that is coming over and meeting Jesus, because back there was terrible. We fight—my family, wow—**wow**. And I seen all my families—my dad—they were so wild, you know. They have nothing to live for, getting drunk, shoot gun, all the kine stuff. And bring the gun to you, tell, "yeah, go get meat!" And you only, what, ten years old. Go get meat! And they give two bullet—go! Go bring home something for eat. And that's how the family was.

AL: You went out hunting when you were ten years old?

AA: Oh, I love it, I love it, I love hunting. All my family were fisherman—I'm not a fisherman. They take me out, okay I got to go home, I throwing up already. I get seasick. But, yeah, I enjoy my life. But for the last forty years, I think, was the best part of my life: I stayed here, and everything to do here, and I learned a lot—we had wild cattle, tame cattle. I'm thankful that I went through that. When I came here it was easy for me.

AL: Before we talk more about your life here at Kualoa, can we go back to your youth in Waimea?

AA: Oh, yeah. When I was—my youth—I came here when I was 22 years old. And was hard for me at the beginning, because I was always on the horse, from when I was young, I went Rough Rider. And then I went to Shipman Ranch, train horse, wild cattle. When I came over here, I had to start as a laborer, you know? Fix fence, plant grass and all this. But what I'm thankful: they had the old \_\_\_\_\_ . They taught me. And if they didn't teach me, I used to watch them—all Filipino people, had three people. Three—two Filipinos. I used to watch them all the time, how they work, they use they tools. Oh, we used to dig fence post, plant grass, all kind of stuff we used to do. But I learned through all of that. I learned because I going—I need to take care my wife. You married, you get your wife, you got to take care of her. So I made it my business to learn and to work, and from that time, Mr. [Francis] Morgan, he asked me to run the ranch before. But how many managers came, eh?

AL: How long did you work as a laborer?

AA: Oh, I forget. Maybe fifteen years, I think so. Yeah.

AL: And when did you become a cowboy at Kualoa?

AA: Heh?

AL: When did you become a cowboy ...

AA: Oh, that's all in between—cowboy, labor, everything. You know, cowboy and labor. Until I think 1970—maybe in '79, '80, I think, that's when Mr. [Francis] Morgan went ask me for run the ranch. I told him, "oh, I don't know." I told him, "let me think first." So I thought about it. I go home, I told my wife. We prayed about it.

Then—I had something to ask, so I came, I told Mr. Morgan I would do it in one way: if he would help me. Because I know I have to write reports. I don't **know** how. I know how to read, I don't know how to write. But if you want me, I can do that. But I going make so simple kine that you got to learn. [Mr. Morgan said] okay, I can do that. So I made my report. I asked my wife how to spell, we make the report. Until my children get older then they help—Kanani was getting older, so she helped me, you know? And that's how I started to learn how to read and write. I went to church, in fact. I didn't know—Sunday school, they tell me, "you going run the school, the Sunday school." I said okay. I know how to read. But I let all the kids write, read. And memorize what they reading. And when I memorize, then I can teach them back, I can interpret what they read. That's how I learn. Right through, until to now.

I'm a minister. You know? But, I never asked for it. Being a minister—I think I'm going too far ahead, but anyway, a minister. I used to go church all the time—but I love to glorify the Lord, thank the Lord. So one day they call my mother-in-law's house, they say they wanted to see us. So we went to the hospital, we went to the hospital. And the minister, he was dying. So we went to the back step, go up. Not to the front door, went to the back step, 'cause was right there, the parking lot. So went inside—soon as we get inside, he was talking to my wife. Said, "we just called you folks to come that we ordain you folks to—" I was backing up [to] the door—I was backing out of the door \_\_\_\_\_, my wife grabbed me, "come on, come inside." So I went inside. And I said, wow, what is this? So I stayed inside and I accepted; they ordained us, to be a minister. And I not sorry till today.

AL: You didn't have to go to seminary to be minister?

AA: Well, I go school now—now I'm going to school. I go to college. I cannot spell so much, but I can learn a little bit. And everybody get notes, you know? But I believe, what I can take in, and—God has promised us the holy spirit. The Holy Ghost. And that's one thing I remembered when I came church. God never left me comfortless. He get the Holy—and I depended on the Holy Ghost to teach me. And most of my work over here all depends on the spiritual, on the Holy Ghost. Because I never know nothing.

I came here, even—I was so wild, we work one week the pants, we throw 'em away we buy one other one. No more experience—you go dance, go in the cowboy boots, wash 'em up, put hair oil on top, shine 'em up. Here—go dance. But when I came to the Lord, I didn't know all this kine—I didn't know how to dress, you know? But the Lord teach me, and my wife help me. If she never help me I might have go with one yellow—stuck in one loose—you know, that kine. And that's how I went about in the life until today. Today I—I'm so blessed. I'm so happy. God, keep me humble, keep me down all the time.

Because, I came over here, I went through a lot of trials, and a lot of testing. I came over here, I didn't care. I fell off the horse, me and Mr. [Francis] Morgan, going down the hill, man, chasing the cow. I met the cow on the side the hill like this, boy; I fell off the horse, I broke my back. And Mr. Morgan went, he came back, he thought I went tie my horse inside the bushes. But I was outside—the horse was stuck inside the bushes, going down so fast, down the hill. And then he came back, whack! I thought, I don't know, I cannot walk! So I crawled myself—gaw!—until I get aside the highway. He tell

me, "you know what, I go home, I get the truck, I come back, I get you." He come back, he get me, he take me down the hospital.

So I went down the hospital at Kahuku. I don't know what kind of hospital, this—you know there. [The doctor] checked me out, he tell me, "nothing wrong with you!" He tell me. So I go home. I off for the weekend. Off, off. Then we go to our real doctor. The wife went inside the office, she's talking. [They ask,] "where Abraham?" She tell, "he's still inside there, he cannot move. In the car." "Take him straight to the hospital!" Take me to the hospital, he examine me, everything.

\_\_\_\_\_, He say "I get you five places, all gone, your back." I look the—I look the X-rays, the Lumbar bones all floating away. And so I said okay.

So I stayed in there a little while, then I came out, but no can do nothing. But the ranch, it take care of me on that. I stay home, I go work. And I tried to work—if I cannot saddle my horse, I tell somebody saddle for me. Then I throw it. Now if I get on my horse I'm alright. I go, go come back, whatever I do. And that's how it was. I've broken almost every bone inside my body, I think. I broke my finger—"you going doctor?" "nah, no need." Today I like cut 'um off—he hurt me! (laughs)

Few years ago, I went chased—lock up some cattle inside the chute over there, you know. And had this wild bull inside there, locked him up. So he no more in there—I got up early, I went up there, I go, "aieh!" Ho, the bull inside, I don't know how he got out! So I was standing on top there, I walked down, I fell off the chute. I don't know how I did it—my leg went slip. I fell off. John Morgan came early in the morning, he found me down on the cement.

AL: How long had you been lying there?

AA: I don't know! My head was crack over here. Then they said okay, get in the van, take you to the hospital. Take me over there, they put me inside the tank. And They examine—I had one crack over here. But, my—still bother me sometimes, but that's okay. Aah, I keep going. Sometimes I lay down I get all dizzy. But I no tell nobody, because I know they cry, they pity me, and I don't want nobody pity me. But it's okay. I'm okay. But with all that, oh, I just enjoy my life over here. I mean, everyplace, I went Parker Ranch, I went Shipman—I just make a life of mine, it's wonderful. And I met good people, good people, we work together. You fall off the horse, they jump down, they see you, if you alright, okay, if not, they laugh [about it,] they make fun, but that's okay.

AL: Can you describe Kualoa when you first came to it? You know, what it looked like? Could you maybe sort of take me on an imaginary walking tour of the ranch? How it looked?

AA: Yeah. When I first came here, Mr. [Francis] Morgan them, I think they just got back this land, from the government. They just was starting. Had a lot of wild cattle over here, and still had some army stuffs around here so they—we have to go bulldoze it down, and cover it up. And so it's a pretty kind of open yet, because I think they plant then the koa trees start coming up, lot of koa. And from that time on we had all milking cows, milking cattle all up the valley—because they had a dairy over here before. And they used to rope milking—uh—milk cows.

And then we start improving the herd. Mr. Morgan went to the mainland, bought some angus cows, they was bred already, they came home and they got calves, and from that time we start building up, you know, building cattle. And in those years, as we're starting to build up, we had nice cattle, beautiful cattle, because Mr. Morgan, he love good calves raised by good heifers, good bulls, put them together, and that's why we have good calves. So going in that process—going through the process for building up that, then throughout the years, then we started to plant our own corn. Plant corn, plant sudex, plant alfalfa. And, oh, about three or four guys, we take out all this acres of alfalfa. So what we did, in that, and then we go out in the long pineapple pulp. Pineapple pulp, you know, the pineapple skin?

AL: Yeah.



AA: You know, from the pineapple cannery. And we used to cut the mountain and put it inside and stack it up, so ferment it, so we can feed. So, with all that we built a feedlot. And with the feedlot, the alfalfa, the sudex and all the stuff that we grow, we put inside to feed the cattle, we made the feedlot. And the feedlot had 400 head inside. Four-hundred head of cattle have to be in there to feed them.

And Mr. [Francis] Morgan, he was like the ...president of Theo Davies Cattlemen. In Big Island—he used to take care of Kukaiau Ranch up there, Mr. Morgan. He run that ranch up there. Actually he had take care and people take care. So what they—we used to do, I think on consignment, we used to bring cattle from Kukaiau down here. Because we couldn't—we didn't have enough to feed inside, so we replace 'um. We put into the feedlot, and that's how we fed all the cattle that we had up there. And we had a top notch cattle, a top notch cattle. We fed 'um good, we fed 'um—we order grain, put grain inside. We had alfalfa, sudex, we had barley, everything we put mix up, we had a big silo, eh? We mix it all up, to feed the calves. And before the cattle go to the slaughterhouse, Times Supermarket buy the cattle outright. They buy 'em.

AL: When did you build the feedlot?

AA: Oh, wow. Maybe in—maybe 1960, I think so.

AL: Where was it located?

AA: Uh, right where the saddle house is, this saddle house here. Right outside of there. Because we made it there because that was a road, the army made a road right through. So we built it right on the road, so it don't erode, yeah? Was nice; beautiful cattle. We knew when we brought the cattle in to go in it, to pick, for take to slaughter—it wasn't hard to pick. Because they were all uniform.

Mr. [Francis] Morgan, he loved it—he'd take a chance at anything in his life. I never seen one man—you tell him \_\_\_\_\_. Even if he fall, that's okay. That's how he was, Mr. Morgan. I tell you one incident that he told me—well, not he, the boys told me. That up when he had the sugar plantation—you know, he bought the hundred-thirty-six-thousand acre. He had that. So, what he used to do, he used to bring engineers from the mainland, to study how to build bridges. Because all the big rivers go down into the ocean down Hana—Haena—all over there. So—it was cost so much money to build one bridge and bring this engineers.

So he said, one day, he walked into the garage and all the people were having lunch. And he said, "I want to ask you guys some question." He said, "if I asked you to build one bridge, could you folks build the bridge?" "Well-I-I-I-I ... we try!" They built all the bridges in Hana—Haena—Mr. Morgan ask 'em. But, I mean, that's the kind of guy. He could come back to you and ask you if you can do it. And if you have a problem, he don't come [and] only talk to you, he call two people together and reason out. That's how—that's how Mr. Morgan—and they build the bridge! I mean, I'm talking about Hamakua! And even here is the same thing. These guys so down out, Mr. Morgan....

I tell everybody this story. One day, I think I was over here maybe two years I was over here, maybe a little bit more. So I went up, I check up all the cattle, I was coming home, check the water, it was a Friday. So I came home, I look, I see one cow kind of funny, and I went near, the baby was stuck inside. Out of the—coming out of the womb, but dead already. So I came home, I tell the manager, Eddie, that she get one cow up there, stuck the baby inside, *make*. "Yeah, tomorrow we go get 'um." I say, "well, okay, tomorrow." So, Mr. Morgan came, he told it, so he ask me, Mr. Morgan. I say, "well, the bugger's stuck, but I don't know about the cow, the cow will survive, but we go." So we went, saddle up, we went take our time, we go.

So we went up there; Hiederman was here, Mr. Morgan was here, and I was here on the side. Mr. Morgan, he look. He jump off the horse. And before he jump off the horse, [when] he was on the horse, he was rolling up his sleeve. I was wondering what he was doing. He jump off the horse—he was scraping all the maggots, off the back of the cow, where the calf is dead. Scraping 'um. (Smacks

his hands together) **Bam!** I was off the horse, was scraping maggots too. Where you going find one man like that? Scrape the maggots, we try pull him off. He tell....

The only thing we can make is cut the side, make one caesarian and pull it out. He said, "ah, that's alright. We try push it back inside, and put the other leg back." Because, came like this, eh? (shows that the head and one leg were coming out, while the other leg was stuck inside). Cannot come out. So we put the two legs. We try, try. The cow no help us, eh? So what we do, we tie it to the tree—no, we hold 'um, I think—yeah, we hold it. One horse in front, two \_\_\_\_\_, threw the rope on there, we pull it out. Pull out the calf. But the mother never make it—was laboring too long, eh?

But what I'm trying to say, Mr. Morgan, he jump off the horse. I don't call him Mr. Morgan, I call him Franny; we was real close, that's why. Franny Morgan. And you know, this is the kind of stuff that I see, what he do. Especially when I first came here, too.

We used to drive the cattle **way** up the mountain. I jump off my horse, he tell, "no no. You stay on top your horse." Give me his horse, he walk. He go up, probably—he looking just like one ants, so high up. Chasing the cattle down. Ah! How can—how can you not **love** one man like that? And their family? And their children?

AL: Did you have a personal relationship with him outside of work?

AA: Oh, yeah! We go places, he take me, we go Big Island, do some stuff, we go dinner, you know. And stuff like that, yeah. Well, yeah! And I do all the parties for them, me and my family. He just say, oh there's somebody's birthday, we make the *kalua* pig, we make the works. We just tell 'em how much a head then he give us the money, and then we *kalua* it for him. All the families, whatever they want: for Richard Morgan, for Auntie Pat—we call her Auntie Pat—Franny Morgan and the family, we do parties for them. And they get some friends, they ask us too, if we can make birthday party, so—we make all that for them. Yeah.

AL: You said you started out living in town when you first came here.

AA: Yeah, yeah.

AL: When you first came to Kualoa, you said that you were driving back and forth to town ...

AA: Yeah, my mother-in-law's house.

AL: In town?

AA: Yeah, I used to live over there and come back in the morning.

AL: Did you ever move out—did you move out here? Later on?

AA: Oh, yeah! We had the house here already, we had everything over here already ...

AL: You had a house on the ranch?

AA: Yeah, we had—gave me one house, Mr. [Francis] Morgan \_\_\_\_\_. That's the house, that one there [just above the current offices]. They get the office over there, under the bottom, that used to be my house before. In fact, when we came, you know, I was real country, we had small pay, dollar an hour kine, like that, but that's okay.

So when the time for give birth—I don't know, it's my fate, I think so. Not "I think so," it's my fate that I wanted to try—it's up to my wife, if she like. So we stayed home, give birth—you know? So, I heard

that you need the string and you need the scissors to cut the naval cord, eh? So I go, okay. But my auntie came with us, she—she's midwife too, eh? I think I was acting tough.

So I'm waiting—oh, my heart!—they talk about Lamaze, they should have come see me about Lamaze. You know, *da kine* you go breathe? Ho! I had blocks and all kine. Trying to block up the bed for her leg. But I tried. So the baby came. Whoa! I look and I couldn't handle. I was freeze! (mimes a deer-in-the-headlights stare) When she was coming out. Then they just came, they took the scissors from me, and they did the rest. But at least I was there, I tried. And that's where Kanani was born, over there. And then we took our two to the hospital, Miracle and Brother. Brother was big, though, he came out with a broken collar bone, when he was born. Miracle—I say, she was a miracle. That's why we name her Miracle. Yeah.

But with the relations with the Morgan Family, it's real good. Because how we was, if I was sick in the hospital, and I'm home here, he come right inside the house, and he take off his shoes, and he knock, and he come right inside, say, "how you? you okay? you need this? you need that?" Was so good that even—he offered to send my children to college. But I never take that. It was up to my children if they wanted, but he offered that, to send them too school. And—and that's how close. (Softer) That's how close, real close.

Only one time he scold me. Only one time he scold me. Well not actually, just—yeah, to me was, to me I should accept this scolding: I should take off too much.

AL: What's that?

AA: I should take **off** too much. Because I love to go church, eh? When we get something. I go, you know, I go church. I tell them where you going.... But I wasn't taking off because I was—I wanted to go to the church, you know? And do something. And that's all he told me. I tell him, "I understand, Franny. I understand what you—thank you very much." But—yeah, that's the time. But was really, really nice. I'll never—ahh, I going **die** over here. Yeah. That's the way I feel.

(Pointing) This used to be my house.

AL: This building?

AA: Yeah, I stayed 46 years inside this house. The \_\_\_\_\_. That's why, when they went call, I stay on the beach now. My house right across there. Tell me, "that's yours, you can have it." That's what I mean, that's how it was. But you know, all the glory goes back to the Lord, because he has blessed me through them. And I don't want to think that they did it all for me, but the Lord did it all for me. I can never forget that. So when they \_\_\_\_\_ over there, he ask me, "any house you like, over there" (gestures to the row of houses across Kamehameha Highway from the ranch). I say, "I take this house, we don't have to evict anybody." And I don't want to evict anybody to—where they have to go find one house. And that's it.

And the last word I had to Mr. Morgan, I told him, "Franny, if I should die first, please take care of my Mama." (softly) My wife. And they gave me one written consent that they would take care of her. Yeah.

I don't know if you like know anything else....

AL: Oh sure, yeah.

AA: Well, you got to ask the questions. (Laughter).

AL: You said, when you first came to Kualoa there were wild cattle here.

AA: Yeah, they have wild cattle up here. Was up there, I think when they—I don't know how long. And then Morgan—I mean, whatchacall, Hiederman and I used to go out and rope 'em and trap 'em. But we talked about it; the best way is to get the bulldozer and clear the land. They'd been chasing 'em, and the cows still inside the place, no make sense—clear the land, they get no place to run. And that's how we caught 'em.

We had lot of wild cattle up on this side too, but I did something else on that. I open the gate and put the water in the water trough. I mean, put the water trough in the corral. And then put spikes like this on the gate and leave 'um open, eh? So the cattle, when they come, they can go inside, but can not come out because it closed, eh? And we caught some like that. Yeah.

AL: Mm. Like a trap.

AA: Yeah. And finally we start driving 'um, we got 'um inside.

AL: Could you tell me—you said you cleared the land first and then you go up and chase the cattle . . .

AA: Yeah, for years they been in there. You know, those cattle. So I told him, I think better we clean 'um. Instead, we—we going die in this place! We going chase 'um, and we going get tangle up, you know. Because me, I tie hard. I tie my rope up [to the saddle horn] before I go. Uh, if anything happens, the horse and the cow going dangle, not me, I'll bail out. But I don't want to lose the cow, and no want to lose my rope, right? And that's the way I was. I just—they tell me "you're crazy," but I don't want to lose my rope.

AL: To tie the rope ...

AA: Around the horn, and I rope the cow, and....You know, I'm not bragging now, I'm not bragging, but that's the way I was, and Hiederman, he look at me (makes an incredulous face). But that's why, we talked about it, is to clean the place up. Clean 'um so the cattle cannot hide. But wasn't too much, maybe about fifteen, I think. But for one man, that's plenty!

AL: Fifteen head?

AA: Fifteen head. They were there for long time, you know, just going for—any time they see you, (psheew!) through the bush, you know? But I know that kind cattle, I work with 'em already. But I don't know about Hiederman, I—I knew what was going on already. But—I knew what to do, but I didn't want to go overhead him. What we used to do before [with] this kind of wild cattle, we notice they out, but they got to come home, eh? So we go early, or late in the evening, sometime we go up we stay on the—on the boundary. When they come back, that's when we catch 'em. They coming home, eh? We catch 'em. Either that or we go out, and these cattle were the same way.

AL: How many cow—how many head were on the ranch when you first came?

AA: Oh, maybe fifty. Maybe fifty, maybe about that. But gradually, throughout the years, we went—Mr. Morgan went buy, and we caught registered angus, you know. And we had the supply from Kukaiau ranch, and then we start breeding our Hereford herd. And then throughout the years, all the years maybe for the last fifteen years, we been—well, maybe 20 years—Mr. [Francis] Morgan them they went into intensive grazing. They use all electric wire and land, and stuff like that. So it was something like a force-feed. Force feed cattle. You put 'em—it's just like a pie. Pie pan—you make the round pan, and then it comes like this, all the—comes to one place [in the middle]. And all the cattle come down, and that's what they did, they call that intensive grazing. So what you do, you open one gate in the morning, then they go to the next one, then they go to the next one, they go right around. And we did that for a long time, and by intensive grazing, we cross-breed our cattle too. We went to a five-way cross. We went to Angus, Simmental, Hereford—I forget—five way cross anyway—oh, Brahma. We went all that cross.

But—I don't know about them—but to me, I thought was wrong, because over here is so tropical that the cows don't go underneath the wire, because they scared [of the electric fence]. And the grass grow long, [it] short the wire. Like other states, in like Oklahoma—sand, ten acres to one cow or something, but we couldn't.

So now, maybe about five years they been taking it out. And what I'm trying to do now is take out all these bad cattle that we had inside—they went cross breed 'um, eh? They get wild, they don't listen, they broke the fence. So for now, about two years now I been trying—my daughter is the herds lady over here. But daughter and papa got to come behind, you know. So, I'm helped with her now. So I'm trying to maintain the breed now, and it's a big—hard—a lot of work, a lot of work. Because they had about three herdsman, before come back to my daughter, and they didn't do much. It was terrible, it was terrible. Not for me to say, but....

AL: What's the job of the herdsman?

AA: Maintain the cattle, see that you got good production, calf production, see that they are wormed, see that you have enough grass; you have to maintain all that stuff. You got to take care your pasture, maybe poison the weeds, take care the water, got to see they get water. I mean, it's a big operation. Big thing to take care, to maintain the cattle.

AL: How many people does the herdsman have working for him or her?

AA: What do you mean? One herdsman now.

AL: One herdsman ...and no employees under?

AA: No. What I do, if I need help, I come ask my daughter . . .

(Tape ends and is turned over.)

AA: Like this morning, I needed help. So I have to wait 'till they get their meeting, and see how they'll put the people on the job. So I was sitting \_\_\_\_\_, he tell, "oh, I give you one." So he gave me one. So from 8:30, he said, "I want him back by 10:00." So I got to do my job, if it's not through they got to come back. And that's how we've been working, because I guess times get hard. I guess the economy and all kind stuff, but—but that's okay, I do whatever I can.

AL: After you'd been at Kualoa for a while, you became foreman. Mr. Morgan named you as foreman.

AA: Yeah.

AL: What was your job as foreman?

AA: (pause) Oh, I was like manager, but they call me f—I managed the whole ranch. Yeah.

AL: Manager. So what was—what did you—what did you—what was your job as manager? What did that involve?

AA: Well, take care the cattle, uh ...(to self) what else we had that time? Oh, maintain the pastures, put in new grass, and check the—make sure the fences is take cared of. And some real estate and stuff—I don't do the real estate, but we do repairing, you know, for the houses, and stuff like that. Uh, let's see ...take care all the—like for instance, if we need the silage, we bring silage out, pineapple silage and stuff. But the feedlot—the feedlot closed down after that. So we bring out some supplemental feed for the cattle. A lot of maintainings to do, a lot of maintainings. Because, when you manager, you not manager, you workman! You got to fix the tractor, you know, the tractor broke you got to fix 'em, you got to see that the lawnmower work, all that kind. And tell the boys don't broke the shovel handle (laughs), you know. But it's good, though.

AL: When you were named manager, how many people were working at Kualoa at that time?

AA: Oh, there quite a bit, um, that time. (Pause) There probably six or seven. To me that's plenty. Summertime we hire a lot of people too, come in for summer to help us to maintain the place, what we got to finish, like that. And yeah, that's what it is.

AL: And as manager, the only person above you was Mr. [Francis] Morgan himself?

AA: Only Mr. [Francis] Morgan. Only Mr. Morgan. If anything had to do, they got to—they got to go see Mr. Morgan. And they so, so respectful, though, because even if they going to come here to the ranch, they call Mr. Morgan.

Mr. Morgan—the Morgan children come and they need horses, you supply with horse, like that. And that's the thing I love about, because he have so much respect, you know? And that's what taught me how to respect other people. Even John, John too, he get that. I think his wife build upon it, actually; when they come here with the boys, when they come here, they—you know, they get respect. And that's good. And that's how it's supposed to go: everybody learn how to respect each other. And even if it's from their boys, from Mr. Morgan, I thought that was real nice.

Yeah, and they didn't go over me—they always go to Mr. Morgan, or Mr. Morgan come see me, whatever. If they tell me to do something, I call him first, I don't do it. Because—I learned my lesson, sometimes I do something, aw-w-w, wrong! Like one time, he told me go cut all the *hau* tree by the saddle-house, the main house down there. So I cut 'um out, get the bulldozer, I clear the lot. He call me up, "Oh, Abraham! Stop! Stop!" I say, "what's the matter!" "Oh, the family don't want to do that! They don't want to take it out!" "Okay, you want me plant 'um back?" "No! No!" (laughs) I was going plant the thing back, but he don't want—not that I'm being sassy, but—I went do something wrong, eh? Yeah, that's *da kine*. Yeah.

Yeah. Mr. Morgan, he good. In fact, all of them. Nice.

AL: Today Kualoa's a much more diversified ranch.

AA: Yes.

AL: It's not so much strictly beef cattle.

AA: Well, I think John [Morgan] wants to. But now it's hard coming back too, because the cows been neglected. A lot of old cows up there. And we got to cull out these cows and put new cows inside, so you get new heifers, so you get nice cattle, you know? And the more you drag 'um in the back, you going get less calf. You know, because the cows getting old. So that's what I been doing, culling out and put new ones inside. So, but to me—what I going to say—to me that the—I don't know much about financial stuff, but one thing only know, (covers microphone with his hand and lowers his voice) take out the cattle—without the cattle, they got to pay the land tax, right? It's all agriculture.

AL: Uh-huh . . .

AA: Huh. It's agri—without the cattle. You got to be hotel over here. Between me and you. So, I tried to take care the cattle so....Uh, that's what I think. But I'm not telling nobody, I trying to....

AL: Okay, when—you been working here all this time, so when did you start to see Kualoa getting diversified, like it is today? At what point did it start?

AA: Uh, well, it first started with the intensive grazing—kind of was getting hard time already, because for me was hard to accept. Hard for accept because we did it [the old] way for so long. And then they **in** this, and to me, it's not working. So that; then about 14 years ago, 14 years. And had these people,

they used to come, Japanese people. They used to come over here, and up the office there, they used to sit down, say, "oh, we'd like to talk to Mr. Morgan," so I went over there with them. I say, "can I help you?" They say, "yes. We'd like to bring tourists over here." "Heh, you want to bring tourists?" "Yeah." He talked to me. I tell him, I went, "I tell you something. If you want to bring something over here, this family, if you talk hard to them, they don't need you. They don't need you. You talk nice, you make everything good, you going get something." I said, "I know you folks. You folks make *boom, boom, boom, boom*, this kind, no good."

So, I come back there next weekend, they still over there again. [I came] from church. Hoo, I go over there, I talk story to them, you know. And they came down, they come humble. Japanese people—from Japan, they humble, they interpret, they talk, you know. So that was the last time I saw—I talked to them. And they went see the family, and that's how the activities started. That's how it started. I didn't tell anybody this. But maybe from somebody, but that's how I met this guy Kamiye, he was the main guy, I met him. And then we start building up, putting stone walls, putting up buildings, and all kind. But it took time for the family, it took time for them.

AL: Was the cattle industry not making enough money? Is that why they started accepting tourists?

AA: Yeah. That's right. Was going down, because \_\_\_\_\_. Business closing down, eh, about 14 years ago. We knew that the pineapple was going, then we knew that the sugar-cane was going, and now the cattle industry is going. Only the hotels, now. What—what going keep? So that's why Mr. [Francis] Morgan—he knew he was fighting, he was doing all kind to keep the cattle industry. He build a big slaughterhouse on the Big Island. He had a plantation over there that he always go back to—to Congress, trying to tell them. But he couldn't win them, because they was bringing cheaper sugar from outside, from Jamaica, whatever places, so he couldn't tangle with them. Over here too hard because the labor was too high. You know, the pay all union, eh? So he couldn't do that, so—he lost hundred-million, I think so. He lost.

AL: On sugar?

AA: On everything! On everything. He lost. And he was bankrupt. And he tried his best, but that Congress didn't....So that's why everything is down now. The cattle industry, they took away all the slaughterhouse. They took away—only get one more packing plant over here. They took all the—so where we have to ship our cattle? Mainland. That's why a lot of ranches, they build they own—how you say that kind stuff—air condition container. So they can ship they cattle.

AL: Refrigeration ...

AA: Yeah, refriger. That's how they ship they cattle. They have one big boat coming here from Canada, I think. They brought 'um down here, but the ship, it wasn't a flagship, you have to go up Canada, and then they bring the cattle down. I think [in] one month Parker Ranch used to send about 30,000, I think. Or 25,000 head calves, up there. But they had to fatten 'em up there, and then take 'um down. So that—that's why we losing.

So what I tried to do on the ranch, now, is to sell 'um to the immigrant people, like the Filipinos, the Laotians, all that. They don't like that, the State don't like that, because you're not supposed to. But that's their culture! That's how they want the meat, you know, just have it like that. So that's been helping up, and I been selling to—you guys have team pennings, stuff like that, and I have some friends on Maui, they send through the mail—they buy outright from us. So I just call 'um up, [say] I have so many steers, and that's how we been doing. The Lord been blessing us. Everybody have to go through all kind, but I been taking care.

AL: The beef cows you have here, for slaughter, you have to send to the mainland?

AA: No, we don't—actually, we just take the calves. And then we sell—we can not raise any beef cattle over here. Because you have to put the cattle into the feedlot to have Prime Beef, or High Good, or

what that the people will buy. If you say that is grass feed, they thinking about chewing already. The meat tough, eh? So that's why you got to go—yeah, our meat, you sell 'um to the Laotians, they just take 'um as is. Is grass fed. You understand? So that's why us, a small ranch, I think we have the advantage of selling to the—it's just that we have to keep the customer with us. You have to say one, two or three—so they have something. So that's what I been doing and other people is trying to do too.

AL: So, of the cattle you raise here, do we see any of them come back into the supermarket? The butcher shop?

AA: No. Not normal, not normal, not normal. They all got to go mainland, then come back down. Maybe, um, Maui? Maybe Maui they get—because they get the inspector. Inspector inspect the beef, that come back into the market. Somebody is buying all the cattle. But our cattle don't go to the market, so they don't get stamped. I sell 'um to the outside people, you know. So that's easier. I hate to say I tell you I make more money that way.

AL: You do?

AA: Yeah. Yeah.

AL: In the—you said that in the 1960s, Kualoa Ranch had its own feedlot.

AA: Yes.

AL: Did it have its own slaughterhouse?

AA: Heh?

AL: Did the ranch have its own slaughterhouse?

AA: Oh, Hawaii Meat? It goes to Hawaii Meat or Kahua ranch. But they close down, eh? They didn't—not passed the Federal, and everything went—that's why our cattle gone. And then we had another slaughterhouse in—Waimanalo had another slaughterhouse down there, but they all close up.

AL: So you said 14 years ago is when Japanese tourists started wanting to come to . . .

AA: Yes. Yeah.

AL: You said that the Morgan family wanted to bring the tourists in to, maybe, add to the income of the ranch because the cattle industry was suffering?

AA: I think everybody, not only the ranch—all the [ranches] was going down already. And everybody had to diversify to do what you got to do for help the ranch. And I think—not “I think”—the timing was right. The timing was right for us that they came, because we have the things that can do for the tourists. And it's not only us, it's everybody. It's just that I think we're the first one that went diversify, and people were looking at us. And they tried. And some made 'um, some didn't make it. Some didn't make it. Because—I felt sorry for them, because over here, I think because the people—you know, we learn here, and we try to help everybody work from the heart, not from the mind. Because, when you work with people, they breathe air just like you and me. You understand? You got to be nice, you got to take care the people. You just cannot go, (quickly) “oh, this is your horse, this, this and this.” No. You make 'um comfortable. You go outside, you watch the people, you see that they comfortable. If they uncomfortable, take the horse, lead the horse—you know, things like that.

But I think these other people, they just gung-ho, they never understand what was going on. Because it's got to start with them first. Got to start with the—got to start with the man from upstairs. And it come down to the people, and come to the working-man, that they can work with the, work with the tourists, because ...otherwise you won't work. You won't work. I see Molokai is start, but I think they



going down too now, already, I heard. You got to. You got to get compassion. You no more compassion, you out. You out of the business. That's why they have a new hotel now, they getting hard time. Now they like take back our people over there, for go show the aloha. The aloha is gone. Hah. Sure. That's why I try tell Mr.—every time we get meeting, I tell them, you got to take care. Make the job as your—make the tool as **your** tool. You run the machine, that's yours. Take care of 'um. Don't go *bam*, and bust 'um up, it's not yours! I mean, it's not yours for broke 'um up. Make it as yours. And I think that's a good theory, eh? (Quietly) I try to say that.

AL: You said that, I think you said that John Morgan was trying to revive the cattle part of this ranch, the cattle business of the ranch.

AA: He is trying, he is trying. Sometimes I don't—I think he's not, but I think he's trying, because so many things are in his head, and between you and me (covers microphone), I think he's trying to depend on me now. You know—but that's okay, that's okay. I like it. As long as I get help.

AL: Could you tell me again what steps you're taking to try and revive the cattle industry of the ranch?

AA: Well, like I told you in the—a little while ago, what we trying to do is take out all the old cattle now. They didn't try to build up the herd. They was just taking out and not putting back. They didn't know how, I guess. And they—I think the cattle was getting them crazy, but they don't know how to have—we need a new bunch of herd, new cattle, because so many guys had their own ways about working the cattle.

And the cattle taking advantage of us now. They not listening. So that's why I trying to get the new herd inside now, try put 'em inside. Because they've left that inside the corral, inside the pen for so long that they didn't know—they force feed 'um inside, [and] the cattle look, [and the cattle ask themselves] why am I staying in here when you got green grass out there? They walk over the fence. Not supposed to—cattle are not taught to walk over the fence. You got to go through gate. And that's what happen now. So we having hard time. So I think now, I think we going get 'um now, because if he ask me to sit down with him or explain to him what it's all about. Yeah, but I just go on, just be patient, just—let it go, just take care of my end of the—the cattle end. And it'll be alright.

AL: I'd like to leave Kualoa now for a little while, and go back in time and have you talk about your time at Shipman Ranch.

AA: Mm-hmm.

AL: You said you learned a lot there.

AA: Yes.

AL: Uh, can you talk about how you came there?

AA: (long pause—a curious smile slowly spreads across his face). Okay. That's the truth, but I was working for Parker Ranch, and we were all the Rough Riders certain time of the years. And about June, July, we need to go Mauna Kea, [to] drive sheep. They get a big sheep herd up there. So we were going up for dipping—or I think was shear, I forget already. I think it was for dipping time. Shear is early, and dipping time we [used to] go around. So we got up early that morning, and bought some liquor (laughs). And we were drinking, going up the way, you know. And when we got up to Waiki'i, and then we change horse over there, you know, we change horse, because it's a lot—it's about eighty-something miles we got to go, you know. Second horse.

So we get this guy's horse—now, he's the foreman, the Rough Rider, our boss, Parker Ranch. He got one horse used to give us **bad** time—that's his horse. So I caught the horse. I rope him. I throw my saddle on top. I rode the whole ranch. And when we went up, I jumped down for—you know, go to the bathroom. Jump down. And this other guy come up, "eh, *brah!* Here, *brah!* Come on, now!" I went,

“oh!” That dumb horse while I was down, he went turn around, he went give two kicks, they almost catch me right here [in the chest], boy. The one I was riding. Horse went run away. I saw my brother going down the hill trying to hold the bunch [of horses together], I yell him, “let the horses go! let the horses go!” I don’t know how many horses, I think maybe 17, 18, I think. So, “let go the horses!” [The other Rough Riders] come. I tell, “come back, eh, you know what, take off all the saddle, let it go, the horses.” And we about—not even halfway to Humuula. To Mauna Kea. I mean, up the sheep house. I tell them “let ‘em go, the horse.”

Okay, so we’re sitting down, waiting for one car to go Hilo, eh? Sitting down, waiting. Eh, the car coming. “Eh, *brah*, oh!” Was Morgan Brown. He asked us, “what’s the matter, *brah*?” Ah, us kids all crazy already. He was taking us up Humuula, take us up there, go sit down, we go inside, drink coffee in the kitchen, we all sitting down. Tell my brother, “eh, go call George [Purdy]. Tell him the horse all run away.” He call him up. He tell my brother, “I know already! I know! I knew! I knew something going happen when your brother Manny [Abraham] make like that, you going get trouble!” Say, “you guys go back down there, go *get* the horses.” George Purdy tell me. Because that’s for one week, one more—for two weeks was up there for drive the sheep, eh? Uh, he tell me got to go back! How you going get thousands of acres and how you going catch the horse?

So we went to my cousin, he work up there, Kaniho. I say, “Daniel, you can take us go down? We got to go back down, get the horse, all run away; I let ‘em go.” “Yeah, okay.” So we go down. I saw the bunch once, under the trees. And only one way they can come out. They was all underneath the trees, they was resting. It was kind of getting dark, already. So I tell my brother, “you guys run through there, I stay over here.” I tie the rope to the stump, eh? Ho, the horse—when the horse run away I rope him. \_\_\_\_\_, get ‘um. I tell my brother, “put the saddle on top the horse.” [He] put the saddle on, we start go driving the other horses, they—we going catch that thing too. And then we take the horses up.

I think that out of—I forget how many horses we had, but we was **short**, boy. For the whole week. So we go up there, and we all family-like, we all know each other. I start talking, “but we need horse, boy!” They start, “no way! We lend you guys horse. \_\_\_\_\_.” They led us—we was right, everything was alright. We got home after two weeks, [and we] was in the breaking pen. Somebody come up, I forget who, he tell, “eh. \_\_\_\_\_ Okada like see you.” “Yeah, he like see me? Okay.”

I think that was the longest walk for me to his office, boy, to the front door. I walk inside. “Oh” —and he called me Manny— “hey, Manny, oh boy. Aw, too bad, what went happen to you. But you shouldn’t have ride George Purdy’s horse. You shouldn’t have ride ‘um.” I tell him, “aw. It’s okay.” But I was young, yeah? Then he tell me, “you know something? Well, we got to fire you.” I tell him, “okay. That’s alright.” I was wrong too, eh? But the part that was kind of bad, I got [George] Purdy to make ‘um bad for me. He tell me I like—but I was wrong. He could have backed me up. But it’s okay. So I tell him okay, thank you very much, and I left. When I went out of the office, I went back there, everybody was going quit. Everybody was going quit the ranch, because of me, and what had happened to me.

AL: Your friends . . .

AA: All my friends was going quit. I tell ‘em, “no no no no, you guys stay. You folks stay over here, you guys....For me, I’m okay with me. You guys stay over here. Stay at the ranch.” So that was good, I went home. And then I came Honolulu little while. Stayed down Honolulu. A little while, then my sister called me up, she said, “Brother, old man Kaliko like you.” “Hah?” “Yeah, he like you. Come home, you \_\_\_\_\_, go train horse.” Oh yeah, because I didn’t have any job over here yet. So I went home. I went go back up there. So take me to the \_\_\_\_\_ he pretty old already. He tell me, (gruff voice) “hu, how you,” you know, kine Hawaiian, “hu-u-u” talk. Okay. He tell, “oh, us two go we go train horse \_\_\_\_\_.” Heh? Yeah.

So the first place he went pick was Walakeno, with Shipman ranch. Tell him, “okay, we go!” So I went, I started to train horses there, then I think the guy Tommy Lindsey, he used to be the manager over there. I think he don’t like leave me back, you know. They come and we go along, already he take me, we go chase wild cow, that’s the story of my life, boy. Ho, I went over there. He never leave me back one time after that. I just go for broke, boy, ho, I just love it, boy! And I remember one time had all this cattle, you know, he tell me, this place got plenty wild cow. He called me *keiki*, eh? “*Keiki*, over here, we get plenty.” Horned kind. And they give me the old kind horse, you know. Because the old cowboys—this one get big sore on his back, so I had one horse, one old horse. I was way in the back, I don’t know how many of us was going down, steep, you know, the hill, going down. He tell me, “*keiki*! Come! Come!” I going, ho! I see all the big kine bulls, steers, running down the hill. The horns *klak! klak! klak!* all banging each other. He tell me, “**go, keiki! Go!**” Hey, everybody went spread inside that forest, boy. I come down, I see this big one, the horn (spreads out his arms) more long than this, on the head.

AL: ...than ...a yard and a half.

AA: Yeah, the horns. On top. I see that cow, he’s struggling, he trouble inside the ditch—was getting across, eh? I throw my rope, boy. I catch ‘um, only one horn over here, stuck. He couldn’t get away, I was holding, I go, (calling) “**he-e-!p! Help!**” You know, I thought for coo-coo, help me come. My friend come, (shouting) “what’s the matter, *brah*?” “Look! I get ‘um! I get only one horn!” He go around, he swings, he catch one horn too. So what we did, I—he hold ‘um, I get off my horse, we pull around the tree, we tie ‘um like this. Tie the head for the halter—the next day, for the next day.

So, I go home, eh? We go back to the herd. I tell, “*brah*, you can *alaka*’i”—*alaka*’i is “lead,” eh?—I tell, “you can *alaka*’i outside for me.” “Ba-a-a-h, you, what’s the matter? You make your own. You—you catch ‘um, you lead ‘um!” Guys no like, you know, lead, because dangerous, eh, coming out. I tell ‘um, okay stay home. They stay home the next day—they like to catch but they don’t like lead out. “Yah ...no, you lead your own cow!” I had two, you know, over there. One just like one ...whatchacall, uhm, that kind—the ile, the horn like this (shows spirals with his fingers), way up in the—but went broke, went hit the tree, eh, the horn. Nice one.

So the old man, he was going lead that one. So we go down there. I stay—I stay by him, ah, I go down. We get to the—the one animal, he look at me like this (gives a sideways glance). I don’t say nothing, he look at me (another sideways glance). [He said,] “Aw, go there. Aw, go there,” you know, that’s how they talk. Put my rope on top, and he lead it out for me. He just like clever. You know, by that he teach me too, I can learn, eh? But that’s the kind of life, was work always, terrific, ho boy. I—seen the old man. This guy, old man, Bob. He roped the cow, he throw ‘em down. He no more nothing for—nothing for tie the cow! He put the—you know the front leg? He put ‘um on top the horn and tie ‘um with his handkerchief. That’s all! And the cow no can go, and he cannot stand up \_\_\_\_\_ . Too much.

We go up, eh? Sometimes not enough cowboys, eh? We go up all forest, Hakalau, Honohina, Mauka, on the Hamakua coast, on top, that’s where we go. He go down, I say, “what are you doing?” He take off his jacket. Tie ‘um over here, that’s where the cow cross, eh? We go up, he take out his shirt or something, put over there. Eh, when we go up, we chase the wild cow, they take off coming over here cutting! They smell the shirt, boy, they (whsht!) All the way down.

How do you think that kine stuff? Those old folks, it’s too much! And I use all that method over here, because only me one now. I use the method over here.

AL: So he was using the man’s smell ...

AA: Yeah, the shirt, it’s got human smell, eh? They smell ‘um, eh?

AL: [To] chase the cow away from that place ...

AA: Yeah! Because otherwise, if they go across, we cannot catch 'um. And that's what he do! And he was kind of old already, boy. Ho, but that old man—you follow—no sense follow him, because he not going miss. When he throw. He not going miss. He only one thumb, got thumb cut off over here from the rope before.

AL: What was his name?

AA: Uh, we all call him Kaliko. His name is Na'ina Po. Na'ina Po is his name. But I enjoyed—because I started off with all the old people, when I was young, eh? And they sent me with them, I'd go. I'd go. I remember, one time, we were driving all us with the old folks, eh? Only me was the young guy. He tell me, "Boy! You go over here, drive all the cows." I never knew—I drive the whole pasture myself. You know, they just stayed over there and they tell me, "you go here, eh?" I thought they would help me, eh? "You go, go here." I drive the whole pasture myself. And when I come back, they tell me, "how come your horse all sweat?" They scold me! But they get good fun, they only laugh, but that's okay. I learn. I learn. I no go against them; I learn how to respect them. And that's how I learned. That's why [when] you take 'em around my saddle, I watch. Yeah, boy—sometime they go cut one strap. You get on the horse, your saddle fall off with you. And they laugh! They laugh! But all is fun with them, that was fun with them.

AL: The old folks liked to . . .

AA: Oh, yeah. When I went there they was in their 60s. Some was going 60s, 70s already. But they was still on the horse, boy. I remember one old man, **Poco**. He was old already. They used to saddle his horse for him. He get off the horse right by the restroom, they get one step. He come all the way over there, bring the horse, the horse stand for him, he jump on top, he go work. He come home he jump off that place, or maybe he get one other place where he unsaddle his horse. And he go—and that man, they kept him, because you know why—not because, but—because of his job. The place was what, 200,000 acres? 300,000 acres Parker Ranch, eh? And wherever they put all the cattle was all in his head. He didn't know how to read, didn't know how to write. He tell them, "well, you go to this pasture, you get 300 head, you bring that home for take down Honolulu, we ship these cows, you bring 'um back." Next day they ask him, he tell them the other cattle is the other place. That's why.

I remember had this other—two guys, in fact, in fact I had one cousin like that. A.W. Cutter, the old man Cutter, he raise a lot of thoroughbred horses, you know. At Parker Ranch, the thoroughbred horses, they had some fast ones, the mainlanders, but they race good horses. He come, eh? He talk only Hawaiian. He talk, "*a na wai ko inoa*," and the other guys all talking Hawaiian. And no more book—talking, to the guys. To the old man Cutter, what horse this, what horse that, they all memorize. They no go school! But, they learn, eh? So, that's how it was. And like me, I never learned. But I'm thankful I'm here today. I am. If I went give up, I would have nothing, right? Nothing. But I thankful.

AL: You know, I'd like to talk to you more about your working at Parker Ranch and at Shipman Ranch, but I know, yeah, we're going to run out of time, because the tape's going to end. Um . . .

AA: You going to come back? (Laughter)

AL: No, no really! Is it okay for me to come back sometime this week, because ...

AA: Nah, nah ...no, no—whenever! Oh, yeah, Parker Ranch was good. Like I told you, I lost my job over there, I got fired from that job. But I learn a lot over there, too, when I was in Parker Ranch, because we were just like brothers, so close!

AL: Brothers with the other cowboys?

AA: Yeah. With the Rough—Rough Riders, you call 'em. We was real close. Even when we get home and we go places, we always stay together, it's just natural. And when I left there, I kind of missed them, that time, but I had to—I had to move on, eh? And I never forget them. And some of them gone home

already, most of them gone home already: they died. And we had good times, because I remember sometimes, we go outside, and the horse fall down and we stuck underneath, ah, and they give their life, boy. They jump on top the horse, they hold 'um, they grab everything until you get out. And that's *da kine*, you know. And they always need help, they always need help. You tell, "*brah!*" you went say, "*brah!*" the guys round over there open the gate for you, because all these horses cannot open gate, they cannot turn, eh—I mean that's how close we was. Really close. And I think from there we kind of start off with me, I went go out, go different places. I remember back where I was, that's why. And we had good time, we go branding.

The brandings was nice. People never brand like us. I mean, we go out go branding, us guys Rough Riders, we never give us a chance for even rope one cow as long as I stood there. You always got to be on the ground. (Slowly, with weight) **Thousand, five-hundred calves a day.** Brand **thousand, five-hundred calves a day!** And what we do, we got to get up 1:00, yeah 1:00. Coffee at 1:00—that means you get up at 1:00, you have coffee at 1:30, and then 2:00 it's time for ride already. Going—going \_\_\_\_\_, going get to the way. You see, they take the horses before that, before, the day before. They lock up in the pen, you make sure that you change horse again. Then go and from there, you drive. Drive all the cattle, you know. And when you look outside, when you get down to the branding place, you go, "where all these guys came from?" But they come from all the different stations. They help us drive—"hey *brah*, how you," you shake hand, you meet each other, whatever—all drive the cow. And when start branding, they put five horse on each side the fire.

AL: Five horse?

AA: Five ropers.

AL: Oh.

AA: Five ropers. And five ropers, maybe two castrate guys, de-horners, and tar-man, and all that guys, injection, everything got to be going. And these guys they rope the cattle, they bring one man, one cow. One man, one cow. You pick the wrong cow, boy, you gone. They too fast, the cow, you no more hands. So before they come, before they brand, "us two partner today?" you go ask your partner. And only one guy, one cow, one roper, that's all.

You come home. The **dust.** The **blood**, all over you—you like throw away you clothes! But they de-horn, eh? When they de-horn, the blood all over, all on top you, boy! And we get up 1:00 [AM], we no get home 'till 9:00 in the night. We no get home. Eh, but, we never complain. We never complain. Nowadays [if] you go tell those guys, "you go over there," [then] he complain. Eh, that was life. I mean we went out, we went do 'um, we never see that there was something more better. That was better for us. We never see something outside that was better. Until I came Honolulu—I went crazy, I lost it. Come down here, went crazy. Twelve of us came down one time, we left Parker Ranch.

AL: To Honolulu . . .

AA: To Honolulu. Aw, we thought we was going to conquer Honolulu—Honolulu still here, and us long gone already! (Laughter). But that was—that was good! Yeah, we still over there, boy.

AL: How did you get the name "Rough Riders?"

AA: That was the team, that was the Rough Riders, the old—that's—if you—they get "Cowboys," "Rough Riders" and "Plaster Gang." And "Plumber," all them get their own names.

AL: What was the difference between a Rough Rider and a Cowboy?

AA: A cowboy, you cowboy only. That's all you do every day. There's sixteen Cowboys. Get sixteen Cowboys, get eleven Rough Riders. Actually only ten, and one foreman. And then, get sixteen Cowboys, and plus all the stations—we don't see them, they just take care the stations. Only the

Cowboys see the station, not us, because we Rough Rider. Only if they need help—then they ask the foreman in the office that they need so many guys, then us guys go help them. But we're Rough Riders, we don't....

So, we got to train the horses for these sixteen cowboys. They have 30 horses apiece, 30 horse to their string. These guys get 30, these guys get 30, these guys get—and that's personal, it's their own, nobody can touch 'um. Maybe 35 they can have. That's all their horses for work throughout the year; your horse not good, you turn 'um in, they come to us, we send 'um a different one and they can train 'um. And that's how we work. The Cowboys that's all they do; is Plumber is plumber, is Cowboy.... That's why I say, when I came to Kualoa is hard, because I never did labor job. But I enjoyed it, even if I got fired—if I didn't get fired, then I'm not here today. That's the way I look like it. I would still be rotting over there, maybe I would be dead already. But, I'm here, I'm here. I'm talking to you my life. Now, that's all.

Parker Ranch was good—Shipman was good, Shipman they really took care of us. The guy, he really took care of me, the manager, he really took care of me, boy. The pay was small, though. I was working over there, that would be \$75 a month. But, you know, I made \$75 a month, when I came Honolulu I made five, six-hundred dollars a month, and I get no more money by Monday! You know what I mean? I get \$75 dollars, the next pay I still had money. Because you know how to take care, eh? Over here you get more money, you splurge. But, that's okay, that was past, it's all past already.

AL: Well, before we run out of tape, maybe we'll end it here for today.

AA: Okay.

AL: But I'd like to come back maybe tomorrow if you're free, or sometime this week, and continue talking about Parker Ranch and Shipman, because I'd like to spend more time on that. Maybe not as long, but a little bit more time on that.

AA: Yeah.

AL: If you're free later this week?

AA: Yeah, okay!

AL: Is that okay?

AA: Yeah, a little bit. There's not much more, but talk something, eh?

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

with

Abraham Akau, Sr. (AA)

November 1, 2000

at Kualoa Ranch

BY: Anna Loomis (AL)

AL: Interview with Abraham Akau at Kualoa Ranch, on November 1, 2000. Interviewed by Anna Loomis.

AL: When we—when we left off yesterday we were talking about Parker Ranch, and how you were on the Rough Riders team ...

AA: Mm-hmm ...

AL: And what I wanted you to talk about first was what the Rough Riders did ...

AA: Hmm ...

AL: ... what your job was.

AA: Okay. The Rough Rider's job is just to train horse. Thousands of them. And that's what we have to do, because we train for all the different stations, yeah? They get Waiki'i, they get Humuula, they get Pauhau, they get one ... they get one in Kohala, they get one station over there. So we trained the horse all for those guys.

And we trained horses for—children's horse they call that—they get the first choice, and it's for Richard Smart. Richard Smart—they come they pick the best horses, and we train them—they call them "children's horse," and they're for all these guests. Okay, we train all these horses, and that's most what we do, but it's every-day job, every-day. We ride ten horse a day. Every day, ten horse you ride. And when the horses are all gone out, or not, if not all gone out, then they bring maybe another hundred inside. Every six months they bring another hundred inside. And we all pick again. We had to pull numbers for all the horses, because get all different kind of breeds, eh? Wild the breeds over there, they had oh maybe ten, fifteen different breed of horses. And the worst ones always stayed last. You know, you pull number, can't help, you got to get them, that's the name of the game.

So had a lot of horses, and we used to pick them up and then bring them inside, and they still wild, you know. Because throughout the year, sometimes they go out and they miss, eh? Because when we bring the wild horses inside, over thousands of acres we drive. And you only can see the dust, and the guys in the front, they got to **go**, boy. They had to come all the way down with the horses and put them inside the gate! If the horses miss the gate, they run away again. Then you got to wait for maybe another two years, then drive again. And while you waiting, we handling more colts and throwing them out there. And then we have to drive them, so....But that was good fun for us, you know, go for broke, full speed. Those wild horses, you have to put them through the gate, and if you miss them, it's gone.

So that's the kind of stuff we used to handle, a lot of colts, baby horses. Every—maybe every two to three months they breed, eh? Keep breeding, and they bring the colts inside and we have to handle them. Handle them, teach them how to tie, teach them how to lift up the legs, you know, all that. And that was mainly our job. And help the cowboys once in a while when they ask for help, then maybe one or two guys go. Big branding, we all go. We all go out there and help the cowboys.

To me it was fun, it was fun, because just being there, I think that was the story of my life. I wanted that, to be breaker—either they break me or I going break them.

You know, that kind of story, but that was the good part of Parker—we had a lot of good times. Cause sometimes we get something special to do—we was always the ones called to go. Maybe they get big fire on the range, people go out, they try work, they try kill it, if they cannot then nighttime we go. We, uh, whatchacall, replace the guys that was working at daytime. We watch nighttime, you know. And a lot of different things that we used to cover for them. In case some place is short, they need somebody to help, they send us go over there to help them.

So Parker Ranch was alright, but I didn't learn much there. Parker Ranch all flat country, you know? Well, not real flat, but easy, you know? And wild horse you—we can—easy you get on the horse, because you bring it inside train in the house. Big house, I think four time like this. Or maybe three times like this.

AL: Like this ...

AA: The house—big house. They get all pens inside.

AL: An arena?



AA: No, a regular house, and get pens inside. Round pen—get four round pen inside. The pen's maybe about fifteen inch—fifteen feet in diameter. And you get two people in one pen. So that's the way we used to bring the horses in there and ride them. And when they come inside they wild. They climb the wall, just like motorcycle, **bu dum dum dum dum!** And me in the center, aw, we choke them. We rope them, we choke them, throw them down. When the horse is down we get help, everybody come over there, we put the blind—we use blind, you know, all the horses. And put halter on top. By the time the horse stand up, his eyes is closed already. Throw the saddle on top. Have him go for broke. **Bam bam bam bam!** Bucking and whatever. Shut his eyes again, tight up the cinch, we get on him. Ride 'him, inside the house. But that's the way it was. If you ever look—"eh, you chicken? you don't want to ride your horse?" You know. But, you never say that. We always try help one another. But that was a wild bunch over there.

AL: Did you take part in rounding up the wild horses on the range?

AA: Oh, yes, that was our job. That was our job to round up. That's what I was telling you. We drive them, I don't know how many thousand acres, and we have to go find them. And sometimes they see us first, eh? Ho, you see the dust, boy. And we got to catch up with them, because got to get them by the gate. If you miss them by the gate, aw it's gone. Or we going get only what we get, and the rest is gone. So yeah we round them up, yeah.

AL: How did you find wild horses when they were on the range?

AA: Oh we kind of know more or less. We kind of know more or less when we go. See but, before we drive, we all go up the hill, eh? One over here, one person, and the boss in the middle. He go, "wo-o-o-o!" He yell. We yell. And then you see—you can see the dust going already, you know the horses is moving. And then we're gone.

And if you go up there, and if you don't hear the sound, you left up there. And **shame** if they come back and get you again. You stay up there, "what, you were sleeping?" They got to listen good, eh?

Yeah, we round them up. We round them up, we handle them, and we train them—everything. That's the Rough Riders' job. And then we train them for the—we train them for all those people. And like for the cowboys; if they pick the horse today, if they no more today, and if we take it up tomorrow, and we ride it, as long as we get it outside today, they got to take the horse. They want to cry, boy! They ride it—put it out today, we get on top the horse, and the horse never did ride, never did put saddle before, they open the gate and let the horse—just me and you—and that horse is flying! Cannot turn, cannot stop, you know! Yeah! So what we do, we lean over the horn and shut his eyes. You know the blind? Put the blind down, he cannot see, yeah?

AL: You did that with your hands?

AA: No! We have a blind we put on top the—the one I told you. We close his eyes and we saddle him, eh? A little strip like this go across his eyes. And while we ride him we leaning front, yeah? And he go for broke. Shut his eyes like that, he cannot see, eh? One eye—he go round. And then after that you open his eye—you lean across, you cannot lean like this [over the horn] because you hit your head, eh? So we lean opposite. And he going all the fly. Shut his eyes. And he circle the other way. Until he get tired. And then we had the boss, he come outside there, go watch us, then he come right in the front of the horse, and the horse follow, go back into the breaking pen. And sometime we ride it, two-gaiter, we send it down, the cowboys like die already. Cause sometimes they treat us mean, eh?

AL: The cowboys?

AA: Yeah yeah yeah. They tease us, they make—[and we say to ourselves] “ok, *brah*, wait till your horse come.” When we horse come up there we give it to the [cowboy], and the guy like cry! Because we’re, “hey *brah*! I’m going send your horse down!” Oh, he like cry. But after that they make nice to us. Yeah.

AL: How long did it take to train a horse from wild?

AA: Well those days it used to take a long time because the horse was wild, you know? Now you know, seven, eight, nine, ten years old. That’s hard. So what we have to do, is we take the horse on a long journey. If we’re going out to help the cowboys, we take them [the horses] with us, just for travel, put mileage on them. And then we go to an outfit, we get another one over there. We catch it, we saddle it, and keep it going again. So we save all our good horses and use these bad horses. And that’s how we put a lot of mileage on them while they’re wild, you know.

And they was—tell you what was kind of good about it—you can train them, you can take them up \_\_\_\_\_ and you working them already. Today our horses cannot do that, because you start a horse from year-and-a-half, two year old, three year old. Three year old they’re finished already. Not quite finished, but they can do work, eh? But those days, when you get out there with those big, wild horses, you can do anything already, because they **tough**, eh? Oh, they do the work, boy. You got to work them, yeah? You reach home, [snore], knocked out from the day already. But that was—to me it was easy. But I didn’t know how to do that—I was so used to with old horses.

So when I went to Shipman Ranch, I went over there and I started train horse. So [they] had a young fellow over there—they train different—so I used to watch him all the time. Boy, they just take the horse, they put the halter, put the blanket on—no blind, no nothing, you know. And they put the saddle on. And that’s how I learned how to do that. So two guys can do that. Our horses were so old, and wild, we couldn’t take it off because you had to put it on for get on. So that was that idea of having that blind. We call it *pani maka*, for shut the eye, and everybody used that.

AL: How do you spell that? The *pani maka*?

AA: I don't know. (Laughter). "*Pani maka*." I'm no—*maka* is the eye, *pani* is close, eh?

AL: So *pani maka* ...

AA: *Pani maka* ...

AL: *Pani maka* ...

AA: *Pani maka* ... *Pani* is "P"—that's the one like "pain," yeah? Yeah ... yeah, that's what we used to use all the time over there in Parker Ranch, because no way you can make the other way, because he kill you. He'll kill you, the horse. I remember one time they brought these horses, they brought all us, I pick this one. I was over there, I choke him. So I'm \_\_\_\_\_ his face, and I think it was about seven, eight years old. He didn't relax, you know. Ho! That horse went come right on top me—one leg over me, and one on top me. I was gone. I was whistling, with little birds [going around my head], **do do do do!** But that's how you got to be careful, you never can tell what the horse going do. Ho, the boys came inside from the next pen, they grab a hold of that horse, why he was all over my—they throw him down, tie up his foreleg, you know. But we had a lot of technique—that makes it help, you know we learned from the old folks.

But that was good for that time, Shipman was good. I came over here like I told you how, then I went in 1972 school, you know. I learned a lot. We was way off, of training horses. But that's the best we know how—we learn from our grandfather, great-grandfather, and our dad and all them, that's how we learned. But like anything else, when you grow up you learn there is a more excellent way in life, and that's what we had. So it's been easy after that.

AL: I was going to ask you how you became a Rough Rider—was that your first job when you came to Parker Ranch?

AA: Yeah, that was my first job. I used to do all odd-end kind job, I was young, school-days, you know. I used to do odd kind job. But as soon as I came out of school, I asked the—the same guy fired me, same guy, I went ask him. And I wanted to work on the ranch, he tell me yeah, can go. That's good though.

AL: And I guess if they hired you to go straight to a Rough Rider you had been training horses before that? On your own?

AA: No. No. Well, I used to stay with my uncle, he let me ride some horses—but baby horses, you know, and learn. What I used to do, weekends, or vacation, I used to climb on top the roof. When they train horse I used to watch them all the time. I used to watch how they trained the horse, you know. And I figure I could handle that. But I ride horse, we had our own horse, I ride. I never did break, but I used to watch them all the time. So the first time I went they, “a-a-a-h, boy you watch out!” You know they used to run me down, “you watch, oh, this horse going get you!” Because the horses, they cry, eh, when they buck. (He bellows like a bucking horse) You know they cry [when they] buck me, boy, I tell you. That was it. That was a good fun.

AL: Do you remember the first horse that you broke for Parker Ranch?

AA: Well, I didn't break them right offhand, because when you go there, then the foreman tell—get eleven of them, get eleven—so eight of them give you one horse. So they give you your own horse. But they don't give you the best horse they went train—the wild horse. So they give you one—aw the first one I had, boy. I rode him inside—they went buck me off for hours! I went off that horse I never know, but good thing when he was bucking, I went hold two hand on the line, and I went let myself drop between the fence and the horse. Because if I pull him he run away from me, yeah? And that's what happened.

Oh, my, the boss came inside and [yelled], “who gave him that horse!” The boss got on that horse and he bust him, boy. He got on that horse, you want to buck!, and those guys, they was laughing there in the back when the boss came. They were laughing when I get buck off. But I tell you, they never fooled me again. I learned my lesson. Yeah, I learned my lesson. But that's ok. They want to have fun. But sometimes you die and it's not fun. But that was the first horse I had. But that was ok, it's a learning lesson.

They gave me some bad horses. I want to go out the gate, the horse stand up, go back. It's a barn horse. It's so used to—they lick him so much he don't want to go out. He go by the gate, he stand out, ok, I wait little while, and then I came little bit good already, I understand. I used to take the horse the opposite way instead of go there. I take him home, I go through the back, go to my house and come back. I remember the route that he was going, but that's where he make problem all the time. I was—something taught me that, so I doing it. Ok, my good horse—they never laugh at me again after that. But that's life. I learned through all of that.

AL: Could you tell me—you said that you learned more at Shipman Ranch after you left Parker ...

AA: Yes, I learn a lot over there, but—when I was at Shipman Ranch, you kind of got to learn more of yourself. Because only you, eh. You got to work with the horse. And it's not like how when you was

with the other—you got to be more careful, and you get more wisdom. It's not this now you going for broke, you got to watch this horse, because only one man.

And I remember when I first went there, we brought these horses from up Mauna Kea, because Shipman got big place up Mauna Kea, by Humuula and sheep station, big place. So we went up there and we caught the horse. But how we caught the horse is we brought them all inside, go on down, we rope him, we choke him. We **choke** him with the post, we choke him till he lay down. Put the halter, put the rope on top, we let him go inside the bunch. Then rope another one and choke it, till we got ten horses. And we let them go about one week like that with the rope, no handle them, nothing. So they brought the truck, and the truck—when they brought the truck he came up through the saddle road, eh? Way up so we have to drive.

So what we did, we let these horses go with the rope. And we drive home, drive until we get up by the corral. And then we let them in the trailer with the truck, with the ropes and everything on top. So we took them back to Shipman for train, to Walakeno, that's where the main base was \_\_\_\_\_ Ranch, of Shipman, was over there. So we had to ride the horse outside, I go out, I go get them. Aw, the horses were wild. But before that, I told the boss, the old man \_\_\_\_\_, old man Kaliko, I told him, "Papa, got to make more high over here." "Na-a-a, na-a-a, that's alright."

AL: Make more ... ?

AA: The fence. Higher. Maybe two feet more, eh? He tell me, "nah, no need." So I brought this big, brown horse inside, put the saddle on top. Got on him. Ho, he buck! Going. First you knew, he jumped right over the fence with me on top. The minute I jump over the fence, (in a gruff voice) "oh-h! Oya, boy, we got to fix da fence, eh!" But I no tell him nothing. I never tell him. You know I never kick back, "yeah, I told you." But main thing, never got hurt. And fixed the fence! Make it higher! For the horse cannot—and the thing was high already! And one jump over with me on top.

AL: So these horses you were training for Shipman, they were wild horses you caught ...

AA: Real wild, real wild. Not like Parker Ranch. Parker Ranch had wild horse, but Shipman **wild**—because what they do, they just let go the horses in the pasture with the stallion, and the mamas, and the babies, and they just leave them like that. And then we have to round them up inside, and just catch the horse you like. If we—we working down, you know? We working someplace, we driving cattle, somebody tell, "oh, boy, nice horse, I like that horse." So we try, we try drive him out, and if you can get him inside we rope him, choke him, let it go the rest. "Ah, *brah*, this your horse."

And once you bring inside, you got to work him, you got to train him. And out there was real bad that place, never had a good place to ride horse over there, was dangerous. Just like the—up there the old folks they made the \_\_\_\_\_ all rainy, eh? They build the house, and they set rocks inside, inside the place for keep the mud out. You got to ride the horse in there. But I give those guys credit at the station; they ride them. They—I mean they handle them, handle them, and they ride them. So those horses was wild. Those horses was wild.

AL: They were wild but they belonged to Shipman.

AA: They belonged to Shipman. All in his pasture. Ho, sometime we chase wild cattle—they get a lot of wild cattle, eh, Shipman—we chasing them. We coming down the hill, no coming down; the horses down at the bottom. They hear us coming— **whoosh!** [they ran] through the bunch cattle, boy! Shipman tell, “go there, my God! Shoot all those horses!” He get mad with the cattle going everywhere. But they still his horses. And we don’t do nothing about it, we leave them go. But there’s some nice horses over there. All pintos, eh? Nice. All different kind colors, nice. But that’s how wild these horses were.

AL: Did he do anything to try to improve the bloodlines of his horses? You said that there were just stallions that were ...

AA: Yeah. Later, when I left there, then they started weeding out the horses. I think they slaughtered most of those horses. The older horses. I think they slaughter them, if I’m not mistaken, because they have to better the breed for the people to get good horses for work, eh? But the breed that they had over there was **good** for the wild cows. Because that was a German coach horse. Hessian breed I think they call it. Big stocky, you know? And once you train them they never forget, boy. They go through the mud **nice** boy. Not like some horses they go in the mud they kill themselves with you on top. But that’s nice those horses. But you got to train them for going through the mud like that. But they were good horses.

And what makes it good too, was they were big, and when you take it all down, the bull from the tree, man you better hang on, boy. They going—but they get hurt all the time, yeah? And some get hook from the horn. And they gone, you better hang on you better hold that horse otherwise he throw you off, because he going, eh? And once those horses were trained was good. That call the Hessian quarter-horse. The Parker Ranch they had all different breed. They had the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the Naniloa, all kind different breed, the Arabian breed. So when they cross them, those horses was **tough** too. They was tough. But Shipman, they never did handle the babies from baby. They just grow up with the mother, and the mother get one more baby coming. And that was it.

AL: At Parker Ranch you were mostly a horse trainer ...

AA: Mostly a horse trainer, uh, I think when I was seventeen—that's why mostly I got fired over there. I used to run that Rough Riding team, when I was about seventeen or eighteen. Yeah. When the boss didn't come I used to take care. But it was easy. Some of the guys was hard, they were too mean on the horse, yeah? Sometime—maybe I was young, but they was older, I had to scold them sometimes, they hit the horse too much, eh? And they get mad at me. But, you know, cannot help. Cannot hit the horse too much. So that's what I did. And I was there all the time, and then when I got fired I went to Shipman Ranch.

AL: Your job at Shipman, was that still mostly horse training or did you do other stuff?

AA: I do other stuff too. We do some laboring stuff too. Not too much—mostly ride horse. Mostly I did was train horse, or go out catch wild cows, they take me to go with them. And that's what mostly I do, because they had a lot of people to fix fence over there, a lot of contract people. They live in the mountain. These Filipinos, they live in the mountain then once a month they come down, pick up supplies, and they go back. They live in a tent, yeah? And **cold** and **wind** up there, they live in there. And they cut the posts in the forest, and they fix the fence. They cut the posts, and then they have the tractor go up there, they pull the trailer, yeah? They live with the post with them and that's why they do it, they get contract.

AL: Can you tell me about chasing wild cattle for Shipman?

AA: Yeah, yeah, that was good. That was good fun because when I was working Parker Ranch, we was young. The old folks used to go catch wild cattle down at Kahuku Ranch. Down Kahuku Ranch. And they come back, they tell us, "wow, we catch all the wild—" the old folks, yeah? They tell us get *limu* on the horn—you know *limu*, moss—they tell that. "Aw, what these guys talking about, get moss?" Eh, when I was at Shipman, we **see** the cows all get the moss on top the horns, they stay in the forest! And you know the hoof, turn off like one—you know the Dutch shoes!

AL: Yeah.

AA: The wooden shoes, like that!

AL: Curled up like ...

AA: Yeah, curl up the hoof.

AL: Why is that?

AA: Overgrown! They so long stay in the mud, soft, eh? They grow—maybe they stay rocky place, aw, some we catch, real curl up, the hoof. And they told us about that kind of stuff, and when I saw that, “wow, they was right! Get *limu* on the horn!”

AL: How come they had the moss on the horn?

AA: ‘Cause they stay in the forest, eh? No more sunshine \_\_\_\_\_, so they all get moss on the horn. Yeah.

AL: So how would you go about catching the wild cows?

AA: Well, we just had to hunt them down. When we see the bunch, everybody go down that you—you on your own. And you got to go and try do your best what you can do, or two by two—but usually when they’re big everybody like catch their own, eh? You catch your own and you got to do what you got to do, is try wrap [the rope] around the tree, and just tie one end to the other tree, and get away. We carry a lot of rope. Everybody get spare ropes on top. And then afterwards somebody, all the other guys, we all come together, tie him up. ‘Cause need two, three guys sometimes for tie one to the tree, eh? And that’s how we catch ‘them—you just go for it.

AL: What was the purpose of leaving the cow tied to the tree?

AA: Uh, to tender. Tender. Make him tender the face, the head. You put a halter, so when he fight....So when you go there the next day, you touch him like that, you pull the rope, he lead you, eh? Because if you don’t do that, he drag you all around inside the forest. That’s why we tie him overnight. But some we mishap, we get there, some of them die because they fight so much, eh? Some we go out, if we cannot, we take the knife, we cut it from the shoulder down, take out all the meat, cut off all the meat from the rib back here, and we tie it on the saddle, we go home, that’s for us, for our meat at home.

AL: If the cow dies?

AA: Yeah, for us. And leave the rest so they cannot do nothing. Otherwise we have to take the pack mule down. Take the pack mules down, skin it, bag it, everything, tie it on the mule and come home. Yeah, but we take what we can take because we far away from home already. Put on the saddle—cut chunk, hook it onto the pommel and go home. Yeah—go home, we smoke it, salt it, smoke the meat, you know. Yeah. Good.



AL: Can you tell me—it sounds like chasing the wild cattle was pretty dangerous.

AA: It was dangerous, it is dangerous—but good fun. (Laughter) It's danger—I remember one time I get the horn almost right through my stomach.

AL: You did?

AA: Almost! I got hooked couple of times, but not hard kind, eh? I was tying this steer around the tree, see? When I turn around the tree, had some slack. [It] came straight for me, the rope went snap. The horn [grazed my belly] (wsheew!) Right here. But good thing he kept going.

And another time we roped this big bull. Big—I think he was maybe 2,000 pounds, I think. So we tied him to the tree, and the next day we went get him. So I went down to unhook. So the papa he gave me the rope, I told him, "Papa, you hold this cow now! You hold this bull, he going get me!" He said, "aw, don't worry, I get him." Eh, when we let him go from the tree, he didn't tie—usually we tie on the horn, you know. But he didn't tie that time, but I think he knew problem was coming. Well, his horse went jump, the rope went fly off, that darn bull came for me, boy! Came for me, it was like this—I went grab one small little tree, I went spin—hey, I think the bark went come out, boy. And had this other guy, he was in the back of me, he push me down, he run over me! For get away.

And me an the bull, **ho-o-o!** I keep \_\_\_\_\_ over there, boy. Until the boss went come over there and send the dogs on top him. Put the dogs on him and the bull went run away. I'll never forget that one, that was real close. That was real close. Me and the bull was looking eye to eye. But I think if I move he can kick, he can knock me down, because the tree is small, eh? But I stay, "Tommy-y-y-y!" I calling my boss, "To-o-mmy-y-y! Help me-e-e! Tommy-y!" (Laughter). So they get the bull away from me, they came through, they put the dogs on him, eh, he fight the dogs, he got away. That's one experience I learned.

AL: So what did you learn while you were doing that—maybe about doing it safe, or—you know, from the old-timers ...

AA: Aw, we try to do safe, but sometimes it does happen; because in the nick of time you in the mud, you in the forest, and everything is so muddy, sometimes things happen. But when I was there, I tell you one time what happen. One of the boys from the ranch, he was training horse, he didn't come home. So we went go out look for him, he was dead out there. He fell off the horse. He was dead. Nice man, Yakichi. And that was someone. He chose that way; I guess he wanted to die on the horse or what. And they found him, brought him home. And things happen. I seen a lot of mishaps like that.

But chasing wild cow, it just got to be in you. It got to come from the heart. If you think you going *make*, you better stay away. You going to get hurt. I don't know, it just got to be in you. If you want it.

If you don't want it, that's right, you stay home or go find another job. But I just love it. I love it because it was so adventurous for me. The more rough it was better for me. And that's why I wanted to go there to learn how catch wild cattle. And I wasn't sorry; I learn so much. I learn about the cattle, I learn about men. I learn about roping, I learn how to fix rope, how to tie cattle, how to use different knots and all that. And that was the goal.

When I came to Kualoa Ranch, aw, man, I was way ahead of the game already, I was way ahead of—that's why I'm so thankful, I've learned so much from that two places, and that's what make my years long over here. That's what make—because I've learned already. It was easy me to fall in place, and to go—if nobody was there, that's ok. I can do it. I try my best. So that's the beauty part about working and doing it, eh? Not standing there watching, just do it. And watch what's that the old folks is making, eh? Because if you go to them, "what that?" ho, they slap your head, boy. That's how the old folks is, you just got to watch—just like how they say, when you watch the hula watch the hands. Hey, you watch the man.

Really, that's how I learn, I comprehend a lot. Even for the ranch. The ranch send me all over, you know? I comprehend a lot. And [if] I can see it I can comprehend better, because I don't know how to read, I don't know how to write, but I comprehend a lot of things. And that's how I learned. That's how I learned; and roping cattle, training horse, I just went in there to learn, you know. Yeah. That's how. And I think, I think when I came that part, when I came over here, I became teachable. I was able to learn. Before, "aw-w-w," you know? But I came over here, I came teachable. I can learn how be teachable, and learn how to accept.

And that's the beautiful part about that in my life, that when I learn Jesus going help me, and he did bless me, he did help me to just accept. And you got to learn. And that's the thing that I learned part of my life, is that. And today I try pass it on to my son, to whoever like learn, cause a lot of people they say, if you teach them they're going to take your job, but I don't believe that. I believe that if somebody taught me then I can teach somebody else. And if they better than me that's ok. I've learned from my daddy, say, "boy, don't think you can do everything, don't—there's always a better man than you." And that's true. That's true, there's always—if I see somebody do something better, then I can \_\_\_\_\_, "thank you," shake hands, I learn, *brah*. I learn from that.

AL: Do you remember how old you were when you knew that you wanted to work with horses?

AA: Aw, when I was—I was young already. We had our own horses. I never did use a saddle until maybe about twelve, thirteen years old. I always ride bareback. I go all over with the cowboys, I follow them, I go—I stay with them, with the cowboys, they let me come, eh? The Parker Ranch—not supposed to, but I see them go, I follow, I go with them. Aw I think maybe, we were put in the saddle when we were young, like my grandchildren, they're two years old they're on the horse already. Not \_\_\_\_\_, but we carry them. And I believe I was from that part, I think, from that part.

Because when I was maybe about ten, eleven years old, I was hunting myself already. I try to get the pig on the horse myself, or one way or another I get it home. I'd drag it all the way home, I'd—you know? I'd bring um home, my dad, "yeah, he-e-y! We get something!" Drop it over there. My sister used to take care all that. My sister, she'd skin the pig, she'd chop it up, she salt it, smoke it. Sometimes we help, but I wasn't for that. I just like go hunt.

But yeah, I was young that time, I started from young. From my parents, yeah, my parents, my grandparents, they all were horsemen. And I think I just found that, just found my place. I wasn't looking at my papa, or my uncle. And one thing about me, now I look back: I never looked that I like be like my uncle, and as I grew older, now I understand, I wanted to be myself. You know? And I cannot look at anybody this, and because that, but it's myself. Some things I learned from some people. And I can acknowledge that, I can thank them, and I tell people I've learned from them, yeah. But mostly it's myself. That's right. But I know God was watching me all the time. And he was teaching me all the time. When I look back now in my life, he took care of me.

AL: You said that your family had horses when you were growing up?

AA: Yeah, we had a couple of horses. At the house, we just let them go, and when we like it we just go catch it and then we ride it. And then my uncles, they lent me a horse, they put me on a horse too, I ride with them. But not until I went to the breaking pen—I don't know, throughout my youth I think thousands of horses I rode. Maybe. Maybe not thousands; maybe thousand horses, maybe. Because Parker Ranch I rode a lot of horses, Shipman Ranch I rode a lot of horses. I came over here, I ride a lot of horse. When I came over here, they had a lot of horse they wasn't using them. All in the swamp they let them go. I'd catch them.

AL: At Kualoa.

AA: Yeah. I go catch them, I ride them, I train them. And my nephew them come I'd give him one horse, or the whole string of horses, nobody want to ride them, they all scared! I train them. I ride them. Then I had a full string of horses. So weekends, or sometimes the holiday, I go on top the horse, we ride from here to Hauula. Take one \_\_\_\_\_ horse, I take my family, we go—my children was young that time.

Or we go saddle up, we go Kaneohe. Go Kaneohe—my father had cancer at that time. I tell the boys, "eh, we go Kaneohe!" "Oh, ok!" I go—was not that much traffic, we stay on the side of that road. And then they went fix that kind Kahekili Road, eh? Aw, that was good too, we go that road. I go to my sister's house, she stay way up Namoku Street. By the convalescent hospital. In Kaneohe. But anyway, he used to live over there. I'd go in the yard, I'd call, "Papa!" Ho, he'd come outside, I wave to him. I'd just like make him happy, because \_\_\_\_\_  
I'd tell him, "oh, Papa, I just come visit you." And then, "we going now. Glad to see you." I'd come home with the boys. That was good, that was good. I'd just—you know—to see that he was happy, where I never did that kind stuff for him. And that was good.

We did a lot of stuff, like I say, we had horses over here. I train them, I ride them. Some was worked already, I just get on them, tune them up little bit. And the guy Hederman, he'd say, "what you doing with the horse?" It's alright. Yeah. But might as well make use; the horses stay on the land. And pretty soon the families was coming, they had horses. They ride them. When they left \_\_\_\_\_ when they come they can ride them. So everything was make use of. Every piece of land was make use of. So that's what I did. Yeah, so every place I went \_\_\_\_\_.

But I break my heart when I left. I have to leave them behind, eh? You know, I cry—when I left Parker Ranch, when I got fired. I had two racehorses. In the first race, in the beginning of the race, the race track it opened up in 1947 I think, so they went open up and get the racetrack again. So everybody pick one horse, you know, for horse, whatever horse. So everybody pick, so they brought the rest, "ok, Rough Rider's chance now for go pick."

So once the horses went run I see this horse. He look ugly because his mane was all tangle up everything, but, ho, to me he get good confirmation, everything. So I tell some of the guys, "please"—we're going to pull numbers, see—"see that horse over there? Leave him for me, I like that horse." So they don't pick it, you know, that's for me. Cause we're all friends. But if they like him that's up to them. So I picked those horses. Put them in the pen. Ho, and I clean them up. They look beautiful! One palomino and one sorrel horse, aw, look so nice!

So then they came, I don't know how long after that, maybe not even a year I think. The boss said, "well, we're going to get race horse, going start a race horse again." Ho, everybody look and, "race horse? we going race?" So I train these two horse, I was riding them. Ho, they could move, you know! So I train them. People tell me, "what horse you going use?" I didn't say anything but, "aw, no I don't know yet," but I knew I was going use these two ones. So I train them, I go in the backyard, nobody stay in the pasture, ride them, I try train them, make them run. Then we take them down the track, we get the 7/8 track, almost one mile, you know, going around. Go the track—ho, beautiful! And the day come when we race. Those horses came inside 23—21, 23 and 22 seconds quarter mile. And that's fast! That's fast. That's two horses.

So when I got fired, ho, I look at that two horses—broke my heart. I had a lot of horses, too, they were beautiful horses. But I lost my job, you know? I cried for the horses. Then, I wanted my brother to get them. I wanted my brother to get all these horses. Go see the boss. By the time he had chance, the foreman went pick all my horses and keep them. The foreman from the ranch, took all my horses. More, I felt more sick, too, because he get my horse, you know, what happened. But that's ok. But I left those two horse behind. I left a lot of good horse behind. But I left—those horses broke my heart. Was Billy and Lightning. Billy-Boy and Lightning. Yeah, they were good.

Then I went Shipman Ranch, same thing. When I quit over there, man, I left the horses behind. I keep on walking, boy. But I got over it until I came over here. Come over here I got some nice horses now. But that was the best, heh? Just let it go, and you keep going. There's something better coming for me.

And He did, something better. Yeah \_\_\_\_\_. Was wonderful. I went around the world. I went Parker Ranch, I went Shipman, I came down here—I work construction, then I came over here. If I was still over there, I didn't get fired, I [would be] still in the same corner, drinking beer and going for broke and, you know, with the same gang. But I'm thankful. I went ri-i-i-ght around, and I end up talking to you now. Ha? (Laughs) That's right! Good. And I hope I can stay around little while more. For be with these boys over here and try help them. Not only them—for everybody. For the ranch itself. Help to, kind of, keep the boys in ... morality, keep them ... that's what I want to do.

AL: Well, before we finish up, I just want to ask you if there's anything more that you wanted to share.

AA: No ... I don't know if I shared enough, but ... that's the story of my life. That's the story of my life. I'm happy that ... at least you came, you asked; and why not—why not share what I've learned, you know? Plenty people tell me, you should write one book, and guys. But aw, I no more time for that. No more time for that, no more time for that\_\_\_\_\_. I'm thankful—thank you for coming, thank you for interview me. I'd like for people to understand the culture that we have, and I'm not boasting for myself but for the culture. For the people to see that what we went through is not dead. We put it on paper, we put it on tape, it's still alive. Like we still have some pictures, we have the shipping cattle, and all that. When I see that it brings me back—I know that, I've been there.

AL: Did you ever ship cattle?

AA: Almost. Almost I got there—it's the only thing I never did do. My dad—his friend, this guy, Taylor W. Berg. He was the manager for the Hind Ranch. And I ask him, I said, "Papa, could you go ask that man, I want to go over there and work so I can go ship cattle." He never answered me. He never answered me, so I never forced the issue. Maybe he knew what was—maybe not good or something. But it's ok. That's the only thing I never do. But I swim horses.

AL: You swam horses?

AA: I swim horses over here. I take them way outside and we swim, and I let them go, I hang on the tail coming in. You know, ride them out, hang on the tail coming in.

AL: Why do you swim them?

AA: To have fun! We go play water polo—anyone helping come get on the horse to the beach. We put long rope on them, you know. Because if they go touch their feet on the sand they going run over here. So that's what we did—we had a lot of games on the horse. And sometime the cattle, they run away from us, they go outside—we have to go get them outside! And people see, they have the surfboard, they go help us go bring the cattle inside. 'Cause they swim out, they get wild, eh? They run away. They swim inside, they bring them. Sometime we unload them off the trailer down the road, they fall off—they don't jump, they fall off. They go underneath the truck and they go out the other way and they go in the ocean. And some you can go with the horse, but the horse sore with plenty rocks, eh? But people see, they get on their surfboards, turn the cattle back for us.

AL: On the surfboard ...

AA: **On** the surfboard. And we on the horse. Yeah. Everybody, the neighbors, everybody so beautiful. We all knew each other. Time is changed now. But that's ok.

AL: Well, yesterday—just to finish up—yesterday after we turned off the tape you said something about how if there was no cow there would be no Hawaii.

AA: Yeah, we talked about that, yeah.

AL: I thought it was real interesting and I wish you would share that again for the tape.

AA: Well, ok, what I said was, I kind of read the stories little bit about Vancouver, you know who, the captain, they brought the cattle, they brought the horses. And then Kamehameha he put a *kapu* on them and then had 10,000 head running around, see? So what they had was sandalwood, and I think that's all they had to—for people come to buy the wood they was selling. And then he put a *kapu* on for how many years for the cattle, and then when the vaqueros came, they taught them how to take care the cattle, and make the meat, salt the meat, smoke the meat. All this stuff, and they was selling them. So they get \_\_\_\_\_, eh?

And if it wasn't for this cattle, there no more industry. And from that we started—these people they start marrying into the Parkers, then had Parker Ranch, then had Kahua Ranch, then had Shipman Ranch, and that's what came the industry. If they didn't have that, what, this island would have gone. And the cattle are still going on yet. But if that die, it dies, everything is die.

And we're going try the best, I'll try my best to see my children and everybody that they can ride so they get little bit experience. Because I go all over the mainland, they all using motorcycle now. They using airplane. They using all these kind—aw, I'm sorry for the animal! Why chase it? Just chase it with airplane! But that's the way it's going. You know, they chase the horses, they do that, but... .

There's nobody going be after this. After us. Maybe the next generation one more down, I think, that's all. It's gone already. But like this—you take this, you write, you keep something in the museum—people they can see, they can see Hawaii. Because I think people went far gone, they left the cowboys behind.

And I told them in the nomination, I tell them I'm not worthy to be nominated. The people before us. You folks came too late. The people in the back, I give them all the credit because the hard work that

they do that us could learn. And they did it. They did it the hard way, but they made it. They made it. They did the best they know how. But they made it. But they modify a lot of things that came down easier for us. They modify—but now they get so technology, and the beef has so much chemical in there, by the time you send it out, the human get sick. You know—too much. But that's the way life go. You want flowers, they put on the light, day and night, it bloom. The cattle is the same thing. They doing—they give hormone, give it everything else make gain the weight. Maybe tender, but it's ... sick (laughs). But that's ok. Life goes on. Yeah? Life goes on.

Yeah, I'm happy. I thank you. I thank you for come and write. Anybody ask me, I say something. Even another lady, she's still waiting for me, she went interview Mr. Morgan before he died. And she always ask me, but I never did go to her house yet. She tell me, eh, no forget one time! Ok. I'll wait. But anyway, that's the story of my life, because—I'm not sorry, I just love what I did. That's it. Because I benefit—I benefit from all of my work, all the hard work, I benefit. Today I can look back and I can be thankful for my children. They doing something from them self, eh? I get one supervisor. My Kanani she went to the mainland to go take training—she's a horse trainer, uh, people-trainer. She teach people how to train horse. My grandson, my son, he does everything. Everything he get, he take license for this, take license for this, and....

I raise a lot of children, too. Foster children. Foster children. And they did well, and they're doing well. They're doing well. Get one, the oldest one that I had, he and I—I saw him outside the fence, he's always walking there \_\_\_\_\_ tell him come \_\_\_\_\_, finally I keep him. He and I used to run this ranch. And Sunday he came to church, **hoo!** he bless me, boy. He and I, we didn't know how to read and write, but we took care everything. He came to church and I saw him come with his two grandchildren, you know. **Hoo,** boy! And he get two sons, that's my grandchildren. Six fosters, boy. But I take them as my own.

But every time when they come with me I got to be careful. If somebody talks something, "Papa, you think we should take care of this problem?" "Stop it! Stop it! No! Don't do anything—don't do something foolish around here." All of them! All of them they do that. I tell, "don't. You don't have to do that. Let somebody else do it for you. For us," you know. But that's the way I learn a lot from them, too, these boys. I tell you, I never was ashamed to take them any place. Because they work hard. They work hard, they play hard. I have to tell them to lose sometimes. They play so hard, they got to lose. I tell them they got to lose sometimes. I take them out to the horse show, I teach them how to ride the wild bull. I open up the \_\_\_\_\_, cut one fence, I just drive the cows out—**boom boom!** down, drive it out—**boom boom!** down. Hey, we go down there, they come down, the trophies more big than them. Wonderful. I'm not sorry. Once in a while they come home. "Eh, Uncle. You remember what you did to me?" But I remember. But you know, sometime, I learn more than you. I learn. What I did. But if you want to say I'm sorry—I can't tell you I'm sorry, but I've learned too. And what you learn? Yeah, I learn. So. Works both ways. So, it's good. Yeah.

Long time I never sit down talk story. (Laughter). But anyway, that's good. I'm glad you're doing this. I'm glad you're doing this, because it's a dying art. It's a dying art because somebody know where we came from! Thank you very much.

AL: I want to thank you for sitting down and talking with me.

AA: Thank you. Eh! That's ok! God bless you! Yeah.