

Carl "Soot" Bredhoff, Kahuku Ranch, Hawaii Kaupo Ranch, Maui



"Soot" Bredhoff expected his degree in animal science at Colorado State University would help him get his first job at a ranch. So he was surprised when at his job interview at Kualoa Ranch, Franny Morgan didn't even ask for his credentials - only to see him ride a horse.

Evidently he passed the test, because he went on to work for Kualoa the next two years. He was lucky to have fellow Hall of Famers Abraham Akau and Ed Hedemann as his "professors" during his time in "Ranching 101", as he calls it.

"Soot" is proudest of his contributions to Kaupo and Kahuku Ranches, where he had the chance to help improve bloodlines, horse herds, housing and worker relations.

But he also has his skills as a cattleman to thank for one of his best catches - his wife Judith. She was working as a schoolteacher in Ka`u, where she lived in a little cottage on the edge of a spring that rose and fell with the tides. A herd of cattle crossed the spring to investigate her yard late one night, and then got stranded there when the tide came in. She awoke to see their huge, curious heads looking in at her. When she tried to shoo them away, they paid no attention - and they blocked her way to her front gate. Finally she called the ranch and insisted a cowboy be sent to retrieve the animals. Soot was the "knight" who came to her rescue. "He didn't have a white horse, but he had a light-colored jeep," she says.

Oral History Interview

with Carl "Soot" Bredhoff (B)

by Anna Ilima Loomis (I)

April 28, 2003; Wailea, Maui

I: Maybe you can start with your date and place of birth?

B: September 25, 1934, in Honolulu. We grew up in Manoa Valley, up behind Mid Pacific Institute, and gosh, our road wasn't even paved in those days. It was a gravel road. I mean we were just a regular old middle income family, and across the street and behind that row of houses was Fujisue Dairy, and actually the whole Manoa Valley in those days was -- there was a lot of agriculture out there. There was hog farms, the University of Hawaii even had its farm up there. I remember the guys plowing the fields with mules. And there was taro

farms and I think the rice farms had all gone -- that went into Manoa housing during the war -- but you know you could still ride a horse, right up behind the University of Hawaii, we used to ride horses up around there when somebody had a horse.

I: What did your father and mother do?

B: Well my dad came over from Oakland California in 1912, and his dad had asked him to come over, so he and his sister and mother came over later. They had the American Theater down in Honolulu, I remember going there once. He sold it to a friend and then it showed Chinese movies. I remember going there and seeing the Chinese movie. They also had a film exchange on Beretania Street, and the theater and the film exchange was bought out by Consolidated Amusement Company, so he went to work on Fort Street for the film exchange, that's where all the films came in and out, or were repaired for the Consolidated Theaters, and upstairs was the art department and that was the famous guy from Tahiti -- Leeteg -- who was a famous artist. Somewhere, sometimes you'll see his paintings in like a Trader Vic's type of place, and he used to paint on black velvet, pictures of people faces, wahines, and men and that type of thing. So that was basically it. My mom was born in Honolulu, and her dad was the fire chief of Honolulu, and the story goes that's how my dad met my mom, because the fire station is still there on the corner of Beretania and Fort, and so he'd be walking by there between the film exchange and his little film supply place he'd pass there and I guess he got to know my mom there. My mom's dad was fire chief of Honolulu for 27 years.

I: What was his name?

B: Charles Thurston. Not the missionary Thurston, no. He came from Nova Scotia. So the story goes, he survived a couple shipwrecks and ended up in Honolulu and then joined the fire department and then he became the fire chief. His wife was a Victor from Hilo, Victor family. But they were only the Victors today because somehow they changed their name. My great-great-great grandfather's name was Victor Kamukai, and they told him to change it to Kamukai Victor. So there is a Victor family in Hilo which I don't know, and I do have a little history of that family in a little article written by Peggy Kai about some of the Chinese who came to Hawaii. So that would be my great-great-great-grandfather came from China to show the people in Hilo how to make sugar cane. Then he married a Hawaiian, and then they had Victor Kamukai who changed his name to Victor. And then that grandfather had 11 or 12 children, and so my grandmother was sent to Honolulu, and she was adopted by the Meek family, and I don't know any of them, although I've been to the Oahu cemetery and I see the Meeks and the Thurstons right next to each other so I guess they were buddies or friends. So that was it. My mom grew up in Honolulu and my dad came from Oakland.

I: So then in all what ethnic backgrounds do you have?

B: German, English, Hawaiian and there's some Chinese in there. German from my dad and English, Chinese and Hawaiian from my mom.

I: Before we get into more of the ranch work, can you give me an idea of how you got interested in agriculture and ranching?

B: I guess I was always interested in animals and the outdoors, I wasn't one for indoors, and so I just always liked animals and all the time we used to spend around the dairy and the horses and that type of thing got me into pursuing the career but I started off going out to Fort Collins, Colorado to Colorado State, just taking general ag, and thinking of getting into sugar. But I'm glad I didn't get into sugar. My grades weren't that good. And the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association only had limited interest in me. (laughter). They would kind of guide you along, tell you what courses to take and this and that. So they did show mild interest and me and they said, you know, if you're interested in ranching, a lot of the plantations have ranches. So I switched to animal science my sophomore year. That was in 1953. So then I graduated with animal science. But I guess that's how I got started.

I: What did your family think of your career choice?

B: Oh, they were supportive. I guess my mom wanted to see me be around Honolulu but that kind of life wasn't for me at all. I was lucky. My summers weren't usually spent on ranches on the island. They were around but I didn't know anybody, and we didn't own a ranch. So living in Honolulu, my days were spent in the pineapple canneries. But that was fun, because all the kids from the schools would be there. And oh we just had a ball. Because there'd be the other guys you played football against or ran track against, they were from the other schools. So we had fun working there. Then in college, lucky Jimmy Greenwell Sr. gave me a job at Hawaii Meat Company, so then I worked there. For my summer job.

I: What did you learn there?

B: Well, you learn the anatomy of a cow (laughter). I know the guys used to kid me, "Eh, how come? You go to college and you stay in here!" Pulling hides and cleaning the sewers and, you know, working with the blood and the guts and everything but it was a great crew, great people. A lot of them were ranch people. David Kaluhiokalani is in the Hall of Fame, and he was a foreman on the kill floor. And then there were a bunch of guys from Parker Ranch and other places. Well, granted, those days it was antiquated compared to today, a modern kill floor. But still, the basics are the same. That was in my college years of maybe 1956, 1957, and for about three months before I went into basic training at Scofield.

I: Can you give me a picture of what it was like on the kill floor?

B: Oh, you know it was a cement building. Again, in those days, the regs weren't as strict as they are today. And the cattle would come in and get knocked on the head with a sledge hammer. And down they'd go in this chute. And then they would roll out onto the kill floor. And then somebody would be there to shackle the back legs with a chain and a hook. And then they would be hoisted up, and there was a roller, and that would go onto a rail. And then somebody would bleed it. We'd also have to take blood. Every animal was blood tested so

in case there was any disease we would know where the animal came from. Every animal's brand had to be read, and there was a guy on the kill floor with a little desk in the midst of all this going on, with his book and his vials of blood from every animal, keeping track whether it was a bull, a cow, a heifer, a steer, and he'd put the brand down, and the age, and it was very important to read the brands. I had to do that sometimes, fill in for the guy, and oh it was hard to read some of the brands if you're not familiar with them. Because some of them are smeared, and Parker Ranch had a whole different bunch of brands.

I: Was it a big room?

B: It was about -- usually, they had what they called beds. And we usually had two beds going. This is where the animal would be laid down on its back. It had been bled, and it was let down from the hoist on this bed, which consisted of aluminum bars. It would be put on its back and a couple of guys there would start skinning. They'd skin part of it and it would be hoisted up again and go further on and be skinned some more, and then when it got around to a certain place the hide would be taken off and taken to the hide room, and then someone would be there to take out the opu and all that and that would go into a huge wheelbarrow, aluminum type, and it would be wheeled into the tripe room, and there were guys there cleaning all the tripe and all that. And then it would come to another guy, and they'd poke the sour joint, to let the sanovial fluid out of the joint so it wouldn't get rancid in there. And then it would come to me and I'd cut the chine bone and then put a shroud on it. They don't shroud anymore, but it was basically a big, wet, warm cloth -- it might have had some saline solution on it -- but you had pins, and you pulled it tight around the animal and put the pins in. They don't do it anymore, because I think it was only for aesthetics -- it made the fat all nice and smooth. And then from there I'd stamp it with a number and it would go to the scale, then I'd push it into the chill box.

It wasn't really noisy in there, but there would be the clanging and the banging and stuff, the knives going back in the scabbards -- just stuff like that. There's always somebody sharpening a knife.

You asked if all the cattle were dead -- well, sometimes they'd roll out and every once in a blue moon, they wouldn't be dead (laughing) and these things get up and start running around the kill floor (laughing)! So luckily they didn't have OSHA in those days. Anyway, they eventually made a little fence, two big three-inch aluminum pipes so you could get in and out very easily, but in case it did stand up it was contained in that one place. But sometimes they were just groggy and they would get up.

I: What did it smell like in that place?

B: It didn't smell bad. It was always constantly hosed down. What smelled was on Saturdays, our job would be to go to the hide room where the hides would be spread out flat on these wooden bins, and then there'd be a layer of salt, and a hide, and a layer of salt, and a hide. Well, after they sat there for a period of time they would kind of smell. It was always a joke, well you better not have a date tonight because your hands would be smelly. Then we'd have to pull it out of the salt and the moisture from the hide, what leeches out. And then you would have to pull that out and fold it up and then tie it with what they call the bale rope. And it would be weighed. I don't really know where it went, I thought maybe it was going to Japan. And everything was kept.

The horns were cut off, the hooves. Brewer Chemicals, and Pacific Chemical and Fertilizer Company would use those. I don't know if they took the blood too. Everything would go down the drain but I don't know if they'd use that for blood meal. I know sometimes the Filipinos would come with their old milk cans and get blood to make blood sausage or something. But it was very interesting. The boys were good. It was fun at lunchtime. I was usually the last one off the kill floor because I was at the tail end of the assembly line. But then we'd have fun talking story, and you'd pick up a Hawaiian word, or this and that from them.

I: How many guys did they have working down there?

B: I guess the room would have been thirty, forty, fifty feet across -- no maybe sixty feet across. And then they had these other guys doing the hides, the guys in the opu room. And they also had somebody in another building cutting all the meat into the cuts to be sold. And then of course somebody else was packaging and sales and the whole office. It was a big crew, all doing different things. Some guys were outside loading trucks.

I: What did they pay you?

B: You know, I really don't remember. It wasn't a heck of a lot.

I: Now, tell me about your first actual ranch job. I believe it was Kualoa?

B: Well, after I was finished with my basic training at Scofield, I started to look for a job and I went to C. Brewer, and Jimmy Greenwell, bless his heart, had offered me a job, but it would have been more with the meat company, and I was looking for something outside. Not knowing anybody, I went to C. Brewer. I applied once before, and I think they didn't have anything. So again they didn't have anything. Jimmy Armitage said why don't you talk to my brother-in-law, Franny Morgan. So the next day I went down to Franny Morgan's office, and I said gosh, what do I need? Do I need all my resume, or my grades, and all this kind of stuff. Oh dear, I was kind of nervous. But we talked, just talked about what did I want to do and this and that. He said, "Do you know how to ride a horse?" I said, "Yes." He said, "Okay, come down on Saturday." (laughter). So that was "whew!" That was the test. So I did go down, and Saturdays they did the cowboy work, because he was there. So I went down and went around with him that day. We moved some cattle I guess. And oh I guess the next week he called me up and asked if I wanted the job. So I said sure. So I moved down.

I: What job did you start at?

B: Well, you were just a general ranch hand. There were so many things to do, and being the man that he was, so full of ideas and always thinking about new and different things -- he had a feedlot there. So beside the regular fencing and the cattle work, there was farming to do. And he raised alfalfa, he raised sorghum and corn. In fact, where the park is today, that park was just a big pasture, and then he had a feedlot there too, up

behind the houses and a little bit toward the Kaaawa side, there was a feedlot. And we had to go down to Kahuku plantation with the truck with the big tank in the back, and pick up molasses, bring the molassas home, and that was mixed to be part of the feed. Then we made corn silage. We cut the corn before it was mature, and then we put it up in little silos, and we feed that. And we also had areas where we cut grass. So Earnest Koreyasu, that was one of his main jobs, taking care of that end of it. Cutting, chopping and feeding. And this big wagon would go around, he'd put his molassas in, whatever supplements went into this, and the silage. They even tried making pineapple silage -- and all that would go into this big wagon, and he'd drive it along and feed the animals.

I: Now what date did you come to Kualoa? And how long did you stay?

B: 1958 to 60. Just a couple years.

I: How come you moved on after that?

B: Well, here comes Jimmy Armitage along again, God bless him. And he was the one who worked for C. Brewer, and I guess they were looking for somebody at Kaalualu Ranch. So he asked me would you like to work for Kaalualu Ranch. So I said, "Where the hell is that?" (laughter). My cousin was there and he said, "Oh you know, from Hilo you drive to the volcano and you go down there and it's out in Ka'u. I left, but I left a great crew. Eddie Hedeman was foreman and manager. Abraham Akau, and Earnest Koreyasu and two great Filipino guys that I worked with, Pedro and Florencio. They were just characters and we had more fun, laughing and joking. I left them and went in 1960 to Kaalualu.

I: Can you describe what that area's like?

B: That was close to South Point. Actually the company that I went to work for was Hawaiian Ranch Company. It was a C. Brewer company, and at that time they had Kaalualu, Kapapala and Keauhou, up in the volcano. It was more or less each place had its own gang. Keauhou had one man living there and Kapapala, that gang took care of that because it was small, I think we just ran 750 cows or something. And so Kaalualu was on fee land and lease land. Hawaiian Homes land, state land and Brewer land. And it more or less went from South Point over to Punaluu, the black sand beach at Punaluu. And then Kapapala was from Punaluu all the way up to the volcano. And then there was a strip in between that was National Park. You can see it today, it's all trees -- you can see the definite division between the pasture and the trees. And then up in the back there was Keauhou Ranch.

I: So tell me a little about the land you were on.

B: It was a drier area, but strong. Strong country. Good for cattle, good for horses. It was more of a gentle slope down off Mauna Loa. It didn't go too high. But it was mostly makai land. Rocky, rocky land. There wasn't much panini. Evidently, they had brought in a parasite. For some reason, the people on Hawaii wanted to get rid of the panini, where you can see on Maui they didn't, for whatever reason. So there wasn't too much panini, but a lot of kiawe, a lot of lantana. The grasses were mostly low grasses. And then we had a feedlot over at Punaluu, and we fed cattle.

I: I was going to ask about the climate. What was that like?

B: It was typical Hawaii in those days. These days it seems all screwed up with ninos and ninas and one thing or another. We did have droughts. It's a drier portion of the island. But it was usually winter weather from October, November to May or April. I remember feeding -- we fed molassas because it was Hutchinson Sugar Plantation was there. Let's go back to vertical integration -- C. Brewer had the ranch. They had Miko Meat Company, and they had the slaughterhouse in Hilo. So from the ranches, the beef went to the slaughterhouse, and then to Miko, where it was sold. And then we also got molassas from the plantations. They'd take it in the big trucks to the pastures. Not so much at Kapapala, except for some of the lands around Pahala -- you couldn't get a truck up in Kapapala. But all around Kaalualu we had these huge big old boilers -- they had been cut and made into troughs, in fact we had water troughs made out of those. I remember feeding soybean meal -- I mixed it with bagasse one year and I remember the nutritionist saying the cows probably spent more energy trying to digest the bagasse (laughs) but they all lived so I guess it's all right (laughs). But the boss was away so I just did what I thought I'd do (laughter). We'd been working with the University of Hawaii on things like that and some supplementation.

It was rocky. Guys were always getting hurt. It was a rough place to work. The cattle weren't all quite as tame as they are today. We had some very very tame cattle, like the ROP herd, it was out on the kikuyu lands. It was the Record Of Production herd. It started at Kapapala at Ohaikea, then moved to Kaalualu, down in the Pakini area, just as you start down South Point. We kept track of every single cow, maybe there were 20 or 30 cows in one group. We had a single sire go in there with those cows at breeding time, so we had to make sure this bull stayed in his pasture and wouldn't go running off and jump the fence and head in the next pasture. So it was single sire group. And it worked, most of the time. Basically therefore, you knew who the mama was of that calf, who the sire was of that calf, and then, Leighton Beck would tatoo the calf and put an ear tag in it.

I: How did he tatoo the calf?

B: Oh, he had a little tatoo machine with him he carried around on his belt. He'd give the calf a number. I can't completely remember now if we had a year brand or just 001, 002. He'd have his notebook. But then, those days the cows had a big necklace around their neck, a little chain and a big tag with a number on it. So he knew that calf one came from cow number one, and the bull was number 171, something like that. I kept a big book on all this, and in the end the University of Hawaii finally got it down on computers. Then we could make a graph -- we'd grade these calves, at weaning and at 20 months of age. We'd get a bunch of bull calves in, and the bull with the highest grade -- this is a visual grade, you'd give them a number from one to 10, so this was a 10 -- with the heaviest rate of gain, so that shows that mom and dad produces a big calf that would

grow. So he goes up on this chart. So the other guy, 002, maybe had a grade of five, and maybe he didn't gain as much, so now you're measuring the mamas ability at weaning, to produce milk, to raise this calf. Then we'd take them to 20 months. Now this calf has been out on its own. They were all kept in the same environment, once we weaned them, they were all eating the same food, same weather, same everything. So that would measure how the animal did on his own. So therefore you could draw a line on your graph and say, the best ones would be here on the righthand corner and the poor ones would be down in the left hand corner and you'd get rid of those.

I: How many acres was the Kaalualu section?

B: Oh gee. Total I think was 114,000 acres for all three. And Kapapala would have been the most, that would have been maybe half, and of that, two-thirds would be Kaalualu and the rest would be Keauhou.

I: How many cattle did they run in your section at that time?

B: I think total cows were about 7,000. So split that basically between the ranches, I think Kapapala had a little bit more.

I: How many guys were working there?

B: Each section had its own crew. We had maybe about five cowboys. And then maybe three fence men, and then a couple of the guys that would be swing man, they'd go either poisoning or help with the fencing. Of course when the branding everybody would go. And then Kapapala was maybe the same. And then you always had a water boy, and he'd go around in his jeep and check the water and check the troughs.

I: What was your job?

B: I was just a foreman. I started off as a foreman at Kaalualu. I had the ROP herd, and Johnny Peiper was in charge of the cattle for Kaalualu, and I had everything else -- the water and the fencing and the spraying, all that. Very interesting. And I kept the records for the ROP herd.

I: Did you work with any real old-timers out there?

B: Yeah, yeah. I guess they're old timers today, at that time they weren't old timers but -- John Peiper, too bad he's gone. But he was born and raised in Waimea, and his dad was the wagon master for Parker Ranch. So he would tell these stories about how he'd have to hold all these reins, because there'd be maybe six horses

driving. Even if it's four that's a lot of leather to put in your hands. And he learned to drive from his dad. And he said some of the guys who were just learning, sometimes they'd go around the curve and maybe they'd cut it too sharp and the wagon would go off the road (laughs). I guess he just grew up in that environment and became a cowboy. I had to give the eulogy in Waiohinu for his funeral, and I tried to get some information, and Yutaka Kimura, another old-timer gave me some stuff, said, "Yeah, he was known as one of the rough guys." And he married a Lindsey, and I guess he was up in Waikii. And then for some reason he ended up at Hawaiian Ranch, at Kaalualu. There was Johnny, and then Leighton Beck, Tommy Kaniho, Aola Ke, Hanoa Paaluhi. That was all the cowboy gang. And Hanalei Makuakane. I forget who else was on the fence gang. Well, we had Paul Nuuanu and then we had summer hires. Then we had Caldo and Glorio Balthazar were like our sabidong, our poison gang. And Koichi Sato, he kind of did both. Grand old man. All great guys. I can still picture -- you talk about the old timers -- going to work one dark morning, it must have been a winter morning. They were always talking in Hawaiian. Walking over to the saddle house and they were all leaning on the hitching rack. And you could see all the cigarettes glowing, you know, and here they are, all talking in Hawaiian. I still picture that. It kind of gives me goose bumps. It was dark, and you could barely see who was there. But their cigarettes were burning, and listening to all the Hawaiian. But those were the guys, and up at Kapapala there was a Johnny Bob Pastano, Frank Ke, Aula's son, David Kanakaole, George Vierra, Tom Ito, and those were some of the good old timers. Edmund Pacheco took care of the Keauhou section. All good ropers. All good cowboys.

I: Tell me about what kind of range you were working with. Was this a large pasture that you had to go out and find the cattle on?

B: Kaalualu was pretty well divided up, and the fences were pretty good. Not too much of a problem there. Like I say, it was rough country, and sometimes you had to run around as fast as you can over these rocks. And one of the other jobs of mine was to be the safety chairman. That didn't help, because we were always off the graph! C. Brewer was very safety conscious. So it seemed like at Kapapala, where you were so spread out that it was hard to get cattle because it was overgrown, and a lot of guava, lot of silver oak, and *rough*, rough lava country. A whole more or less different kind of country. Newer lava flows, and holes, and when you come down the mountain, you always tried to stay in line and come down -- on the map there was this pasture, and you all line up at the top and work your way down. Well, sometimes you get stuck and you couldn't go. But you tried your best to always stay in line. And sometimes everybody would yell. Not so much yelling at the cattle -- you usually make some noise to get the cattle down, some cowboys make more noise than others, and some ranches make more noise than others -- but there it was just sort of like you hear the other guy yell so you knew where he was and you can kind of keep in line. If you can see somebody on a ridge that would help. When he stopped, you stopped. But you just kind of make noise and yell to know where the other guy was.

A lot of the fences up there were down, and I guess the lease up there was going to be up, so "Oh, well." And it was rough country. It was hard to fix a fence up there. You know you're supposed to keep a cattle inventory. Well, Yamaoka No. 1 up mauka is supposed to have so many cattle, but some of them are in the Yamaoka 2, or Kauhiuhi, or just another paddock. It was tough. It was tough up there. And then naturally, the wilder the land, the less obedient the cattle. If they can see you and they've been chased so often. It was hard.

I: So how did Kaalualu compare to that?

B: It was much better. It was easier. Except then we'd also have cattle in the cane. The plantation would call -- you've got cattle in the cane, eating up all the cane! So we'd have to go with the dogs and go ride around in the cane field and try to get the cattle out. But sometimes they harvest at night and the harvesting guys would leave the gate open. Well, the cattle were hungry so naturally they're going to go in the cane field.

I: You were talking about the brandings. Tell me what the brandings were like.

B: Those days, everything was rope and drag. Even at Kaalualu we often didn't get the calves when they were small. Usually we would put all the calves in a small pen and go in and try and kihele, make your loop, and they would walk through, and get your loop over the front two legs, and around the body, and then when you get it down around the back legs, you take a turn with your rope around the pommel and drag them out. But sometimes there were bigger calves that you had to put two ropes on, or you had to maybe rope them in the pen. The old timers would tell me about how -- in our day there weren't very many skin ropes used anymore -- but they'd have to use their skin ropes and once in a while they'd grab something big and the skin rope would pop and break. But all big cattle and you just had to rope them in the pen.

I: Did they do any kind of party afterwards?

B: There was always a good big lunch, usually the wives would come, and prior to the branding we'd make salt meat -- I can't even cook, I would be watching all this -- but we'd cut the meat and then put it in a big barrel, and then they'd put the meat and salt, just like the sailors. I guess it was a way of life in those days. So we'd always make the salt meat, and at branding time, pull it out of the salt, the brine, and it would end up at the corral, and pick up that, and poi. That's the main thing I remember. And usually somebody would bring something else. Finally they changed. By the time I left they didn't do that anymore. But for the most part that's the way it was. Yeah.

I: What about the other types of labor that you had to do around the ranch?

B: Well, we had clearing to do, bulldozer to clear. We'd clear and then we'd have these big rollers that after you cleared would smash -- smash the pasture, smash the rocks, smash the haole koa down. And they take the old rollers from the mill, from the sugar cane mill, and they put a bushing on each end, and then make a frame, like a drop bar, and then you'd pull that behind the pasture. And there were other ones you could buy. And we'd have to spray, we'd have the spray wagons, spray the guava. We'd have the guys go out and cut kiawe, cut eucalyptus for posts. Plant grass -- at some point we planted grass, I used to pull the seeder behind my jeep and we planted panic grass. And then in the summers, we'd hire the summer kids. I was helping coach the football team so I'd usually get the football players. Our sergeant in charge was Gorio Baltazar, Filipino guy. He'd line them all up and march them through the Christmas berries (laughs). If he didn't like one man, he was out (laughs). Old Glorio. So we'd have them do quite a bit during the summer, just poisoning Christmas berries,

that type of thing. Some times we had to put in a waterline, and those days, no more high-density polyethylene, so it was all galvanized steel pipe.

And, aw shucks, we'd always have a Christmas party there, and it was always fun. We'd usually make it the week of Christmas, we'd have a party, and all the families and all the kids. We'd go out and decorate the building. Usually it was the manager's wife or some of the other ladies, they'd get little presents for the kids and stuff like that. We'd kalua pig, have a big party with lots of beer. Guys would play music. Just good fun. Then there was the 4th of July rodeo every year. That was in the park. We'd gather the livestock. It was really neat. In the years I was at Kaalualu, I had to be in charge of it a couple years. It was fun. In those days, you had the plantation, and that kept the town together and there was all the esprit and so on, and people pitched in and we'd get together with the construction crew from the plantation, and then we'd put up the arena. The bucking chutes and the pens for the pipi were stationary. They stayed there all year round. Then we put up a fence. And along with that was a pa'u parade. And basically that was the only thing going in those years that I was there. Parker Ranch always had their own 4th of July celebration, that was a tradition there. But we invited every other ranch on the island to come. Honokaa had a rodeo club and Hilo had a rodeo club, so besides the ranches a few of these other entities would come. So we had a ranch competition. It was pretty simple. We didn't have bull riding, it was usually steers or dairy heifer or something, whatever we could find to ride, and they'd buck. And we did have broncs, although I guess over the years they would just go bucking off, and we didn't have a fence and the crowd would just stand around, they'd go bucking through the crowd and down the street of Naalehu. Yeah. But we put up a hog-wire fence. But you'd have wild cow milking -- sometimes you have two ropers, a header and a heeler, and sometimes you just have a mugger. Now how did that work? Maybe it was three. Anyway, somebody hops down and milks the cow and runs back to the barrel -- it's a timed event. Different events like that, just fun events for the ranches, and they come from all over the island. Hamakua side and Hilo side, and all the Kona ranches that aren't in existence today. It was all fun. Even the fence men could get involved with doing stuff.

Then we came down with this broom polo thing. Kahuku was big in polo because George Manoa was there, and Freddy (Rice), couple other guys -- Andrew Kauai and Chucky Wiau. We started having a little ranch competition. Kahuku had a team, cowboys, Freddy and George didn't play because they were too good for us. We had a Kaalualu team and a couple of the ranches had teams. We'd go to Waimea and play Hawaii Prep. Just for fun. First we started with brooms and a volleyball, and then we graduated to polo malets and an indoor polo ball, the one they pump up, like a big soft ball. And it was three men to a team, and we did that. And then prior to every rodeo was the pa'u parade. And people used to come out from all over, and that was the biggest thing around. People would be calling up the office, "What time is the pa'u parade?" It was really a big deal, a big thing for Ka'u in those days. And then we'd have softball games too. It was a big celebration -- make laulus, oh gosh. Oh, I forgot to mention the beer garden. That was fun. Fun and fights, and dancing, and lots of beer. Good entertainment.

I: How did you meet your wife?

B: There. Well, I kind of knew her. She was teaching at Ka'u High in Pahala. That's where I met her. And then she went off to University of Hawaii and got her master's, and then came back. I used to bump into her at the Naalehu coffee shop. So we got to talking, and then dating, and then we got married when we were there. She told you that story about how we met. She lived down at this place called Ninole, where there's this beautiful

pond. There's a spring down there, near Punaluu. Oh, that water was ice cold, it would be bubbling. And there'd been an old Hawaiian fish pond -- not the kind you see on Molokai, but you could toss net in there, and it had mullet and moi. It was a big pond, and then a smaller pond. And the tide would rise and the pond would come up and down. Then we had those fattening pens down there, where we would fatten up the cattle for Miko. And the place was leased from Arch Johnson. There were so many Scotsmen involved with the sugar industry and he had a Scots accent and he was the office manager for Hawaiian ag which was the plantation that was at Pahala. So Judy leased a little army barracks building that he had built. He bought it from a Boy Scout camp up in Waimea somewhere, and brought it down, put it up and that's where she lived.

The tide had gone down so low, the cattle crossed the pond and came into the yard, thought he mud -- Kaalualu, Hawaiian Ranch cattle, those big steers. And then I guess they bummed around and she said she remembered at night hearing all this noise outside. It was the pipi that were out there. And then in the morning she was going to go out and go to work, the cattle didn't want to cross that water, because it had come back up. She called the ranch, and I was sent down to chase the cattle away, get her out of her yard, to rescue her. She makes that story to how we met, but I think we met somewhere along the line before, but it sounds good anyway!

I: You were married what year?

B: 1967.

I: Before we move on from Kaalualu, what were your living accommodations?

B: I lived in a little plantation house right in Naalehu. They had a bunch of trainee cottages and there were four of them and I lived in one. I lived right next to the plantation garage. But I got used to hearing the trucks come in and go, and in the morning that was alright. And they would come in whenever the shift ended, three in the morning or whenever it was. Pretty soon I didn't hear it anymore. There were five little cottages there. It was nice, because I'd get to know these people and they're friends today that I've met because they were plantation people.

I: Those were C. Brewer houses?

B: Yeah. I don't know if the ranch paid the plantation anything. They might have paid them some rent.

I: The housing was provided for you?

B: Yeah. And they had the Naalehu store, and it was like the song, "The Company Store." You could go in and charge whatever you wanted. It had everything. It had the basic stuff, everything, it had sporting goods, I think I might even have some .38 pistol shells around from that -- they probably won't even fire. It had the old wooden floor, the oiled wooden floor. And then it had the fancy foods and all that section in case the plantation manager was going to have a party and he needed things. And we had a theater right there. So everything was in easy walking distance. Everything was right there. Then like I say we had a softball league. I played for the construction gang from the plantation. Then I helped Earl Crozier coach the football team, the Ka'u Trojans. There was always hunting or fishing. A lot of times we'd take a contract, 50 bucks I think it was, to handle the ranch colts. So that would take up a good Saturday or Sunday morning. But there was always time to -- party (laughs). It was a great gang! A lot of fun. And then we had other friends around. Those were fun days. Of course you know how it is, you were young.

I: Naalehu's pretty remote. What were the communications like at that time? Phone service and electric and all that stuff.

B: Those days, it was a long drive, for everybody on that island to go to Hilo. And those days, before they put the good roads in, pay day people went to Hilo. Still in the 1960s you'd go to Hilo Saturdays and everybody was in town, loading up to go back to Kukaiau Ranch, Hawaiian Ranch, you know. I got in on the tail end of it, you know, but it was very self-supporting, self-sustaining. If you go back further, you didn't travel very far. You can imagine back in the 30s, even the 40s, to get to Hilo, 65 miles from Naalehu. And I remember, you had to go through the national park -- that was 25 miles an hour, otherwise the ranger would get you, you know (laughs). The roads were narrow. There were no shoulders. You hear stories once in a while about the trucks passing and their mirrors clacking, you know! Especially if you were meeting a big sugar truck coming out to get molassas, or the cattle trucks going in.

It wasn't any hardship, but the roads, even to Kona, weren't as good as they are, a far cry from today. And coming from Hamakua to get to Hilo, winding in and out of every gulch, that type of thing.

But they had two clubhouses, a clubhouse for the working men and then they had a supervisors clubhouse. For anybody who wanted to have a party, or a wedding reception, or something like that. And the lower clubhouse is still going, people still use it. There's still parties there, and if there's somebody going to come and give a talk, or a meeting place.

I: You mentioned before about fires and things like that. What were some of the big emergencies that you had to deal with on the ranch?

B: That was more Kaupo with the fires.

I: Or whatever -- what kind of natural disasters did you most often have to deal with?

B: I guess drought. Drought would be the biggest disaster, especially in the South Point area. From Kapapala down, make sure there's enough water, feed for the cattle. Those days, we didn't bring in a lot of supplement, so you just pray for rain.

I: What would you do in drought?

B: Well, like I earlier said you'd feed some molassas but that's not enough, and hope they go scrounge around for more things they don't normally eat. We did have some supplementation in the form of bags of pellets and that type of thing, but no hay or anything like that in those days. When I got there the 1960 tidal wave had just come in, and one of my very first jobs -- we landed, Jimmy Armitage and myself landed, and we still had to divert around Hilo to get to the Brewer office, because the '60 tidal wave had just smashed everything. And one of my first jobs was going down to a place called Kamilo with the Kaalualu gang, and getting all these telephone poles that had floated in -- I guess they were either from the phone company or the electric company, and they had floated in to Kamilo. They were on the reef. And we went out and caught them, two guys, one on each end, carried them in, load them on the truck. We found everything. **Everything.** Everything you can think of -- tires, cans of oil, furniture, pencils -- everything you can think of! Chairs and tables. We spent quite a few days, mostly for the posts, and lumber, that kind of thing. It's a place where the legend has it, people would get to Puna and they would throw their leis or flowers or something in the water to let the people know that they had reached, because it would come into Kamilo. The Ka'u people knew that they had gotten to where they were going. This is where the current would bring everything in. It's sort of down from Waiohino, along the coastline. Those days there was all this bagass, because those days, they burned bagass, but there was so much it would go into the ocean. One afternoon I found 22 glass balls. It was all in the bagass. I went after work one day, just to scrounge around. Everything would come up with the bagass. Sometimes the bagass would catch on fire.

And Kapapala I remember a couple big fires. But what can you do? Try and bulldozer -- those days, no helicopter, nobody can get in there to fight a fire except maybe make firebreaks with the bulldozer.

I: Why did you eventually leave that area?

B: I didn't get along with my boss. My boss was a guy by the name of Tom Liggett. And he'd come from Maui. I had wonderful bosses -- when I started out Fred Schattaur was manager and Jimmy Armitage was the assistant. Wonderful people, to me. And then Jimmy left because he got a job at Parker. And Fred left because he wanted to go into sugar. I guess there's more chance of advancing in sugar than the ranch. Sort of like a dead end there. And so he went into sugar. So then we got Bob Hunter from Kukaiau Ranch. And after a few years -- he was getting on in years, and he felt it was such a big ranch that he left. And we got this guy Tom Liggett from Maui. He'd been at Grove Ranch here. Anyway -- one of my friends told me (giggling) -- shall I get into this? Anyway, a rancher around here, he worked for him and he said, "I'd rather pump gas in Makawao than work for Tom Liggett!" (laughing). So Tom Liggett came, and he didn't really know ranching, he didn't really know cattle, he shouldn't have been in there. It was the wrong man for the place, it was too big for him, and he didn't get out on a horse -- he just didn't take a liking to me, we didn't work very well together. He was

one of these guys who'd argue and say, "The best thing is don't trust anybody." So as you can see, it wasn't the best working relationship. None of the cowboys liked him, and he didn't like some of the cowboys. We had run-ins. And one day, he said "Oh, by the way, Soot, I'd like you to resign." And I said, "Well, I'm not going to resign! You can fire me!" (laughing).

So Judy and I got married. I took all my vacation -- I think I had nine weeks of vacation or something like that. Long vacation. So I walked back in the office and said, "Well, Tom, I'm ready to go back to work!" He said, "There's no job for you!" So I turned to Yoshito Iwamoto -- neat, neat guy, he was our office manager, by then the office had moved from Pahala plantation office to the Naalehu Dairy because we also had a dairy. Anyway I said, "You heard that, yeah, Yoshito?" Then I went and filed for unemployment and he tried to bar me from that. Brewer Chemical wanted to hire me, the fertilizer company, and he barred me from that. I did go to Brewer's main office and said, "You know this is not the guy. The guys don't work for him and nobody likes him."

So it was ok, that was fine. I enjoyed working on my place over there. We got married, and I had a ball. So that was that. Then I got a phone call from Warren Gunderson. Another guy I thank besides Jimmy Greenwell, Franny Morgan, Fred Schattauer and Jimmy Armitage, for giving me a chance. Warren Gunderson calls me and he says, "You want to go to work at Kaupo?" "Where's that?" (laughter) "Ok!" I had been there. Fred Schattauer sent me to a Cattlemen's meeting so I'd been there once. I thought, Hmm, now that's kind of far out. (laughter).

So anyway I went. We packed up and moved -- Judy was teaching a summer course, citizenship class or something in Pahala, so I came ahead and came to Kaupo. We had checked it out. I said we'll just stay her two years and it turned into 15. So after seven or eight in Ka'u we came there. Anyway, it was fine. I got my unemployment and just as soon didn't work for C. Brewer anymore. I had no hard feelings. I learned a lot there. They were good to me.

So then, off to Kaupo. The dirt road, you know. Good gang. Neat crew. Good, wonderful crew. But God, you walk into the place -- it was overgrown, with weeds and koa. They were pumping water, from down by Huialoha Church they had to pump it up 1,000 feet to our camp to a county tank, a 100,000-gallon tank. No water coming from the mountains. The intakes were there but the pipes were all broken. I thought, "Whew. We have a job here." Horses with big salmons -- you know, if you open a can of salmon, that's what they call the sore on the back. Because the cowboys weren't provided for for anything. They were using old army blankets and stuff like that. The manager had been a veterinarian. I don't know him. But from what I gather he spent more time in Hana than on his ranch. I don't know that he rode or worked with them.

I: Who was the owner when you were there?

B: At the time, Dwight Baldwin had been the owner but he had passed away, so it was left in trust with a trust company. So Warren was the horse and bull man, among other things, at Bishop Trust. So luckily he knew Richard Smart and had some dealings with Richard Smart. I told him "Gee, we need some horses."

Immediately he called Richard and I was able to go up there and see Teddy Bell, and he took us to Makahalau one morning and I picked some real nice horses, quarter horses. That kind of got us growing again, and then we started a breeding program and so on. It was a real reclamation job out there.

I: What was the acreage at that time?

B: I think it was about 14,000 acres. About seven was fee and seven was lease, from individuals, from Campbell and the state.

I: Aside from being overgrown and weedy and the rest of it, what was the land like?

B: Rocky. Not so much lava like Kapapala, more like Kaalualu. There's some lava flow there but older. Good, fertile land. Yeah. A lot of Hawaiiana in that place, a lot of Hawaiiana. We tried to preserve all that. The first priority was to get the water going. Charlie Aki was the water man and he hadn't taken vacation for so long because all we were doing was pumping water. We had two Ford industrial diesel engines, and a John Beam, and I forget the name of the other pump. And that was the life blood of the whole community, because we pumped into the county line as well. And the ranch. And on top of that, Dr. Sample, who was the state vet here, said "You have TB on the ranch! And you better get testing!" I guess it had lapsed. I said, wait, I need to get the water first!" Up into the mountains we went. There had been an agreement with the county that there would be a joint venture. But that had long expired. So luckily I had help from the county's engineer, and he drew a profile of the intake for me. I got help from the soil and water conservation engineers and we came up with a plan. There were a couple guys running it -- Boy von Tempsky was the director. Ernest Gray who had a little Hereford ranch up there in Hana. One of them had said well just go get this pipe. The intention was very good, but it couldn't take the pressure. We'd lay the section of pipe and then *pshew!* Turn on the water. *Pshew!* *Pshew!* *Pshew!* Because it was coming from quite a ways up, the intake was way up in the gap.

I: So where was the source?

B: One is oh gosh, 4,000 feet? It was a stream. If you look up the Kaupo Gap to the right, you follow that ridge up and then you go in. And there was a stream up there that ran most of the time. And then over towards Kipahulu there was a place called Kalepa. There was a box up there and another stream that ran most of the time. So each one that had a little cement box that had been put in there, but they were hard to get to. So we got this plan. No more high-density polyethylene in those days, but we could use some of this thinner walled pipe, and then we put the PVC -- an inch-and-a-half, I think, PVC intake that's up in the gap on National Park lands. What we did, we hauled all the pipe up there. And in those days, Kaupo had mules that they used for hunting, checking water and one thing and another. Plantation mules. So we made a pen up there, and we kept the mules up there. And from there I had some of the ranch boys. We got all the pipe up there, hooked it all up, and finally we got the water coming down to the water tank above the ranch headquarters, high up, another thousand feet above. And we finally got water coming. So that was great. Then the other one, I put an outrigger on the D6, and we took the pipe up on these trails, up to certain places, and then unloaded the pipe, and then we had the Kaupo Wildlife Club, which is a hunting club, the deal was each man works two days a

year for the ranch. The work project would be in June, July, whatever, and the guys come back from their summer camps, National Guard, whatever. We had all these guys, all these men down the gulch, the hunters -- they'd pass the pipe up, and then we'd make the spans across the gulches with wire or cable. They'd pass it up and we'd get it laid out on all these little ridges. We had one huge -- we had the Manawainui Gulch -- to cross, and we got that done. We kind of went down and across it. That must be a thousand-something feet across.

I: How did you get the cables across those gulches?

B: Luckily, the old wires were still there. So we were able to get a rope across. I don't know how the heck we did that -- shoot a bow and arrow? Anyway. Maybe we took of a strand of that and then tied it to the pipe and then pulled. Anyway, I think we used the old -- three or four strands. I think it was small cable and we were able to pull that across. But it was a job.

I: How long did it take you to do all that?

B: Oh, gee. Months. It took quite a while. Each was a separate project. It took a couple months to complete the whole thing, so at least then we didn't have to rely on all the pumping?

I: How much water were you able to bring down with that?

B: Oh, hundreds of gallons. In fact, the county tank would overflow. You couldn't stop it. You'd get too much pressure and then the pipe would break, so you'd just let it flow. And it was going to the ocean anyway, so we just let it come down the hill.

I: Is there a name for that stream?

B: One was Kalapa. I don't know the other one. But if you look up Manawainui Gulch in Kaupo, you see these waterfalls coming down and it's kind of on the left. It was pretty, it was beautiful up there. And we used to ride horses and mules up there. And then pretty soon Leighton and I didn't mind the walk, so we'd go up with the jeep, it was so much faster than riding, and walk in. That was 1967. Luckily we had just gotten that finished, and then in '68 we had a huge flood that jammed up the intakes! So "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop?" But then this flood came down and covered up the engines at the pump house down by the ocean. So here we are with no water. So we got one going. One had been running that night -- I couldn't get down there because the road was washed out, everything was washed out, so it just ran, got covered up, stopped. We sent that out to Bacon and Company, because it was Ford. The other one, Francis Poouahi and I got all cleaned up -- he being the lead man of course -- we got it cleaned up and it was pumping. The mean time the other one was out. And that one we had caught on fire, and it burned. So luckily we get the other one in, and

get that one hooked up. I have pictures of us down there drinking coffee and trying to stay awake so we can put all this thing back so we can have **water**.

I: How long were you without water?

B: Quite a while. We were out without telephone. We were cut off from Hana. I guess, with the pumping, and the cattle weren't drinking that much because everything was wet. But I remember the gals going down to Manawainui Stream and doing their laundry in the stream. We were cut off from Hana completely.

I: You said before that the ranch was in kind of bad condition when you came. Do you know how it got to that condition?

B: I think it had been in that condition, probably a long time. It had probably been all nice and cleared once, and then they brought in haole koa. And as Nahale Piimauna, the foreman there told me, he said they used to even put haole koa seed in the molassas, so the cattle eat the molassas and then they spread these seeds all over. It was as thick as hair on a dog's back. And obviously it hadn't been there before. It was brought in. And of course lantana and all that, but wow, the haole koa was something else. That was basically the worst pest, and maybe it just hadn't been concentrated on.

I: Now, how did you work to clear the land?

B: Well, there was a D4 and a D6 sitting there, and when I got there the D6 tractor didn't have a blade on it, and the radiator was all pukapuka because they'd run it and maybe it was dragging a chain or something. Anyway so we got it all fixed, got it running, put the blade on, and the D4, and then we started clearing pasture, we started up way in by the Kaupo headquarters and worked in the little valley there and cleared -- there was a lot of guava and brush and stuff. Gosh, we planted almost all of Kaupo Ranch. And the D4 had a flico rake on it. In stead of a blade, it's a rake, and it has tines on the front that can go through the ground, but the soil can pull through. Like a big weeder. So you can push stuff, but you're not taking all the soil. When I got to Kaupo we had a lot of Kekahunas and Poouahis, all one big family. We had Johnny Kekahuna, Lana Kekahuna, Alouicious Kekahuna, Francis Poouahi -- he had the Poouahi name -- and his dad Keawe Poouahi. Then we had Tito Marciel -- the Marciel family from out there and all around -- and Charlie Kahaleauki, who went by Aki, and Nahale Piimauna and Sonny Piimauna -- gosh that was what, nine? All working for the ranch. Alana was the tractor driver, then he left. He lived in Haiku and it was too much just getting back and forth. Johnny eventually left. So Francis Poouahi, he was the man. He was on a D6, and Alouicious was on the D4. So we cleared almost that whole place. We just kept going and going and going. And we planted seeds and we even had the wives out there with us. We paid them something and they'd go out and plant pulapula, you cut kikuyu and you have a few nodes that go under the ground. You dig a little hole and you throw the grass inside and you cover that grass. The ends might be sticking out of the hole, but you cover it, and you pray for rain. And kikuyu is like a weed anyway. We planted kikuyu, we planted paspalum from pulapula, and from seed we planted guinea and green panic grass. The plant material center for the USDA was out here, where they park the cars now for the airport. We got seed from them and different kinds of buffle. We planted all over that

place. It's kind of rewarding and it feels good to go out there -- we went out there the other day and it's so green and all this grass. You feel, oh wow, we did something good. Then over the years they cross-fenced it, and made it even better as far as pasture rotation and stuff like that.

I: How long did it take you to get the place cleared out?

B: Oh gee. A good 10 years I bet. Little by little. And then we had to redo fencing. But remember I said Dr. Sample wanted to get us to TB test? That must have gone on for 5 or 6 years until we finally got a clean bill of health. They never did find a case anyway, but Hana, Kipahulu and Kaupo had TB. And you heard about the TB on Molokai. So we finally got that worked out. And we worked better with a state vet. We'd test at wean time and we didn't have to drive with those little calves in the pasture. That was another big deal.

I: It sounds like there were a lot of old-time families out there. How did they take to having someone like you come in from outside and take over as manager.

B: I never heard (laughs)! I didn't hear anything. It was okay. I got along with them beautifully. We were close -- I mean, we had a few times when you had to kick butt, once in a while. But they were very good. It was a great crew. So cooperative. I mean, you work with them and we just had a real good relationship with those people.

And remember I told you about this great flood that covered up the engines and washed out the road. So the kids couldn't go to school. So Judy ended up being the school marm in the one-room school house, and that was our dining room. And my office was also in the house. It had been the Marciel house before Dwight Baldwin purchased it. And so my office was downstairs in the older section. And then upstairs, where they had built a dining room to join these two houses together and put a kitchen -- that was the one-room schoolhouse. We had all the Kaupo kids in the house, and she taught them. We got close.

Today it's still "Auntie Judy." You get goose bumps. One night we were out there for a party. It's nighttime and we're about to leave, and it's almost like we're going to go back to our old house, you know? But we're not, we're going to drive all the way out to get to Wailea. It's like night. And there was a big full moon on the ocean, and it was just like, "Wow, we're still here." Like we went back in time. It's dark. " 'Night, Auntie Judy! 'Night, Auntie Judy!" Whoa. (laughs)

But no, it's good. We had Christmas parties, with a different Santa Claus every year. And the poor kids were always terrified of Santa Claus -- usually Santa Claus had had too much to drink and he'd come ringing his bell (laughing) it used to scare the kids! So we tried all different things. We had some good, real, malia, 'olu'olu, nice Santa Clauses. It was a tight little community.

The mail came -- at first it only came Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, something like that. So everybody would gather at the post office, all the wahines, and the guys. Old Willy Range, he'd ride his donkey to the Kaupo Store, then he'd ride it home. But you had to be everything -- you'd have to be the fire warden and the fish and game -- I was the deputy game warden, because there was so much poaching on the ranch, pigs and especially goats. And then you had to be the fire warden. Well, we ended up with a police radio in our office so we could call the police if we needed help or we were stranded or somebody needed help. And of course all the pakalolo was growing around in the mountains in those days. And all the hippies. The hippies were flowing like water coming out the Kaupo Gap!

At first they came and they were all religious -- they had those white, little cheese-cloth kind of clothes on. And they'd all give you the prayer sign in front of them, with their hands folded. Then pretty soon that went by the wayside and they were trying to live here, live there. The dogs were always barking. So I rerouted the trail around the camp, because it was so bad. It was about the time Judy was about to have Sarah, and then had Sarah -- she was born in Hana. God, all those dogs barking. Always coming to your house. And you name it, they ask for it. I mean everything. And sometimes the cowboys would have fun. They'd come in the evening, they'd look for food. Charlie would say, "Oh, go to his house!" And send him to Francis' house. And Francis would send him to Sonny's house, or Charlie's house. So we'd tell them, "Oh, you can sleep over here, in the barn." And then regular people, because as you're probably aware, that last stretch down the hill is so bad on knees and everything. We'd have people walking down backwards. Judy's famous story is one day she was doing the house cleaning, and she saw all the horses with their ears pricked and looking up mauka, looking, looking, their necks all stiff. And here come these hippies -- totally naked! Playing their guitars and bongos and everything! (laughing) The horses went running off and she's looking out the window.

And remember the famous Banana Patch, where all the hippies lived? Haiku someplace? Banana Patch. This guy was Red from Banana Patch. He wanted to know if he could borrow a mule! We were off working. And she said, "Thank God my big dog was home." He came roaring up to the door. She was kind of scared, but luckily we had some of the summer boys and they were painting around the house or something. They were there, two husky boys, so it was alright. But -- how are you going to return the mule? You know?

We even had to cover our water tanks. We had two water tanks along the trail as you came down the gap. We had to cover them all up because they'd jump in there and bathe -- that was our drinking water! (laughing) We had to cover them all up and put locks on them and everything. Luckily we chlorinated the water when it got down to the county tank! (laughter) We all survived that.

And people lost, oh God, yeah, people lost. One time, one regular, straight-looking couple -- oh, I can picture him in my mind, what's his name? Joe Medeiros -- they took his truck! He took care of the nene. And he had left his truck and hiked up to Paliku. They took his truck and coasted it all the way down -- because she had hurt her ankle! I mean, come on, you know? He probably never thought to lock it, in those days you didn't need to do that.

I: Classic. Being on the ranch at that time, was your main business at that point just clearing, making those improvements? What about the cattle end of the operation?

B: Oh, that took a lot of work too. Yeah. The herd had been neglected, and as Boyd von Tempsky said, "Oh, you're going to need some new bulls! All those bulls can do is beller and shit!" (laughter) I had to go out and get new bulls, and kind of start improving the herd that way, and get rid of any ahuis. We'd go out in the evening and try to get any ahuis when they came out, the wild cattle. I mean, they are not the wild cattle like up at McCandless Ranch, but it was easier in the evening to go. We'd at least get them down to the next paddock inside a good fence. We'd have to do a lot of that kind of stuff. But again, you could hardly ride in some places for 50 yards except you were inside of this koa, trying to get through, stumbling, twisting your leg, and your bridle would get caught. But thank God, pretty much got all of that cleaned up.

We'd get back and we had kerosene lights in the house. Judy would have her kerosene lights in the house, because we had a generator, a big generator. It was like a huge caterpillar tractor engine. It supplied the whole camp with electricity. So naturally Charlie Aki wasn't home yet to start it, so everybody had their kerosene lamps on. Luckily everybody had gas stoves and gas refrigerator. Some had electric, and it would hold. Because the electricity would go on and off.

But we had a lot of work to do. We started buying Hereford bulls from Hartwell Carter. Those days, herefords were still the thing. So we got some horses, and every year -- in fact, we were his best customer -- every year we bought bulls and brought them in. And then we got a damn nice herd. We brought them from Waimea, and they would come to Kahului, and our cattle truck would come out. And of course, that dirt road sometimes was so bad, they wouldn't take care of it. Finally, Elmer Cravalho paved it to his corral, which was fine with me (laughing). It was an oil road, it wasn't paved but oiled. They just put down a layer of oil, they rolled it and rolled it and packed it, put some oil on it to kind of keep it stable. Then you weren't digging up. Some places like Waiopai Gulch, sometimes, was just like going up stairs for all the rocks. Especially so many of the tourists that come around from Hana, they'd have their lunch there, and then in the afternoons they'd come around, they're going uphill, they don't have four-wheel-drive, and they just dig it up. Somebody had even put a board there to try and get up. Then the gulches of course would run. So you were either stuck in there or you were stuck out. But our trucks would haul the cattle out. Valley Isle Express would haul for us, Bill Eby would sometimes haul for us. Those days, all our cattle went to the Hawaii Meat feedlot.

So we finally got a damn nice herd. In the end we got some part-simmental bulls, we won contests with our calves. Finally brought in some brangus bulls and started cross-breeding with that. A few angus from Kahua and other places. And I remember Max Smith came out and paid us a complement one day when he said, "Oh! Is this a registered herd?" It was just regular cattle, you know. But it took time, it took a lot of time to get there.

Like I say, the time with the storm, not only that, but we couldn't get our fuel in. I guess finally Standard Oil could come in to fill up our fuel tanks, but we couldn't get the gas from the gas company in Hana. Everybody had those big cyllanders. So we had to bring our cyllanders in our cattle truck, and take them out, bring cyllanders home.

I: That big storm you were talking about, how long did it last?

B: It was basically, maybe a whole day and night?

I: How long were you cut off after that?

B: Oh! A couple months, from Hana! The Corps of Engineers came in and rigged a telephone line on the ground, an army-style line. Those days, the landslides -- you know when you're driving from Kaupo to Kipahulu? You know how you have to drive along the cut in the bank? The bank was completely covered. I mean, the road was completely covered.

I: You mean where it's cut into the side of the cliff.

B: Yeah. And the soil had just covered the whole road. It had just broken off and covered. You'd see the tops of the telephone poles sticking up out of the dirt.

Eventually we could get through to Ulupalakua, and we did our mail at Ulupalakua. They'd drop these bags of mail. So either Nick Soon or myself were authorized to pick up the mail. And then whenever we were passing that way we'd pick up the mail and take it in and take it to the store. And then he was the old postmaster around there. He'd distribute the mail around.

They used to bring the prisoners out there. They didn't do much work because by the time they got out there it was time to eat lunch, then you do a little work, then you go back again. But luckily we had the tractors, the D4 and the D6. If we needed to get out this way we'd send our tractors and just make enough of a road, and the county guys would have to go all the way around the island to get there, and then they could check it all out. That took a long time to work on that road. In fact, we had a spare house to put the county guys up, and they stayed there for the week. And finally Standard Oil said "We're going to do away with our small, 1,200-gallon tank trucks. We're only going to have these big semi-trailors. So we had to put up a tank, and Ulupalakua was nice enough to let us put up a tank there, and take the diesel out.

I: Can you tell me about your living accommodations at that time? What were the houses like?

B: They needed a lot of work. The Arizumi Brothers, carpenters, would come out. We did whatever we could but sometimes you'd find something. Leighton came to stay with us because I finally wanted to hire Leighton. Downstairs in the lower portion by the office we fixed up for Leighton to live in, until we could give him a house. Well, the cowboys did it, and he said "Gee, there's no hot water." Well, he turned on the hot water and only cold water came out. One time we had some Arizumi guys living down there, and they said, "How come? We run out of hot water pretty quickly when we take a shower." Well, the hot water was going to the toilet, so every

time you flush the toilet, there go five gallons of hot water! And some of the shelves were a little bit kapakahi, you know, we all spent more time under that house with the pipes. We did what we could be when it came to the big stuff, Arizumi would send his people and they'd stay with us. Judy would cook for them. They'd sit right at our dinner table, have dinner with us and everything. They were a great gang, and two of them ended up coming back later and helping us restore Hualoha Church. Yeah. They built the steeple. They put the steeple together with, you know, like numbers. They assembled it in the church and then we took it out and put it up on top of the roof! (laughing)

I: At that time, what did the ranch provide for you and the workers?

B: We had a medical plan. We installed a pension plan. I remember the pension plan at the time was like a hundred bucks a month or something like that for people who were retired. But you got house, water, electricity. Those days you got five gallons of kerosene, but finally we did away with that because you didn't have a kerosene stove, we had the electricity, although I have to qualify that by saying it didn't run 24-hours-a-day. It ran at night. Monday, Wednesday and Friday it ran all day. But Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday it didn't run in the day, just to conserve fuel. And then Judy would say, "How come? There's a football game on Sunday, the 49'ers are playing and it runs! But when I want to do laundry I can't have it!" What else? Beef -- an occasional broke-leg cow or something. And at Christmas, beef. And you could do all the hunting you wanted. Pig hunting and goat hunting. I remember one time there was a strike or something. We couldn't get dog food so we just went and shot goats and hang them up in the tree and cut off stuff for them to eat. And guys would smoke goat. Leighton made a little smokehouse in my yard and I would smoke beef and goat, pig. So that was basically it. Oh, we had a little so-called laundromat -- we had a water heater, and somebody'd given the ranch guys a couple washing machines. I think everything was dried on the line. In the evenings the girls could do the the laundry. We were lucky. We had a washer. I don't think we had a drier, but we had a washing machine at our house.

I: Was that the longest you spent in one place, Kaupo?

B: That was 15 years, Kahuku was 18.

I: From when to when were you at Kaupo?

B: From 1967 to '82. From '82 to 2000, Kahuku. It was a lot rougher, a lot tougher at Kaupo -- it seemed like 30 years!

One of the other things we did was our little rodeos we'd have. We built a little arena, we built two. We'd have three little ropings every year, Hana, Ulupalakua and Kaupo. And that was all we could handle. Some of the other guys wanted to come in but it was just too much. We'd have a roping on Saturday, just a team competition, for fun. We'd get trophies donated by everybody in town. It was really nice. Then that night was a

big party, then the next day was rope again, then finish up the food, and people would leave in the afternoon. That was really a lot of fun.

I: I was going to ask you what kinds of things you did for entertainment, for fun on the weekends and stuff like that.

B: Well like I say, Kaupo was a little bit different, you're a little bit older. But I guess out there there was always your yard to do. I don't know. The ranch was sort of my hobby anyway so I was always spending time on the ranch. It seemed like there was always something to do, catching up on your paperwork -- not that I worked all the time -- we'd get the newspaper out there, every afternoon they'd deliver the mail to the Kaupo Store, the ranch had a little "chicken coop" over there so they could put packages inside. Or sit on the porch and talk to Nick Soon, till he passed away, talking stories about Kaupo in the old days, and bringing in his Model A's and his cars by parts, that kind of thing. Actually, when Sarah was ready to go to school -- she was born in 1970 -- in '73 or so, Judy and Sarah moved out so Sarah could go to school over here (in South Maui). We got a place over by Suda Store, Kihei Kai, a tiny little condo there. I'd come out on the weekends. Then we had friends out here.

That other road that came down from Ulupalakua was open, so I could come out even Saturday mornings, get here, spend the weekend here. But then, every summer and Christmas and other weekends, they'd be out at Kaupo. There was always something to do. Just go down to the beach, one thing or another. And then, just working on the arenas. Friends would come out and stay. Everybody would want to go hunt. It was fun. And like Judy says, you'd be making ham or making corn beef. And every summer we'd raise a pig, then we'd kill the pig and cut it up and put it in the freezer. Always something to do -- crawl around under the house and fix things, or just holoholo.

We started on our church project. Services at Hualoha Church would be once a month, three o'clock in the afternoon, which was good because you could watch the football game or do some errands or do something. They would bring the minister, the visiting minister from Hana. And then we got into this restoration project, and that took a couple years.

I: Whose idea was that, the restoration?

B: It was really a guy by the name of Carl Lindquist, a classmate of mine who lives in Hana now. He really likes his history and all that, and he had participated in a half-an-hour movie called "Bring Wood and Build a House." Or a church. He was living in Honolulu and he knew a lot of these entertainers, and he was in the construction magazine business, a trade publishing company, and he knew all these contractors. He's a character, anyway. So he did that movie. Bank of Hawaii put it on, and it shows a preacher riding on a horse from church to church. It was a documentary. It was Sons of Hawaii in the background playing slack key music, and it goes from Huelo all the way to Makena, so he went to each church. They'd show him riding. He had rubber boots on and a hat and a slicker, riding a mule or something. And then they'd come and focus in on the church, tell a little about the church. He said "Why don't we do a Christmas at Kaupo?" I said, we don't want to do that. The

church looks so bad. It had framing on the inside of the masonry wall, and it had old canec, and the canec was falling off. It was really in a state of disrepair. The windows were falling in and everything. So he said, "Ok, why don't we raise money?" "Ok, we're going to raise money." So we collaborated on that. I remember going over with Esther and Leighton and meeting Eddie Kamae (from the Sons of Hawaii) in Hana. I think she wanted to sing "Kanaka Waiwai," and he said, "No, we'll sing that," because that's their song, right? So they got all these people to help us have a concert. We had a concert in Honolulu. In the mean time we got all the people from Kaupo, we got together and we all went down (chuckling) got on the plane, went down, went to Ala Moana, and went to the Blaisdell Concert Hall. We put on a concert, fundraising concert. And I called Aku Head, from my office in Kaupo, and KCCN, was a well-known disc jockey there. Oh, Ilima, you can't believe. It was in the newspaper, and this and that. You can't believe the money they raised just from people, a couple notes in Hawaiian, come help kokua your church. It was just really heartwarming. And then it was like a homecoming week for all these people from Kaupo who were living in Honolulu. They were all up on the stage, hugging and kissing. It was just awesome, because we had Genoa Keawe, Sons of Hawaii, Peter Ahia, Kaupena Wong, Fred Punahoa with his slack key. It was awesome. And then we sang the church songs. Then we caught a plane in the morning and came back to Maui, and at the Baldwin Auditorium we had (a concert). And at that, Iolani Luahine came and danced for us. She said, "Not good vibes in Honolulu," but she danced for us over here. So that got us going, and then we did grants, we wrote to every philanthropic society in the islands, and the trusts and all that. And we got some government money, put it together, and then we restored the church. And then we had the big restoration party, and Eddie and The Sons came. We had a spare house for them. After that, they came up, and of course, all the ranch boys are good musicians. Francis Poouahi, he's a guitar man, and his brother was a base man, and the wahines -- all good -- a lot of them are really exceptional singers. So then we jammed, until -- pretty soon the Sons of Hawaii were getting tired, and one by one they'd go flop somewhere. It was just really nice.

I: When was the church actually finished?

B: I would say 1978. And now we got a project going again to work on it again. We need some more work. Judy's still the treasurer, after all these years. Lots to do now. Now it's gotten into some rotten wood, and the windows rotten from the ehukai and all that kind of stuff.

Like I say, you were always chasing poachers or ripping out pakalolo. My friend Henry Ross would call me and say, "Oh, I went pig hunting today and there's pakalolo over here!" We'd go rip pakalolo. We were too dumb to let it grow big and harvest it! (laughter) Those guys were all over the place. One time by Nu'u they cut the fence and went up and cut into our waterline. But then their glue job gave up and Charlie was riding a horse that day and he came back that evening with a pipe over his shoulder. We wondered why the water didn't get through to the tank, so that told us something was wrong with it.

Then we had a little laua'e project. That was Esther Beck's project, and some of the ranch gals'. We raised laua'i and then we sold it to a lot of places out here. We had to sun train it so it would be able to take this sun. We'd sell it to these nurseries. That was another diversification.

I: So it sounds like 15 years went by pretty quickly over there.

B: Yeah, I was tired when we got out of there!

I: What made you eventually decide to leave?

B: Well, the Kahuku Ranch people, the Damon estate called me up, and said, "Would you come and work for us." I hated to leave the gang. They were so good. But it was time, and Judy thought it was a good move. Fifteen years out there, you get kind of tired.

I: So you went to Kahuku Ranch as manager, right? What was that ranch like when you got out there?

B: A lot of stuff to do again (laughs)! We had to start all over! The water system was lousy, the pens were lousy, the fences were lousy. The horse flesh was good. The cattle were basically good. We had a good crew; they had been holding it together real well.

I: How many guys did you have working there?

B: I think we had eight.

I: Who was above you?

B: Above me was Jim Whitman out of the Honolulu office. He had worked for Parker. He was a bookkeeper. He had had ranch life, and his dad was in sugar, he was born and raised in Hilo, so he had a feel for all this. In 1958, I think, Damon estate bought Kahuku. It was auctioned off in court by Jimmy Glover's estate, and he had bought from Parker. He died, so they had to sell it. Damon won the bid on it.

I: Did you have any idea why the conditions were so run down?

B: Good ol' management. Simple, simple, simple. Management. I got there and the bulls were out for an extended period of time, longer than what I thought was normal. So the calves were all different sizes, and they needed to be weaned. So we started to wean, and then the water boy was calling, "We don't have enough water in the trough." The water pipes had been all rusted down to hardly any water going through. So again, we went to the Soil and Water Conservation Service, "Hey, come on, help us engineer this." Lucky Kahuku Ranch had the resources so we could change.

I: What acreage were you working with?

B: About 14,000 total.

I: And do you know how many head of cattle when you got there?

B: Oh, we built it up some. With drought you're up and down. Maybe it was 1,200 mama cows.

I: When you got out there, what steps did you take to improve the ranch?

B: I guess the water system and the fencing. It was a different crew again, so you adjust to a new crew, it's all different. But all in all good workers. There was three cowboys, then myself would go as four. Once in a while we'd pull in other guys if we had to bring cattle to wean from a distant place where we couldn't get trucks there. But Freddy Rice had done a hell of a job when he was there. There was a guy in between us that was there for ten years. That's when it kind of went down. But Freddy Rice was there when I was at Hawaiian Ranch and he had done a real nice job. He divided the paddocks and put a water pen in the center. It was basically set up nicely, it was just neglected and everything was falling down. He had planted grass, he had divided the paddocks, he had put nice roads in with the tractors. I know we used to be at Hawaiian Ranch saying, "Gee, how come they get so much money to do all this and we're a bootstrap operation over here?"

I: How did you go about improving the water situation?

B: The source was there, and there was more rain then. We had three sources. One was a county line that ran just as far as Kahuku's headquarters and supplied the ranch camp and everything makai. But everything up mauka there was a reservoir up there that Freddy had put in. I think he had fiberglass laid all criss-cross. And then a liner, he had a tar -- organic of course that wouldn't poison anything -- but an oil. Herb Porteus said he went swimming in it and the oil got all over him and he had a hard time getting it off. What they had done they put in a catchment. I think it was two acres. Just like a huge parking lot. Then that water would run down and go into this big reservoir that I think was 2.2 million. And then that had a big overflow. So during that time the trustees said, "Why don't we build another one." So we built another reservoir, which was about 1.5 million, so we could catch all the overflow. And thank God we did, because with the droughts we had, the top one would be empty, and we'd still have more water in there. You couldn't haul water in there, the road was too bad and too steep.

Then we went through changing all the pipes and all the fences, and that took quite a few years, little by little, then we changed the whole ranch to electric fence. It was easy above the highway because it was all kikuyu

grass. That worked out nicely. Each section had its own solar panel energizer. You'd just go with your digital volt meter and clip it on, and it tells you how much power. It's so much easier to fix, you can go tie it, put a square-knot in it with your hands, versus the barbed.

Then we put in two intensive-grazing cells, where the cattle moved daily. Of course that took a while, because of course all the fencing you've got to put in there, but it's all two-strand.

I: One thing I wanted to ask, in a lot of interviews I got the sense that Hawaii was sort of behind the times, when compared to the mainland. Did you find it was hard to convince people to go for the intensive grazing? Or did people accept it?

B: Some people, some people, "No, can't work. The horse get stuck. It can't hold the cattle." It can hold. You can put a bull on one side and a cow on the other. And that bull, if he gets shocked -- but you have to be checking and make sure the power is up. Like anything, like a car -- it won't run if you don't change the oil and put the gas. But so many people took that funny attitude, and it takes animals a while to get used to it. The first time they go in there, they might run through it, especially a horse -- you can't put him in a little tiny paddock, he'll get zapped -- man, he'll go ape! More so than a bovine, a good old cow or bull. You get their little wet nose on that thing and they'll get a good zap. We all got zapped plenty, but usually if you have good shoes or rubber boots and you're not too wet, you'll come out of it okay.

But, no. I would take exception to that (idea that people resisted innovation). Like any profession, you get people who don't want to deworm their cows, you get people who don't want to give their calves a vaccination. You get people who don't believe in electric fence. One thing we started over there, I read some books, because we were having some calving problems in Kahuku. I read some magazine articles, then I wrote to the guy in Arizona. Anyway, he talked about not only preg-checking, but pelvic-measuring heifers. So we were the first ones to start. I called up our vet and said, hey, maybe we should do something about this. We were having a lot of stuck calves, and when you have to go pull the calf you lose the calf, lose the heifer. So we started to preg-check our heifers. The first time we culled about 15 percent of our heifers.

A lot of guys don't want to spend money on stuff like that. But we found that it really, really helps. To me there's nothing worse than you're out there Saturday by yourself and there's a stuck calf. You've got to go get the horse, and bring her in, and either you tie her to a tree or bring her into the pen, and then pull the calf. And it's more economics -- to save every calf you've got. And you don't have to be bothered with this stuff. And talking to Earl who took my place at Kahuku, he says, "Oh gosh, it's like 2 percent we cull now." Because we selected for a bigger pelvis.

And another thing -- it's all so simple -- you try and buy bulls who will sire a small calf. You don't want a big superman, big guy with big, huge shoulders. Heredity will say it can't come out. But those things you say, innovations, that we're behind -- no, some people are behind, and some people can't afford it, or feel they can't afford it.

There's that, and some people use artificial insemination. I think Hawaii ranches do as good a job as anybody on the mainland as far as getting up to a wean calf. It's after the wean calf -- we're out in the middle of the Pacific, what do you do with this wean calf? Now you've got another innovation, the three ranches in the state who are (selling the meat locally) -- you've got Rick Habein on the Big Island with his Kamuela Pride, you've got Maui Cattle Company here, you've got Cal Lum in Honolulu selling range beef. And now we're shipping the cattle to the Mainland.

But some people just have little hobbies, so they don't care if they have a 30 percent calf crop or 100 percent. But when you're in business, and it's your livelihood, you want to try and have a 90 percent calf crop, or at least 80 percent. And cull cows when they should be culled -- don't wait till they have no teeth and still keep breeding them when they can't eat. Feed them a little mineral once in a while. That kind of stuff.

I: Tell me about your time at Kahuku. Tell me about the main buildings they had.

B: Again, a lot of work I had to do when I got there. A lot of it was safety, electrical in the houses, the fuse boxes were all rotten. There was a lot of work to be done in the homes. So then we set up a regular yearly inspection, and then do what we can within the budget.

I: How many ranch buildings were there?

B: We had five homes, and then they built me one, so six in our lower camp, and then two in our mauka camp. And then we had a little office, and a couple of warehouses and a shop, and a stable. That was basically it. They were basically located right off the highway, between the 71 and 72 mile marker on Mamalahoa Highway. The camp was all makai of the road. To me it was like living in your own private subdivision. We had our own driveway that came down, and everybody had their own home. You weren't down in Naalehu and you weren't in Ocean View, you were just in your own beautiful little subdivision. Sort of like Kaupo too, of course, that was a little bit different. This was right off the highway. You had lights, as opposed to Kaupo.

I: What were the conditions of the land like, as opposed to Kaalualu.

B: Not as rough. And Freddy again had done a good job. He had rolled the pastures. I did a bunch of herbicide work there on the lantana and the sodom apple. Up mauka was in pretty good shape. Some christmasberry coming up and we dozed some of that. It wasn't bad. And the higher up you went there wasn't anything. It was more forested, it was beautiful. It was being in a National Park almost -- in fact, they're taking it over, right? But ohia trees. And again, they did a good job of leaving stuff as they went along. First they took out a lot and scraped a lot, but as they went along they learned to leave some. It goes up to 5,000 feet, so you're up in ohia forests, but it's been cleared. They left a lot of trees to attract the rain. You can ride through there. It's not like jungle. This is just straight trees. You can see in between.

I: You were in the Ka'u area in the 60s and again in the 80s. Had it changed a lot in that time?

B: Yeah. When we left it was a vibrant place. Where our old fattening pens were, near Punaluu Beach, they were bulldozing and putting in a golf course, and C. Brewer had all these grand plans. But when we went back in '82, all the plans had gone down the drain. Hutchinson Sugar Plantation had closed -- the sugarcane fields were still there, but the plantation town was no longer a plantation town. Most of the houses were just rented and kind of going downhill. All of the supervisors lived at Pahala. And then eventually C. Brewer gave up and quit that. When we went back it was sort of depressed, and it's a depressed area now, so it was sort of -- depressing (laughs)! The school is there and they still had mac nuts, but not as lively and vibrant a town as it once was. But Kahuku we were sort of away from it. You worked, and you go to town every afternoon to get the mail. The market was still there so you could get stuff at the market, and that was about it. But we'd missed a whole generation of kids and people, so we knew the old-timers and maybe their kids. It was easy to go back there because we knew the people and I knew the land. Some of the young people had been Judy's students, and then she went back to teaching at Naalehu Elementary School. But then you're not involved in the community that much, because you've got to work and there's no secretary, and you were constantly doing paperwork, looking at the bills, sending in the timesheet and filling out the rain gage reports, doing your monthly report and all that kind of stuff.

I: By that time your kids --

B: Our daughter. She went to Naalehu for one year, and then we sent her up to Hawaii Prep. She was a day student. She went there four years. Judy got a place up there and went up there. We didn't think she was ready to board. They'd come home or I'd go up on weekends. So two years as a day student and two years as a boarder. She was 12 when we moved over there. And then she got to know some of the Naalehu kids, and some of them are still good pals.

I: What did you do for your entertainment and celebrations?

B: We didn't have Christmas parties. The ranch wasn't that cohesive a group, like Hawaiian Ranch and Kaupo. Oh, friends would come and visit. We had a little guest cottage. And again Judy was teaching so as usual she'd have the laundry and the schoolwork, like any good housewife had. So friends would come over and visit. Or sometimes we'd go over to Waimea and stay with friends and visit. But that's the difference between Maui and the Big Island, you drive a long way, you've got to have a place to stay.

I: Then it wasn't like it had been before when there'd been big town parties and things like that.

B: No. They do still have the 4th of July Rodeo, but they've got a permanent arena now in back of the park. I got involved a little bit when I was first there, then I sort of faded away. I announced a couple years, and that

was fun. I was involved, because our guys were involved, and then sort of drifted away from that. And then we wanted to come to Maui so we'd come to Makawao. Summer over there was kind of slow, so that's when we could come over here.

I: How did Kahuku Ranch change in the almost 20 years you were there?

B: I think all for the better. We upgraded greatly, we upgraded the horse herd, we upgraded the cattle herd. We phased out most of the Herefords and the Santa Gertrudis, and now it's basically a black herd, all Brangus and Angus. And those cattle do really well. We've had good reports of them doing well in the feedlot.

I: Hawaii used to be Hereford all over. How come the Herefords went out of style?

B: The other breeds weren't around. I mean, there were shorthorn and Angus. They just seemed to be the popular breeds. They were accepted, but then as Haleakala, Oskie Rice, then Freddy got into the Santa Gertrudis -- three-eighths brahma, five-eighths shorthorn -- a little more hardy. They found in Texas they're real good. Then they came along with Brangus. Then, of course, everybody got into this big fad about Continental breeds -- and they brought in these exotic breeds It's basically now all going back to the core. I guess there's still a lot of Herefords, and there are Charolais in Canada and the Mainland. It all depends. You've got to try to fit it to your environment. We had problems with a lot of prolapses of the uterus and the vagina with the Santa Gertrudis and Herefords. We had a lot of problems there. So I started phasing all that out. We still have it in some of our black cattle, but maybe the mama had something to do with that. Maybe they go back to some of these lines that were there. Angus do grade well, and the Brangus is just three-eighths, five-eighths. We got a lot of our bulls from Kipukai Ranch on Kauai, and they're crossing the Brangus with the Angus, so you get a little more Angus. We brought a bunch of those. So yeah, our cattle do real well.

And then you've got to do some of these things -- you've got to semen test the bulls. We're talking about innovations. Nothing new -- old. But you don't have any calves if the bull isn't any good. When I first moved there, one-third of the bulls were no good. One-third of the bull herd. They hadn't been tested. They were old, or their semen was no damn good, so here you are. Why do you keep this thing around? It could bring you \$500, \$600, \$700 in the slaughterhouse, but he's wandering around, eating your grass, taking up space and pushing the other bull away from the cow. So every other year we'd do that. Basic stuff. But some people don't think. Why, one bull can pay for the debts of the day.

And we preg check every cow at weaning. It doesn't take that much money.

I: What about the living conditions at Kahuku Ranch?

B: I used to tell the boys, go around the state and come back -- go compare with every other ranch in the state and then see what your house compares to. I would have put it up against any other. I mean, we had a budget. We couldn't spend \$100,000 on housing, but little by little, every year, we'd do a little bit. And then you'd have to make an inspection, and some people are great housekeepers and some people are not -- they let the water drip under the sink and don't say anything, pretty soon you've got dry rot going all the way through to the six-by-six underneath the house. Little things like that. And some guys were good. You give them the paint, they paint the house. But it was good. We got beef every other month. We got a Christmas bonus. They took care of the people. Good medical plan. We're the 20th Century now. It's not easy to get cowboys anymore. There isn't much turnover, at least at Kahuku, where I worked, the guys were there forever. Maybe the kids come up. People think oh you just have to hop on a horse and go. There's a lot to being a good cowboy. Handling cattle today you try to handle them slower and quieter. People think all you do is go yell and scream. And again, times have changed.

I: Looking back on all the places you've worked, what would you say was the best time for you?

B: I guess the most fulfilling one was Kaupo. Everything after that was duck soup! I still had to chase poachers, and we had fires everywhere you went. But all in all, I think Kaupo took so much there. Looking back at the progress we made, and just that it took so much -- we just about had to do everything, from the church to the fish and game to the fire warden, to the ranch. Then within your ranch community, within your ranch family you have crises you have to attend to. You have deaths, you have frictions, domestics. Just like outside. It's its own little community. And people were there 24-7-365. And I lived there. You'd be sleeping at night, you hear a 30-30, and there's a big fight rolling down by your house. There's just so much. People calling you all the time, and then people come around on weekends to buy things -- bulls, horses, or see this, or look at that. Worrying about the diesel, and the doctor's all the way in Hana.

I: What was the biggest challenge for you?

B: I don't know. You see, we were young. We were young, so it was easier. For me to go do that today, I'd die -- I'd *make* quick! But it's so different, it's all changed. New management, new ownership. Wendy Baldwin still owns 51 percent, and Emmy sold her 49 to -- was it Goodfellow? It's a whole different ballgame now. The biggest challenge was just kind of holding it all together (laughter). It was nice coming out here too (Wailea) on the weekend, and seeing people once we got this place. Then this was a good getaway. But summers out there were fun. People would come, and family would come out there and stay. We'd wear the grass in the front yard almost down to the dirt playing football. Horseback riding, hunting and fishing, and going to pick avocados and oranges. And besides that, I looked after Alaakua Ranch, which was a little Santa Gertrudis ranch owned by a Texan right in Kaupo. So there was another job, taking care of his cattle, then working the cattle, working, weaning, branding, marketing. And then he'd come and visit.

But it was beautiful. Like Judy says, every place we lived is so beautiful. And just basically good people. Mostly it's all been Hawaiians and country people. I wouldn't switch.

I: Sounds kind of like what you wanted when you started out.

B: Yeah. It's been very fulfilling. I wouldn't trade that for anything. It was a little hard for us, with Sarah out here (in Wailea) and she'd want dad, and dad would feel guilty because she's out here. But other than that.

I: What would you want people to know or understand about the paniolo history?

B: (long pause) Well, that a lot of blood, sweat and tears has gone into this ranching business! I wish we could go back. I often wish I could go back and look in a book and see who was every cowboy at Kahuku or Kaupo or wherever or Kaalualu, and just say, wow -- there's good cowboys, there's marginal cowboys, there's excellent cowboys. And then you have the fence guys, who are the unsung heroes, the water boy's an unsung hero, but they all held the whole thing together. Cowboys get all the glory, they're certainly very important part of the whole picture. Gosh, the broken bones, and the buck-offs (laughing). These are skilled people. But people I think should remember that these people should remember that these people have a lot of skills of their own. Leighton Beck, for instance. I say he has a doctor's degree in cowboying. People just look at the guy and say he's riding a horse. But maybe that morning he's had to shoe horses. And he's had to maybe doctor horses, doctor a cow. Or make a cinch -- you can buy a cinch today, but I remember cowboys used to get that bale rope and they'd make their own cinches. Make their own leatherwork, make their own ropes, break their own horses. Nowadays you put your horse in a gooseneck trailer and just go here and there. But it's quite a tradition. All the guys did that, it's a way of life. It's a lot of hard work, it's not all glory and glamour like you see in the movies. It's an honourable profession. They provide the good beef we eat! (chuckling).

All in all, I think ranchers are stewards of the land. If the land can't produce for them, then they're not going to make a living. And they're more aware of it today. Sometimes you can't help if you overgraze. But I think basically you try and take care of the animals and malama the aina and malama the pipi. And horse training has changed a lot over the years. Like I say, cowboys are an honourable profession. You can't just take a guy off the road and say, go do what he can do. Can he fix a pipe and all these things that need to be done?