

CHARLES T. ONAKA

Onaka Ranch , Hawai'i

Charlie Onaka has many badges of merit including: Rancher of the Year 1979, 1995, 2003 (Kona Soil and Water Conservation Division), Paniolo Preservation Society director, Hawai'i Cattlemen's Association member, West Hawai'i representative to the Hawai'i County Farm Service Agency and Waimea's Pa'u Marshall. Charlie was also featured in a Western Horseman magazine article, as well as, on the cover and in an article posted in the Hawai'i Herald. He is founder of Onaka Ranch, it's manager and ranch hand.



Graduating with a BS in Animal Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo , Charlie was then employed at Hawai'i Meat Company and at T.H. Davies Feedlot. He was also a U.S. Government Soil Conservationist and University of Hawai'i Extension Agent . Prior to purchasing Onaka Ranch Charlie spent cherished years as a Parker Ranch foreman, truly loving the job, people and stories.

As age crept up on Tom Onaka, Charlie's dad, Charlie knew that sacrifices had to be made to not only carry on the family ranch, but to improve the land which in turn would improve the overall wellness of his cattle and ultimately offer a better life for his family. Through countless "dark to dark" days, hundreds of gallons of sprayed pesticide, fixing rock walls and fence in the cloudless, humid South Kona weather, being a horse trainer and horseshoeing at the snap of a nail, Charlie made it happen.

Today, even after suffering a stroke, Charlie makes it a point to continue to keep up with the ranch while spending more time on leatherwork and saddle making. Patience and affection are clearly displayed by this cowboy and fills the air as Charlie takes the time to continue the tradition of ranching and leatherwork with his grandchildren.





When asked what his proudest moment is, without hesitation Charlie will share that he was able to do what he has always enjoyed and through droughts, cattle diseases, and low cattle prices, worked hard to own his home and business and yet managed to send his three children to college. In his eyes, being able to watch his children graduate with degrees and succeed in life without forgetting about preserving the culture and heritage, life can't be better than that. It's a win-win, but you got to be able to cowboy-up to a whole new level to make it happen.

Photos by Robert Gonzalez



Charlie Onaka Interview

January 22, 2011

LW: Today is January 22, and Gladys Suzuki and Lynne Wolforth are sitting here with Charlie Onaka in his home in Honaunau. I thought maybe we'd kind of just go chronological if you don't mind.

CO: Sure.

LW: As we came down here today we read your dad's biographical sketch, because he was included in this past year in the Hall of Fame. And he was kind of interesting because he owned land here early on.

CO: Most of the land was lease land. We didn't have too much fee simple land.

LW: So how did he swing that?

CO: You see, my grandfather started the ranch up in the northern part Kona, which is of Holualoa. The plantation closed. Somehow they couldn't make money with sugar in Kona. So my grandfather took a portion of that land there... just a portion. And at that time my father's brother, the third child, was allergic to mother's milk so he was badly dehydrated. So they said cow's milk is good. So my grandfather went ahead and bought some cows. I think he bought about seven cows from what I heard. He bought dairy cows. He started with dairy cows for the milk for that child, his son. And he had so much milk, he would lend the cattle out to people who came from the same part of Fukuoka as he did in Japan. And if a cow dropped a calf, he would send the cow over because she would start to milk and lend the cows to those people so they could milk the cows for their families. He did a few of that. They took care of the cow, but often the cows would come back dry. They had to feed their families. But he did that a lot. And from there on he started to raise a few head of cattle. Increased, increased. Then my dad took over after. I think my dad took over in the '30's or '40's. Then he started to build it up. Then we had some lease land on the north side all the way down to Kailua. He had it for twenty-one years. We used up the twenty-one year lease there, then we came here to Honaunau, where he had a Bishop lease for thirty years. So he started down there to improve the land down there. A lot of guys at that time, they went to coffee because coffee started booming at that time... in the '50's. A lot of guys went to coffee but though he went into coffee, he still stayed with ranching. So he started with the ranching in 1955 down here. He started, then I took over after him. But I think my dad did the most improvements. A lot more than my grandfather. My grandfather didn't know cattle so...

LW: What kind of improvements did he do?

CO: Well everybody had just about all kinds of bulls before. So my dad wanted to go with pure Hereford bulls. And those days, Hereford was the breed. Everybody had Hereford cattle. You know, white faced cattle. So he figured the only way to improve was to get pure bred bulls. So the first bull was bought in 1953. I still remember that. I was a young kid but I remember that. And those days, all small ranches didn't have pure bred bulls. So for us, it was something like out of this world, you know, getting the Hereford bulls.

LW: Like getting a Cadillac, or something.

CO: Yeah... it was something different. But then about '55, he bought another horned, Hereford bull. Just to improve the herd again. Then in '66, I think, he bought a bull from the mainland. A Shorthorn Red Shorthorn bull. Just to improve the herd. At that time, people had all kinds of cattle. The ranchers used to call that chop suey cattle. All different breeds. Some dairy... so my dad wanted to start with pure bred bulls. Today... we don't use all pure bred bulls. We even use cross bred bulls today.

LW: Are cross bred hardier?

CO: I think so. I think you cannot beat a cross bred cow because she has hybrid in her. So she milks better, she's going to breed better. She's tougher. But only thing, the first cross, you get hybrid vigor. Heterosis, you know. And the cattle get more lively because they're strong. But you have to expect that. That's why you breed pure bred to cross bred. The first cross, the F-1 is usually a little harder cattle to work with, the first cross.

LW: So you have to expect that.

CO: Yes. I don't say all. but a lot of first cross cattle. That's why you breed cross bred cattle.

LW: 'Cause there's more vigor in that first... F-1 generation?

CO: That's right. And no cattle is the perfect breed. I always say... people say you got to have a certain breed... you got to have nutrition. Nutrition works when you have good genetics. Only good genetics will never make it. You got to have good nutrition. Because any animal, when they're fat they look nice. You can get all the breeding in the world... if you don't have the feed, they won't make it. So nutrition is one thing you got to think of.

LW: So the Hereford was desirable because of their meat...?

CO: Lot of people like Hereford cattle in those days. I don't know why, but I think easy cattle to handle. Only one thing... they get cancer eye. Because of the white pigment in their eyes. Around their eyes. I think in the hot area like down here, the others can get sunburn on their teats. With the heat. And when the teat gets so sunburned, they don't like the calf to suck on it. It's sore. But other than that, Hereford cattle is always good cattle. Good cattle.

LW: Hereford are brown and white.

CO: Herefords usually have a white face, four white legs, a strip along their neck. White switch... tail.

LW: So what had been the breed before Hereford? Just mixed... chop suey?

CO: Mixed. You have a nice bull, somebody else has a nice bull... or a nice calf. They use that. And sometimes they had good results. And some guys with cross bred cattle had nice cattle. So you can rule out that cross bred cattle is not good. And a lot of time I like some cattle with dairy in them. Some Holstein... they're not bad cattle, too. The cows, now. If you have a good Holstein cross cow, you breed them with a good beef bull... because she has a lot of milk. Milk is the key for the calf to grow. But to get milk you need feed. So everything is feed. You have feed, you have milk, you get a nice calf. It was a milestone. And it was in the early '50's. Long ago. Everybody had just regular cattle. We had the Hereford bulls.

LW: So he had to bring them in from the mainland?

CO: No, we had two locals. Pa'auillo Plantation had a pure bred herd. So we bought that. The second bull came from Parker Ranch. They had pure bred cattle at that time. Parker Ranch was way ahead of the game. We had scrub cattle and scrub horses. They already had good stuff. Big... so they could get more good stuff.

LW: What other improvements did your father do?

CO: He did a lot of water improvements... tanks and pipelines and whatnot. Then when I took over I did a lot more from there. I had to do more. I was educated. I should know more than him so I had to be better. And you know Japanese ways... that every generation had to be better.

LW: You were just saying earlier that water is a real issue for running cattle here.

CO: That's right. The water came in the '60's, I think... County (of Hawaii) water. Prior to that we were on catchment. And without the County water, I think there would be no ranches in Kona. They used to pump brackish water from the ocean, but the cost is so high. They cannot do that. And the weather has changed so much. The big ranches in the higher elevations never fed cattle water. The cattle had enough water from the dew in the morning.

LW: About how high up do you have to be?

CO: I'd say about maybe 5,000 feet on the top there.

LW: Yes, that's pretty high. So not till the '50's could you have County water here?

CO: In the '60's County water came in. We had County water after that, but we still had water from the forests coming down. But when I took over from... I took over in '73, but from talking to a lot of guys they said from '69 on, the weather had really changed a lot.

LW: In what way?

CO: Less rainfall. So some years you get so much rain, but a lot of years no rain at all for a long period of time. So we had to hook up to the County line. We pay for the water but it's a lot cheaper. And the water is guaranteed. We used to get water from the forest but it's so acid that in those days the water corroded the galvanized pipe a lot. I think the acidity in the soil corrodes the pipe. The water probably has acid in the water, too, so it corrodes the pipe. Today we use high density pipe. So it won't corrode.

LW: So even your dad brought it down from up above?

CO: Yes... he did. He brought it from up above.

LW: Do they make reservoirs up there?

CO: In the stream, they bank up the stream with concrete and they put the pipes in. And when it rains, the stream is always in a low spot. So a lot of areas have *pāhoehoe* hard rock bottoms. So if it rains, the water always goes to the low spots and collects.

LW: So you kind of use the natural thing to...

CO: Yes, natural, natural. Clean water. Real clean water. But those days it used to rain a whole lot more than today. But thank God, if it wasn't for the County water, we're all out.

LW: So you would lay pipe from up there and bring it down here?

CO: Yes. All the way down. From up there we had I don't know how many miles of pipeline. I'm still using some of the pipes but a lot of them are leaking now.

LW: It's too corroded.

CO: Yes.

LW: So you run it into a tank, and the tank's in the pasture?

CO: The tank goes to the water trough. The tank, we always had all different levels. We'd close all the bottom ones and use the top ones. So if something happened, the cattle broke the water trough, it goes down only so much. So you fix the floor and you open the next valve. In the tank we had about three or four levels. You always have enough water. We had to conserve water in the old days. And boy... we made sure that when my dad told me to go check the water, I made sure that everything was right. Because if you have one tank go down, you can't fill it up if it doesn't rain.

LW: Then your cattle are dead.

CO: I know in 1957 we hauled water from Kailua... the brackish water... up to feed cattle. That's the year the barge brought in water from Honolulu. They brought water to Kona for the people to use the water. It was so dry. It was '57, I'm quite sure. Two things are important when raising cattle... feed and water. Without feed and water you're in bad shape. You need both feed and water.

LW: So the feed... do you have to worry about bringing feed in or whatever you use is from your pasturage?

CO: Yes. That's why in Hawaii, we cannot raise up to our max because when there's a drought, we cannot buy feed cheap like the mainland. Mainland, every year they're going to feed their cattle. Certain areas. So they are prepared to feed cattle. But here, we don't feed cattle. If it's dry, we just got to try to manage to overcome the drought.

LW: So you did pasture improvement, too?

CO: I must have improved a lot because I raised a lot more cattle than my dad. Areas where I know he had so many cows, I doubled up the cows. And that is not from getting more land. That is from improving the pasture. And improving I say it's herbicide and control and rotating cattle.

LW: So you made smaller pastures?

CO: Yeah. In the old days, people used to have big areas... big paddocks. So it's hard to control cattle so a lot of guys used to rope cattle in the old days, because the paddocks are too big. But now they are kind of cutting the paddocks, making them a little smaller and easier to control the cattle that way. You need less guys to drive a smaller area than if you have it all in one. When you have a big area, the cattle will graze the same area all the time. So you cannot improve pasture. Cattle know what's good and what's bad. They're going to eat the best feed first. So if you want to establish a pasture, you have to make fences so you can control cattle and you can rest that area, and the good grass will have a chance to come up. You graze the other side. If possible, you can let the thing seed or the plant mature. Then you put the cattle in and get better results that way. There's all different ways of looking at it. But the most important thing in ranching is profit. If you're making a profit, you're doing right. But you can do everything, but number one is profit.

LW: It's still a business.

CO: Like I say, you cannot spend more than what you make. That's one thing we got to all remember. If you making ten grand, you're spending twenty, sooner or later something gotta go. You won't make it that way, you know.

LW: Yes, exactly. So when you improve the pasture, are you seeding or...

CO: I seed, too. But most of the pastures already have grass. And a lot of the mauka pasture have kikuyu, pangola... they're suited for that area. Whatever else you put in won't make it because those grasses will choke them out. Down below I put out some grass like green panic and nowadays another Japanese grass called *Natsu Kaze*. It's quite good.

LW: What was it called? Green panic?

CO: Yes, green panic.

LW: I never heard of that one before. What's it like?

CO: It's like a guinea grass... but it's mostly short. Raise the guinea grass higher. But talking to people you get the same amount of tonnage... not tonnage, the amount the cattle can use is the same. It's more leafy, the green panic, so they can eat it closer. Whereas the guinea is harder, more coarse, so they eat just the fine leaves. So actually you get more usage with the Green panic. It's short, but you have more leafy area.

LW: *Natsu Kaze* means summer breeze.

CO: That's a grass I tried and I get good results with that. I'm putting out some legumes but it's pretty hard to start legumes. We spray a lot. We use a broadleaf spray, so the broadleaf spray will kill the legumes, so we cannot establish good legumes.

LW: Well legume is kind of an important part of the cycle, isn't it?

CO: It is.

LW: It fixes nitrogen or something?

CO: Nitrogen. Right. We have a lot of ekoa... the koa... the monkeypod. They're all legumes so it helps build up the nitrogen. For the grass.

LW: On this side do you have to supplement with minerals?

CO: I do. I do. Just to be safe. The mineral is a grain supplement and whatever is lacking in the soil in Hawai'i. They have them in bags, so I put out the minerals. Sometimes it's really questionable because when you have a low cattle price, you don't know if the mineral is really helping that much. Like I told the feed salesman, if you're going to increase our calving percent only three percent, the mineral costs more than that. So maybe we don't feed minerals. If we get three percent less in calving, you're still making out without feeding the minerals. But minerals have other uses, of course. I believe mineral is good... but the cost. We know what's good, but the cost is the most important thing. People who are experts in cattle can tell you what to do, what's the best thing. But when you do it and you have to pay for it, you think twice, if it's worth it or not. You put a dollar out, you don't want a dollar to come back. You want a dollar or more to come back. You know what I mean.

LW: You supplement with feed, too, then?

CO: No, I don't. I used to feed molasses. I used to pick up molasses from Ka'u. I was one of the few guys. And I used to add urea. Urea can be toxic, too. Cattle eat too much at once, they can die. So I used to feed urea and put some soy beans.

LW: Where did you get that?

CO: At the plantation. The molasses from the sugar plantation. And I used to add urea in there.

LW: And where did you get that from?

CO: You can buy it. It's just straight nitrogen. And cattle can convert that into protein. The nitrogen. I did that because... I guess it's the cheapest source of energy... feeding molasses. I think people should have fed molasses.

LW: What was the plantation doing with the molasses?

CO: They send it to the mainland and the guys up there so something with the molasses. So why not have us guys use that to feed the cattle? And I think by checking my pasture, when I used to do that, I think I saved about twenty percent of my pasture by feeding molasses.

LW: Twenty percent? That's good.

CO: Yes, twenty percent by feeding molasses. And the cattle look better, too. That's the cheapest source of feed we could have gotten at that time. Molasses.

LW: But you would go all the way down to Ka'u to get it?

CO: Yeah. Yeah. Sometimes you think it's not worth it, but it's my time. A lot of times if I were to hire somebody to do something, it costs me. But I can be talking story with you and not getting anything done. In that time I could go pick up molasses. So I'm talking about a self-employed guy. Sometimes you cannot think of your time. If you think of your time maybe it's not worth it. Because a lot of times, when I'm sleeping, I'm thinking what I'm going to be doing next day. Because to me ranching is serious. I have to make a go with ranching. It's not a hobby to me. I have to make it.

LW: So did you do any selective breeding?

CO: A lot of guys check if breeds are good and whatnot. I like cattle that can travel. We've got rough lava land, and it's hot. A lot of guys pick cattle up that are more on the short and blocky side. Big cattle. I like more rangy type cattle. Some people might disagree, but I think a cow has to be able to move around in this rough area. And we have some rough area. So you want cattle that can move. Then the bulls, I want the bulls to be more of a beefy type. But the cows I want a more rangy type.

LW: And what type are the rangy type.

CO: Well, I used to go with the Red Angus a lot. Red Angus, Gelbvieh... and now I'm going with Charolais. And you know a lot of guys say... Angus. Angus I'd say is one of the best breeds. But it depends on the area. And like I always say, you cannot change the environment. But you can change a breed to suit the environment. What are you going to do with the environment. If it's hot you can't make it cold. But you raise the kind of cattle that can stand more of that. And when I pick cattle... heifers... I like heifers with short hair. The long hair heifers, they cannot get acclimated to the heat. And it's hot. Our area is hot. Nobody likes to raise cattle in our area, it's so rough. Lava and what not. But I cannot do anything. I already have it (the land). So I try to raise the kind of cattle that are going to be more suited for that area. Even horses. I like horses that can lift up their legs. Not horses that can run. I mean you like horses that can run, too, but you cannot run that much in the rough. You want horses that know how to walk in the rocks. Same thing.

LW: So what kind of horse is that?

CO: I like horses with little pot heavy inside. Belgian. We kind of lost that breed already. I had one mare I used to breed right through. And we always get one of the best mares and breed that mare to

the other studs. And we keep her. Got to be a good mare. Then either I or my nephews take the colts. We try them. If they're good, we keep them. If not we get rid of them.

LW: So what makes a good colt?

CO: A good colt... a good cowboy horse is a horse that doesn't get scared of things. And a horse that can travel in the rocks. Not a jumpy horse. Cool headed horse, you know. A horse can kill you in the rocks. So you want something that's more settled. Speed... you don't need speed because the area is so rough. So we don't need all that. Might be some area like Parker Ranch you can use better horses than that. So again, every place has certain horse breeds that are going to be more suited for that area. Parker Ranch horse and here is different. And a lot of time we have areas where the horses have to push through the brush. Rough land, yuh. You get areas where the horses that come from Waimea, they won't go through that. They're so afraid because Waimea is so open, the area and they're used to going through. So we train our horses to go slow.

LW: So the area is rough here partly because it's rocky...

CO: Yes.

LW: But also 'cause it's grown out...

CO: Yes... a lot of brush. I got some good land. Some open land. And some real rough land. But you want the horses to go slow. And when you train the horses in the rough, you don't push the horses. The horse will learn to leap forward. You're pushing the horse. You let the horse, give him close rein... a young horse, I'm talking about. Loose rein and make him go. When we ride the horse in the rough area, we take off the tie down. So the horse has a free head. If the horse trips, he can pick up himself. I always tell my kids, when you take the horses out, take off the tie down. When you're in the corral, you're going to separate, you don't want the horse doing the breast stroke in the corral, you want the horse's head down. Then you put the tie down on. And the horse has to be shod. Every horse. Or it's just like driving the car with a flat tire. So we all carry a horseshoe bag. Horseshoe, nails... if they kick off a shoe outside, we nail them up. And we all can shoe. My two boys, my two nephews. Everybody can shoe their own. And I always told my kids, as long as I'm going to ride my horses, I shoe my own. But after I had the stroke, I cannot do that. I cannot control the nail. The hand doesn't...

LW: The hand can't do fine work.

CO: So I gave up that part of the shoeing horses already. But the kids can shoe so not too bad.

LW: But the point is if the horse should lose a shoe when you're out, you want to be able to put another one right on.

CO: Yes. Yes. And you know, if a guy cannot shoe, you got to call the next guy... hey, come here, shoe the horse. Then you cannot drive in the open space. So when somebody kick off their shoe,

they'll say hey, I'll meet you at the corral. They keep on driving. Bang on the shoe and come to the corral. Then no wasted time.

LW: Were there wild cattle in your area?

CO: At first we had... in the old days we had the wild ones. But I got rid of all those. Some wild cattle jump in, first one out. I don't want to mess around with wild cattle. You know you cannot beat tame cattle. In fact cows, you got cows that are shy. The calves are going to be like that. You breed them for that, too. The other guys say oh, you got wild cattle, good. You can make some money. No, it's not that easy. You bring them in the corral they're going to hit the fence and do some damage in the corral.

LW: Yeah, be crazy, bash up your corral.

CO: Not worth it, you know. For what you can get. And a lot of times, the slaughter house don't take cattle right away. You have to make a booking long time in advance. So you cannot catch a wild one today and tell them you want to take them today. They won't take them. So what you going to do with it now. You throw them out, you cannot bring them back.

LW: But there were still some around that you had to take care of when you started?

CO: Yeah. So what we did was drive them in with the big herd. The bigger the herd, the easier to drive them. They herd in the middle. Sometimes they drive them up the highway, the wild ones, too. The wild cattle. We can drive about a quarter mile on the highway. We stop the cars, we drive them on the highway. And we put the wild ones in, too. A lot of times bulls come in... wild bulls. So what we do is bunch them in, bunch them in. Don't crowd them. You crowd them, they're going to run. They're going to break.

LW: You took over the ranch in '73?

CO: '73, yes.

LW: But you graduated from college in...

CO: '65.

LW: Is that the time you worked at Parker?

CO: No. I worked in the feedlot... Hawai'i Meat Company feedlot.

LW: So that was Honolulu?

CO: Yes. Honolulu. Then I came back, I worked for the Department of Agriculture. Then I was an extension agent. But you know... I'm in the office, but I'm always thinking outside. Oh... that lucky guy out there... here I'm stuck in the office. While I was in the extension office, Dick Penhallow... you

know Dick. He called me one day. He told me there's a job in Kawaihae to run the feedlot in Puako. So I ran the feedlot for Theo H. Davies down there. He said if you don't like it, I'll put you right back where you are right now. You see he was on the Board of Regents. So I went. Oh, I liked it. So I stayed there. Then it closed up. They had that grain elevator down Kawaihae to mix the ration and feed the cattle down there. So the feed truck took the feed all the way down there. Then they gave up that feed lot. Parker Ranch made one up at Saddle Junction. They made a feedlot up there. So I went along up to the ranch.

LW: So when the feedlot was down here, how many head of cattle did they fatten there.

CO: I think they had about a thousand.

LW: That was their capacity, a thousand?

CO: Yeah, yeah. Hawai'i Meat was about twelve thousand, I think. Twelve, thirteen thousand. Because the year I was at Hawai'i Meat I think they put out twenty something thousand head. Out of the feedlot. That's cowboy job. Every day cowboy, ride horse, you know.

LW: Describe what that's like for me. People bringing their cattle in...

CO: Yes. From all over the State people bring cattle over there to Hawai'i Meat Company. But I guess they couldn't make a go of it. The feed costs so high.

LW: But when you were down here, you were cowboying for that operation?

CO: Well, down at Puako. We did everything. We'd sort cattle, we'd dock the cattle. I used to go out and buy cattle, too. From up in Waimea area. Then we fed cattle and we'd take the cattle to be slaughtered. The cattle had to be slaughtered on O'ahu. That was a humbug thing. We had to truck cattle just about every week... one truck load to Kawaihae. Send them by barge, too, to be slaughtered.

LW: So you did all the sorting on horseback?

CO: Yes. It's easier to check the cattle. Easier from horseback to get up close and look at them.

LW: And see their brand and such? What do you mean look at them?

CO: If they're finished... if they're finished.

LW: How do you know they're finished?

CO: You look at them... they're kind of "tight." The back end is more tight than the front. Usually cattle fatten from the front to the back. So when you look in the back, if it's "tight," filled out, then it's ready. Funny you know... animals always fatten from the front to the back. You know when you see cattle with long hair, as they get fat, the hair changes, too. From the front to the back.

LW: So there's not somebody there saying this cattle has been here so many days and...

CO: No. We had no control over that because we had all different pens but whatever was finished, we'd just take them out.

LW: Yeah, 'cause different animals, different...

CO: So we'd go in... look at cattle... how many head can go out from here next week.

LW: You kind of know... you can kind of see what is ready in this pen.

CO: Yes. You got to know which one is finished and whatnot.

LW: So were you doing that all by yourself or...

CO: No. I had guys to help me. But it was a small feedlot. But they had grain at Kawaihae. They used to sell grain from there. They called it the elevator... Kawaihae elevator. And then from there, they fed cattle, they sold the grain to outsiders.

LW: So were you the only Japanese American guy doing that?

CO: Yes. Right. Yes. Parker Ranch... after the feedlot up at the Saddle Junction, I had a different job. I was doing like a special project, feeding them different kinds of minerals, we fed molasses, we did fly control and all that. I was in charge of all those projects. It was good. In fact, when I was at Parker Ranch, it was more of a learning experience for me so I think I knew more than the average guy that worked on a ranch. Because I was there to learn. Every day I watched what they were doing. I looked at the cattle, how they performed in certain areas. I always took notice of that, so I knew what was going on at the ranch. Not the office, but as far as cattle, how the cattle performed, when, how they do... all that... breeds. All that.

LW: So that you were... when you were up there you were cattle manager?

CO: No. I was just an ordinary guy. I was a foreman but... I think I could have run the herd at that time. I always wanted to raise my own cattle, so the thought of my moving to Kona was always there.

LW: You always wanted to take over from your dad?

CO: Yeah. Because you can talk so much about cattle, but when you raise your own, try to make it... then you know, I made money with this cattle with my ability. A lot of time you can talk about it but if you don't make money, no good.

LW: Yes, it doesn't matter.

CO: So I always wanted to raise cattle. Raise a few head. I don't care how much. You can raise one head or a hundred head. If you can make money, that's the most important thing. That's why like I say, no way's the right way. The right way is profit. Like coaches... college coach, professional coach. Your main goal is to win games. You can talk about the sport, but if you cannot win games, you're no help at all. You got to win games, you know. I think for ranches... I think it's a business. A business has got to make a profit to survive, you know.

LW: So what do you think helped you to be successful on your own ranch?

CO: Well... first of all, you got to watch how you spend. And I know that because I went through that. A lot of times I told myself, I wonder if I'm doing the right thing or not. But I cannot give up. It would be a shame for me. My dad had very little education so he gave me the education. If I cannot make out, it's a shame. And animal science is right down my line. I got to do something, you know. So it was tough. Because I had to buy the ranch from my dad. And I'm glad I did. I'm glad I did. If not, I would have spent a lot more money. And maybe I won't be here ranching any more. But because I had to buy the ranch, I know how to budget myself. So if I bought anything... I had to make money out of that. Or I had to be ahead of the game. If not, no way I can make it.

LW: You didn't have a lot of margins.

CO: No. And I was just working Parker Ranch. It wasn't a healthy paycheck there. And I came back with nothing. Of course, I had cattle already. My dad had. But I had to buy all that cattle, so it was tough. And yet, I got to make improvements, too. I told my wife, if I take over, I got to be better. If I'm going to be behind of my dad, what a shame. So when I first took over, I think in two months, I lost about fifteen pounds. When you talk about work, I worked dark to dark. It's just like a dog. You tie up a dog. They you turn him loose, the dog goes crazy. Wow. I wanted to ranch so much... but I wanted to ranch so much.

LW: Well, that's what it takes. It takes that drive to really make a go. Now did you have kids already by that time?

CO: Yeah. I had three. And I had to make a house. It was tough. But my wife, Gwen did a lot. She was my anchorman. We had some bad years.

LW: Hard... tough to get through those.

CO: But my wife always came through.

LW: If anybody goes into ranching because they think it's easy, they ain't going to be there long.

CO: Right. You're right. Maybe if the father sets them up. You know all fee simple land, everything is all paid up. Then it's okay. But oh, I had it hard. And the weather changed. In '69 the weather kind of changed. I had a lot of droughts. And it was tough. The bank was my boss at that time. If I had to broke my leg it would be riding up to the bank.

LW: Run in to the bank.

CO: Yeah. The bank. But no regrets. And my kids like it, too. My grandkids like it too, so not too bad. At least I can say that I raised a lot more cattle than my dad. I made more improvements. My dad was more cowboy. He was rough. He like to rope and ride and he was rough.

LW: But you were smart.

CO: We had to change. My dad had twelve grandkids. Eleven of them graduated from college. With cowboy brains... no more brains, us guys. I just made it to college. I'm not college material. I had a hard time. It took me a long time to go to college. The reason why I went is because I wanted to get a degree in animal science. So with my kids and my nephews, I don't yell. We work the cattle. If they know what they're doing, what for you yell at them? They know. So when we drive cattle everybody knows what to do. It has to be fun so they enjoy it. Even when we brand, it's only family. Everybody enjoys. You want to rope, you rope. And we always have guys with young horse. They rope and drag calves. They use the young horses. All young horses.

LW: Why is that?

CO: They learn... to drag the calf and to face. So we do that. And we don't care how long they take. Main thing they catch. We always handle the cattle real good. I always tell my kids, we're going to bring these cattle in the corral a hundred more times. And we're going to work them a hundred more times. Don't rough them up. Go easy with them. And my mother used to always say, don't rough up the cattle because that animal is going to make money for you. If you treat the animal bad, then eventually you're not getting anything better.

LW: In the early years, did you have people working for you or was it just you?

CO: No. We never had. You know my dad told me before when I took over the ranch, two things to remember. Don't ever partner with anybody. In ranching. Because anybody can talk about cattle by talking to somebody else or read the book. They can tell you how to run a ranch. Even if they don't know a damn thing. So don't partner up. Even your own family, you don't partner. Next thing, don't go too big. You go too big, you cannot control the cattle, cattle all over, you're going backwards, he said. Not because you going big, you're going to make more money. Because you get more overhead. And I think he was right. Those two things he'd done right, I think. And he said, people on weekends ask guys for help. You can't ask guys to help all the time. People got things to do. So I was thinking of picking up some land in Ka'u and going a little bigger in cattle. That was years ago. My wife told me, your kids and your nephews are going to be your worst enemy. I asked her why. Because you're going to have to ask them for help all the time if you go bigger. And they're married. They have kids, too. The kids play sports on the weekend. And you ask them to help all the time, sure my nephews, my kids like to help me. But when they go home they have families to tend to. And you don't blame the wives, today's wives. And sometimes you got to go to a wedding Saturday night. Work till late, they come back late, you cannot go already. So my wife said, might be better

like this. We're not big, but we can do the work by ourselves. We don't have to work until dark. And yet everybody can enjoy and go home.

LW: Lot more risk, too.

CO: And today, a lot of guys are on lease land. They're paying for lease now. Your fee simple not too bad. You don't pay lease. You pay the taxes and whatnot but the lease is not cheap, too. So when you figure if you go more big, you're going to get that much more overhead. If any business doesn't make money, nobody is indispensable. Anybody can go. If the operation doesn't make money... it's not always the lowest guy on the pole. It's the guy up there. I always remember that. If the operation doesn't make money, nobody's indispensable. Anybody from the top to the bottom can go.

LW: So your nephews are your brother's kids?

CO: My brother... my oldest brother died, and he was supposed to take over the ranch. Because he's the oldest. In Japanese families, the oldest son takes over the business. But he passed on early... thirty-five, I think he was.

LW: He was only thirty-five years old?

CO: Thirty-five. He left three kids. The youngest was fourteen months. He had cancer. He passed on. So I was the next guy to take over. I knew that since my brother was the oldest he would take over the ranch. So I told my father that I wanted a small portion. Someday I wanted to raise my own cattle. Even if I worked for the government or I worked for him, I wanted to raise cattle. You know, a few head. Might be twenty-five... but I just like to raise cattle. My own. You know, use my judgment to raise cattle. Nobody tell you how to raise. You raise the way you want to raise them that way.

LW: So did he go to college, too?

CO: No. But he worked hard. In the old days, you got to work hard. Ranching and anything. But... in the old days, people made a profit because everything was cheap. The lease was cheap. We have a lot of Bishop leases. Now it's up and up and up. And sure, if the cattle price goes up, everything else is up, too. Fuel price, you buy a truck today and it's up. Everything is up. Insurance and whatever you think of, you know. So it just don't balance out, sometimes.

LW: What improvement are you most proud of on the ranch?

CO: I think the land... improving the land... the pasture. Because I raise a lot more cattle with the same amount of land. So that means I improved it more.

LW: So that's all that dividing up into smaller pastures...

CO: Smaller paddocks and also cleaning land. Improving land... taking paddocks.,,

LW: You had to clean land, too. I guess so.

CO: I had to run dozers, too. Nowadays running a dozer is almost impossible, the cost. Per acre... I don't know how long you have to raise cattle to break even with the cost. Here in Kona, I'm talking about where you have a lot of rough land. Lot of guys can dozer. They have their own dozer, too. But even your own dozer it's not cheap. But today it's expensive. And we don't have special rates. The bulldozer pushing for a subdivision is making good bucks. He's not going to say I'm going to push pasture land, it's a lot cheaper. No, same price. Hourly rate. The cost per hour is the same. Regardless if he's pushing for a road or he's pushing for a pasture. It's the same.

LW: So you take your profit and you invest it in a little more cattle, but you don't want to get too many...

CO: Well, thank God, we have coffee, too. I have coffee... I have mac nuts, too. I figure we got to diversify. A lot of ranches, in the mainland, too, they have cattle but they always have something besides that. If you have all fee simple land and a lot of financing in the back of you, then you can just grow cattle without worrying about other stuff. But like I say, I think it's easier to produce a pound of coffee than a pound of beef... a calf. A pound of coffee is worth a dollar and twenty cents. No way we get that much per pound on calf.

LW: Really? So you're shipping your calves away, yuh?

CO: Yes.

LW: And you go in with a bunch of people?

CO: No. I just ship them outright. You can claim ownership and send them to the mainland. You might get a better price. But once the animal goes off the island, you have no control.

LW: So you sell them out?

CO: I sell them right here. I rather sell them and even if the price is down, the cash is in your hand. You take them up there, you claim ownership, you can never tell what's going to happen. Of course at the end, you probably make more. But that's down the road. I think it's safer if you get the money in your hand, put it in the bank.

LW: Since we don't have a finishing place, you got to go run cow calf.

CO: Yeah. Sometimes if I have a good year I also have some steers. And I fatten them and ship them to Kulana Foods.

LW: And then you take the meat?

CO: No. We send them to Kulana. Not bad price, you know. Over there. Some guys do that. But when you figure the time involved, it's not worth it sometimes. But I have a lot of feed sometimes. We keep some steers. We fatten some steers. We get a dollar and twenty-five, thirty cents a pound. Not bad. You get a big steer five, six, seven hundred pounds. Pretty good money. It's something that it comes in... good cash flow.

LW: The cash cow, as they say.

CO: I don't know about that.

LW: I forget how many slaughtering spots are left on the island. Two? Only those two?

CO: Andrade one and Kulana... Yagi.

LW: Pa'auillo?

CO: Yeah.

LW: Where is it in Pa'auillo? Mauka?

CO: Makai. Down by the ocean side.

LW: And who owns that?

CO: Dave DeLuz. You know Toyota? He and some other guys, I think. Have shares in there.

LW: What does it mean to you to be a good cattleman? What's a good cattleman?

CO: Well... profit. Just like you're talking about a coach. What's his job now? His job is to win games, right? There's no one way that is the best way. Like I say, profit is the best way. If you can profit, you're doing something right. That's what I feel. Might be other guys have a different opinion on that, but to me, it's how much profit you can make.

LW: So do you think your dad turned a profit?

CO: He did, I think. Because even if he had less cattle, everything was cheap. Lease was cheap... everything. Then from there on... it went up.

LW: Everything in our lives is like that.

CO: We got to watch out how we spend. Cattle... I don't know... if somebody thinks cattle is real profitable, they got to tell me why, how. And sometimes the right way is not always the best way. There are some guys, they run cattle, they throw the whole herd all in one, don't fix the fence, don't fix anything. Drive them in. They make profit. That's the wrong way, but it's the right way for profit. Don't put in. Just dump the cattle in a big area. Main thing you got a lot of guys to drive the cattle.

You take whatever you need, just throw them out. All you do is check the water, you don't check the in between fences. Only the outside fences. Check that. That's again... I would say that's the way to make a profit. It's not the right way. And I always say, too, a high production, you can get a lot of heavy calves, it's not always profitable, too.

LW: Oh, how's that work?

CO: If you want high production, you raise nice cows. You get a lot of feed for the cows, the cows are in good shape. You grow big calves. You raise less calves. You raise big calves. High production. But you're not making money because you probably can increase your herd about ten, fifteen percent more cows. That would bring a lot more money. So high production is not always high profit. I believe in that. But of course, you cannot raise a lot more cattle, you know, and think you're going to make out. Sometimes you don't make out. But in order to raise less, you always have feed, even in the drought. The cows going look healthy, too. But the cows, you don't want the cows to be too fat. The cows shouldn't be too fat.

LW: Why is that?

CO: Well, I think too fat cows, they don't conceive too good. And they don't milk too good, too. Like a dairy cow. You don't see a dairy cow fat. A dairy cow is more on the thin side. But the dairy cow milks a whole lot more. But they feed them a lot more, too, dairy cows. A good example, if fat was a good production in milk, you'd see all dairy cows fat. But you don't see dairy cows fat. And like I always say, it's not how much land you have. It's how much cattle you can raise and feed in an area.

LW: And each area is different.

CO: Each area is different. And it's not how much cows you have. It's how much calves you end up with. You can have so much cows but if you have low calving percentages, it's not too good, too. It's how much cattle you can raise in a given area, and how much calves you can get out of so much cows. Lot of guys get lot of cows, but not too much calves, too.

LW: And then it goes back to the grass. If you don't take care of the land, the land won't take care of you.

CO: That's right. The land... the grass is a real important thing. You don't need any fancy horse or whatnot if you can remember one thing. Take care of your grass. The grass makes money for you. And of course, through that, you have to distribute the cattle, you have to place water so they don't graze one area all the time, and you got to have fences, rotate and all that. Right now I still have my cattle all in one area. The drought... still cannot recover. But once it recovers, I have several paddocks. I rotate them. Then they always have good feed. You put them in one paddock, they're going to graze the grass right down. That's not the way to do it. I believe that's not the way to do it. But... I talk to a lot of guys... the extension service, doctors and whatnot. They make ranching so darn easy. You don't need to talk to them. They got ideas... but all ideas take money and it's not that easy to do.

LW: What is the future of ranching going to be like?

CO: There will be less and less people ranching. Even up in the mainland there are less and less ranchers, too. When I was in college, they were talking about a lot of the BLM land... the fertile land. They were going to take a lot back for recreational areas because today there's a lot of development coming in, housing and whatnot. So when you have a whole bunch of housing coming in, you got to have an area where people can drive up and enjoy the forest. So they taking a lot of forest land back, the Federal, so people can enjoy that. So that takes away a lot of ranch land, too. All that federal land.

LW: Yes, in the West. The Bureau of Land Management.

CO: Yeah, BLM land. Over here I don't know but the State might take over some land.

LW: Your lease is with Bishop. So all of this land down here is Bishop Estate land?

CO: Yeah. Bishop. We had about fifty... over fifty-five years. And up in Holualoa... some places over eighty years, or ninety years. You got to make improvements. Bishop wants that. So we try. My whole place is not clean but I look at the area, and what area has good possibility of growing grass and cattle, I improve that area. Some areas, no matter... you put a hundred dollars in, you never get a hundred dollars back. It's rough land. So we look at the land, and it's the rancher's judgment to see what area is good, if you have the possibility of growing grass.

LW: Well I guess you can be proud of making some good judgments.

CO: Well, I made some bad judgments. You know to make any decision, it's hard because you're going to fail sometimes. Not all the time you can be ahead. But if you don't fail, you don't try. If you don't try, you don't make mistakes. When you try, you make mistakes, you know. But it's been real nice. I enjoy ranching. Some guys like ranching because they like to ride horse and all that. I like that part, too. But I like to... to raise cattle, you know. I like that part. The raising... improve pastures... try to improve cattle. Like I say, I don't have the best cattle, but I try to get cattle that will be more acclimated to my area.

LW: Do you think the college taught you that?

CO: You know college teaches you only so much. After that you have to learn it on your own. But I think sometimes like nutrition and reproductive things, I think it teaches you. At least you learn basically how it works.

LW: I know some people, the first time they breed a cow, they breed her with a smaller...

CO: Yeah... smaller bull, huh.

LW: ...cross her with a smaller bull, and then the second time bigger. Did you do that kind of stuff?

CO: Not too much. We try to just put our bulls out. Like they say Charolais... they're too big. But it's kind of hard to have a different bull for a different bunch of cows. But a lot of times, you get some dud bulls, too. Bulls that don't breed. So I put in more than enough bulls out. A lot of times I put in the young bulls. Young bulls, they're more aggressive.

LW: So they're your bulls? Usually the bulls belong to you.

CO: Yes. But I buy them from outside. I don't want to breed my own.

LW: So you buy them as a calf?

CO: I buy them, if possible, as a yearling. Or wean off. Where it's a little on the cheap side yet, and you let them grow up in the rough where they're going to be breeding. Like horses, too. Our young horses, we throw them in the worst place. They're going to learn how to pick up their legs, they're going to learn how to go through logs and whatnot. Better to get hurt when they're young. But let them get used to all that. All the sticks all around. They get poked with the sticks... that's how they learn. Bulls the same thing, too. Where they're going to be breeding... the rough area. I get some really rough areas, you know. They do all right, the bulls. That's why I don't need the big bulls. I have some bulls, too big. You get a one ton bull in that rough area, you'll never make it. Too heavy.

LW: What story do you feel is important to get into the oral history. I like to focus on all this cattleman stuff because we're doing this oral history for the Paniolo Hall of Fame, but is there any kind of story about your ranch or your family that you'd like to make sure gets in this account? Or story about your dad?

CO: Well you know... we're one of the first Japanese ranchers. And we were just a minority in ranching. My dad used to always tell me... when you use your saddle make sure the saddle is in good shape. When you shoe your horse, make a good job, because if there's a Hawaiian, a Portuguese and a Japanese, they're going to look at the Japanese horse, how it's shod and how it's saddled and all that. Don't have to be the best saddle or the best horse or the shoeing... but it at least be pretty good. Because they're always going to criticize, you know. Because not too many Japanese around, you know. So we always try to... when we shoe, we try to make a good job of shoeing. And a lot of guys ask me... you shoe your own? I shoe my own, I break my own, too. I break my own horse, you know. We do everything that the next guy can do. I slaughter cattle, I can cut meat. I can do most everything a rancher can do. And we have to learn all that. I can repair saddles. Make everything... all the riding tack... I can fix it all. I think thirty something years we're ranching, I think I bought only two headstalls. We make our own. We make them all. Not good looking, but it's thick. You know ranch kind, it's not how it looks but big, thick leather, so it lasts long.

LW: Did you tell us why your dad got into ranching?

CO: My grandfather was there. Then my dad.

LW: He must have liked it, too.

CO: Oh, he loved it. That's why he used to ship cattle, he used to go out in the mountain and rope wild cattle. He used to like that. In that sense, I'm different from him. I like to raise cattle more than do all that rough stuff. But that's okay. It's all different, you know. A lot of guys want to... you know a lot of guys work Parker Ranch. They're lousy ranchers. They're good cowboys but lousy ranchers. So a lot of times, just because a guy is good in sports, it doesn't mean he's a good coach.

LW: Right. Or a good businessman.

CO: Sometimes a good player is the worst coach. And sometimes a coach don't know a darn thing about the sport... he can be the best coach, you know. Yeah. So it depends on the person. But in my case I kind of like cattle, so I remember a lot.

LW: You really can say you like cattle?

CO: Yeah. Yeah. You know when you like something, you don't forget too much. And I always tell my wife, when there's a drought, a lot of times I complain, complain, to my wife. When the drought is over, you see green grass, you forget all about the bad. When you like something, you can remember the good. You forget the bad. But that's what happens. When there's a drought. And I had a lot of those. And I feel sorry... you know when you lose some old cows. Because they're too old... it's the rancher's fault for not culling the cow. But the slaughterhouse don't take them, you keep them. When you lose cows like that... and always the case, the oldest cow on the ranch is the best cow. She's there because she's a good cow. She's not wild. She produces a calf for you every year. She's the best mother on the ranch. And when that animal dies, you feel hurt, you know. Because good cows are always the last one to go on the ranch. The one that's the troublemakers, they're the first ones to be shipped. And the ones that have calves all the time... they're the ones... the moneymakers. Every year they cycle one calf. That's how ranching can make money.

LW: What was it about ranching that really attracted you to it?

CO: I think from young days. Like all these Portuguese kids, they all like ranching because their fathers like it. You go along. And funny... I was really close to my dad. So when he talked about ranching, I really remembered.

LW: Do you remember your grandfather very much?

CO: Yes, I remember him. But he wasn't a ranch man. He could ride horse, though. But I think he was a blacksmith for the plantation so he must have shod horses, too. In the old days. My dad was the one... rough.

LW: Well this photo of him is great. He looks like he's totally into it.

CO: He did a lot of that. Even when he was seventy-seven, he used to go with us. Rope the calves, drag them. He always roped the big ones. When he's dragging the calf, he's smiling. Always smiling when he dragged the calf.

LW: Did you ever see him swim cattle out?

CO: Oh yeah. A lot of time it would be school days when they used to ship cattle. I used to tell my dad, I want to go down with you. So I would go down with him. The shipping horse, my older brother takes the horse. We lived way at the top of Holualoa. He leads the shipping horse without saddle because that horse is going to work all day. Then he rides another horse to go down there. Then we'd go down with the jeep, bring his shipping saddle and get ready. Most of these guys have already died. But I still remember that. In fact, a few years back, we celebrated the ninety years we were in ranching. I had a gathering. The sons and grandsons of the shipping days came up. We had a celebration a small celebration. Ninety years because a hundred years, I might not be around. There used to be a place at the King Kam Hotel. Horses were unsaddled under a big banyan tree. Gomes, he used to get about three or four horses... shipping horses. They take off the shipping saddle, they whack the horse... you know in Kailua town... the horses running full blast going home. They turn the horse loose. The horse goes up, eats grass all the way up. Today, ten feet, you have an accident. Too many cars.

LW: The horse would go on its own?

CO: Yeah... the horse can go home. They know where home is. You turn the horse loose, they go straight home. Take off the saddle... when the horse is about... you know Ocean View... horse top speed going home. Hoo... the clack, clack, clack... top speed going home. They turn them loose, huh. Then my brother used to lead the shipping horse. All the way home. Oh, that was the old days! I used to like that. It was like a rodeo in the old days. And you know sometimes when you rope one, you drag one out, the other ones rock out so they got to chase them out into the water and rope them. Oh, that was some fancy... that was something, you know.

LW: So the cattle would do things you wouldn't expect...

CO: You know when one goes through, sometimes they want to follow that one and go out. The cattle don't like the water. They're afraid of the water.

LW: You were telling us once they get close to the water the cowboys had to take off, right?

CO: Yeah... they got to take off. So my dad said you got to watch out because sometime you come at top speed you get hit... the wave, you know. And the cattle right behind coming. And when cattle don't like to come and you force them, they're going to leap forward. They dive and jump in the water. You got to watch out. They jump on the horse, too. That was the old days. That was his story all the time talk about that... shipping cattle.

LW: Yes... everybody likes that story. But see, we heard a new part of it today we never heard before. Just turn the horse loose and he goes home.

CO: Yeah... turn the horse loose... the horse goes right home. And the horse knows when to turn off. Going through Kailua town, the road going to Ali'i Drive side... cross the street and go right

home. Deep grass and no cars at that time. In fact when I was a young kid, a lot of guys used to train horses on the road. We used to ride young horses on the road because it was open, the road. Today you can never do that now. Traffic is so bad. But we still drive cattle across the road. Like in Holualoa, we drive cattle across the road. We stop the traffic. Drive them across. But right now they're going to fix that area here. About a quarter mile down here, we stop the traffic. We drive the cattle on the road. One guy in the front, one guy behind. We drive the cattle. I'm usually the one behind. I thank everybody. I thank them. Hey... a lot of people tell me I got to thank you. 'Cause we don't see this. They take pictures and all that. They said... hey, we got to thank you... we don't see this driving cattle on the road. This road is made for cars, not cattle. I know that. But just to be nice I always thank the people because sometimes we have a long line of cattle on the highway. Long line, long wait for the cars. But we make sure there's one guy in the front and the rest of us in the back. The front guy goes up and opens the gate and holds the cars back.

LW: And I bet there's more traffic down nowadays.

CO: Yes. And you know down here, there's a lot of tour buses, too. And they're on time, you know. So I really thank them. Hoo... the pictures... guys taking from the windows and all that.

LW: In Hawai'i especially. A lot of guys have no idea.

CO: Yeah, a lot of guys don't think we have cowboys over here. So they take pictures. Oh, that's something.

LW: So will your boys or your nephews keep on... doing ranching?

CO: I have two boys. Eventually each will operate the Honaunau and/or Holualoa ranches. Nothing's more satisfying than to drive, brand and work cattle with my grandchildren. That's a "good feeling." But cowboy alone... you know it takes more than that, you know. Cowboy is good... you got to be a good horseman. But a rancher doesn't need top horses. Especially small ranchers like us. We don't need fancy horses, you know. Main thing, the horse can do a day's work and move cattle. And we go slow. When we drive cattle, my oldest son and I we drive mostly together... we don't make noise. As long as the cattle are going the way we want... just only talk to them... talk to them. You make too much noise, the cattle going to look at you and think what's making that noise. But when you just go easy, easy, they always look in front. They know where to go. My dad used to use whip a lot. I used to use whip, too, but not any more. He used dogs a lot. I used to have good dogs, but I think no need dogs any more. My dad was different. Every generation changes. The old and the new. The way we work cattle. A lot of people don't even realize that they used to use whips and dogs a lot. Now, if you have good cattle, you train them right, they will go where you want them to. Might be some areas like Waimea, where the cattle are run a lot, maybe dogs would help. But I try to go easy, easy with cattle. Don't give them a bad time because they won't want to come in the corral. So you got to remember a hundred more times we'll put them in here. So go easy with always them.

LW: Not to mention, if they run they lose weight.

CO: Yeah, you don't want that, too.

LW: And they get hurt... bruised. I think maybe I've asked you most of the questions I'd like to ask. Anything else you want to have in the interview.

CO: Oh... I got to tell you about my wife Gwen. My wife always fixes the lunches for us. Without her, everybody is going to starve. So... got to thank her, huh.

LW: Of course.

CO: And all the years... a lot of years.

LW: And she's pretty, too.

CO: But she has bad eyesight... she picked me. (Laughs.) Lousy eyesight... she cannot see good that's why she picked me.

GO: Oh... you're my handsome samurai.

LW: There you go!