

Frank Silva

W.H. Greenwell Ranch

Palani Ranch, Hawai`i



Frank was born in 1924, the 13th of 17 children of Frank and Minnie Silva of Holualoa, Kona, Hawai`i. He grew up and attended school there until the 9th grade, when he quit, to help out at home. His love for the cowboy life started early.

Frank began his paniolo career at the W.H. Greenwell Ranch, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, father and uncles who were all paniolo on the same ranch. When not working cattle, cowboys broke horses in the open, as they had no breaking pens. In the early days there weren't many roads and when they worked cattle mauka, they stayed up at the mauka homestead, Puulehua, sometimes for three or four months at a time. They roped and branded a lot of rangey cattle.

In 1962, Frank became ranch foreman and several years later, his son, Frank Silva, Jr. came to work for the ranch as well.

The Greenwell family sold W.H. Greenwell Ranch in the late 1980's and Frank went to work for Richard Greenwell and Jack Greenwell. After Jack's death, Frank retired, but Palani Ranch leased Jack Greenwell's land and hired Frank out of retirement to work cattle on the land he knew so well.

When Frank was 75, after years of broken bones from cowboy work, he finally quit riding and gave in to riding in a truck. Today, Frank maintains about 500 head of feeders for Palani Ranch, doing the work mostly alone. He still checks the water system and maintains the fences on the same land that he has worked on for more than 53 years.

"I could ride all day. I could ride a hundred miles and it wouldn't bother me. I never complain. To me, never enough. I'd ride day and night if I didn't have to sleep. I love it!"

Paniolo Hall Of Fame

Interview with

Frank Silva

June 2004

By: Ku'ulani Auld

Kalukalu Kona, Hawaii

KA: Good morning Frank and thank you again for your time. I wanted to know more about your family and your life here on the ranch.

FS: Yeah, my father used to work for the Greenwells here. Clean pastures, stonewall, whatever needed. He worked for the old Henry Greenwell. His father used to work here too.

KA: That would have been your grandfather. Was he from Portugal?

FS: Yes. He come from there and he work for old man Greenwell. In those days they were just common workers. The small little house on the hill before Kamigaki's was built, that was thee first house I lived in when I came on this ranch. My grandfather built that house.

KA: Is that where you were born?

FS: No, that was later when I lived there. My father moved to Holualoa.

KA: And you had seventeen siblings! Did they all stay in Hawai'i?

FS: Well I get couple sisters in the mainland, one sister in Ka'u. Only four of us here in Kona, four brothers, and one sister.

KA: Julian is one of them?

FS: Yeah, he is the oldest now. My brother John is a retired plumber from Pearl Harbor in Honolulu. Tony retired; he is a truck driver down at the dumpsite in Kailua. My sister Karen lives up Kealakehe. I don't know if you know her husband Joe Nobriga from Palani Ranch?

KA: Oh yeah. And which number are you, eleven?

FS: Number thirteen!

KA: What can you remember of your childhood in Holualoa?

FS: Well, kid days was not like today that's for sure. You know those days was working days; farming and you didn't have things like today. Even toys we make our own games, not like today kids got too much money, too much time, too much everything and that's why they get into too much trouble.

KA: What kind of toys did you have?

FS: Cowboy was the famous game in those days. Everything was cowboy in those days. Cowboy was god! We would be one of the most popular cowboys like 'ole Manuel Gomes and all those kind guys. In those days ranchers used to drive cattle on the road from Holualoa to Honokohau and we would watch all that. Boy you see those horses chasing cattle and cowboys yelling and all that. That was the life and every game we played was cattle and cowboys yelling and all that. That was the life and every game we played was cowboy. Our horses was made out of guava sticks, coffee sticks and we use string for the bridle. That was our horse. Our guns was ginger. You know the root looks like a gun- that was our six shooter! We use to climb trees and bend those branches as far as they would go. That was the way in those days. Kids had plenty to do.

KA: You had to use your imagination and make your own fun.

FS: You know you go to school even six, seven years old, you come home and you got chores to do. The people they grow their own raise their own. We raised everything from chickens to turkeys, ducks, rabbits, goats, and pigs. Everything we had!

KA: Did you have a milk cow?

FS: Milked our own cows. When I was about twelve or thirteen years old I used to milk two cows before I went to school. I mean it wasn't five, six, seven gallons like today. Those poor cows before were no special thing. If they give you gallon and a half you were lucky. And we shared

with the neighbors and everything you know. If you killed an animal you give the neighbors, well those days no more freezers like now. You salt or when iceboxes came along the iceman comes around and you buy maybe twenty-five pound block or depend on the size of your box.

KA: Where did the iceman come from, Kailua?

FS: You know I'm not sure. He come around with the ice car with blocks of ice and he had a saw. I'm not sure where was the ice plant. Must have been from Hackfeld in Kailua. I was kinda young, so I not sure where exactly the iceman came from.

KA: So you grew all your own vegetables, raised your own meat and stuff. Did you make Cheese?

FS: We used to make our own butter.

KA: You were self-sufficient but I guess staples like rice were bought at a nearby store?

FS: Yeah, but flour was the main thing so you could bake bread. My mother used to bake. Sometimes I wonder how my mother had the time to make bread and still she had to work the land.

KA: She had seventeen little helpers!

FS: Well, that's true. Those days like I said if you too old for that, you okay for something else.

KA: Everyone participated.

FS: Coffee trees used to be high in those days, nobody thought about keeping them low like they do today.

KA: You raised coffee?

FS: Yeah, we had about five acres of coffee. And you know when you pick coffee, if you too small to reach high then you can pick the ones that drop on the ground. Everyone had a job.

KA: So...what kind of bread did your mom bake?

FS: Oh yeah, those days when they were first making the roads everything was by horse or wagon- very few cars. My father used to come on the horse from Holualoa. He used to be the tar boiler. The big wagon was there with blocks of wood and he come early in the morning to start the fire. By the time the workers come it would be ready to pour. He would start maybe three or four in the morning to boil the tar.

KA: Was it an open fire under the wagon?

FS: It was like a wagon with a stove under, and he stuff it with wood. Just like a woodstove. That's why he started so early to get it going. And then my mother used to bake the bread in a stone oven.

KA: Stone oven, like the one up at Kealapuale?

FS: Yeah, well it was a big 'ole round stone oven with a door in front.

KA: Where was it located- by the kitchen?

FS: Just attached to the back of the house right at the back of the kitchen. You could work 'em from the kitchen. So he come to work in the morning and take maybe ten loaves of bread and hang them on his saddle. And Hawaiians just loved homemade bread. Five cents a loaf. Great big loaves. Today you pay four dollars for one of those. Five cents a loaf! And those days he used to work for one dollar a day with his sledgehammer and rocks boiling tar and whatever else he do. So then he would make \$1.25 selling bread. He would make more money selling bread then pounding rocks!

KA: Really?

FS: In those days you didn't need much and people wasn't afraid to work. People were nicer to each other; they respected each other. Neighbors were real neighbors and they helped each other, they shared with each other. You always had fresh meat and something fresh.

KA: Did anyone in your family continue making the bread after your mom...

FS: Well my older sister, even I think Karen, the one on Palani Ranch. She used to do it but I don't think she make anymore. My mother taught her how.

KA: That's good...somebody knows the recipe. When you lived at Holualoa did you grow grapes... did anyone make wine?

FS: Some people, I remember Manuel DeGuiar, few people I remember three or four different places with grapes around us. A lot of people used to make their own wine. Those days was allowed but afterwards you couldn't do it. My father was never a drinking man but he was known as one of the best liquor makers. Until today I don't know a beer that tastes as good as his. Oh his wine was terrific...real good wine. And you squeeze the raisins and use that to make swipe. You know you can make something out off everything.

KA: Did he make *okolehau*?

FS: Yeah, they used to get the Ti-root and *kalua* in the ground overnight in the *imu*. It would come out thick like honey. Us kids used to like to eat that. They would kick us out of there. Sweet you know.

KA: You used the big root?

FS: Yeah, big big root. I don't see them big like that anymore. Then they had redwood boxes with half-inch pipes, and one dropped into the other. I think it ran through charcoal to purify and then the lasts part is to let it drip 24 hours or however long it takes until the last bit drips out. The *okolehau* comes out clean- looks like water.

KA: I tried some *okolehau* made in 1936. It was clear ...strong stuff! What else did you make liquor out of?

FS: We had pineapple swipe, *panini* we used *panini*, anything that ferments you could make swipe. Even sweet potato you could use. In those days I guess people just learn how to use everything.

KA: And how about the beer?

FS: Oh yeah real good beer. He had a box with a little handle that he used to cap his bottles. Bought a box of caps for I think ten cents you get a couple hundred caps. We used to keep 'em in the stone oven. That oven used to keep it nice and cool. No icebox to keep the beer in. People mostly drank the beer warm. If you had an oven you keep 'em in the oven and it will be pretty chilled you know, nice. We even put 'em in the banana patch; you put couple leaves on the ground and cover with leaves. Yeah it would keep nice and cool in the banana patch.

KA: What happened to the stills and other equipment to make the beer?

FS: I really don't know. That sure would be something good to keep today.

KA: Well I guess during prohibition days a lot were hidden or destroyed.

FS: Maybe, because after that my father had to give it up, and that's why we don't know how to do it. My brother in Honolulu Johnny, he figured out the wine. I would say almost as good as my father's wine. Its darn good wine he makes but my father's still a little bit better.

KA: Where did your father get the hops and other ingredients?

FS: He would order, and some kind of dark colored german syrup and he used Fleishman's yeast. I remember he would buy a big block of Fleishman's yeast for five cents.

KA: Did your family have a jeep to get to the store?

FS: No, no car. Few people had cars. Some had model A or model T like that, but mostly it was horse or you walked. I guess in Holualoa, everything was pretty close. We used to walk maybe three miles to school in those days.

KA: Did you go to Holualoa School?

FS: It only went up to eight grade. Yeah, then the younger ones went to Konawaena but the rest was all Holualoa College! In those days a lot of people went to six, seventh grade, and lucky if that. There was no law that you had to go to school.

KA: Well I think by the time you get to eight grade you were fourteen or fifteen and able to go to work.

FS: When I got out of Holualoa School I was fifteen and I went to the CCC camps. There were camps in Waimea and Volcano. They were made by President Roosevelt in 1953, to keep kids off the road and teach them how to work. To me that's what they should start today. Something like that...it was a great thing.

KA: What kind of work did you do?

FS: Forestry mostly. Up until 1941 World War II broke out. It was a great thing and you know in those days people worked for one dollar a day. The camps were something like the army, you worked six days a week Monday through Friday, Saturday drill like the army training. You get free clothes, free boots, and everything like the army. Thirty dollars a month, and eight dollars was your monthly allowance. Twenty-two dollars you send home. If you had no place to send, no family then they put 'em in the finance for you. You sign up for six-month term, after two years you get out, you can not sign no more.

KA: What a great program. I guess a lot of kids went there.

FS: It was a good thing. They discipline the kids- it was tough, real tough. They learn how to make roads in the mountain, fencing, and forestry things. It was work and in those days there was nothing for kids. Today it is what they need. You know today there is so much wasteland. They could be using it to teach kids how to reforest and things. It sure would keep kids out of trouble. Really to me the CCC camps were the best thing there was.

KA: I can see how this would have prepared a lot of men for ranch work.

FS: That's true. A young boy trained to make fences and all that the ranches grabbed 'em.

KA: Was W.H. Greenwell the first ranch you worked on?

FS: No. I was at Palani for a while. Way back in 1945-46. I came here in 1950.

KA: Was the manager then, Fred Richards?

FS: Yeah, Fred was the manager.

KA: During the 1950's the ranch began a lot of changes, improvements.

FS: That's right. Well, when I first came here below here was mostly lantana, *panini*. I couldn't even go down with the horse.

KA: Wish we had *panini* today *makai*.

FS: Oh yeah, to bad they destroyed that. I think they sorry they destroyed it. Well look at Waimea today. See the *panini* was good cause in the dry weather when you have nothing left the cattle eat all the young leaves. I remember when ranchers used to chop all the *panini* down for the cattle to eat off the ground.

KA: And it had water.

FS: Today when you get down to dust – that's all you got. Yeah, I think they sorry they when get rid of that.

KA: So when you first started on the ranch a lot of the work was clearing pastures?

FS: When I first came it was still solid lantana and cactus like that. When you ride through down here the trails were covered. Two guys would lead all the horses and six or seven of us would line up and drive through. Honeybee hives would be under all those bushes and pigs by the dozens. When they come running through the trail everybody would yell and you better get off the trail. If not they just run right through you. It was rough and hot. Lantana was so thick when you come out your pants was like all cut up from thorns.

KA: Didn't you have chaps?

FS: We never used chaps in those days. A lot of us neva have chaps. Then they got the tractor in with the chain drag. The chain each link was ninety pounds. You just knock everything down with the blade and crush and clear. When everything was level to the ground you come on the horse and throw seeds. Guinea grass. Before that the paddock next to pineapple paddock had guinea grass so we would pull maybe four or five bags and hang 'em on the mule. Where you see a clear spot you go in there and plant grass. The paddocks used to hold maybe four to five hundred head. No more feed only rubbish down there. After the chain dragging we could keep maybe fifteen hundred head down there. Now the ranch is all gone again. It's a pity what they have done down there you know.

KA: How about the pigs? Had lots of food with all the *panini* and guava down there.

FS: Ho! Had so much pigs. I don't know if you remember the market before had all those pig pens lined up behind. We had about twenty-one traps down here. And no cars, it was all mules. We had about twenty pack mules on this ranch. One man would go with a mule and a five-gallon, those big kerosene cans. They good for packing. Each mule would carry two cans filled with molasses. With each trap you put a gallon or so and the pigs would come for that. Catch anywhere from ten to twenty pigs. Then we go down on the mules and keep all the best. All the *laho 'ole* or anything good to keep in the pen we pack 'em up to the market on the mules. That was fun days!

KA: You bring them up alive?

FS: Bring up alive and raise 'em little while at the market.

KA: You said the *makai* pastures could hold up to fifteen hundred head of cattle. What about the water? Was the ranch using county water at that time?

FS: There was a well down here by Pu'u Ohau where Skip Cowell got his house. That was the first one dug and had a small little coffee pump that we used to pump the water. Old Masaru Kuga, he was a jack-of-all-trades. He would go down there and start the pumps up. He was a carpenter, mechanic; he was everything on this ranch. So I say when that man left the ranch they lost a million dollar man. A real jack-of-all-trades. That man was so handy even when there was cattle work to do he would go on the horse and help us.

KA: Did he make the water tanks?

FS: He made water tanks, he was a good mechanic, he was a plumber, mason, whatever; a real jack-of-all-trades. Masaru was a real smart man. And he tells me he only went to school until second grade.

KA: He learned through experience.

FS: Yeah, my father used to tell me experience is the best teacher.

KA: So was the water for *mauka* pastures pumped from that well?

FS: Yeah, Yeah pump up to the tank on pineapple hill- then from there you get half inch or 3/4 inch line going to different tanks with gravity flow. We didn't have too many, but now with county water we got troughs all over. In fact we pump water to the top of the mountain. We had about eight pumps going all the way up. Then it was the big diesel pumps, not the small ones like today. The pump man job was a steady job, all year round.

KA: Must have been expensive to run?

FS: Well I guess it was cheaper than building a reservoir and maybe it was the only choice anyway. It was important to have a reliable, dependable pump man. Boy those pipe line days we had cowboys with the most powerful arms of any cowboy around from caring all that heavy pipe everyday. The inch and a half pipe you know we put it in everyday. At the start we loaded a big wagon with about five six hundred pipe you know. We had no roads for the tractor to go in so we had to carry the pipe over one hundred to four hundred feet. Miles and miles...anywhere from half inch to two-inch pipes...miles and miles. And too bad soon after we got it all in so perfect the ranch give up.

KA: Yeah, unfortunately. Once the water system was in the *mauka* herds must have doubled?

FS: Oh tripled if not more. From when I first came here the breeding herd was only up in the mountain and we had about maybe eight hundred breeding cows. Then when we started fencing waste land *mauka* and improve the graze land it came up to maybe over two thousand head. Well one time when Henry [Greenwell] took over he was trying to go for three thousand five hundred but never got there.

KA: When did Henry take over?

FS: IN 1953 he took over. See Fred was on the ranch then he went to run the market. Jack wanted to be the boss so they put Jack in charge. Then after that Fred went to the mainland. Then Henry ran the market and Norman was running the garage gang, and weed gang.

KA: Besides the well that was down there what other water sources did you have on the ranch?

FS: Well down here was just the well until the city water came in. Up in the mountains had water holes. Start off at Holokalele, there was a few real good water holes up there. Today it don't hold anymore. I guess nobody took care of it and the seal is gone and they change all that land. Way back Holokalele or Maluakalu and even Pulehua had plenty waterholes. During raining times those holes would hold water for months. Not today. And you know outside Monoha they had a big water hole there.

KA: The one in the Kipuka?

FS: Is it still going yet cause that was a nice water hole?

KA: If we have a really big rain it fills up but doesn't hold very long.

FS: Gee, I remember that hole always having water. Wild ducks used to come up here all the time and hang out in these water holes. We used to go up and shoot ducks.

KA: What about the Nene?

FS: Yeah, well Nene we had quite a few around.

KA: I have never seen Nene or wild ducks at Monoha.

FS: No, even the sheep used to be by the thousands. Sheep don't like high watery grass. They like dry that's why they are way up. When it gets to dry they move down. I remember back in 1974 it was a bad year and the sheep came down by the thousands. Pulehua had no feed for the cattle. Even Henry came up with the idea that we tried but it didn't work.

KA: What was that?

FS: We stayed up there for over two weeks to eradicate. After two weeks you would think we didn't shoot nothing yet. They were all over the place. We thought the guns would at least scare them back up the mountain but they knew it wasn't good up there and they wouldn't go. I remember Dr. McCoy brought us over a hundred vials to take blood samples from each sheep we kill. He just wanted to analyze the sheep to see if they had any disease or what.

KA: Were they healthy animals?

FS: Well two months later I never heard anything so I asked him, "Hey doc what was the outcome of those blood samples? Anything wrong with it?" He says, "Ya all can eat 'em raw!"

KA: Ha, that sounds just like him. He was such a character. So eventually you became foreman for W.H. Greenwell.

FS: Yeah that was in 1962. See the old foreman Joe Henriques retired then I took his place. When I first came here I was cowboy and butcher twice a week. I butcher on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the rest was cowboy.

KA: Who are some of the guys you worked?

FS: Well...the old timers are all gone now. There's nobody else.

KA: How about Tony Jose?

FS: Tony was here, he left in 1950. He was here maybe three years and then he left in fifty. Joe Henriques, there was a lot of guys here but many were short time. The real old timers that worked maybe fifteen to thirty years they all dead. Like Peter Corderio, Tedoro...a lot of 'ole timers all gone.

KA: Wasn't Tedoro the weedman?

FS: No cowboy. Tedoro started on Hu'e Hu'e Ranch and then he came over here about forty-two or something. He was on this ranch twenty-eight years or more when he died. He was a handy man for fixing saddles, weaving ropes, and all that kind of stuff.

KA: Did cowboys do most of the repairs themselves?

FS: Those days yeah, people make their own ropes, cinches; repair your own saddles and everything.

KA: Was there someone in Kona that did big repair jobs?

FS: Well Rodrigues Brothers in Hilo. But it depends, major job we send there and anything could be handled here we do our own. Like Tedoro was such a handy man, anything we couldn't do he would do it. The ranch would order a whole side of leather and we do our own.

KA: I hear of saddle maker in Waimea, Hilo, and Ka'u but didn't know of one in Kona.

FS: Ah, I don't think there was any real saddle makers here in Kona. We did our own. Like my brother-in-law Joe Nobriga. That man could make saddles anything to do with leather, as good as the factory. He could make some beautiful leatherwork but never went into business.

KA: How about Otto Thompson?

FS: He was good at that too. Jack got a couple of those from Willy [Thompson] and Otto...they were good rope makers. See today they just trim your hide and weave 'em. I remember my wife's brother from Kahua ranch, he was foreman up there, he was good weaving. You know he take his time, he trim his hide, he scrape all the hair off and he would edge 'em you know. Then he would tie 'em on the trees, stretch it with a jeep and hang rocks on it. The next day it would be touching on the ground and he would stretch it again. Then he would weave it. Some ropes have to be re-stretched and braided after couple uses, but not his.

KA: What was his name?

FS: Henry Rapheil. He was real good with making skin ropes and whips especially. He was real good at it.

KA: Was that the only kind of rope you used?

FS: Manila ropes. Nylon or manila for those days it was okay but sometimes you rope a big bull it might bust that rope. They had cotton ropes to but when the nylon came in, he put everybody out of business. It was one of the bests you can get. Skin rope is a nice rope but kinda a lot of work to make 'em. And the rats like 'em. I remember one time I had a brand new whip my brother-n-law made for me. We had a big iron can and put all our rawhide stuff in there. Halters, whips, everything. Pancho [Domingo] forgot to put 'em in the can and the next day it was all in pieces. The rats had 'em in pieces. We had all the tools in the saddle house here and we repaired our own. Unless the job was to big then we would send it out.

KA: Who was the blacksmith?

FS: Everybody shoe your own. You break your own horse, you shoe your own.

KA: Did you use the old forge?

FS: Yeah, we had the old forge and we had everything. I don't know what happen to all those things. We had about four anvils and at least three or four forges to. I remember the bags of charcoal, we used to shape and punch our own shoes, we do everything. Everything was your own to do. If you want ten horses you break ten colts. That why the good cowboys would have good horses, they would break four, five, or so colts and the ones they considered slow pokes or no good they give to the guys that don't break their own and they keep the best for them.

KA: That's fair.

FS: Those days you could have ten or twelve horses on your string. Every time when the cattle round up season is over now is time to do fencing and all kind of things like that. They would break colts. They bring colts in and you pick what you want and it's yours.

KA: Where was the breaking pen?

FS: The saddle house used to be down here by the Jagger dairy and then we moved by Mrs. Greenwell's house, it burned down afterwards. We built new one so wherever the saddle house was is where we would break colts. When we came down here it became a little more modern

and we actually had a breaking pen. Before there was no such thing as a breaking pen. We had the square stonewall horse pen. You bring your horse in to saddle in the morning; you break your colts there. There was an *amana* post and hitching rail. You tie 'em to the post and he fight till he give up. Today cowboys are lucky...training horse is very easy. You can take 'em young maybe year and a half and you ground break them. You know teach them everything. When he gets a little quieter and he know more you can get on and off. By the time he is of working age he's already well trained. The cowboys on the ranch here used to get one hundred-twenty dollars a colt for training, but all on their own time. After work we train colts. Before no such thing. If you get a horse three or five years old you ride 'em to work. That's how we used to break colts, ride 'em to work. One hundred twenty-five dollars a month you do everything.

KA: How many cowboys on the ranch at one time?

FS: The most we had was about eight or nine. It is a big ranch. A lot of work to do. We had the weed man but still we had to jump in on it now and then. And that was good for training colts too. If you had to pull weeds you riding and jumping on and off a lot yeah-good training. That's why they were good horses. They weren't afraid of anything. You could put a pig on their back or whatever...they weren't afraid of anything. If they wanted to get cocky we put three guys on his back and make 'em pull...to heavy to buck! Was just like rodeo everyday. We used to have a lot of fun. Was all young cowboys in those days too. I remember like Eddie Medeiros them all good horse breakers. If we had a real tough colt we'd gang on 'em you know. He like buck we all jump on his back...go ahead! And then we used to take them down to Ka'awaloo ride 'em in the water. The sand is deep so they don't want to buck. Then we'd come up that Ethel Paris road. You don't abuse 'em, but you make 'em trot, and walk up that hill...don't abuse 'em. By the time they get up that hill, he's ready to kneel down to you. Three trips...he's a nice horse. We used to take like my big red, with about five or six colts down there. That big horse used to lead 'em in. They don't want to go in...he just drag 'em in the water.

KA: All in a days work!

FS: Yeah, that was all with one months pay- \$125 a month. I tell you go up mountain fix fences; you ride those colts up there. Train colts. One guy with a good lead horse stand by. You get three colts, four colts, maybe two guys with lead horse in case something go wrong.

KA: You were always training something?

FS: Soon as round up season is over it's time to start training colts. By the time next round up season comes around those colts are ready to go and work cattle.

KA: When is round up season?

FS: Well it was twice a year. See those days we rotate. Every six months the cattle from Holokalele go to Pulehua then Pulehua move to Holokalele. You couldn't bring in the whole herd one time so we work by sections. Maybe we work for two days and way before you didn't do much injecting and worming like we did in the end. So a little more horse work. Everything was horse in those days. Take minerals, salt, up to the mountain all by horse and mules. And branding in those days was pretty fast because we were just branding before all the injections and worming and spraying and all that came in. So we bring in what you could work in two days. You bring in maybe four hundred head. We'd wean them and sort in to different pens and we'd work 'em. You brand, wean, inject then every third day we'd bring another bunch in. We train the cattle by water. You send a guy to Pulehua, you shut off maybe Palena'aina water, open the gate to Takano so the next day you have maybe four or five hundred head. We grab that and we work 'em. The cattle were so used to that they know, no water at Pulehua they head for Palena'aina. They know where to go already. Most of the smarter cows you know, three weeks before the round up they be down the pen yelling already. And going up to Pulehua see, they know the season. They know the feed was better up there. Time to go back to Pulehua the Holokalele cattle and the ones on the hill at Takano area- they'd be yelling wanting to go *mauka* back to Pulehua. They knew the grass was better up there. Yeah, they'd wait. But it made it a lot easier to drive them.

KA: So when you worked cattle *mauka* you went from here [Konawaena], worked in the mountain and rode home in the same day?

FS: Oh yeah, in those days I think you rode twenty-five miles a day. You figure just to ride from here to Kanupa driving cattle...must be at least eighteen miles. Sometime we used to leave five o'clock in the morning from down here and never go out of a trot. Sometimes we have to take extra horse and if you think your horse is to tired you rest one in the corral or tie to a tree. We used to work from morning until six, seven o'clock in the night in those days. And those days used to rain. Ho, you drive the cattle nine o'clock in the morning and the rain pouring down. I tell you Monoha pen used to be like a lake. Wild ducks loved it. You lock about two hundred head of cattle over night. The next morning is a mud hole and the weaker cows are stuck in the mud. You gotta go over there and drag them out. You gotta go over through the mud and hold up their heads so they don't get stuck in that mud. Oh god that was some days.

KA: Mud all day and....

FS: Mud, and itchy oh the horse, boy mud all day. You look like one 'tar baby' at the end of the day. And young colts, you know the younger ones first time working out there they buck you know. They cannot stand that itch. They buck and throw guys out in the mud. That was some days.

KA: I can't imagine that kind of rain.

FS: It used to rain in those days. Waterholes everywhere. We didn't have to have to many tanks in those days.

KA: When did you stay at Pulehua?

FS: Summertime. All the mountain work was kept for the summer because all the boss kids and all used to be school in Honolulu and they come back summer. A lot of times they bring a friend with them. We used to spend two to three and a half months in the mountains. We go up Mondays and come home for the weekends. And we stayed one, two, three weeks sometimes before we come home. All the fencing, whatever in the mountain was done in the summer.

KA: What supplies did you take with you... a milk cow or two?

FS: Yeah, food, we had our own cook up there.

KA: Who was the cook?

FS: We had this guy Mariano, he was a good cook. And Alfred DeAguir would jump in as a cook... then Masaru. Heres old Masru again. He was one of the best cooks up there.

KA: He really was a jack of all...

FS: That's why I say, that man is a million dollar man on this ranch. What ever you need this man would fit in. Some guys are good for ten different things. Masaru would be good for twenty-five different things. I don't care what that man was magic I tell you. And what ever he did... he did good.

KA: Did he have a family?

FS: Yeah, his wife I don't know if she's still living. He died and his son went to engineering school in the mainland. Then he had I think three daughters. I don't know where they are now.

KA: Did his family ever go with him to the mountains?

FS: No, I never did see. Some families like to go to the mountain but I never did see his wife and kids go with him to the mountains. Maybe they did. We used to stay in those mountains and he'd be our cook. We made fences, worked cattle, train horses. Afternoon you saddle and go hunting. That's when we use the colts.

KA: I imagine you did a lot of hunting to feed the gang.

FS: Oh that was the cowboy fun...hunting. You know you go up that far you can't go hunting...no sense staying up there. So we'd go to work and be lucky enough to get home by three or four and your horse is tired. You grab one of those younger horses and take off up that hill chase pigs or whatever and that's how we train our horses too. I remember the first of every month I used to take off and go to Umi's Temple to measure all the water gauges. So I take a young horse, trusted horse all ready and I leave here about four or five in the morning and go all the way to Umi's Temple. I used to take about four or five young dogs. Guys that get dogs they like train bring 'em to me I take 'em. All day...I come home eight o'clock at night sometimes.

KA: From here to the top of Hualalai in a day?

FS: Oh yeah I used to love that. I could ride all day. I could ride a hundred miles and it wouldn't bother me. A lot of guys complained they tired riding, but I never felt tired. To me never enough. I don't care how much riding... I love it. Especially in the mountains. I'd ride day and night if I didn't have to sleep...I love it! I remember when we used to have wild cattle up here during the day I don't work. I saddle up, head up the mountain and I trap wild cattle. Palena'aina mostly New field, that's where those wild steers were. Dry weather come down so that's where we would trap 'em. You didn't have a regular cattle trap those days, you just trap down in Wai'io and from there easy to get 'em. Sometimes come home two o'clock in the morning on a horse. I don't know how I used to do it, no flashlight. Get big pigs. I used to cut them all and let them go...all in the dark. Today I wonder if I could do that. I often wonder how I did it.

KA: You just did it.

FS: And it was fun you know.

KA: What happened to the wild cattle?

FS: Ah, we finally got all those steers wiped out of Newfield. We finally built trap pens and we got 'em. Before that we send 'em down to Wai'io and we get them down there. Sometimes they fight and get too hot. Then they die so *poho*. That's when we built the pens, more easy to handle. Some of those steers are so fat their backs are wide like this table. I swear some of those steers you could put twenty-five pound rice on their backs and it wouldn't spill out. I mean they dress out one thousand pounds some of them.

KA: Gee, must be good feed.

FS: That mountain feed is rich, nice big animals.

KA: How about the pigs up by Pulehua?

FS: Those days plenty. In fact when we used to stay up in the mountain we had a pigpen up there. The first day we get up there... you know in the Pulehua yard by the nut tree right there is a square pen. We catch a pig and throw 'em in there. All the skim milk and whatever waste we have we throw 'em in there. And we stay up there three and a half months. By that time he's nice and fat. We kill and everybody take a nice piece home. I remember we used to take two milking cows from the dairy here all the way to Pulehua. Jack didn't want to buy cream. A little cheaper to buy cream!

KA: It must have taken a while to get those poor milk cows up there?

FS: It took two man three days. Those cows with big utters. I used to feel sorry for those poor cows. Ho, they had a heck of a time going up those hills you know. We would strip them down here... lighten them up a little. So the first day if they make Malukalu or Henry Hall pen...lucky. We leave them there over night. Next day we make maybe Palena'aina. After Palena'aina maybe we go right up. Then when they get up their, their legs and their utters all raw from rubbing. And they, you know all cut up from grass and things. Then when you milk them in the morning they are all swollen and sore. How many times they kick and put their feet in the bucket. We no say nothing. Run 'em through the strainer. Then you gotta run 'em through the cream strainer. We did that all before work in the morning before seven.

KA: So the cowboys did all the milking?

FS: We did it yeah. They were nice tame cows, but see when they go up in the mountain they don't have their calf so they worry about their calves. And they hurt that first week or so from that walk so they kick like anything. But after awhile they settle down.

KA: Where did you milk them?

FS: Right outside on the hitching rail. Just tie them to the hitching rail, give a little bucket of grain and you milk 'em.

KA: What breed were the milk cows?

FS: Holsteins. I remember some guys had Guernsey. In the end, the late 1950's Norman brought in some Guernsey's. I guess they wanted a little richer milk. But when I first came in was all Holsteins in the old dairy. Now it's coffee roasting. Those days old Sabario; he milked down there for a long time. And by the time the milking machines came around poor guy was out. That guy used to milk sometimes sixteen cows a day. That guy must have had powerful fingers boy. And he was fast. I used to watch the guy. He had a little stool...very calm and patient man. Talk nice to the cows and that milk would pour out. No time he would strip a cow. He was too good that guy. Very calm man. He was a cowboy before that and even to break horses he was a calm guy. Horses Buck him off and he wouldn't get mad. He'd ask the horse "why you do that to me?" And he'd get on again. Tedoro was another calm guy. Tedoro could quiet down a horse.

KA: Those guys spent a lot of years with the ranch?

FS: Oh all their lives.

KA: Would they go to Pulehua with you?

FS: Oh yeah they were cowboys so you all go to Pulehua. Go up on Mondays, come home on Fridays.

KA: Was there a garden up there?

FS: Yeah. Used to be the milking pens way back when they used to use the butter house and all that. The cook had nothing to do and old Mariano he liked to make gardens so once the cowboys go to work he got nothing to do all day but prepare the supper. He would go make gardens. I never seen vegetables so beautiful like Pulehua. No bugs like down here you know. Everything we need, carrots, beets, Irish potato like mainland kind. Zucchini, big zucchini, rubbarb was all over.

KA: How about mint and watercress?

FS: Not up there. I guess if they planted inside the waterholes it would do okay, but they never did. There was places like in Holokalele some 'ole timer did plant around the Kanakamilai house above Malukalu had by the waterhole. There was watercress growing around there but it wouldn't grow too high with the cattle. I think the old people before used to plant mint. Mint grow wild up there. In fact my father said in the old days that was his job in the mountain. They used to pull mint and ivy and burn it.

KA: Burn it?

FS: It was a pest in those days...it covered the whole ground. They put maybe a pile of mamane wood and they burn 'em.

KA: Who lived in the mountain?

FS: Oh cowboys. Get Nahuina house, the old Makara house and Monoha house. The cowboys used to live up there in those days. John Mederios was born at Monoha. Then up Nahuina used to have the Keka's and Charlie Akina and all those guys. Some of them were born up there.

KA: Did their parents work for the ranch?

FS: Some of them did I guess. Like my mother when she was young kid, my uncle used to work at Papalooa. In fact they named him Papalooa till he died. He came from Portugal when he was about ten years old. He stayed up in the mountain with the Hawaiian cowboys. That's why he was one of the famous cowboys up here in these mountains.

KA: What was his name?

FS: Manuel Cordeiro. In fact Sherwood asked me sometime ago if there is anything of his cowboy work, saddle, and old spurs. Cannot find nothing. I think his son or grandson probably get but they don't want to give it up. That guy was one of the famous cowboys up here. He was a dare devil in these mountains.

KA: Manuel Cordeiro was his name but they called him Papalooa?

FS: In those days had Manuel Gomes, Manuel DeMello, there was quite a few Manuels. So they would say, "Oh I met Manuel." "Which Manuel?" "Oh Papalooa." So he got the name Papalooa. And I think the old Hawaiians probably had a hard time pronouncing his name. So they stayed with the name Papalooa. That guy was some cowboy. That guy would ride and rope like the devil. There was nothing that man couldn't do. I think he was about the first cowboy ever to blaze trails across the mountains ranch to ranch ...chasing wild cattle and stuff like that.

KA: Was there a lot of wild cattle...

FS: In those days the back was all wild just like McCandless. When I came here there was a lot of wild cattle. But not the wild breed anymore. It was just the Herefords gone wild. Had quite a few in those days. Like I said too, in those days the waterholes were full so they didn't have to come in. And you know those cattle, those cattle were smart, above Keanahaha on those pahoehoe flats you get a pretty good drizzle at night it makes a little puddle. The cattle know that. They come out and drink um. Then they go back to Pohakuloa hill or where ever they hide. They knew how to survive you know.

KA: Who were some of the mountain men who cared for the *mauka* paddocks?

FS: Well way in the old days would be like John Medeiros, the Kekas, the Akinas, and had stonewall builders like Mizota, Shinzo. That's why they got Mizota Kipuka. That man used to have fifty-gallon drum to catch his water and about maybe five iron roofs or so. He'd find a bank, he'd build a little wall, maybe cut some mamane post and that was his house. Cowboys would bring him rice, and salt. Every now and then they took him supplies. He shoot sheep and pigs and he lived like that. And he built walls, he traveled on foot. Maybe the wall would go on for a mile or two then he would move his house. You go up in South New Field you will find the spot where his house was. Go up in Kikiaeae you find 'em. Go up in Mizota Kipuka you find 'em. His little shacks were all over the place.

KA: Would there be a water barrel by each of these shacks?

FS: Ah, Mizota still got the barrel but it is all rotten. South New Field got the barrel but it is all rotten too. All gone. In fact, Mizota seem to be the only place he had a floor. Unless he took the floor with him every time he moved. He had a redwood section of tank lumber up at Mizota. I don't know how he would have moved it unless maybe the cowboys packed it on the mule for him.

KA: Did he have his own mule?

FS: No, no. They say he would hand plain, hand cut with saws a lot of Koa. He had nothing to do afternoons or Sundays...he would cut Koa. Slab and make lumber, real nice boards. Whenever he'd come down, he'd bring the wood and sell 'em.

KA: Oh yeah! Then what spend it on booze?

FS: Maybe sake. But I don't think Mizota was a drinking, boozehound. I think those days he used to send the money to his family in Japan.

KA: Really? I thought most of the mountain men didn't have families.

FS: Yeah, well lots of them didn't. Those guys used to make a lot of swipe with the cowboys. Up there at Keanahaha were some caves with honeybees. They take the honey and use to make. I bet you can still find a gallon or so of *okolehau* in the caves above Keanahaha. Way up in that area, I bet the barrels are still there.

KA: Is that what they call Honey Bee Tavern?

FS: That's this side...the honeybee trail by Lupea.

KA: Wasn't Mr. Greenwell against drinking on the ranch?

FS: Yeah, I don't know...that's probably why they used to hide the liquor in the caves and stuff.

KA: What happen to the Akina family?

FS: Well Charlie Akina got grandson on Parker Ranch, Kimo Hoopai. That all grandsons to Charlie.

KA: Was it Charlie Akina that built the pens at Monoha?

FS: I don't know if he built it himself, but I do know that he worked on it. See Monoha was built in the George Trousseau days. Even King Kalakaua used to be up there with George Trousseau, so who really built that pen...I'm not sure. A lot of old cowboys had their hand in there too. My mother used to tell me they stayed at Papalooa...that's where my Uncle lived. They were real cowboy, weed men, fence men. My Uncle Joe, my mother's brother would come from Papalooa on the horse. At Nahuina the Akina's had plenty swipe and *okolehau*. He was a heavy drinker too. Him, Pahana all those guys. My mother was young...she'd come with him riding on the back of the saddle with him. And she would come to Nahuina where there were some young Hawaiian girls and she'd play there with them. Time to go home might be one o'clock in the morning...get on the horses and back to Pauahi.

KA: They just traveled around the mountain like...

FS: Yeah, she said that was good fun riding behind the saddle...take off home.

KA: In the summer time when you guys went to Pulehua with the boss's kids and everybody it must have been an experience for the kids.

FS: Yeah, in the afternoon we take the kids riding on all the trusted horses.

KA: Hunting?

FS: Usually we didn't take the kids cause too dangerous eh. But just riding over to Keanahaha like that we used to take them. Or we let them ride around the yard and we'd watch them. That was our responsibility. And 'ole Jack boy, "you responsible for my kids, you better watch out!"

KA: Oh boy. Did everyone eat together?

FS: Oh no, they had their own kitchen. The boss house they call. Us we eat in the kitchen. If Jack was there alone, he eat with us. But if he had his family they all eat in there.

KA: By this time ah...no dairy operation up there right?

FS: Yeah, it was only down below. Norman really built up the dairy and they were selling to the schools and what not. But before that it was just for the ranch use. Married man get one gallon of milk a day, single mans get half gallon. Big families like I guess Cushingam got milk too, it was more for the families.

KA: Up at Pulehua or the area they call Devil's country, did anyone ever get lost?

FS: I remember a few guys did. Masaru and his partner... I remember one time a bunch of carpenters up there; 'ole Nakashima, Fukuhara, the old carpenters way back and they were staying at Pulehua doing repair job. So in the afternoon they went on the jeep over to Keopuna. That was the real foggy days too, you out there in the fog thick you cannot see already. So they went up to Keanahaha and when they were coming back right below Keopuna was a bunch of sheep. So they went after them, the carpenters came back except one guy who continued after them and he shot one down in devils country. By the time he gut 'em and everything he lost his direction. He figure he had the right way so he kept going, kept going 'til he figured he was walking too much...two hours or so. So he start calling but nobody heard him. Was almost dark when the guys started to worry about him so they went looking. They make a big fire, but it was so foggy you had to be 100 yards to see the fire, but anyway you could smell the smoke. We all had guns, 30/30 and the deal was if anybody fire three shots everybody come back. Before that if you fire one or five that's calling but three was come home. So we went up Keanahaha everywhere. Came back and we heard the cattle yelling even the sheep was yelling so much guns going on at night. Everybody yelling for him. And he was way down towards Kaukahoku. He heard the shots, so he start following the sound. I could hear among all the cattle yelling, I could hear somebody yelling too. I tell Norman that's him yelling, he said no that's the sheep, I said, "no that's him". So he fired three shots and everybody came back. We went down and found him soaking wet, poor bugger cold as ever. Put him on the horse, eleven o'clock at night. He said he ended up at Keanahaha, get *panini* tree so he thought he was down at the beach ...he got scared.

KA: He went far...several miles down from Pulehua.

FS: Yeah, over a mile away. Not as bad as Manuel Gomes who got lost for three or four days up there. But he ended up all the way down Keamuku. I really cannot believe because he was a tracker, a real good cowboy. I don't know how he got lost. You see Mauna Loa, Hualalai,

Mauna Kea back there; you should know which way to turn. I used to go hunting day and night but I always knew where I was going. How that guy got lost nobody could figure. Maybe he got excited, once you get excited you get scared and you're mine not thinking already. Quite a few guys got lost but only few hours and then we find 'em. But Manuel was the worst.

KA: It would not be hard to get lost in that fog.

FS: Well if you don't know this country, and today is pretty open. Those days way back was pretty wild up above there by Pohakuloa hill was choked with maile and pukeawe. The top of New Field, Kikiaeae hill you couldn't go through was so thick. Now it's all dead. Before you drive cattle the horse used to jump through the bushes. Those horses they knew how to work. We used to poke our horses through. Today you poke 'em, he buck you off.

KA: Any serious injury to you or the others?

FS: See every month we would go up there and drive all the work horses in. We would work horses for maybe one or two months depending on the work. Then we would turn 'em loose up the mountain and bring in all the new horses. Everybody those days had a lot of horses. One guy could have ten horses. So this particular time we were suppose to bring down about three colts to start breaking. One guy put a rope on this colt; the colt ran away with the rope in the pen so Tony [Jose] went to grab the rope. The colt threw a kick right in his face and the guy dropped like a ton of bricks. Then one time Freeman fell with a horse and he had to have operation. Something ruptured inside. I think the worst was when I got mine. A horse fell on me. I was kicked in the face, broke my jaw. My jaw is all wired up for the rest of my life. I broke my neck, three discs, broke my collarbone, and couple ribs. Alfred Awina is another one. Those days was mules, we use 'em for pack mules and things. We had some pretty good mules but we had some cocky buggers too. They kick you, they stomp you. We were coming home just about dark one afternoon from delivering salt. Fifty pound each, so we pack maybe four blocks on one mule and deliver salt blocks all over the mountain for the cattle. So we were coming home and me and Alfred was in front and others coming behind. One mule called Chocolate got away from them. He was a cocky bugga, he could kick. We used to call him a sharp shooter, he would never miss. All of a sudden we hear this sound and the mule is running away bucking with rawhide bags flying. So my mule and his horse and mule got scared. We were trying to control our animals when this mule pass us and his horse went right after this mule. He couldn't stop 'em. He didn't think to let go his mule. He was still leading his mule and come up above Konawaena there's a drop right there on the road. His horse went right over the bank and fell down. When he stood up that mule came flying right behind, buss all his bones. Lucky it was right there above Konawaena. Dr. Hayashi was pretty young in those days; I gotta say he did a darn good job fixing the guy up real perfect. Only a little scar. Then he had another hard luck when we were leading these bulls. Two guys was leading this big bull and I just brought one in the pen and I was going back to help him and Alfred. This bull circled around the guy who was leading. Got the rope under the stirrup, throw away his rope. The other guy seen that, he turn his rope loose too. Now

the bull was running away dragging two ropes. I seen that I dropped my rope and chase. Alfred seen that he put his rope on the pummel and we were chasing 'em. Well, Alfred had a horse Lillian, a pinto, a nice fast horse. He got there, he grabbed the rope, he took a turn on his pummel, with all his extra rope he got tangled up. And I right there behind him. I seen that guy stop his horse and I knew something was gonna bust. Then I seen the rope fly in the air, the bull kept going. I seen something fly in the grass. When I catch up to him he's saying, "My thumb gone, my thumb gone." Ripped right off from the bottom. And that rope squeezed it so hard it didn't even bleed. He came home all the way on a horse. Well those days was the only way. Then the doctor had to cut deeper to have enough skin to sew. The pain start coming and oh he cry like a baby.

KA: Oh the poor guy!

FS: I remember those days you chasing cattle, all of a sudden you see a hole or crack in the ground, maybe a foot and a half wide or something. You can't make no decision already. Just slack your reins, spur the horse and be sure he leap 'em, that's all you can do. I remember chasing a steer one time, got right on 'em. Darn steer fell down right in front my horse, everybody on the ground. Cowboys had to be wild then, everything was wild, the land was wild.

END INTERVIEW