



GARY J. RAPOZO PARKER RANCH, HAWAII

GARY J. RAPOZO STARTED HIS CAREER WITH PARKER RANCH AS A COWBOY IN 1972, AND STAYED FOR THIRTY YEARS UNTIL 2002, WORKING IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE RANCH AND DOING A MULTITUDE OF JOBS. HE ENDED UP AS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIVESTOCK MARKETING. AFTER WORKING AS A COWBOY IN MAKAHĀLAU UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF CHARLES T. KIMURA, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE PA'AUHAU SECTION FOR THREE YEARS, AND DURING THAT TIME WENT TO SCHOOL TO LEARN AND BECOME AN EXPERT IN ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION AND PREGNANCY TESTING.

BY 1975 HE WAS THE LEAD MAN IN KA'U WHERE HE ROPED WILD CATTLE OVER ROUGH TERRAIN AND BECAME PROFICIENT IN DOCTORING AND SUTURING HORSES UNDER HIS CARE. FROM 1979 TO 1980, HIS SKILLS IN PREGNANCY TESTING SENT HIM TO THE PU'UHIHALE SECTION OF THE RANCH WHERE HE PREGNANCY CHECKED 3000 COWS AND HEIFERS EACH YEAR.

FROM 1980 TO 1986, AS FOREMAN OF THE PA'AUHAU SECTION, HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INTENSIFIED GRAZING OPERATION AS WELL AS THE RANCH'S A.I. PROGRAM. AT PA'AUHAU, HE ACHIEVED A 62% A.I. CONCEPTION RATE, AND ACCOLADES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNIVERSITY, HE WROTE A PAPER OUTLINING HIS METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES.

FROM 1986 THROUGH 1992, HE WAS THE FOREMAN OF THE RANCH'S ENLARGED INTENSIFIED GRAZING PROGRAM, AND RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTING AND RAISING THOUSANDS OF CATTLE FOR SHIPMENT TO THE U.S. MAINLAND AND CANADA. IN 1992, HE BECAME THE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIVESTOCK MARKETING FOR THE PARKER RANCH, ALMOST SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTING THE CATTLE AND PREPARING THEM FOR SHIPMENT.

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, GARY FOUND THE TIME TO BE CERTIFIED IN HORSESHOEING AND DOING CANCER EYE SURGERY AND LEARNED THE SKILL OF VASECTOMIZING BULLS FOR USE IN THE A.I. PROGRAM. AND BY THE WAY, HE TRAINS HORSES, TOO.

DESCRIBED AS DILIGENT, EAGER TO LEARN, RESPONSIBLE, QUIET, CONFIDENT, TRUSTWORTHY, DETERMINED, EFFICIENT, ASTUTE, ACCOMPLISHED, HUMBLE AND WITH SKILL

SETS THAT RUN THE GAMUT OF RANCHING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, GARY HAS EARNED THE RIGHT AND PRIVILEGE TO BE AN INDUCTEE OF THE PANIOLO HALL OF FAME.



GARY RAPOZO INTERVIEW

LW: You were born where?

GR: I was born in Honoka'a.

LW: And what are your parents' names?

GR: Alfred and Marian Rapozo. My father worked for the plantation, but he had various jobs earlier. He worked for the plantation, then he worked for University of Hawai'i, Mealani Station. He was a herdsman there. We always had a few head of cattle for home use. But my grandfather had a good friend that lived up at the old dairy on Parker Ranch which they called Paliho'oukupapa... and the old man, Ishii man, as I know him, was a good friend and I'd go with them when I was about like four years old. And they always had a tame horse around that they put me on and I'd ride.

LW: What's your grandfather's name?

GR: Harry... Kodani... Harry Kodani.

LW: So this is your mom's father?

GR: My mom's father. And... later on, my father and mom used to come up with us also... and there was a guy Tadao Nakata that worked there, that eventually became the foreman of that... area. What they used to do up there was Parker Ranch had a dairy, and all the dairy cows were up there to be bred, and when they were fresh, they were brought back down to be milked. And Tadao took care of that so... when I was about oh... eleven years old or so, when we didn't have job in our cane field in Kalopa, I'd spend my vacations up at the mountain back then. And we'd stay up there almost for the week. We'd come down Wednesday afternoon, go back Thursday, and come back down Saturday afternoon. And go back Monday morning. But I learned a lot. He was one of my mentors. He had to do the registry for the dairy cattle... the Holsteins... and we'd bring in like five or six calves in the morning, and he'd look at them and wouldn't say anything and during lunch time he'd sit down, pull out the book that had the outlines of the cattle, and he'd draw the markings on the left side... right... left view, right view, you know... front and hind view. And I used to ask him how can

you do that when you only saw the calf this morning? And he used to always teach me. He says every animal's marking is unique. They might be the same color but the marking's not the same.

LW: So this was a piece of paper with the outline of a calf on it?

GR: It's a registry... yeah.

LW: And you identify the calf by the markings?

GR: You identify the mother, the number of the mother, and the calf, and then you drew the description of the calf... the markings in.

LW: And he would remember from seeing them in the morning.

GR: From seeing... six or seven in the morning, he'd remember it and just draw it out lunchtime. And so I used to always question him and he told me something. He says when you look at cattle, like later on when I was working for the ranch and we were sorting cattle, you maybe had three hundred head, and you were taking one out at a time, and that one would turn around, run back, and then to find that one in the herd of three hundred, sometimes it's a little hard but he always said there's something unique about that animal. The marking, the horn is crooked, the... even a piece of dry manure on the back... you know what I mean? You notice something like that and when the animal runs away you can pick it up again. And he taught me a lot about animals, animal husbandry, identification... and you know... and stuff... that helped me later in life.

LW: Because the mother cows were being milked, the calves were also being registered by him?

GR: The mother cows came up there from the dairy. They calved up there, and then he identified the cow and the calf, and the cow stayed there for maybe like three or four days and then she came back down to the milking string. And the calves, they had like an orphan pen there and all the cows were fresh... that three or four days... there were all in stanchions and then he let the calves out and the calves would go to each mother and drink milk for a while, and then lock them up again and then later on when the cows went down, then a new batch of cows were in. So it was a good learning experience and Donnie Silva was there also at that time, and then he was hired, so he worked up there at the old dairy with all them, and he and I spent a lot of time up there together and you

know... like I say, Tadao was our mentor. And even Donnie's leather skills and stuff like that, he learned from Tadao. Tadao tried to teach us. Donnie took it on. He had the patience, he had the ability. I don't have patience so I learn but I can't do it as good as them. But he taught us a lot of things. But that was our beginning. I think Donnie and I started about the same place.

LW: So about how old were you?

GR: Donnie is about five years older than I am. So I think Donnie must have been about fifteen or sixteen. And I was about eleven, I think. Eleven or twelve. So later in life, when I worked for ranch I ended up working with Tadao again. Later on he moved down to Makahalau. And he was working with the pure bred cattle with Charlie Kimura. And if he went out and checked cattle and calves, it was always accurate. You know... he was really, really good at it. Some of the other guys would go out and they'd say ah... ah that's a kane or so... then later on when they're weaned and you look at it it's a female or... wasn't that accurate.

LW: So did they use a lot of Hawaiian words?

GR: On the ranch? A lot of Hawaiian words.

LW: But Tadao would, too... use the Hawaiian?

GR: In Tadao's time, yeah. Everybody had spoken a little Hawaiian. You know name places... name of items, stuff like that.

LW: Yeah, he learned it, too. So how did he end up at the dairy?

GR: You know, I think he was born and raised at the dairy. From what I understand, his family lived up there. And they were the station people, sort of. And that's my understanding. That he was born and raised there.

LW: So when would he have been born, do you think?

GR: I think about 1923...

LW: In the 20's?

GR: In the '20's, I think. Or early '30's. He was about the same age as my father. My father was born '23.

LW: So your parents worked for the Hamakua... one of the sugar industries.

GR: Pa'auhau. My grandfather on my father's side, he worked for the plantation for years. He was one of the Lunas at that time. Portuguese lunas. And then he had acquired land... purchased land, I guess. So we also homesteaded cane. They used to call us homesteaders... that raise cane and sold it to the plantations. So that's why like I said if we weren't planting or caring for the cane during that summer, sometime I spent the whole summer up on the mountain with Tadao, them. But if we had job to do we had to stay down.

LW: So did your father's people... did other of them do ranching?

GR: Not really. Not ranching on a ranch scale but they had animals.

LW: Yah, freezer beef. But they were plantation people.

GR: But I've been in Waimea for the majority of my life.

LW: So you moved here after you left your parents' home?

GR: Yah. Well, when I graduated I joined the service. I went into the service, and then I came back. I came back, I stayed with my parents for a little while, then I live in Kukuihaile then I came into Waimea. I applied and started working for Parker Ranch. I came back and worked for Aloha Airlines here at Waimea. Then I worked for a feed store. I managed a feed store here in town. In those days in the afternoon, Charlie, Donnie... they were neighbors right across the street here. And they'd ride their hapalakas, their young horses, after work. And they'd ride to town and come to... I

had a store in the back of the park... so they'd come there and they'd sit down and we'd talk story and all that.

LW: That was your store?

GR: Feedwell... I worked for Feedwell, Incorporated. A Hilo store. And so I had an icebox with medication and I say you folks thirsty? And so I bought beer and kept a little beer in the icebox and we'd drink and talk and then they'd go back home. But one day I asked Charlie. I said hey... is there an opening on Parker Ranch. And he asked me... he said are you serious? And I said yeah. He said well, go put your application in because there might be an opening coming up. So I went in and I put my application in. I had to go interview with... I think Rubel Lent... Rubel and Lent... or Lent was the manager at that time. So I had an interview with Walter Slater, and I got hired. I worked at...

LW: So when did Rubel and Lent come in and what were their names again?

GR: They came in the early '70s. I think it was probably '71 or '72. And they were a consulting firm from... I'm not sure if it was Arizona or somewhere in the mainland. And they came in to help the ranch... modernize, I guess, to an extent. And when they came in Gordon Lent actually kind of stayed on as a manager later but... they brought in some new ideas. They came in... why drive horses all over this ranch when you could trailer them. So they brought in horse trailers. Well the old horses never saw a horse trailer before. You'd load them in a trailer and you'd reach where you're going and they'd be laying down with their legs sticking up and out and... it was real hard at first. A lot of the old cowboys said ah, it won't work and all that. But once the horses got used to that, and even the younger horses we rode... I mean we're driving cattle in the pasture and we're passing the trailer and they'd be turning to the trailer wanting to go home. But that was one of the things that changed. They sent one of the... actually it was the cowboy foreman that became head of the welding crew, they sent him to the mainland to the different feedlots to look at how it was built and get new ideas. Then he came back and that's when we started with our new corrals with cable... cable corrals, pipe corrals, and that modernized us a lot. Because when I think about it, prior to that we were sort of in the dark ages. Standing on foot, separating cattle with a guava stick and getting kicked as they run past you and you dreaded the day you had to go sort cattle because you knew you were going to get kicked. And when those corrals came up with the cutting gates and all, that made it so much easier to work. They brought in a lot of good ideas, and then they had some bad ideas. Sorting cattle they had a five hundred head cow herd and they matched the calves with the mothers and bring them out. Well one day we had this... I think Pu'u anu'anu? herd... had about fifteen hundred cows... and we were sorting them that way and it took us like three days. And the old guys said hey, it won't work like that. It takes too long. And after about the third day they listened and did it the way we did it and we were done. You'd sort cattle that day, the deli... we'd buy lunch from the deli... the truck would pick up the lunch come there and then we'd have twelve guys on

horseback holding the herd and four or five guys inside bringing out cattle and six guys would go and eat lunch, another six would hold the herd. And they'd come back and the other six would eat. And that type of sorting didn't work. But all the other ideas that they had, improving the cattle breed and stuff like that kind of worked. Different managers had sort of different ideas, but some set us in the good, some set us back a little. But it all worked out. But I think to me Rubel... or Gordon Lent... brought the ranch forward quite a bit from where we were, as far as cattle working facilities. The horse program, where they were training older horses. They got rid of all the older horses. Before if you couldn't train a horse, if she was female, you'd throw her in the breeding herd. And you only breeding the bad traits back. So they came up with this training the horses younger. Riding them younger. If you want to breed, breed only your good horses. And ideas like that, that I think really helped us go forward. So anyway I got hired. I worked up in Makahalau, would be under Charlie and Kale Stevens. And I worked up there for about seven months, I think. Then I was transferred to Second Gate. And I worked for Goichi Fujii. He was a foreman down there. And I worked there for three years. And then the ranch picked up the lease in Ka'u, so... and Charlie was going to be the superintendent again over there. And he got a group of volunteers, about eleven of us volunteered to go down. And we went down and worked in that area.

LW: So when did you first meet Charlie?

GR: You know I knew Charlie off and on for... throughout the years. When I was at the old dairy. 'Cause Charlie used to work at Makahalau right below with the pure bred cattle and stuff. So I met him... over years, off and on.

LW: So he knew who you were?

GR: Yeah.

LW: Tell me about him.

GR: Charlie... Charlie was another of my mentors that taught me quite a bit and during his management term, he could visualize and see what was happening with the industry and he had it planned out as to the breeding of cattle. We lost a lot of land... lease land... and couldn't afford to pay some of the leases that came up and Charlie... in order to raise... wanted to raise the same amount of cattle on less land, and that time Allan Savory came out with the holistic grazing and stuff. So Charlie got into that and we went into... we call cell grazing. We had three hundred acres we would cut into thirty ten acre paddocks and we would...

LW: I wanted to hear about that. So Charlie Kimura... his main thing was to... I mean what was his job when you... early on, when you were at the dairy, Kimura's job was what then?

GR: When I was up with Tadao, I didn't work for Tadao. When I was up at the dairy I was just hanging out there helping them. And Charlie was already working at Makahalau.

LW: And what was his position?

GR: He was with the pure bred herd at that time.

LW: But he was an employee of the Parker Ranch.

GR: Yeah, yeah. Parker Ranch.

LW: What years would those have been?

GR: Would have been in the '50's. And part of the '60's, I think. 'Cause I left here in '63 and I came back in '67. Then I went away again. I went to Maui for two years to go to school there. And I came back about '69 or '70.

LW: So where were you in the service?

GR: I trained in Texas... Lackland and Amarillo. Then I was stationed in California... Beale Air Base up in Northern California. Then I went down to Del Rio, Texas again for a few months and then went back to California and from there they sent me to Vietnam. Went to Vietnam for a year and when I came back they stationed me at Hickam for about my last five months. So when I got discharged there then I came back here.

LW: And that's when you worked up here in Waimea.

GR: I came back and I was in a bad way. I was getting in trouble so I moved to Maui, to go to school there. Mauna'olu and Maui Community College... junior college. And I went there for two years. Kind of more to get myself together. Then I came back and I worked for Aloha Airlines. I jumped off the plane, I said hey, you folks have an opening? He says you know... you're serious, yuh. So they sent me to O'ahu, take a test, everything and I started working. They needed a guy. So I worked for Aloha Airlines and I worked part-time at the feed store for my friend. And then after about a year and a half, Aloha closed down and I didn't want to... I wanted to stay in Waimea. I didn't want to move to Kona or Hilo or Maui or anywhere. So I took the lay off and then I worked at the feed store and the guy quit so then I became the manager sort of. And I worked there for a while until I asked about Parker Ranch and got a job.

LW: So who's Kale Stevens?

GR: Kale Stevens... he's in our... Charlie... Charles Stevens... he's one of our Paniolo Hall of Fame guys. He was the foreman at Makahalau when I worked there.

LW: Tell me about him.

GR: He taught me a lot as far as driving cattle, working cattle. Nobody would talk to him in the morning when I first went there. And I said what we doing today? You know I'm green, I'm new and what are we doing today? They said oh no... you watch what horse he catches and then you catch that kind of horse because then you know what the job is. So being new and naïve I guess I asked him in the morning, hey Charlie, what we doing today? He said oh, we're going over here... after a while all the guys come up to me and said hey... what we doing today? I guess they didn't want to approach him or something. But... he taught me some outside driving skills. How to study the way cattle move and how they run. He says if you going to become a leader someday, and you're going to drive cattle, but you're not sure how to drive, he say you go up on a hill... and you ho'oho... which means to yell... you ho'oho... and make big noise and later on you see all the cattle run down the hill. How they move. And then when you go up to drive, you set your men up so that you kind of go that way. Instead of fighting them, you know. So little tricks like that that kind of help a lot later on in life.

LW: Is that what you mean by the outside driving... you said outside driving.

GR: Yeah. Driving big paddocks. Big pastures.

LW: As opposed to small ones.

GR: Yeah.

LW: You need more guys for that? How are they different?

GR: It depends on your cattle. And the men. The thinking of some people, you need more men. The job goes better. And sometimes it's better to have less men that know what they're doing and the job goes smoother.

LW: So even though he was kind of a tough guy... he was hard to...

GR: I never encountered anything. Just... nobody wanted to ask him, I guess.

LW: Well you learned a lot. But what other things did you learn from him?

GR: He and Charlie, I think were about the only two guys that did pregnancy checking at that time on cattle. And I used to drive guys crazy sometimes 'cause I'll ask a question. And I'd ask and sometimes if you seemed concerned or interested, they will slow down and explain things to you. So they used to. And then oh, you want to try? You don't know what you're doing... when I was doing AI, my son was about six years old. He used to be with me all the time and one day he asked me... I said you want to try? He said yup, so I put a glove on, lifted him up and let him put his hand inside. I said what you feel? He tells me "guts." But that was the first time.

LW: Who is this Goichi Fujii?

GR: Goichi Fujii was the foreman of the Pa'auhau section on the ranch. Older Japanese man and he was a good man. And when I worked there I worked with a lot of older Japanese men and a couple of Filipino men. The Japanese guys were both utility, fencemen and horsemen... when needed. And we'd drive cattle and this would be in the trees. And we'd drive and they'd fight us and we'd get them in and then one or two would run away. And these two old men would go after them. And

you don't hear a sound. Then after a while you look and they're coming up with a cow in front of them. Just bringing them home. But Charlie used to tell me they kind of know where all the crossing is so they beat animals to the crossing so they can't run away any further, then after a while they start coming back to the herd.

LW: They've just been doing it for a long time and they knew how to do that.

GR: It was a different experience working in the trees versus open country. And in the mud. It was always muddy. I... truly feel that I was blessed in the fact that I worked in several areas on the ranch, and when we went to Ka'u it was like stepping back in time. You know you were Ikua Purdy. We drove cattle, we roped a lot of cattle. But at that time it was fun. We were young, we were a little agile yet.

LW: Let's start going through your life at Parker Ranch then. Just before we get started let me just check. Can you think of people in that kind of time before you become a Parker Ranch person? Anybody else that you'd like to mention that really influenced you? I think we might have got everybody.

GR: I think so. I think at my young age that was and is my life style. And I just concentrated on Parker Ranch. No, I take it back. I stayed up at Kukai'au Ranch. The Ramos Ranch... when I was younger... maybe nine years old, like that. But Ramos had a ranch in Pa'auilo mauka. I used to stay up there. DeLuz... I'd stay with them. Several other small ranchers, you know. And go up and just actually was more visiting than working. Go up there, visit, ride horse, play. You know I was young at that time. And they all had children about my age, too.

LW: But you can feel that you were interested in that life style? From young?

GR: When I was young I wanted to be a cowboy right after high school and my mom would say... cowboy? Look at so and so... they work thirty years, they hardly making money, you know and blah, blah, blah... and which is true. So... I said well, we're going through the jet age. I'm going to become a jet mechanic. So I joined the Air Force. I became a jet fighter mechanic. When I got out and I went checking around for jobs they only jobs at that time was L.A., some other big airports. O'ahu maybe. But no place. And already when I came back from overseas I didn't want to be surrounded by too many people. I needed that space. I came back here and I did the airline thing and all that and then... when I got with the ranch, I found my spot. I was happy, you know. The pay wasn't great. That's why I said Charlie asked me if I was sure I wanted to work for the ranch. In those days I was making like between nine and eleven hundred a month working as a manager in the

feed store. And if I came to Parker Ranch it would be three hundred a month. But I had a house. So...

LW: Did you get a meat portion, too?

GR: Yeah, in those days we had meat.

LW: And you had a house? You didn't have to pay rent.

GR: I lived on a station house down in Second Gate. Lakeland side. So I didn't have to pay rent. In fact those days I think if you had ranch house... especially a station house, they didn't pay rent, they didn't pay water. I paid the electric. But the meat helped... helped a lot. My last divorce I raised my daughter from when she was ten till now or whatever. But my second divorce I raised my two sons and at one time we were getting like a hundred twenty-nine dollars every two weeks, my sons and I. So one paycheck was buy your toiletries. The other paycheck was buy some food items. But I tell everyone, thanks that I was working for the ranch at that time, that we had the meat and I mean we cooked meat every way you could think of, you know. And even with squash... I made stews with squash and all kinds of stuff. I have a nephew that till today, when he comes over he says, hoo... that was the best stew we ever did eat, you know. And I used to tell my boy, for now... for a year or so, we got to eat shoots and roots. Shoots and roots and meat and that's it. And he has a favorite dish. It's hamburger... and in the cupboard and we had nothing... one can of water chestnuts and one can of crushed pineapple. So I cut it up, mixed it up with the hamburger and I kind of made meatballs. I made a sweet sour sauce. Till today that's his favorite.

LW: So what's your daughter's name?

GR: Alisha.

LW: Alisha. And your sons' names?

GR: Jary. He works for the Parker Ranch. And then I have another son, Garren and he's in Maui. He's a diesel mechanic.

LW: So starting in 1972, that's when you got hired by Parker Ranch. And you first work at where again?

GR: Makahalau. I was there for about seven months. And then I went down to Second Gate.

LW: Does that have another name?

GR: That's the Lakeland area... Second Gate. Lakeland to Ahualoa. That area. In fact, Second Gate went up to Makahalau... the bottom of Makahalau and over to about... Honokaia which is where Hawaiian Homes has their place when you're going to Ahualoa now. And then First Gate took care that area, and then Pa'auhau took care... Pa'auhau had three areas in that one section that we had. And we took care of the Second Gate area, two older guys took care of the Honokaia area, and then Goichi and a couple of other guys took care of the Pa'auhau area.

LW: And there was cattle on all of those?

GR: Cattle. There was cattle and we had... like I said cowboys, utility men, maintenance men. And for the fact that in that whole area all the tree lines are on fence lines... the boundaries. So... whenever we had storms... the broken branches... there'd always be fences to fix and all that so they always had guys down there doing that.

LW: In that time period... that's about... you're there for about three years there?

GR: From '72, I was in Makahalau for seven months. Then I went down to Second Gate. I was there till '75. Then '75 we went to Ka'u.

LW: Okay so in that time before '75, before you go to Ka'u, you've become a superintendent of livestock there?

GR: No, no. I was still just a worker.

LW: And did you do land management there?

GR: No, I don't think so.

LW: And did you do your ABS course there?

GR: I did.

LW: Okay now, what is that? Let's just talk about that.

GR: ABS... American Breeders' Service. They sell bulls' semen and we went and learned how to breed artificially. And we had a herd...

LW: And you do that where...someplace else?

GR: We went to Honolulu for AI classes. We bred at Pu'u Kikoni ... it's on your way up to Makahalau. Right in that first corral on your right. We bred up there. We had like a team. Two of us from Second Gate would go up and breed for so many days. And then the two guys from Makahalau would come down and breed. It was Tommy Goto, Walter Puhi, Earl Spence and I.

LW: You mean it took days to breed the herd?

GR: At that time we were doing a forty-five day breeding. So it took forty-five days.

LW: You mean a straight forty-five days.

GR: Yeah. So that one took time. That's why we were doing... 'cause we had to do our own chores in our area so two guys would come up, work for a couple of days, go back, do their chores and the guys from the down side would come and do the chores. And we bred at that time till I left for... in fact when we went to Ka'u, they scrapped the program. Nobody followed up on that.

LW: Okay but when we say ABS course, what does that really mean?

GR: It's an artificial insemination training course by American Breeders Service (ABS). Teaching you how to artificially inseminate.

LW: And you get written material that you follow or how do they actually train you?

GR: It's classroom work and then it's hands on. They get the uterus from the slaughter plants, put it on the table, and then you practice on that. And then later on they put a dye in the syringe used for insemination and then you go and if you think you have the target... the uterus... or the cervix, and then you would squeeze and deposit your semen. And they'll cut it open and see where the dye is in proportion to where it's supposed to be.

LW: This is just practicing?

GR: Practicing, yeah. And then you get out on the real cows.

LW: So where are you practicing it?

GR: Well, wherever they had the classes at. When we went it was at the quarantine station on O'ahu. And then one time was down at Waianae Dairy, I think. And then up here at Pukalani Stables. We had a corral back there. We did a class there. And several different places. So you could get the people from the areas involved.

LW: So somebody says you've passed at some point?

GR: You get a certificate.

LW: And then you were able to come back and work the forty-five day program.

GR: That was the first program. And then later on we got it to where we synchronized the herd with shots. Got them all to cycle at the same time, and then you bred for like eleven days. So it shortened everything 'cause you got all the herd coming in together. So it advanced as time went on.

LW: So when would that have been when you shortened it to eleven days?

GR: I think that started about when we got back here in '78 or so. What Charlie did, when I first came back, we hired out these two people to come in and breed for us. And I think they had like fifteen percent conception.

LW: Oh, that's not so good.

GR: And Charlie says I think maybe we should send our boys back to school. So then when I was working back here already, I used to do the pregnancy checking of a lot of heifers. When I work at Second Gate. And then I used to do the cows up here. Pregnancy check cows. So they asked me to teach. Billy Bergin taught a few guys how to pregnancy check cows and stuff. And a few guys went to Divisions where they didn't do much of it. I happened to be in a Division where they did a lot of it. So they asked me to teach some other guys. And like teaching anybody, some get real good at it and some don't. But anyway, I kinda knew who was pretty good and stuff so when Charlie wanted to send men to the AI school and he asked me if I knew anybody so I told him who could. If you could already pregnancy check, you know what you're feeling already so you're in the plus already. So we got these other guys and went in, went to school, came back. I think we had like forty percent. A couple of years. And so we just tried to improve on that. And a lot of it was the attitude of the cattle. We brought cattle down from the mountain, try to breed them, we had legs sticking out of the chute sideways and they were all wild. So after a while, sitting with Charlie... Charlie and I used to discuss a lot of things together you know...to make a program work. And so I asked if I could raise the cattle. So when there were weaned calves I kept them down in our area and I'd... once a month I'd run them through the corral there so they'd get used to the handling. Then we'd walk between them and get them used to being around men. Then later on I'd sort them by their breeds. And each time they came in, put them through something else, just getting them settled. Then locking them in. Let them stand in the chute so they learn not to get excited. And then when it came time, there's tricks to make it work and one is what the old timers call flushing out. Right before they breed, put the cattle in real good feed. And that cleans them out, and they get a bloom and cycle better. Another thing was... what I used to do was put the bull in... vasectomized bulls. Put them in. If I'm going to breed on the second of whatever month it is, I'd go back three weeks and I'd go back three weeks, three weeks. Then I'd put a bull in there, put him in for three weeks and the cattle are like people, I guess. They see the other one breeding, they get excited, too. They go over there and they nose around so for these three weeks, they might get a few cycling. Then I'd skip three weeks and the next three weeks a few more get picked on. Then I skip, and then the third time, already is when

we're going to start breeding. We give them the shot. So since they're all starting to cycle about the same time, when we're giving them the shot we get the majority of them there. And then when I left, we had like sixty-two percent conceptions. Which supposedly is really good on a one service deal, you know.

LW: But I imagine you said that after the Makahalau, that breeding program is something you do later on, yuh?

GR: Yeah, we started again.

LW: So after Makahalau, in the '70's you go down to Ka'u. Yeah, '75 to '78 we're in Ka'u. So what do you mean it was like going back in time?

GR: Over there they use the term wild cattle but sometimes it's not wild as much as... I call them "brushed up." Cattle got used to hiding. But you go and drive, and they'd run away and you have to go back and you end up roping them, tying them to a tree, and picking them up and leading them out the next day or something like that. And that was the old way of ranching and I was happy that I was able to go and do things like that. 'Cause you know you hear about it and you've never done it... and so it's something from the past. But when you get out there and then you're doing it, all of a sudden you're living in the past. And it was enjoyable. It was hard, but it was enjoyable.

LW: Were you there with some older guys that sort of knew how to do it?

GR: Yeah. When we went there, as far as for me, myself, I know... coming from Parker Ranch I didn't know much about roping and hobbling the cattle down and tying them out every day. Not here on the Ranch that much. And then had Tommy Kaniho over there. He worked for that ranch. He was an old timer. We hired this guy Herman Pacheco and he used to work for Carlsmith, I think, up on the mountain. I'm not sure. Anyway, he worked for somebody up there and he lived up on the mountain and caught cattle. So he was there to lead us or show us, too. I mean I learned how to tie different types of knots from him so you could get it off later and stuff. So it was an adventure.

LW: Did they lease down there, Parker Ranch, or did they buy?

GR: They leased. It was a thirty-five year lease, I think. In fact I think this year it ends. But we sub-leased it out when we moved back.

LW: Back then, when you were there in the '70's, was the cattle already there? Did you take cattle down there?

GR: No. That was their cattle. I think we bought or we leased... or bought the lease and the cattle. So we had to do an inventory. That's how the ranch kind of made out because we couldn't get all the cattle in.

LW: Yeah... exactly. You wouldn't know how much was there because half of it was hiding.

GR: Whatever came in you got, but whatever was out... you know.

LW: So the horses had a hard time, too, right?

GR: Yeah. Horses from Waimea had a hard time in the brush. But we used the horses from down there and they were used to the rocks and the brush and all that.

LW: But you had to learn how to sew up your horses and stuff 'cause they'd get cut up in the rocks?

GR: Yeah, I took it upon myself to do that. My thinking was if we had to call Billy for every cut, he'd have to drive a hundred miles to come out and do it and go back. So if it was superficial and just the skin, I could sew it up. And I had some of the equipment from him to do it. And it saved him the trip. But yeah, I did that. And a few things. I was always interested in things like that, too. Yeah. And I thought about being a vet before but... at my time, when you look at you want to do that... but where's the jobs. Here didn't have much jobs. People didn't love their animals like today, you know. And so the only job would be at the race track or something like that. That's where the vets were getting paid. I didn't want that. So I figured ahhh... but then there is a lot of jobs now.

LW: But you ended up learning all kinds of things that the vets did.

GR: 'Cause I wanted to.

LW: So the challenges of Ka'u involved the subdivisions down there, too, or something? Would the cattle get into these...?

GR: Oh yeah. The cattle would get out into the subdivisions. They get out into the golf course. They got out into the mac nut farms. And we'd have to pay for some of the damage sometimes.

LW: Ooh... that's not good. You mean Parker Ranch would pay?

GR: Yeah, Parker Ranch. So we'd go and get them and a lot of times if you're doing jobs, you don't really have time, so we used to go after work. We'd go home at 3:30 and rest around till about 4:30, then saddle up. We'd go out and catch cattle in the nut field or in the cane. Couple hours of roping and then come home.

LW: So it was just hard to contain them down there?

GR: Yeah... the fences weren't that great. And when it got dry, the green grass always seems to be on the road or in the nut field or somewhere, you know. But it was interesting.

LW: Where did you guys live down there?

GR: When we first went down there we all lived up at Kapapala Ranch. My wife at that time was a cook. And we'd come home every weekend to Waimea, pick up vegetables and meat... we always had meat. And she'd go back and she'd have to cook. Cook lunch for all the cowboys. Dinner, lunch, breakfast... whatever. And had about... I think eleven of us at that time.

LW: And you stayed in those smaller homes at Kapapala Ranch, right?

GR: I lived right in the big white house in the last room. 'Cause she had to wake up early and go do breakfast and stuff. But we lived in the last room there. I think Charlie lived in there, too... no... Charlie lived down at Na'alehu. Louis Akuna, who was the foreman lived in the house. The rest of the guys had the small houses and some brought their families after.

LW: So you were living in the home house... in the big house.

GR: Yeah. I lived there for a few months, and then we moved down to Na'alehu. And then we ended up being Charlie's neighbor. Two houses down there. We'd work out of the... we'd call it the garage, but that's where the saddle house was and everything in Na'alehu. Work out of there almost every morning.

LW: I imagine it's like that on the south Kona side. Real brushy... thick.

GR: Well... that's another thing, too. During the day they're all brushed up. You don't see them. They're all in the bushes. But you go up about five o'clock, they're all out. Trying to eat something. But there were some good areas, there were some rough areas. I have a pair of chaps... I don't have it here but my friend has it but... there's patch on top patch, you know. Just worn out. Just from rubbing through brush.

LW: So when you rope in that, can you rope? You just have to chase them out or...

GR: You chase them out and you rope. And sometimes you have just a short space to throw your shot, you know. Sometimes you're coming out through the brush and then there's the roadway. And you try to throw your rope before the animal crosses the road. And there's been times when I've thrown right as they've entered the bush and then oh... you feel something. I have a bull by one horn, maybe. But sometimes the rope don't come off. 'Cause that horn, if it's old, it's all wrinkled and got the ear maybe, and it's locked on. Or one back leg. I mean... it's just catch.

LW: Catch as catch can. So in '79, you go to....

GR: Pu'uhihale... right here. '79... '78... right in here... that corral back there. Way past the streetlights. That's Parker Ranch... first corral on Parker Ranch, I think.

LW: You mean historically the first one.

GR: Historically. I think that picture there is... at the corral but from what I understand they used to drive the cattle in... and the whole community would be over there sitting on the stone wall. That's why you see pictures like that with people sitting on stone walls and all that and they're all... you know it's like a big rodeo for them. And the cowboys working the cattle. When I worked down there, I had one experience. One day when I was there shoeing, I was the type of guy that if I didn't have time to shoe my horse during the week for the following week, I'd go down Saturday or Sunday and shoe them... so I wouldn't be late or you know... and one Sunday, I think, I was down there shoeing the horse and I could feel the presence of like a crowd. And then all I could hear was... (he claps and whistles). So I kept hearing... they're clapping and whistling and all that so I asked Henry Ah Sam... Monday morning... Henry... we got some spooks around here or...? You know... he says... he smiles, says Gary, at least you saw the good ones.

LW: And who was that again?

GR: At least you saw the good ones.

LW: But it was Sam who?

GR: Henry Ah Sam. He was my superintendent at that time. And then we had another cowboy go out drive horses in the morning. All dark... and he'd ride out there and go hooo... and hear... hup... hup... hup... so he says oh, good. Gary and Albert came out and help me. He ride to the corner, no more nobody. And would always happen to him you know. And Henry always says yeah... you go out there, they answer you sometimes. But...

LW: You don't seem to be afraid from that... it wasn't scary anyway.

GR: No. He laughed and he says... you saw the good ones. Or you heard the good ones. But I mean could feel that... you know like when you get into a crowd? The presence? So...

LW: So you were working there and is that where you did a lot of pregnancy checking?

GR: On my biography, everything's accurate except the dates and stuff you know, sometimes. But when I was at Pu'uhiale, I did a lot of preg checking cows. Cull cows.

LW: Okay wait now... give me the date on Pu'uhiale, then.

GR: That would be seventy... I think '78 to '80.

LW: Now you got to tell me what that means. Because not everybody knows why you have said cull cows. What exactly does that mean?

GR: Cull cows are the older cows that are going to have or had their last calf. And these are those that are pulled out of the herd because of age. Age or quality control... lame... you know... crippled, lumpy jaw or cancer eye. And so you pull them out of the herd and then whatever's marketable will come here. Probably about two hundred every other week we pregnancy check them, and the ones that are open... that can go directly to market, they'd be sent right back here in Pu'uhiale... in the back... Pu'uhiale... and then the ones that were pregnant would go up into another paddock to have their last calf. And we sent ninety head a week to Honolulu. Was ninety head of cows... ten bulls...

LW: Now when you say so, is a cow different than a heifer?

GR: Yeah. A heifer is like a teenager and a cow is like a mother.

LW: Okay. So the culled cattle were cows?

GR: Yeah. Cull... cull cows. The heifers that we pregnancy checked were checked for the fact that they're open... you wanted to send the open ones to the feedlot. You didn't want to let them be pregnant over there. So we pregnancy check all the heifers... the pregnant ones stayed back and the open ones went.

LW: You needed to send ninety? Was it a contract kind of thing?

GR: That was sort of our contract with Hawai'i Meat Company at that time. Was ninety a week, ten bulls and actually three hundred feeders every week.

LW: Three hundred feeders? Now what's the definition of a feeder.

GR: Three hundred feeders would be steers or heifers that are going into the feed lot to be fed.

LW: Okay. And that was at Sand Island?

GR: Yeah. The Hawai'i Meat Company.

LW: Wait now say that again. Ninety...

GR: Ninety cows, ten bulls, and three hundred feeders.

LW: That's a lot of cattle. And that's right around 1980?

GR: Yeah. They had a good program at that time on the ranch. After Hawai'i Meat Company folded, then they started shipping their cattle to the mainland and then... really didn't have a cull cow market, I think.

LW: When does the feedlot close again?

GR: That closed in what... 1990? About '90, I think.

LW: During this period... we're talking just about 1980... would you call that program a calf/cow operation?

GR: Yeah. We were still calf/cow.

LW: Okay. Tell me what that means to you... calf/cow.

GR: That you're raising cows. A calf/cow operation is an operation where you're raising cows, to breed for calves. Like here... not much, but in the mainland you have a stocker operation, which would be the people that are receiving the cattle prior to going to the feed lot. Like our Hawai'i cattle that goes to the mainland might go to a stocker operation, where they'll grow them out to maybe seven hundred or eight hundred pounds and then sell them to the feed lot.

LW: So we weren't really doing stocker work here then, in the '80's?

GR: In the '80's... let me see... in the '80's we still did 'cause we still had Sand Island. As long as we had Sand Island, we had stockers here. We had calves and we grow them up to 650, seven hundred pounds then send them down.

LW: Send them down to be fed at the Hawai'i Meat Company.

GR: To the Hawai'i Meat Company, yeah.

LW: And then when would they be processed?

GR: Probably about eleven hundred pounds or so they'd be killed and processed.

LW: How long does that take... from six hundred to seven hundred pounds to eleven hundred?

GR: Oh... probably about four months, five months, I think.

LW: So they'd be fed for those four months.

GR: Yeah. They gain, I think two to three pounds a day.

LW: Okay. So how did Parker Ranch, right there in about 1980, what was the system for being able to do that every week? I mean, they had to be breeding a lot. I mean they had to be making a lot of babies.

GR: We'd have about fourteen thousand calves a year at that time. Fourteen thousand and three hundred a week would be how much? In fifty-two weeks... what is that?

LW: Three hundred times fifty-two? Gosh, I don't know... but we could just round it to fifty, right? So three hundred times fifty is fifteen thousand.

GR: Could be because fourteen thousand... calves... and they're born every year, you know. Every year. So you just moving into each... and then the ones that weren't selected to go to O'ahu were put on the side and they were sold as grass feds. In fact, some of it was the meat that we used to get on the ranch. Old cows or heifers. And we had Yaro's Market over here, the old meat market that took eight head a week or something.

LW: It was up here in Waimea? What was the name again?

GR: Yeah. Yaro. Yaro Dochin. Kamuela Meat Market.

LW: And they would process, too?

GR: Yeah. The slaughter house is right there in the back of the theater.

LW: And part of that would go to the staff. So where were most of the calves being born? Is that mostly in those wet areas like Makahalau?

GR: Makahalau had a cow herd. Right across the mountain had the cow herds. From Waiki'i all the way to Makahalau... Honokaia by Ahualoa we had one cow herd down there... eight hundred cows. Kohala. Kohala had cattle. Keamuku had cattle. So the cow... the cows were throughout the ranch and then...

LW: The ranch was broken up into Divisions?

GR: Divisions. Four divisions.

LW: So the places you just mentioned, are they sub-areas of a division of the ranch?

GR: Kohala was one division. Mana was one division. Mauna Kea... Waiki'i area... this Pu'uhihale was one division. And I think Keamuku was one division.

LW: And each of them had herds.

GR: Everybody had their own herds.

LW: And producing something.

GR: Yes... yes.

LW: Was one division bigger than another or...

GR: Yeah. Some areas were bigger than others.

LW: But there was a herd in each division... people pregnancy checking, artificial inseminating... doing all that stuff...

GR: Artificial inseminating only went on in the Mana area.

LW: Only in Mana. And that comes up later when... are you involved in that?
the Mana Division?

Were you in

GR: Yeah. The Second Gate or Pa'auhau area was all in Mana. That's all part of Mana. Yeah, 1980, that's when I became a foreman, I think. I left Pu'uhiale and went to Second Gate... where I started. And then...

LW: And that's when you did all of this AI program over there, that you described to me before?

GR: Yeah. I did it all down there. In Honokaia... going to Ahualoa... that corral that was on the right. We bred all in that area. And... we also did feeders... heifers... and that's why I did so many... pregnancy checked so many heifers. I always ended up with all the heifers. And the older foremen... they were smart. Keep the steers and shipped the heifers out. Then that's why I had to do a lot of pregnancy checking of heifers and stuff, which was all right. And I did quite a bit. I had couple of guys work with me. Tippy Ah Sam... he doesn't work with the ranch any more but he used to pregnancy check with me. He was good... a younger boy. He was good. So we'd do like... or I'd do three hundred, you do the next... or half, half or whatever. See this?

LW: What this?

GR: Well I mean it's old... it's not welded, it's hand...

LW: Oh, it's a Parker Ranch brand.

GR: Yeah, it's old... one of the original Parker Ranch brands. I put it on a horse shoe for paper weight for my desk before.

LW: It looks like it's really kind of...

GR: Yeah, it's all pitted and old. But it's one of the original ones.

LW: Do you recognize it 'cause it looks like the newer one? Do they still use that shape?

GR: Yeah. This is the old Parker Ranch brand. Parker Ranch brand is not just the P, it has this tail on it. But it's not metal that's been welded. This was heated in the forge and made. So that's why I say oh, it's unique.

LW: So where were you in 1980. What part of the ranch were you responsible for?

GR: In 1980 I was promoted to foreman. I went from Pu'uhiale... to Second Gate where I originally started.

LW: So you're kind of back where you first started. But that's coming back from Ka'u, you kind of have a new project. Not new, but your focus here becomes intensive grazing.

GR: Intensive grazing we started in about 1981. We started with the first electric fencing. We did a trial at Honokaia, and I had bulls on one side and heifers on the other. And they never crossed. So that gave us the incentive to go into electric fencing because it does work. And then we started a couple of cells down in the Mud Lane area, and I think the first cell we had was down in Mud Lane. Later on we started the cells in the Mud Lane area and we had market heifers down there. That raised feeders from calves to about five hundred fifty to six hundred pounds. And then we were pregnancy checking them down there and shipping them to Hawai'i Meat Company. We also had some other paddocks in Honokaia, that we had about thirteen hundred heifers that we rotated through. And those were also pregnancy checked and sent to Hawai'i Meat Company.

LW: So for a herd that size how many cells do you have to have?

GR: The thirteen hundred were in just four paddocks, I think. Well... no, no, we had six paddock cells up there. So we ran those through there. Down at Mud Lane we had twenty something paddocks per cell. On one side we had about six hundred head of cattle; on the other side we had about five hundred.

LW: What do you mean one side and the other side?

GR: We had two cells down there. We started with that. And we also had our AI (artificial insemination) program going over there.

LW: So what is the cell exactly?

GF: The cell, I mentioned earlier in the interview that when Charlie was looking at raising the same amount of cattle on less land, Allan Savory came out with this idea, noticing how the wild herds move through in Africa. And they set up the same grazing program, sort of, where you put a large number of cattle in a smaller area, but you move them throughout. So we had like twenty something paddocks. They'd move every day or every other day. So you have like twenty something days of rest or forty days of rest if you moved every two days. Depended on the growing season, if the grass was growing fast or if it was growing slow.

LW: So you'd move five hundred cattle between...

GR: Well, the paddocks are like ten acres in size. Those days we had a three wheeler instead of a four wheeler, so they could use that to move the cattle or take their horse down. In some areas you could call the cattle. You'd go in front of the cattle and call the cattle and they'd follow you 'cause once they know they're going to good feed or new feed, they're looking forward to that.

LW: So they'd go every other day and you had how many paddocks?

GR: The Mud Lane one we had like twenty something paddocks, per cell... ten acre paddocks. And up in Honokaia, there were like six paddocks per cell, but that one wasn't really intensified. But you know, it made a difference. It helped. Then when we really got intense, it was in 1986. Up in the Mana area we had ten cells, three hundred acres each, cut into ten acre paddocks each. So like thirty ten acre paddocks. The planning of the cells on paper makes it look real good, but when you get out there, sometimes the ten acres is on top of a hill. And you don't have as much feed, or you don't have as much good feed, so if you graze it on an everyday rotation, when you hit there, you might have to stay there for half a day because there's not that much feed on that hill. But then, if you really study... I used to tell the guys, study your paddocks as you go through and some paddocks are stronger, so if you only go half a day over there, you might be able to go a day and a half or two days in one paddock. You're making up the rest period as you go along. But in '86, we had cells up in Mana, we had the cells in Mud Lane, we had cells in Keaumoku, and also in Kohala. The Kohala cells, the Mana cells and Mud Lane, we had stocker cattle for the feed lot. Keaumoku was mostly cow/calf... we put cow cows in that cell, and then we'd raise them there and ship them to market.

LW: Did you work on the grass, too? Did you plant certain ones?

GR: No, we didn't. Allan Savory was here at one time on the ranch and we went down to the Mud Lane cells and he asked one guy what do you plan to do? And this person said I plan to graze out this one type of grass and have only one type in there. And he asked me what I planned to do or what would I do. And I said I'll manage for whatever is growing there. We never went into planting or fertilizing and stuff because theoretically in the cell situation, you're using the animal to put your fertilizer down. Because with six hundred head on ten acres, they drop their droppings, as they walk they're spreading it around, and it's all concentrated in one area. As you go, it's being used as fertilizer.

LW: How did Savory like those answers?

GR: I don't know.

LW: So five hundred head in ten acres is pretty dense. Were the herds in each of those areas about five hundred head per cell, or did it depend on...?

GR: It depended on the cell. The quality of the grass that's growing, and the amount that you have. If you're working and you're observing, you can see. And a lot of the cells we had six hundred head... sometimes we stretch them to six hundred fifty, some had seven hundred fifty. Maybe for four or five months. And then when winter came and the grass slowed down, then maybe you'd get to three hundred fifty. But you push it at that period and then you're shipping cattle out also. When we worked in Mana, we bring in three cells of about the same sized cattle, and then we'd sort the good ones out, it'd be about a thousand head... and you'd sort your three hundred and twenty-five or fifty head out of that. And then put the rest together and send them back out. Then you'd process this and keep them around for about three weeks and then they'd go to market.

LW: So would you add in then, too?

GR: Yeah. You took out and you added in. If you brought in the three herds, you'd separate your three hundred something, and then you'd kind of consolidate the other two groups, put them back out. And these three hundred would go maybe in one of those cells and in three weeks they'd leave. So each time you sorted, you'd try to put the same size cattle in one cell or each cell, so when you went to get them, you know which cell to go to next.

LW: Somebody said to me that pushing the cattle to different grazing, you could do with an ATV. But you needed a horse to cull and to sort.

GR: What we found out was up there we had three men in Mana. And some men would rather just jump on a bike, go out and bring in the cattle and all that. And what we found out was if you do that only, when you go out with a horse they get all excited 'cause they're only used to the bike being in there. So what we used to recommend was every once in a while go out with your horse, or the daily chores, taking the minerals, checking the water, moving the cattle, we go with the bike, but when we went to bring them in to sort, we'd go with a horse. Just keep that exposure to the cattle so they don't get locked into one routine or one type of vehicle or what.

LW: So when you got that intensive grazing program going, I guess the university got interested and wanted you to... somebody wanted you to write a paper about it. What was that all about?

GR: That was on the artificial insemination.

LW: Oh, that wasn't on intensive grazing?

GR: No, on our breeding program. What happened was that we had a real good conception rate one year and ABS...

LW: What's ABS again?

GR: American Breeding Service. Their directors or western director or whatever... Hawai'i director... said these guys are doing something right. See what they're doing and have it written down. What happened was every year as we bred, we had some problems, but the way I tried to do it, I tried not to have the same problem over again. We tried to improve on it. And we did. We breed only one time. A lot of people breed... bring the cow in that's in heat, breed them in the afternoon, breed them in the morning and turn them out. Or breed them in the morning and the afternoon and turn them out. And we breed just one time. And to have a conception of sixty-two percent was pretty good, so they wanted to see what we were doing.

LW: What did you attribute that success to?

GR: I think just trying to improve on all the mistakes had been made before. Like the first time we bred, we brought cattle off the mountain and they put them in the squeeze chute and tried to breed them and they were with the legs sticking out... they're not used to men being around and all that. So we slowly changed everything and got it to where the cattle were settled. We put in bulls earlier... vasectomized bulls. They were to stimulate the herd so they'd start cycling. And those little things that we kind of put together and made the program pretty good.

LW: Is that what you reported on in your paper?

GR: Yeah.

LW: Did they publish that or did you go to a conference and read it?

GR: What happened was the guy that used to work for ABS got a job at the university later.

LW: What's that guy's name?

GR: Mike Dupont. He's the one that told me they want you to write something up, so I did. And I don't know if they published it somewhere or whatever but it was just an outline of what we had done to bring up our breeding program's percentage.

LW: He then took it somewhere or... published it in one of their bulletins?

GR: Probably some kind of a bulletin or handout or something. I don't know.

LW: You don't know? He didn't give you a copy?

GR: I don't know. I don't remember.

LW: Maybe he did and you don't remember. Right in that same period, what was your title?

GR: I was a foreman then till I think '86... 1980 to '86. In '86 I went into the intensive grazing program and when Hawai'i Meat folded, probably about 1990, we started shipping cattle to Canada. And we have to process about twenty-one hundred head for that trip. We did... I think... within six to eight hundred a day for three days.

LW: How many times a year would you have to ship?

GR: I think we sent boats out twice a year. I'm not sure.

LW: Which type of animal is being shipped for this kind of thing?

GR: Those were the steers and heifers that were feeders, stockers. Mostly feeders. They were young.

LW: So what did you have to do to them when they went out on the boat?

GR: We had to process them with different vaccines to ensure their safe journey over. They went out on the boat, and it took them nine days to get to Canada. I think they were fed and watered twice a day on the boat. So actually, from what I understand, by the time they reached Canada they gained weight on the way over.

LW: They're just standing, too.

GR: And the ship is super clean. You get on that ship you don't even smell manure or anything.

LW: In '98 when I did the exhibit for the Lyman Museum, one of those ships docked and one of the managers invited us to come in and look at it. Or maybe it was Dr. Bergin. It was very clean. Impressive.

GR: Impressive. Yeah, it's impressive.

LW: So from '86 to '92, you're a foreman, then?

GR: Mm hmm.

LW: In '92 you become a superintendent?

GR: Yes.

LW: So what does a foreman do?

GR: All of the above. (Laughs.)

LW: So when you become a superintendent there's more cattle or more people or more areas or what?

GR: No, no. When I became a superintendent, I didn't have people under me. I went around looking at cattle, market kind if we needed them here and there. Checking cattle and the conditions.

LW: You've already described the process you needed to ship cattle to Sand Island. So things changed when you started shipping them to the mainland and you had to process them...

GR: Even for Sand Island, we had to process them. The only difference going to Canada was we had to do a blood test on them. We had to pull blood on each animal. And we had to identify each animal. So we had different colored ear tags. But because it was so hard to work one group at a time, or if you had only one group and there was a contaminated animal in there, the whole group would be condemned, sort of, from shipping. So we made them in eleven groups of a hundred or twenty groups of a hundred and we had different colored ear tags for them and eventually we ran out of colors so we had buttons for the tags that were black, white, red, green, yellow and then we had some half white, half black, half green... I mean there's...

LW: So you put in the tag when you process them?

GR: When you process them you tag them. You have to put a metal tag for the federal government inspection. And then send the blood work out and the blood work would come back in a couple of days or three days or so.

LW: So where did the blood go?

GR: I think it all went to O'ahu.

LW: And what were they testing for?

GR: Whatever diseases they had.

LW: Whatever was current that the FDA had to test for? Oh, I see. So you vaccinated them, you tagged them, and you took their blood. And then you waited to get back the blood work and then you put them on the boat.

GR: Yes. We fed them so they'd be used to eating cubes so when they got on the boat they would eat.

LW: What kind of a crew did you need to do all of that?

GR: We ended up getting crews from throughout the ranch. The sections. And it was like four or five people. We had two chutes, double chute. Four or five people on each side, one recording, one tagging. I had this one guy that did an amazing job on identifying the blood tubes, the numbers and all that. He was just amazing.

LW: He just could handle all that. Did he draw the blood, too?

GR: He didn't draw blood much because he was doing the paper work. Passing the tools out and stuff like that. But drawing blood we had other guys doing it. Some were like vampires... they were good. Some were a little slow but we had some guys that were really, really good.

LW: This is chute work so are they still called calves at that point or they're not?

GR: They were still weaned calves.

LW: You put them in the chute and do all this, then send them back out with their groups. You do about a hundred at a time?

GR: We were doing six hundred or eight hundred a day, I think.

LW: But in their little groups so in case they were...

GR: Yeah, they were tagged in groups.

LW: They weren't all old enough to be pregnancy checked:

GR: No, they were younger.

LW: So that's what you did with them before you put them on the boat. Well that morning that I went on the boat, we got there at maybe ten (o'clock) and every half an hour, there was another large truck with animals in it, backing up to that boat, there was a ramp that went from the truck into the boat, and the calves would go out of the truck and into the boat. And they said those trucks had been coming since eight o'clock in the morning.

GR: We'd have twenty-one trucks or something... or twenty-one loads. We'd ship a lot of times from Mana and Kohala. So they'd do Mana first. Then they'd do Kohala. Of course Kohala was short.

LW: The ones we saw were from Mana. The truck driver said they'd come down from Mana. It was very impressive. I remember that. When you were shipping before that, when you were just shipping to O'ahu, did they load off of Kawaihae?

GR: Yeah, yeah.

LW: And they went in what kind of boat? Local boat? Oh, they went into Matson containers.

GR: The containers went onto the ship. When I first started, we still loaded on the barge. The barge would come in and we'd run cattle down the chute right onto the barge at Kawaihae. I'd be standing on the wharf right by the chute, and the boat would be...

LW: Going up and down.

GR: And I'd be... I'd feel like I was on the boat, but yeah, we loaded on the barge several times. And then even at one time we sold about two thousand steers... actually we didn't sell... we sent them to Kaua'i to be pastured, 'cause we were in a drought situation. And so we'd load them on the barge, and then two guys would fly down a day later, and receive them in Kaua'i. Offload them from the barge, take them to where they were supposed to be.

LW: When you load them onto the barge, what's on the barge to contain them?

GR: Pens. So many in each pen.

LW: When you first did the barge, when would that have been?

GR: That was in the '70s. That was between that '72 to '75 period. Right in there before I went to Ka'u.

LW: At some time did they stop loading right onto the barge with pens?

GR: They stopped that probably '78 or so, already. I'm not sure.

LW: What did they go to?

GR: Containers. I can't remember but I think the whole trailer was parked and loaded onto the barge and went to Honolulu and came back. I'm not sure.

LW: The truck drove up onto the barge... or the container?

GR: Just the container.

LW: Now would that be at Kawaihae?

GR: At Kawaihae. All down there.

LW: Because that boat is like a Danish boat or something.

GR: The one that went to Canada, yeah.

LW: Are you still doing that?

GR: No. No. That stopped. What they're doing it now, from what I understand. but I haven't been at the ranch for a while but they're flying them in. I'm not sure if it brings freight in or brings some kind of livestock in, turns around, goes back with cattle.

LW: To O'ahu?

GR: To the mainland somewhere. I don't know what the cost is on that or what, though.

LW: There was something I missed about the intensive grazing. There's a note here that says there was always a backup plan. What was that about?

GR: Is that from me?

LW: No, it was from Charlie Kimura's description.

GR: I'm not sure what he was referring to.

LW: And he also said there was a stringent modification of grasses. I think from what I've read about Savory, he was very much into letting the animals and the plants regulate each other. And messing with that was not his idea of maximizing stuff so I bet he liked your idea better than to really seed the grasses.

GR: If you manage what's growing there... the reason it's growing there is because it belongs there. And the only thing in his idea of intensive grazing is whatever is growing there is getting now... a denser fertilization on it, because the cattle are intense... intensified in that area, so eventually things will start coming back again. My own place I have... I made some UH guys smile one day... I have cattle and I have some sheep running with the cattle. I also had one or two goats. So they said you running them together? And I said yeah. The sheep supposedly had manure that was very good for fertilization. Very rich manure. I said well they're dropping pellets all over the place. It's time release pellets. And my goat likes to browse, so whatever little weed is coming up, or guava or something, the goat will kind of do that, so that kind of takes care of my weed maintenance. And they laughed and all that but I noticed it does make a difference.

LW: So of your AI (artificial insemination) program, what are you most proud of?

GR: Because I was with it from the start of the program to where we ended up at that time, I think getting the cattle to where we got them. And you're working with new cattle every year. And like I said I talked to Charlie and asked him if I could raise the wean offs down here, the weaned heifers. And we started working with them. That made a big difference. Some areas that do AI, they're using the same cows over and over, so the cows know the system. But when you have a new group every year, it's challenging.

LW: How come you have a new group every year?

GR: Charlie believed in breeding heifers and the difference was you breed that heifer with this bull, you keep that offspring, and you breed that offspring, and you can be improving your breed each time. When you're breeding an old cow, your breed will always have a half of that cow in them. So he's stepping up his breed of animal faster by breeding heifers. That's why we went that way, but I think the accomplishment, I didn't think about it, but that sixty percent was supposed to be pretty good at that time. Just to have it where we kind of got it working... you know. Yeah. We had guys breeding... and if you breed eleven days a year, as a breeder, you're not getting that much experience. Eleven days of work. So ABS came down one day and said this guy has a lower percentage, maybe we should get rid of him. I said you know it's hard for him to improve without the practice. Give him a little longer 'cause he knows what he's doing, but he's just not real proficient right now. And sure enough, in another year or two, he became one of the better breeders. If you go at someone new, they're going through the same process of breeding for eleven days and waiting another year to breed again, you know.

LW: So you almost have to get the practiced ones. So it's literally kind of target practice?

GR: Yeah. That's all it is.

LW: I enjoyed rereading the description of just practicing with uteruses that had come from the...

GR: The slaughterhouse. And you know the part that made it tricky was sometimes they'd still be half frozen. So it'd be kind of... when you go in you feel for the.. they say feel for the gristle when you're passing through the cervix. But it's all ice. The whole thing is gristle. I mean it was fun and it was interesting. But they give you several uteruses to try on. We'd have a dye... you'd inseminate with a dye. Then they'd cut it open and see how far you are from where you're supposed to be and all that. So it's interesting. Billy Bergin put out a book on pregnancy checking. I don't know if I still have it but what it was, was pictures of all the different stages of pregnancy. And it explained what you're looking at, what to feel for and all that. And that really was a big help. For me.

LW: Now pregnancy checking, you do a lot of, right?

GR: At that time we did.

LW: 'Cause you need those heifers to be open to send them to the feedlot.

GR: Because they didn't want them giving birth at the feedlot. And then branding them and all that.

LW: So every week you were doing that?

GR: Just about every week. On this interview it says every week but it's almost every week, 'cause some weeks we were sending steers. And then if the heifers were smaller, we'd send all the bigger steers first, and then we would start getting to the heifers. There'd be a break in between. But in all we used to do about 3,000 head a year.

LW: So in '92 you become a superintendent of livestock. And... what's the cancer eye program? What's that?

GR: What?

LW: You did something in this time period that had to do with eye cancer or something?

GR: Cancer eye?

LW: What's cancer eye?

GR: That was in the early years. In the '70s. We used to operate on cancer eyes.

LW: So you had some kind of certification in horse shoeing and cancer eye surgery. So tell me about those.

GR: That was in the '70s also. But we learned to shoe horses. This guy Bob Jastrom was a farrier that was over here and he had some classes for us. And we all practiced and learned how to shoe.

And we got our certificate when we could shoe. And then the cancer eye operation was we had a program where we were trying to send as many cattle as we could... cull cows... market as much as we could. And those with cancer eye that were kind of questionable, whether they'd pass or not at the slaughterhouse, we'd cut the eye out. We learned the... I forget how many... about four of us, I think... and you'd put the cow in the stanchion, you'd numb the eye and get into the optical nerve back here, numb it, and then you'd cut the eye out, then you'd reach inside, feel around the eye bone... the eye socket... if it was lumpy and all that the cancer is in the bone. If not, we'd just sew the eye closed. What that did was let the cow finish raising her calf, and then she could go to market. So we had that program for a couple of years and then it stopped.

LW: So what is cancer eye?

GR: It's cancer of the eye. It starts as a small growth, a lot of times. And then gets bigger to where the whole eye just rots. Gets full of maggots and all. But before that stage, you catch them at the early stage you could cut it out, take the whole eye out, everything. Sew it closed and you have a marketable animal.

LW: The processor didn't want them, of course, when their eyes were diseased? You said they wouldn't pass. So part of the inspection at the slaughterhouse involved their eyes, too.

GR: And then the thing is it wasn't because they didn't pass the inspection but for a long while they wouldn't pass the inspection. But letting them raise their calf, have their last calf, and then be marketable because you're stopping the cancer.

LW: So they become useful still. They raise another calf.

GR: Their last calf. And usually when you cull them... that's what we did at Pu'uhiale... we used to pregnancy check these cows and the open ones would go to market, the pregnant ones they'd go up here in the mountains here somewhere till they had their calf and then come back and go to market. But same with these cows, if they're pregnant, they're ready for a calf, you could prolong them and they could have the calf and still be marketable. If you catch the cancer in time and get it out.

LW: So you'd treat them and they heal? They'd just heal?

GR: They'd heal, yeah.

LW: Cows are pretty sturdy up here.

GR: We had one guy that was really... hey, hurry up... you know... the thing bleeding. Just doing a real good job and all that. He'd get worried 'cause it's bleeding so much, you know.

LW: But then she'd get up and live, huh?

GR: Yeah. They'd get up and walk out.

LW: So where did you do that surgery?

GR: We'd call it what we call the Dairy Fence Corral. Up in Mana. On the whole ranch, Mana was sort of the... first for a lot of things. The electric fence, intensive grazing, artificial insemination... cancer eye operation...

LW: Why was that? I mean it was the original homestead but...

GR: I think the men in charge were more progressive.

LW: The men in charge of that area. Who were the men in charge?

GR: Charlie... Kale Stevens... and I think maybe more open to different ideas is what it is. Accepting different ideas. But Mana has always been better managed, I think.

LW: Well, it's sort of the heartland of the ranch, right?

GR: Um hmm.

LW: That's sort of the piko right there.

GR: Yeah, it is.

LW: What's Kohala like as part of the ranch?

GR: Kohala is good. Lot of good grass, good cattle. It's a good area.

LW: What's your favorite area? Mana...?

GR: Mana. They're all good but I like Mana.

LW: Is that where they raised the horse herd there, too, at Mana?

GR: They usually have it around there. Now it's under different management so it's in different areas, I guess. I don't know. Like I say I'm not connected with the ranch now.

LW: When you were with the ranch did you have a horse allotment? A string of horses?

GR: Yeah, yeah.

LW: What do you remember about that?

GR: We had eight horses each. And you could pick two young horses every year. But you'd have to probably give up two older horses. But you always had a string of... should be eight... you know... good working horses. And those days... you kind of needed them. I heard at one time the cowboys had like twenty-five horses each. But they didn't have trucks and trailers...

LW: ATVs...

GR: They didn't shoe them much, so if it got lame you threw them out and rode another one... I heard. But in our day, we used horses a lot. The paddocks were bigger. Didn't have the ATVs.

LW: And you shod every week?

GR: No. You shoe about every six weeks. Every five or six weeks. But if you shoe your horses, one horse every week, maybe that's easier than shoeing all six at one time. But we'd start branding from Waiki'i, and we'd go... I call it... right across the mountain and we'd end up in Mana. Just go up, drive paddocks and keep moving across the mountain. Takes us about three weeks, I think, from one end to the next.

LW: And how many of you would be in those groups?

GR: That time we had like about twenty... twenty something cowboys. Everybody from the different sections.

LW: How many horses would you bring at a time?

GR: Probably two or three horses.

LW: A day?

GR: One horse a day or... maybe two horses. One to drive, one to separate, and sometimes one to rope. But usually you drive, the horse you use to separate is the same horse you use to rope, drive calves and stuff. But it'd be about two or three horses that you'd take with you. For when you'd go across the mountain. And lot of times you'd take a young horse. When came time to sort you'd be riding your young horses. Teaching them also.

LW: What years are you thinking for right now... so are we in the '70s here?

GR: Yeah... '70s, '80s... we started using the three wheelers in about 1981. We started down in Mud Lane area. That's the first area that we had ATVs at. And then eventually when we got the cells in Mana and Keamuku and Kohala... and Mud Lane... well Mud Lane already had ATVs... but then they had the four wheelers... so we started going with those.

LW: Now did you still brand with your horses then?

GR: All the ground cattle work was with horses. In the cells we had horses and ATVs. And I think two or three horses each and ATVs. But this side we didn't have much branding. In fact, the years that we had the intensive grazing, we didn't get to go out much to brand because it was a daily job. One year, when we first got Kohala... Kohala was one of the first cells... and Mud Lane... I had men working in Kohala, men working in Mud Lane and to give them off for the weekend, I'd go work at Mud Lane, then for the next guy to get off, I'd go work in Kohala. So I worked the whole year every day. Just making sure to get it to work. And I relieved one guy down here this weekend, next weekend I'd go up there so that guy could get off and...

LW: And then you were there on site.

GR: I was learning also. That's what I like about it.

LW: Wow... that's a lot of work.

GR: It was, it was...

LW: But I'm interested. When you did the intensive grazing, you were kind of in touch with those animals so you didn't need to have a brand on them...

GR: They were all branded. They were all calves that came off the cows. From the outside. They were all branded.

LW: And when you brand you also give them whatever... a vitamin and a shot... two or three shots...

GR: A vaccination... black leg... it's like a seven way cross now. Black leg, BVD... and whatever. Other things you vaccinate for it's one shot. Vitamin shot and a wormer.

LW: And are you still doing roping and dragging?

GR: At that time. And then when we started the Canada shipment, under Robbie Hind, we stopped that roping and dragging of calves and we branded them in the chute.

LW: Oh because you brought them in before you shipped them and you might as well it all there.

GR: Yeah. Just about right before we ship them. But were lucky. We didn't have a black leg outbreak. 'Cause that's the reason the ranch brand their young calves and have them vaccinated against black leg, because... especially the Mana to Waiki'i... the black leg is in the ground there, and if you have a warm, damp summer... spring and summer... it activates it and then the calves start getting it. But we haven't had that for a long time so we were very lucky at that time when we didn't vaccinate them. I remember seeing calves just dead in the pasture... stretched out. The black legs they just swell up...

LW: What does the black leg do?

GR: They have a subcutaneous hemorrhage right under their skin... feels like all bubbles and... it's all... they're all black 'cause they're hemorrhaging.

LW: It's a hemorrhagic thing?

GR: Yeah.

LW: Oh terrible thing. That can be so ugly. Now I understand why it's called black. Because it looks black. That hemorrhage looks black.

GR: When you cut it open it's all black... all hemorrhaged.

LW: So as a superintendent, what do you think you're most proud of?

GR: I don't know. I'm not sure. I don't know. I... I'd wanted to get to that position along the way at one time. And... I think I was done accomplishing already.

LW: That was what you were proud of... becoming a superintendent.

GR: Yeah, working myself to that position.

LW: Yeah, it's a good position. It has a lot of status to it. What do you think about ranching today?

GR: Well I still love it. I still love the lifestyle, the ranching... working with cattle. I don't even know if it's changing that much. I kind of have a feeling it is, but I'm not exposed to it that much right now. I've been reading where everybody talks about purebred bulls and all that. Well now people are looking toward the hybrid bulls. And I believe in that but... some... I guess... I don't know if it's industries or... or the feedlots and all... they only want black cattle or they probably want this kind of cattle and all that. My thing on these hybrid bulls is everybody is going sort of to a grass fed program and all that and with these bulls you can achieve that a little faster. But that's my opinion.

LW: When did you retire?

GR: In my mind I didn't retire.

LW: But you retired from Parker, though.

GR: I was let go from Parker.

LW: Charlie Kimura in his nomination letter called you a horseman, a stockman, a herdsman, and a cattleman. Do each of those mean something to you?

GR: To me it does. It means you're more than just a cowboy. You have some other skills like growing cattle or really studying cattle, or knowing cattle, and different approaches to working with cattle. Understanding cattle and I guess the cattle industry a little. Yeah... it's a little different than being that one cowboy. I just feel blessed to be able to have lived a life I love.