

Series 1, Tape 4

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW with George K. A'i, Sr. (GA)

September 25, 2000 at Kawaioloa Ranch

BY: Anna Loomis (AL)

AL: Ok, this is an interview with “Uncle” George A'i, September 25, 2000, at Kawaioloa Ranch. He's being interviewed by Anna Loomis for the Paniolo Oral History Project.

AL: Okay, I just wanted to start by asking you about where you grew up. Maybe could you describe the town where you were born?

GA: Well, I was born in Kaupo, Maui. It's really a country-country, it's still in the country over there. What I mean when I say country-country is, still at the day when I left that's how it is today. And when I left in 1941, mom and dad move here—when I say “dad,” that's my step-dad. We moved here, we got here one month before the Second World War break out. And then he went—when we move here he went work for Hawaiian Pine Ranch. I was about thirteen, fourteen years old at the time. So, when the war break out the schools all close, so they had no school, so I quit school. I quit school, and then I went to work with dad on the ranch. I work with dad on the ranch, and so when the school got back again I figure, aw, I'm working now. I feel big, so I stayed out. But I never did go back to school again. I just went on my own, you know. Well not on my own, I stayed with dad and mom, then I work on the ranch with dad. Then I work with Hawaiian Pine— that's on the North Shore area—that's where we first started, the North Shore. Then we moved to Waialua, but it's still Hawaiian Pine, at the time. When you say Hawaiian Pine, nobody believe today that when I say Hawaiian Pine—they always feel that I been on a pineapple company, working for the pineapple. But no, Hawaiian Pine had their own ranch. And Hawaiian Pine, that's Dole now. It's the Dole Corporation now. But at the past was Hawaiian Pine. I work for them then I feel, oh I better go out and try to look for something better. I went and later years, in 1945, and then I moved to town, try to go look for something else to do, try to work with trucking company. But sure, the trucking company was making money, but I wasn't happy at that time. So, dad asked me to come back here if I wanted to come back again, work for a Dairyman's Association. That time, Meadow Gold used to be Dairyman's Association. I came back here, work for Dairyman's Association and I've stayed here forty years with Dairyman's Association here. Uh, 1992, when the dairy closed, um, I went out again, dairy

closed, so I went out again and worked for a small trucking company. And then, why that's all I can think of. Maybe you want to ask me something else, but. . . .

AL: Could you tell me how you first learned how to ride?

GA: Aw! When I was young kid! We—in Kaupo! That's how we do, either you would ride a horse, or ride a donkey! That's how we get around over there. Oh, yeah. Actually, over there, before the road ever opened up over there, there was only two people, two, three people had cars in Kaupo. And they was old Model-T. When the road opened, when they build the road to go through Kaupo, then people decided to buy cars, but That's where I first started. Up there. In fact, when I was in Kaupo, before mom married my step-dad—my original, my real dad he had leprosy, he moved to—they took him to Kalaupapa. And we stayed there with grandpa and grandma. And I remember the first time I ever got on a horse, and I only was about eleven, twelve years old. My uncle had to go break-in a horse, and I had to go help him snub the horse, the young colt, for him to get on. If you want to know what is snub is that: I'm on a tame horse, I got to get the young colt and hold it on my horse, on the saddle, until he gets on, and I got to lead him around. That's when I first started. And, in fact I had other cousins over there also, we all grew up together over there, by helping grandpa. He has a small little ranch. By doing things, working, ranch work.

AL: What kind of work?

GA: Anything, anything what you—what you get to do on the ranch. We've done that over there. And, you know, we watch how they do it, and that's how I'd learn. And when I came here, and when I work at Hawaiian Pine here, it's about thirteen, fourteen years old I was. That's how I started to learn more. In fact, that's how I started to learn to shoe my own horse. Everybody has to shoe they own horse. We don't—we don't have anybody special come in—now days, they have farriers come in and shoe your horse. No, you shoe your own, you take care of your own. And that's how—I've done that.

AL: Do you remember the story of how you learned to shoe your own horse?

GA: Oh yes, by watching my supervisors—they the ones that I work under—and he's the one that taught us what to do.

AL: And how was it done in the old days?

GA: Well, it's the same way, but—I watch now days how they shoeing. They get all kind tools over there which we didn't have. The main thing that we had over there for shoeing a horse was

just a rasp, then hammer, and a clips to clip them. Now I see all kind things for to take out the nail and take out the shoe. And at that time, we didn't have the kind of stuff like that. And the shoe, we always bought a oversize shoe and we had to put them on the anvil, or on the forge, to make it to where the size of the horse's hoof. And that's how I know. The only thing that I regret today, uh, I've seen, you know—I never did learn how to repair saddle, what I mean the original saddle rope. Put the raw hide on the stick? Put the raw-hide on. That's the only thing I regret. And by making skin ropes. Dad used to do that. He used to cover all his own saddles, make his own skin rope. Uh, they never did buy ropes [and] go out and rope cattle. They always made their own skin rope.

AL: Do you remember watching him?

GA: Yes, I'd watch him. In fact, I'd help him also, by cleaning the hide after they strip it. You know, they go down—when they get the hide, they start cutting the hide in circles, going round, and they stretch it out from pole to pole. Every day you got to go keep stretching that hide, keeping pulling, pulling, until so many days, then you start taking the hairs out. And then you start working, to make down to how many strand you want to make the skin rope. So, majority people make skin rope by four strands, and they go up to eight strands. If they go up to eight strands, the skin ropes come out square. If you go up to six strands, it comes out round. But I—it's the only thing I regret, never did learn how to make it. But I've seen how they done it.

AL: Did your dad also make saddles?

GA: He—he—he made his own saddle, cover his own, the raw-hide, everything on. Everything. He's done that. But I never did do. But you know, that's why I say now days everything you get somebody else to do it. So that's why I look now days, you know, I should have learned. But it's too late already. He's gone.

AL: When he was making saddles and skin-ropes, would he make them to sell or for other people?

GA: No! No, he make it for himself, or he make it for somebody else. Not to sell. They never did go try to make things to sell to make money. No. They never did. If another person wants the rope, they help one another to make. But not to sell. No, they never did. Even for covering, fixing the saddle, no. Not that. Never did for sell, for make money. No. They always help—try help somebody else. Cause I've seen that, I've seen him doing that. And even—like he had a Hawaiian tree. I guess you know what I'm talking about, a Hawaiian tree. He had one. When he

passed away, my half brother, he's entitled to that tree because that's his dad owns that tree. But I feel bad, because he sold that tree. But I'm trying to get it back. Because the person who bought it passed away, so I'm trying to get to the family if I can buy it back.

AL: Could you describe that Hawaiian tree?

GA: Oh, sure. Hawaiian tree is a—has a sixteen-inch seat. Um, it's a bare, bare, real bare Hawaiian tree. Um, nothing special about it but I just wanted to get it, try to keep it for him. But I think now if I had that—my children and grandchildren, they're not into this now. No one is interested in doing what I am doing now. So I don't think that will help if I get it back. So.

AL: You tell me that kids used to ride the horses around the island to get around.

GA: Yeah!

AL: What different places did you go on horseback?

GA: You mean on Maui or over here?

AL: On Maui.

GA: Well, Maui from where we were we go to Kaupo—I mean Kipahulu. You go to Ulupalakua. Kaupo, like I say in the beginning, that there was no road that goes right around the island. Now the road goes right round the island, but before, Kaupo—it's just when we were there the road open in Kaupo, nineteen-thirty-six, thirty-eight. In about thirty-six or thirty-eight, that's when the road went through. Now, before that, everybody has to ride to Kipahulu, or go to Ulupalakua Ranch to get to the main town. That's the only way—that's how far the road comes to. And they go through there. And that's the only way you go. Or you going to—you want to go to the beach, or maybe you want go someplace else, maybe you want go beach, that's how you do, right there. But, nothing special.

AL: Did you have your own horse?

GA: No, I did not, but dad had, and grandpa, they always had horses around, donkeys around, mules around, something to ride.

AL: You started working for Kaupo Ranch, right?

GA: Actually, I did not start to work for Kaupo Ranch. We were—I worked for Kaupo Ranch when we were going school. Kaupo Ranch used to hire older boys to—just to go do light work, maybe to pull weeds or clean some trail. That's where I first started, by doing that. We were

young kids, we were only about eleven, twelve years old. We did take all the young kids, the older boys to go do that. Yeah.

AL: How'd you get that job?

GA: Oh, from one of the supervisors there that needed help. Sure, they came to the school and asked the teacher there to ask, you know, the boys, who wants to go work. Actually, we figure, eh, if you're going to make fifty cents a day, that's big money for us, at that time. And that's all what they pay us, fifty cents a day. But we just work as regular kids, doing. Not like now where—you know, they don't push you to work, because, you know, kids, how they work is slow, and they talking story and whatnot. So— but they never did bother us, but they paid us fifty cents a day. And to us that was big money!

AL: And what jobs did you do around Kaupo ranch?

GA: That's all, only that.

AL: Just ...

GA: Just that. The main job that really I made for me to make money, for make a living, is when I moved here. To come over here and work Hawaiian Pine.

AL: Yes ...

GA: Yeah.

AL: But when you were a little boy and you were working on Kaupo Ranch, were you working with the cows, with the horses?

GA: No, no. Kaupo Ranch don't let the young kids like us, young, to work close to the animals, because it's not safe for kids. So even if we know what to do, they don't allow us to do that.

AL: Then, uh, in 1941 you moved to ...

GA: Moved to Oahu.

AL: What were the reasons behind your move?

GA: Well, we moved here because Hawaiian Pine brought in two boys from Kaupo to work at the ranch, to run the ranch down here. So when they brought these two boys down here, they needed one more. So one of the boys that came—he was a supervisor, they call him, well, the supervisor. He was the top man. He came here. He needed one more person. So he asked dad

to come down here and work. Because they needed one more person to come over here work and to take care—down North Shore, on COMSAT, Pamaluu side, on top there—to take care of that place. That's why dad came down here. And that's why we moved here.

AL: What's that place called?

GA: COMSAT, you know where down Sunset?

AL: Sunset beach?

GA: Sunset beach. Yeah, well now it's Sunset, they call it Sunset beach now. In the past that was Pamaluu. That name—they is all new names. Before, that's different name. But where COMSAT station now, that used to be Hawaiian Pine on top there. That's where dad started, over there. That's where I started over there, and I moved to Waialua, and—same ranch.

AL: Yeah, yeah.

GA: Yeah.

AL: And you started working as a ranch laborer ...

GA: Yeah, ranch laborer doing regular ranch work. You doing labor today, maybe tomorrow they tell you, eh, we got to go round-up. You just got to go saddle up and go round-up.

AL: What happens on a round-up? What was it like when you'd go out on the round up?

GA: Go round-up, you had to move them from pasture to pasture, or when they got to separate it, they got to take out the young ones, take them someplace else. Usually, we take out the young ones when time for wean-off. We take out the young calves, go brand, and they separate and they haul it down Waialua. And that's what we do.

AL: How long a distance is that?

GA: Why that's from there to Waialua is what? But we haul them on trucks, though, we don't da kine ...

AL: Oh, ok...

GA: We haul them on trucks. And that's, what, huh, it's about twenty miles, I think.

AL: So you didn't drive the ...

GA: Oh, no. Only time we drive is down where I'm saying, COMSAT, over there, from the top of the hill, we used to drive them down the road, drive them on the highway, and then we move them to places that we have alongside the highway.

AL: You would drive—you would be running the cows along the highway?

GA: On the highway, and the cars would be coming and they—at that time the cars, oh, maybe one car pass now, maybe one hour later then you see another car coming. But it's not like today, today you cannot do that.

AL: You never had any accidents?

GA: No. They—people see that, they respect you. And we try to respect them.

AL: And were those—the jobs you were doing then, when you were working at Sunset, were those new experiences for you? Were you learning new things or had you learned all ...

GA: Oh, I'd known already what to do. I know things what to do over there. Oh, you know, when you work on the ranch it's not everything you on horseback. When you work on the ranch you do everything. You everything. You mechanic. You cowboy. You labor. You plumber. You got to do everything. So there's no such thing as you only ride around on the horse and go over there and do that. Maybe today, now days, yeah. If you going to ride horse, yeah, yeah that's your job. Then you tell them do something—hey, no that's not my job, that's your job. But in the past, you know, you do everything.

AL: So you would do round up.

GA: Oh yeah.

AL: And you would do labor.

GA: Oh yeah.

AL: And what other jobs?

GA: You do labor work, you got to go help the plumber, you get your broken line. I remember not once, but we used to get the water from in the mountains. We got to haul—we got to carry pipes on our backs to go in there and fix the broken line to bring the—to get the water to come out ...

AL: Oh, hike in and ...

GA: Yeah. That's how we used to get our water. We got to go into the mountain and get in the springs and get the water out. Now they get the city water, they pump it up there to the place now.

AL: Really? So you piped down water ...

GA: Oh yeah ...

AL: From the fresh springs ...

GA: Yeah!

AL: Really! Oh, interesting.

GA: Yeah! We used to take the—carry the pipes in there. Young kids, we going in there.

AL: Yeah, yeah. How did they find the springs?

GA: Ah, from finding the springs—I don't know who found the spring, but that been there before we started there, before I came there. But I—to tell you the truth, I don't know who found it, but—anytime when we don't have any water, so we know something is wrong, so we got to go walk the line, and go check to see where is broken. And when you find out where is broken, then we got to start carrying, do things to go in there. If you need one lead pipe, you got to carry. Make sure you got the pipes all ready, threaded, everything, prepared to go over there and take that old one out and go cut it or whatever and fix it right there.

AL: So you would do round up and you would do mechanic and you would do plumber ...

GA: You—you do anything.

AL: (Laughter) What about other—what else would you do with the cattle? What else did your job involve? You'd round them up and then ...

GA: Round it up, either you move it—if you got to move it to another pasture. Or you separate the cows from the bulls, you know, it's time to take away the bulls. Or you taking away the calves, it's time to wean off the calves from the mother. And then for branding. And then when we wean-off we take—we usually—we take the calves, we take them to Waialua side, try to keep them away, keep them away from the mom. Cause if they stay maybe two, three pastures away, they work their way back and go back to the mom, you know, so we try keep them away. So [that's all]. Regular.

AL: Was there any difference between your job as a cowboy and your job as a ranch laborer?

GA: Well, the cowboy, you get more fun—you be riding on a horse, eh? You know, a lot of guys, a lot of people they wants that, eh? And the ranch labor, you going do man-work, eh? So you be working more man labor.

AL: So that was it. Did you do any horse-breaking?

GA: No, I never did do that. Somebody [else] always had done that. I never—I never did do that, horse breaking, no.

AL: Now while you were working at Hawaiian Pine, where were you living?

GA: I was living up at COMSAT first, then later on when I moved to Waialua, we—I lived on Waialua.

AL: On the ranch?

GA: No, not on the ranch, just outside. We rented a home outside because the ranch don't have. On Sunset had a—Hawaiian Pine had a regular camp out there. But Waialua, no, I was living outside.

AL: And you lived at the camp out at Sunset?

GA: At Sunset, yeah, on top there where COMSAT is they had a big camp up there.

AL: What was the camp like? What were the living arrangements?

GA: You ever seen how a pineapple or a plantation camp look like?

AL: Could you describe it?

GA: There—up there they had about, what, they had about ten, fifteen homes, all in rows, and everybody's assigned to one home, more like a regular, small little village you look at it. And there's no electricity now. You use kerosene lamp or gas lamps up there. But like I say that's all you get, and you get a telephone, yeah, but not electricity. That's what you do.

AL: Everyone lives in their own ...

GA: Yeah, they get their own, hmm, about two-bedroom. Two-bedroom home. And good size, was like [so]. Oh, no, it's not as big as this, but two-bedroom. Enough.

AL: And did people eat all together, or ...

GA: Oh no, the family just—each family on their own. Yeah. Mom and Dad were there. They lived there, so I lived with them over there.

AL: So about how long were you working for Hawaiian Pine?

GA: I work for Hawaiian Pine, uh, '41 till '51, I think. I think ten years, I'm pretty sure it's ten years I worked for there, for Hawaiian Pine. Then I moved. But also, when I was working Hawaiian Pine, we used to slaughter our own. And that's how I knew how to slaughter cattle. Hawaiian Pine down Waialua had this small little slaughter house. The slaughter house was owned by Waialua Sugar. Sugar plantation. That small little slaughter house— and every week Hawaiian Pine used to kill ten head. Ten head cattle. And I used to work over there, and that's how I knew—that's where I learned how to slaughter cattle.

AL: And who got those ten head?

GA: They took it to the plantation camp, and the—up Wahiawa, they had a pineapple camp over there, they had a market over there. They take it to the market over there. To the plantation, for the workers.

AL: For the workers.

GA: Yeah.

AL: And could you describe the process of slaughtering when you were working there?

GA: Well now days, slaughtering is everything—but either you get, by electricity for knock the animal down, or by hammer in the back of the head. That time there, everything we had to do it with rope. You got to rope the animal in the chute, take them in the slaughterhouse one at a time, tie it over there, then you got to hit it on the head with a hammer, and when she drop then you bleed it ...

AL: Why ...

GA: And then you start skinning the animal ...

AL: Why do you bleed the ...

GA: Oh, you have to bleed the animal. You cannot leave the thing sitting like that after you drop it, otherwise it's going spoil inside. No good. So you got to bleed the animal.

AL: So you did it all manually.

GA: Oh yeah, all manual. Even for lifting up, everything man-power. To—with chains, everything (mimics the movements of hauling a heavy carcass with chains and pulley).

AL: So you would hit the animal on the head and bleed him ...

GA: Yeah, after you hit the animal the animal would drop, and then you start bleeding the animal.

AL: And then after that began the process ...

GA: Then that's when you start to skin the animal. Maybe two, three guys—well, at that time there was only three of us used to do that. To—the supervisor and another person and myself, we'd do that.

AL: How did you get—was that a separate job from working as a cowboy on the ranch?

GA: It belong—actually we were doing that—that—it's for the ranch also, so I would say it's not a separate job, because I think—I would say it's part of our work, because they doing it for the company, eh? So it's part of our work. So that's what you do, yeah.

AL: Could you tell me why you left Hawaiian Pine?

GA: Well, I left Hawaiian Pine because, better go out and try look for something better. Like I say, I would try to go out and look for something better. I got something better: when I left Hawaiian Pine I went out work for a trucking company. I was making better money, yeah, I really was making better money. But when I got offer again to come back to work for the dairy—at that time it wasn't a dairy down here, the dairy was still in town. This was just a ranch down here where's we keep all the animals down here. I went right back down [to the dairy], it's more like I'm taking a big pay cut. I came and worked for Dairyman's Association, Meadow Gold dairy at the time. Hundred-fifty dollars a month. Hundredfifty dollars a month, and you only get paid once a month. And you can just imagine what you got to do. And that time there I had, what, about three kids, three, four kids at that time, children, that time—and that's what we live on. But I really like the job. I like it, and that's why I stayed. I stayed here for forty years, I stayed with Dairyman's Association.

AL: So what brought you back out here, to work here?

GA: That's what I mean. I left, to come here, just to—because I had the offer to come here, work.

AL: Why did you choose to work for Meadow Gold, for the Dairyman's Association?

GA: I guess when dad—you see dad came here first, and he needed someone, and so he asked me if I want to. So I—I just went and say yes, I'll come out here, work. I just told him yes, I want to come. And so—I just wanted to stay out here. That's why I came back.

AL: And where were you living when you first came out here?

GA: Right down there, they had a home in there, and that's where I move in, down there. (gestures towards the makai side of Kawaihoa ranch.) Oh, here, this place here, this whole area was just covered with—oh, this is all cleared, this—had all keawe bush, koa bush, all—everything. You cannot—nothing, just....just covered with bush and everything what you can think of. Then— but we used to keep the animals over here. From the dairy when they bring the young animals out here, young heifers, we bring them over here and keep them over here. Or the dry cows, we used to keep it here. And that's what I was doing, taking care of the animals out here while the dairy was down at Waialae-Kahala. But this dairy used to be at the golf course—you know where the golf course at Waialai?

AL: Really . . .

GA: Waialai Golf Course?

AL: Yeah, yeah . . .

GA: That's where this dairy original came from.

AL: Ohh—so the cows that were out here . . .

GA: Were just turned loose out in the pasture. And I—that's my job, I was taking care of that.

AL: Why were they being kept loose out here?

GA: Well you know, when the milking cows—they milk the cows, they milk it for about seven, eight months and they make the cows go dry. When the cow is dried up, while they get carrying the calf, they bring them out here to rest. They rest out here for two months, at least two months. Then, before the cow calf again, I got to take it back down to the dairy before it calf. Then when it calves that's when it starts giving milk again. Then they keep them there. But every time when the cow rest, they bring them out here. And I keep them out here, the dry

cows— we call it dry cows because we going to dry them out. So we keep it here, and with the young kind heifers. The young heifers is—what I mean, the young heifers is they're just bred, never did get calf, but they carrying calf inside, so we keep them out here. But before calf I got to take it back. I make sure—got to get it down there before calf. Cause if you get calved out here, that means I got to go manual, go over there milk that animal, trying to clear it up. If you don't clean it out, that milk bag is going to all get cheese inside, and you going to lose that. That cow going to be, you know, no good. So I got to take it back before she calf.

AL: Did that ever happen, that the cow would have the calf out here?

GA: Oh yeah, it did happen. So when that happen I try get it back as soon as can. I try get it back today—if I find it today, I try get it back today.

AL: So how many other people were working out here with you?

GA: When I was here there was only three people besides me. My dad, and when my dad left I took over his work, and then I had my younger brother working with me, and another person. And we just did our regular ranch work, labor work.

AL: What different jobs did you have to do around here?

GA: Just fence work, and moving animals from pen to pen, or hauling from here to town on trucks, or hauling from here to—down the road to Sunset area, or places like that.

AL: And how was it different See I'm trying to imagine how it's different working on a dairy ranch, even if you're not at the milking station. How is it different to work with dairy cows from the beef cows?

GA: Oh, with the beef cows and the dairy cows, the dairy cows is more—you really have to watch it. Compared to the beef animal. What I'm saying that the dairy is—you must make sure that the flies don't get to they udders. And the udders is—um—you know what I mean talking bout the udders, is the milk bag and on the nipples? If the flies get to that, going to sting on that milk nipple, you going to lose it. That's why we got to keep the fly control. Uh, make sure there's no flies on top, on the backs, or underneath there. So, that's where we really got to watch that. For dairy, that's the main thing we got to watch. Got to get that fly problem, and—you can see, sometime you get some kind of sickness, pinkeyes, like that; we have to treat it. And the pink-eye is minor, we can treat that sometimes. And you catch them early, you can—by catching pink-eye, you can tell—see the eyes by getting watery. Then you try lock it up in a chute and

treat them. But the flies, the fly problem, that's the one. So, we try to keep that fly problem, you know.

AL: What would happen to the cow if they got bit by the fly on the udders?

GA: The ...

AL: Would it hurt the udder or ...

GA: Well yeah, yeah, yeah, it would hurt the udder, the udder will get—when they go sting the udder right at the nipple where the milk comes out. She gets there, that milk bag will—just from that fly—the milk inside come all cheesy inside. And when he start to get cheesy, the milk bag comes so hard, the cows start to develop fever. And that's when you going to lose some. That—that's where you got to watch.

AL: So what did you use to treat the fly ...

GA: Well, we had fly—fly powder, where we had. Oh, they had all kind of things. Even till today, they still have a fly—things that control the flies. Same like what they have on the horses. You know, people, they spray they horses every day. Same thing what they have now. Um, everybody has different ideas how to do it, and we had our some—we had some good ideas, and people—sometimes we find better ideas from other people to control the fly control, to get it control good.

AL: So, you were working here for a long time doing that.

GA: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

AL: And while you were here, how did, maybe, the process of working with the cows, controlling the flies, and all those different processes, how did—what were some changes that happened while you were here?

GA: Hmm ... the only changes I can see when I was here, before the dairy ever did move here, is when the dairy came here. The dairy moved out here 1957. That's when the dairy moved here. That's when they had more people to work with and you had more help to do the work, what we were doing in the past. For moving the animals around and for doing the fly control, although we had more work to do when the dairy moved here, because we really—like I say the fly control, and they really had to go around with, when the dairy here, we had to go around with fog machines, try to keep the fly control over here. Because it's not only for the animals over here, but it's for our neighbors, too. Now, across the street, the homes over here, and we got to

keep the fly control down, because flies will go to your But, when we were here, I know we had fly control, and then we had complaints from neighbors, or flies, but you know, flies will go to your home if you have something over there where the flies want to— want to get that thing. That's why the flies go to your home. It's not because of, you know, from the dairy. It's because you have something over there is no good, and the flies is going for that. And that's what I always told everybody. You got something there. That's right?

AL: Yeah, that's very true.

GA: It's true, you know.

AL: So you told me earlier that this area looked a lot brushier when you first came ...

GA: Oh, yeah, they had all kind big keawe trees, all, all kind trees here, just covered. You could not see the beach and you can't see the ocean.

AL: How else did the land look different when you first moved here?

GA: What do you mean, how different?

AL: Well, could you give me, in addition to being brushier, what did it look like when you were first living here. Or when you're first working here.

GA: Oh ... I think if you've seen it you wouldn't want to come over here and work. It was really rough country, but we clear it up. And also when the war break out, they had a large army camp down here, in fact they had a small little radio station in there. In fact, tell you the truth, there's bunkers down there that used to be bomb shelters and whatnot; it's still in there, still down there, right now, where we had to clear out all the barb wires and things were laid around. When they left, they left everything, so we had to clear all of that. .

AL: What facilities existed here for the cattle when you first came?

GA: There were nothing. Just corrals and fence around, and that's all. We just turn it loose and that's all. They just roam. They stay over there maybe two, three weeks, then got to move it to another—just move it over. That's all. But we had a main station, we had a corral where we can lock them up, put them inside there and separate them, or keep them in the chute where we can treat them, or load them in trucks, we had everything one station.

AL: And when the dairy moved here, how—what developments came onto the land?

GA: When the dairy came here, when we started to clear out this place, that's when we started to build all this, what you see when you turn up here—right, just when you turn up to come up here [to the main house], go straight across, that's where the dairy was, right there. We had to build all of that, build big warehouses, big holding pens and the milk barn, everything there. And you go down the road, that's where we had our young calves. We really had someone every day taking care of the calves, feeding the calves, giving them milk bottles, everything down that end. Now we really, I think when the dairy moved here, I think that's really changed this area here. Really clear out this place. M-hm.

AL: How extensive was the land at that time?

GA: What do you mean how ...

AL: How many acres was it?

GA: Well, right in this part now, where we using now, that used to be the dairy. There's 99 acres right in here, but the dairy, the main station is just right here, it's only about six, seven acres, I think. Right down here. But the whole thing that was there, owned by the dairy. M-hm.

AL: You retired in 1993 . . .

GA: yeah.

AL: And then last year [1999] you came back here to manage Kawailoa.

GA: yeah.

AL: what made you decide to come back?

GA: Well I retired, then I went out and worked part-time work, just want to keep busy, working on the airlines. Not for the airlines for people—three guys that owns this small little company that buy animals from here and then ship it back to the mainland. I went work for them by flying back and forth on the plane, taking the cattle to the mainland and then bringing cattle from the mainland to here, going back and forth and then finally when I met—that's when I first met [your] mom. I'm here now one year, just one year, that's about three years ago, I think, that I met [your] mom at Kualoa ranch. That's when I met John DeSoto, John and Patty DeSoto. And I met them and then we started to get together, we talk about it, talk about [thing?]. And then they were negotiating to get this place here, because this was up for lease. And they ask me if I would come back here and take care of the place, if they get the place. I said sure, as I'm coming home now. But why I got back to work, in fact—when I retired, I was going to move back

Kaupo. I was going to move, just move back to Kaupo. That's when my wife passed away. I was going to move back there and stay there. Then my children tell me, my daughter tell me, "what you going back there for by yourself?" Tell them, what, same thing: I'm going there back there by myself, I'm going be here by myself, it's same thing. "Yeah but, eh, here, what, you closer to us, we're here." So that's why I went back to work again, just to keep myself busy. And that's why I came back work for Patty and John DeSoto. But before I came work for them, I was working someplace else. Up the hill, taking care of North Shore Cattle Company.

AL: Really ...

GA: Yeah.

AL: What did you do up there?

GA: Doing ranch work. Take care cattle up there. The beef animal. And I stayed up there only one year. But I knew about this here. While I working there, waiting for them to get this, then I move back there.

AL: And what is your job as manager, what do you do?

GA: Everything.

AL: Everything? (laughter)

GA: There's nobody else over here, I'm the only one. But we get part-time, sometime I get two people work part time, they work with me two, three days a week. But I do everything. And, uh, I supposed to be working twenty hours a week. But, uh, when you work on a ranch or any kind of farm, there's no such thing as you working part-time. You work every day, and so I work every day. Yeah.

AL: ... Well, thank you!

GA: Oh, you're welcome!

AL: That's all I have for today.

GA: Ha! What you mean today, you mean to tell me you going to come back again?

AL: Well ... (laughter)

GA: But you know, when I was here, the dairy, they had places like Koa Ridge— I don't know if you know where Koa Ridge is, oh, people know where Koa Ridge is. There's a small little ranch

up in the hills just outside of Wahiawa, between Wahiawa and oh—not Triple C ... Haleiwa Correctional—up in the mountains, that Koa Ridge they had there, they had Maunawili, they had Keolu Hills, now Keolu Hills is all full of homes, oh, I don't know—where you live in Kailua?

AL: Where do I live in Kailua? I live by Kainalu school.

GA: Kainalu, where bout Kainalu, where is Keolu Hills? By the lake, you know where is the lake?

AL: Yeah.

GA: Ok, that there, that used to be all pasture land over there.

AL: Oh yeah?

GA: Oh, yeah, before the freeway went through the Waimanalo? Gibson had that place, Dee Gibson had that place. That's when he had Town & Country. Ok? We had cattle there, we had cattle up at Maunawili, you know where Maunawili Golf Course? Ok, we had cattle back there, we had cattle in Koa Ridge, we had cattle out in Sunset where Hawaiian Pine had, and with Meadow Gold, they bought a small little cattle truck, and that's what I do every morning. Get it, come to work, come all over the place and check cows, all the cows ...

AL: When was this?

GA: Oh, when I was working with the dairy, that's what, in, uh, oh, in 1958, sixties.

AL: So you drove around to the other pastures ...

GA: Yeah. Small little cattle truck, you can load one, two cows inside in case sick, bring it back, yeah? That's what I used to do. I've done everything over here. Even I went and drive the milk tanker from here, raw milk, haul the raw milk from here to town. I've done that hauling the raw milk, working midnight from here, I was the last driver here, because they didn't have anybody to drive, so I had to go work. I drive—did that for about two years. Hauling raw milk to town.

AL: And when the horses or the cows get sick, who did the vetting, did you do the vetting yourself?

GA: No—Chris—you know I was telling you about that—ok—the dad was doing all the—he was the herdsman.

AL: Wilkinson.

GA: Yeah—no. Mrs. [Chris] Wilkinson?

AL: Yeah.

GA: Her dad. Was doing—he was the herdsman, and he does all the veterinary work for us here. He did all the sickness, he did that. But we are the one that's supposed to be helping him. So, but he's the one that does that. He tells out what to do. When the time the animal is sick, yeah, he knows what it is.

AL: Are there any specific times that come out to your mind when you had to deal with a sick animal?

GA: Oh, gee, sometimes I come out here early in the morning, you know, get—sometimes the cow calving, we got to pull the calf out, or got to cut the calf in half to bring it out. I don't know if you ever ...

AL: Cut the calf?

GA: ... in half, when inside. You be wondering how they going to cut it in half when inside to bring it out.

AL: yeah ...

GA: Ok, I never did do it over here, but I did it on a boat. With the dairy I used to fly to California, and I come back on the boat with the cattle. And there was an incident when I came back on the boat with the cattle. I bring back young heifers that's carrying. And had one that calved, the calf was inside it, I couldn't get him out. And then we had to get here—before the boat landed, had to call in. The vet had to come there, and he came down there, we had to cut the calf in half. Now you be wondering how you going to cut the calf in half. There's a chain saw, or more like this cord here. A chain. That's a saw blade, now. And it's a long chain, and you get two handles on each end, and that chain goes through a long—a pipe, tube. You shove the tube inside, the chain goes in the tube, go around the calf and then you—by pulling like this while the chain is in the pipe, it's cutting the calf to bring the calf out.

AL: And kill the calf?

GA: Oh yeah, well the calf is dead already so we got to do that. Otherwise you going to lose the cow if you don't do that. So that's—I've done that. I've seen that. So that's...

AL: So, if a cow was calving normally, would you be able to help her yourself?

GA: If she can do it by herself, you better off. You know, sometime if you going help them, you going to force, try to force the calf out, you going to hurt the cow. Try to let that—you can tell if the cow is going to get problem when she calf. You can tell. But try, if possible, try to let it go. Let her give birth by herself. Try not to force, but you know—if we watch, if she's going too long, she's hanging on that calf too long, then we got to bring it in and do something about it, and try work our way ... sometime you get all kind of problems, the legs is crossed. Usually the calf, the front legs comes out like that, the head like this (shows with his fingers—the front legs stretched out in front with the head resting on top of them) The two front leg is like that, and the head is right on top here. The nose coming out first like that (Tape ends and is turned over)

AL: And then, if it's not ...

GA: If you look and something not right, yeah, then you got to bring that cow in and put it in the chute, and work with it. That's when you got to go in and try straighten it up, bring how it's supposed to be to bring it out. And then, then you help her. Then that's when you got to go help and pull the calf out. By wrapping chains you can help to pull. But don't try to pull, pull all force in there. When you bring the calf out you got to pull with her helping—pushing, also. When she push you pull. So that, if you pull by forcing, you can rip inside, eh? That's where you get the problem. That's where you got to watch.

AL: How do you get the cow to push when you want her to, or does she do it naturally?

GA: Oh, she do it naturally. Yeah. You don't need to do anything for that. She'll push—you can tell when she going push. So, you just pull. And it's good to have, when the cow is calving, it's good to have the cow standing up. If the cow lay down, it's kind hard for her to push, because everything, you know, when the cow lays down, everything is on one side, and you pushing the whole gut up to one side. So it's good to have the cow standing up when calf. Sometime you can see the cow walk round, you see the cow walking around with the calf, it's halfway out. But it's—that's natural, that. That's nothing wrong.

AL: So are dairy cows very different from beef cows?

GA: No, they no different, they same thing. They do—everything is the same.

AL: The temperament of the cow, or the breed of the cattle you use ...

GA: Well, the dairy cows is more tame than the beef animal because, why is because uh, dairy cow is— men, people is always around, working with them, eh? Especially when you put them in the barn the time to milk. They always—you always there, eh? But the beef animal, you just

turn it loose. If you keep them in a feed lot, well, it's different. But same, when the beef animal in the feedlot, if you walking around they get spook, eh? They start running around. But the dairy animal, no. You can go walking down, they can be eating right there in the feed box, and everything. Because they know about—you know, men around, walking around. Yeah, they're more tame, yeah.

AL: Did you ever have problems of cows getting loose around here?

GA: Oh, yes, I used to get a lot of that problem. Uh, even when I was here—you know, I work over here—Bill Ford, Ken Baird, Ray Benlehr, [Carl Meyers], that's one, two, three, four, Galimba, he left, [then Bob Johnson and Eric Rasmussen], that's five, six. I've worked with seven managers over here. And you know, all the managers treated me good. In fact, there was one manager, the one I'm trying to think about what his name is, down at Kualoa now, uh, he's with depar—building down at Kualoa ranch. I'm trying to think what his name.

_____. He lived at Haiku, and they had here, when he lives at Haiku, I lives over here, and there's other supervisor down at Waialua, and there's the other manager lives down here. Something go wrong here, he don't call them, he calls me. Go do this, go do that. That's why I tell him, why you telling me this? Why don't you tell—tell them to tell me what to do? Because, some people, they don't like the idea I telling them what to do. You know, they're going to say, well, you're not the boss. You know, they like to have somebody else. But they always treated me good. And I always found the cow—sometime I'm coming home, kids and I coming home, the wife and I, the kids coming home, we find the cows going on the road, and I just— we—don't say anything, just bring it in, cause I know where they're going, so I just bring it in, and I lock it, put it in one place, the place, and then I'm doing my work, I'm just going out and doing my work, and when they come around, they see the cow is lock up where it's not supposed to be, they know that that cow came from outside the road, because it's there. They know I put it there because it came from out in the road. Oh, one time, there was about fifteen, twenty-eight outside in the beach side, went through, we get—we used to get problem right here, over—there's a bridge over here. People cut the fence, and the cows go across the road, underneath the bridge, and go down on the beach.

AL: Why would they cut the fence?

GA: They want to come inside, pick up mushrooms.

AL: Oh, really? (Laughs)

GA: Yeah, you heard about that mushroom?

AL: Yeah . . .

GA: Oh, but we're still getting that problem over here.

AL: Really . . .

GA: Oh, terrible. We still getting that problem. And so, they go out, they go out on the beach, and so I got to bring them back inside. And so I just got to lock them up, any place, and they come in the morning I'm not around, and they know what it—they know where that—they just go look for that—it come broke.

AL: What's the farthest you ever had to go to chase down a lost cow?

GA: Oh, up right on the beach, that's as far as I went.

AL: Oh, yeah?

GA: Yeah, that's as far as I went.

AL: And, um, you know I read sometimes, I read sometimes about cattle rustling out here. Does that go on?

GA: You know ... that never did happen to the dairy. But I seen it someplace else, though. Uh ... which way you came?

AL: Today? Today I came b y...

GA: You know about this area, this area going back inside, going to Turtle Bay, that thing?

AL: yeah, I know

GA: Ok, you going from here now, you going towards Kahuku and there's a small dairy down there. There's, oh, maybe from here you go down there maybe about, ten miles I think down. University Hawaii has a dairy over there.

AL: I know it, yeah.

GA: Okay. One morning I'm going there to pump milk, because I got to pick their milk up there, raw milk, put in the tank and come back here. I'm going there now. I seen the cow early in the morning now, I seen the cow laying down in the pasture. Seen the cow laying in the pasture, I ran in, pump the milk, everything. I came out, still the same position now. And that's kind of

unusual, you know? You know, that long, going stay the same place. So I came back, that bothers me. So I call one of the herdsmen over there, for which he used to work here, but he's over there. I call him, I went tell him, hey, I think you better go down there go check that cow, cause that bothering me, because she still in the same area and place, and the way was. He says ok. He go down there, sure enough, they took out the hind quarter and they left the cow there more like sleeping.

AL: They butchered the cow right ...

GA: They butchered the cow right on the property. They took the hind quarters out, and they left everything else there. And they made it for show that try like the cow is sleeping. And you can see it plain, you know. But they got to it in the night. And same like in the back here. But with the dairy we never did get that kind of problem. Since I been with the dairy, when we had a place down Haleiwa, that's the only one that—we had only one missing. We couldn't find it. But that one there, we never did find anything, we figure, oh, he's probably stuck in a rock or someplace, and dead up there. That's the only one. That, we don't know if somebody, the rustlers got it, or somebody. But they never did touch anything of our animal. But the neighbor across here, yeah. Right in the pen. They take out the half, and the half that's still there they turn it up and the underneath it's gone. They take out the hind quarter, and they leave the rest.

AL: What about when you were working at Hawaiian Pine?

GA: In Hawaiian Pine, also, we never did get—I never did come across with problem like that. With Hawaiian Pine, the only problem we had down Waialua area is hunters. Coming in, not to steal the animals or rustle the animals. They going in to hunt pigs, and the dogs get into the ani—get into the cattle. So what we used to do, we used to try stop them from coming in. So we—you stop them, but they always somebody come in there, so Hawaiian Pine hired somebody, that's all his job. He just ride, go up in the ranch, anyplace, with his rifle, any time he see the dog, he shoot the dog. And he got to bring the tail back. Cut the tail off, bring it back, to show that he shot one dog. That's all he does, every day. Because the people were just going in, and the dogs get into the cattle. And they was getting so bad, that people used to go in there and hunt, they get the pig, they gut the pig, and they dump everything, the gut, the blood, they dump it in the water trough where the cow is going to drink water. That's what the ranchers was against that, you know.

AL: Where they doing that on purpose?

GA: They do that on purpose because, you know, I shot their dog and they doing that. But that's the thing, they trying to tell them, if you're going to hunt, make sure your dog don't go after the animal. What the dogs is, they go after the young calves That's why you can not blame the ranchers for stopping you. They still getting that problem today. Even in the back here. They still getting that problem—people going in, uh, cutting locks, cutting gates, and now days, they go in—before, they used to bust the lock, that's all. But now, what they doing, they get small acetylene tanks and torches, they go there, they cut the chain, cut the locks, cut the gate, and they go in.

AL: Trespassing.

GA: Yeah. Still getting that problem. Uh, even they had—uh, now they get the board of agriculture, [unclear] they up here tracking, uh, they get so many pigs over here, the pig problem and hunting problem. Uh, right now with Bishop Estate, they trying to make it where you go in there and hunt, try to let Bishop Estate know that you going in, because if you going in, and I don't know, I'm going in right after you, and I don't know where you at, I'm going to be shooting, you know. Somebody going get hurt. One of these days we going get problem with that. Same like right now, they get a fire going, three weeks now, the fire been burning.

AL: Where is that, on this property?

GA: It's up in the back there, five miles up in the hill. We getting that problem. They can not stop the fire now. What they did is, the fire started, just happened the army was working there, the army got the bulldozer, they figured they going turn the fire off, but pushing that fire—thing—they pushed that thing went right down the gulch. Now that gulch is burning. And down that gulch get all this mountain fern, it's so old down there, it's burning underneath the fern. And the fire is moving. Although it's not getting big flame, cause the firemen is out there everyday with water tanks, trying to control it. That's a problem we're getting now. But so far, we haven't had any problem. The only problem we get is the human coming in for mushroom. They cutting fence, and whatnot. And people hiding in the place here, ripping off cars.

AL: really . . .

GA: Oh, real bad. Big problem, that's why we have plainclothesmen riding on bicycles like bums, you know. You look at them, you feel as they bums, but that's all plainclothes because, I took couple of them, going in the back on our truck, trying to go to the trail, trying to show them where, where their hiding, and whatnot. So. That's big problem with that, over here.

AL: And that's on this property ...

GA: On this property, yeah, right, it's on our property it's going on. Because we get the cattle and we get the horses, that's where they want to come for the mushroom. That's where the mushroom grow, in their poops, eh? So that's where they coming from. That's terrible, really. You try to stop them, but we can not catch them, eh? They know just when you're coming.

AL: Since when has that been a problem around here?

GA: (Sighs) The last people who had the lease had that going on. Way back. Uh, we been here now two years. Oh, that's been going on for years. But they can not catch them. But I know the original, the past owners lease [unclear] over here. They caught some people over here and they—what I mean— they rope them and they call the cops. But . . .

AL: They roped them?

GA: Well, yeah, yeah, yeah, they rope them and they time them up, you know! Yeah, they rope—they chase them with the horse and they rope them.

AL: Wow—well, where did you hear that story?

GA: Wh—I've seen that! Yeah! Right down the road.

AL: Can you tell me what happened?

GA: Well, they rope them, and then they, you know, tie them up. Try like one hog-tie one cow, you know. They hog-tie them, and they leave them over there, and they call the cops, and the cops come in.

AL: And take them. . . .

GA: Take them, and they turn them loose. And they come right back again. But to me sometime I think, you do that, I think that the best way, just let them come in, but if you can talk to them, talk to them and they can go in and help themselves with that mushroom, but try not to cut the fence. Either find some way to get over it, or, you know, come through the gate. But, main thing, try not to cut the fence. That's the main thing—I've told (John) Desoto, also, if I can catch them in here, I talk to them direct. I tell them, you welcome to go in there get that mushroom, that mushroom not helping us, I don't care what they do with it, that's their problem, they want to get high on a mushroom, that's their problem. But, try not to cut our fence. Because, if we get the cattle going on the road, couple time I had that cattle out—lately now, oh, one, two months ago,

and the cops come and they tell me, oh the cattle on the road. So we just got to chase them back in, and follow, sure enough, they know just where to go back. When they go back in there, you see the fence is all cut, fresh cut right down. Either that or they grab the whole wire, they push it down, and the cows just walk right over. So. But if you can get them, you know, talk to them nicely, I think they'll help you out also. That's what I think. But some people they—they catch somebody in there, they want to rough them up. I think you go do that, you make more problem. So. That's how I feel. You just got to, I don't know, may—in my time was, we never did think about the kind things, pakalolo and all this kind stuff, so. So, I don't know.

AL: Modern problems.

GA: Yeah. That's what it is, is modern.

AL: Have you found that you've had to learn to change a lot of what you—of the skills you used back on Maui. I mean, in all the years that you've been working out here, what ways have you had to adapt to modern...

GA: You—you mean to change, from the past, to make it better than—like now? Um, I think the best thing to do now is—you know now days, they raising the animals is—the water. Water problems we having. If you have good water, water going on where you can supply you water to, for the animal, is not only for the animal to drink, now. To keep the place watered down, irrigation, and to get the place, go back—you know, trying to get the grass green and things like that. Cause like for here, right now, we here, that's what we're crying for. We're trying to get the place back to, get our water system going better over here. Right here, now. Bishop estate keep promising us things that we're still waiting. Um, I don't know when they going to do it, they're, they supposed to supply us with that, and that's one most things that I think we can better. And you can raise better animals. Especially for beef animal. You can raise better animal, you don't need to ship it to the mainland. Right now they shipping everything to the mainland—they don't have the place over here. They don't have the feedlot over here to raise the animal. Uh, now you buy beef in the market now, you—actually that's coming from the mainland. It's not from here. They take the animal to the mainland, but they kill it up there, it's not island meat, now. Is mainland. So. I think that's the best bet, now. So, I know ranches now they really getting problems now. Uh...ranching now, you can't make a living on a ranch now. For bring up family. Uh, you got to have two jobs. Either you and your wife are working. Your wife got to be working out there now, to really bring up family. But not only ranch money working, can not.

AL: Well, I want to thank you, Uncle George, very much ...

GA: Oh, you're welcome.

AL: ... for sharing some of this ...

GA: I hope—I hope what I said, you get everything what you want to know.

AL: All very interesting.

GA: Uh, but like I go back there and say, you know—I really feel sorry that I did not learn what dad did, you know. You know, that time there, when you're young, you just trying to do something else, eh. And, I don't know.

AL: Well, thank you.

GA: Oh, you're welcome.

AL: Very much.

GA: You're welcome.