

Gilbert Medeiros, Sr.

Mccandless Ranch & Kahuku Ranch, Hawai`i



Gilbert came from a family of cowboys. Raised in Kealahou with his eight brothers and a sister, he followed his father and grandfather into the paniolo life. His father was a cowboy at Greenwell and McCandless Ranches, and his grandfather a cowboy and saddle maker at Greenwell Ranch. Being a paniolo came naturally to Gilbert. It was in his blood.

Ranch work was a means for survival and Gilbert grew up hunting for wild game and laboring to help feed his family.

Ranch work was rough, tough and rugged, but Gilbert was never afraid of hard work. At age 16, he went to work for McCandless Ranch. He counts bringing home his first paycheck as one of the memorable events of his life.

Gilbert spent a lot of time up in the mountains of Komokawae, Kaunene, Kenapakai, Hapuu, Kahualoa, Puukinikini and Hale Pohaku. The mountains were full of wild pipi and the paniolo would stay in the mountains for a month at a time, rounding them up. They would rope them at night and tie them to the trees. Gilbert says, "Everything was so wild ...you were on your own." The terrain was rugged, the horses strong. They say that McCandless Ranch at the time was 80% wild cattle, and as a cowboy, Gilbert's job was, therefore, 80% catching wild cattle. Freddy Rice says, "He distinguished himself as the best."

Gilbert signed up at Kahuku Ranch the same year Freddy became manager there. Some of the traits Freddy most admired about Gilbert were that he could do all the ranch jobs well, he never "rushed" the cattle, and "he was so honest, with the strong character of a man who could apologize when he was wrong, even when he may have been in the right..." Freddy says, "The best ranch hand, the best paniolo I have ever worked with, by a wide margin, is Gilbert Medeiros."

Hawaii Cattlemen's Association
Paniolo Hall of Fame
with Gilbert Medeiros (GM)
by La'i Mitchell (LM)
on February 7, 2005

LM: Would you please say your full name and when you were born?

GM: Oh Gilbert Medeiros Sr. April 12, 1930.

LM: OK great. And who were your mother and father?

GM: Ah Mary Medeiros and Fred Medeiros.

LM: And your grandparents?

GM: Ah oh Kalani...

LM: Was your dad's dad?

GM: My mom's.

LM: Oh OK. And they were from all from Kona?

GM: All from Kona.

LM: What was it like growing up in Kona with eight brothers and a sister?

GM: Ho rough. [laughs] Rough. Fight everyday.

LM: [laughs] Were you the youngest or were you...

GM: Ah third.

LM: Third boy?

GM: Yeah.

LM: Did all of your brothers work on ranches? Did they all become paniolo?

GM: Ah no three.

LM: Three of them did?

GM: Yeah.

LM: McCandless or?

GM: Ah McCandless. Me and Alfred was the two guys all the time there.

LM: So Alfred is your brother...

GM: The oldest.

LM: The oldest. OK. And then...

GM: ...and the most grouchiest.

LM: Oh! [laughs] The oldest and the grouchiest. [laughs] Um what was it like to grow up with your dad and your grandfather both being cowboys?

GM: Oh was good.

LM: Did they teach you a lot?

GM: ...oh yeah plenty. Plenty.

LM: [laughs] Did they take you with them when you were little or on the ranch?

GM: No no no after... yeah when I was 17 years old then I went back go McCandless. Right after school.

LM: Oh OK. You went Konawaena?

GM: Ah Hookena School.

LM: Hookena School! Did you always know you were going to be a cowboy or did?

GM: Oh yeah yeah... No could wait. [laughs] No could wait for *pau* school.

LM: And they made you finish school?

GM: Eighth grade... Yes. I went work right after that.

LM: Who were the bosses at that time at McCandless. Do you remember?

GM: Ah let's see. [pause] Was Jack Midkiff. Then had Bob Trent after him.

LM: Bob Trent.

GM: Then your grandfather.(Bobby Hind)

LM: My grandpa. Yeah.

GM: Yeah.

LM: All right. So you were 17 when you started...

GM: Yeah.

LM: And what's the first job they gave you?

GM: Ah go up with them up mountain stay up mountain for 2 months. Then come down the road. So all we was doing was just rope catch wild *pipi*. Rope and tie up and next day go lead. Every day. Then they never had nothing tame at that time. Was all wild.

LM: Was all wild?

GM: All wild. All.

LM: Did they bring in any domestic breed?

GM: No no no. I think I don't know what year Bobby [Hind] went there then they started. Was kind of late.

LM: So was all wild *pipi*.

GM: All wild..... wide open.

LM: So you guys would catch 'em and...

GM: Tie 'em up.

LM: And tie 'em up to the tree so they get tired.

GM: Yeah overnight and then next morning we go lead 'em out.

LM: And then what did you do with all the wild cattle after you caught them would you castrate?

GM: Yeah. Used to bring 'em lead 'em down the road main road...from the mountain.

LM:with the horse?

GM: Then they leave 'em we leave 'em down there maybe one month two or three weeks and then we cut 'em all and take them down the pastures... Let 'em go.

LM: Get fat.

GM: Yeah.

LM: Were you guys trying to cross with different breeds or to different or just trying to catch 'em all and bring 'em down off the mountain.

GM: ...yeah ...then they never had fences ah no more nothing so everything wild.

LM: Whoa. Scary sometimes?

GM: Oh yeah was kind of rough.

LM: Well um who taught you the most about ranching or how to ride.

GM: My dad. Yeah my dad. Well I used to like to ride anyway. I used to like to ride bucking horse, ride bull. I used to enter Honokaa rodeo...

LM: Did you rodeo?

GM: Yeah yeah! Bull riding and um saddle bronc. That was my sport! [laughs] Oh was good though those days.

LM: Did you win lots of um...

GM: I was pretty good. I must say I stayed on the bull and in the saddle. I used to win buckles. and...

LM: Really? And Honokaa too you guys used to go all the way out?

GM: Yeah we used to go out.

LM: Oh that's fun.

GM: We had the horses but never had trailer at that time? So that's all I do... I just go and ride.

LM: Ride the bull and the broncs. [laughs]

GM: That's the only thing I could enter.

LM: Actually that's that's pretty good though you didn't have to take care of a horse.

GM: Yeah that way I can at least enter something. Then until we start meeting guys and they say hey you like rope with me? And then they lend a horse.

LM: So you roped too.

GM: Dead rope dally, *pou waiu*...

LM: Oh that's fun.

GM: Yeah.

LM: And did they have the um Parker Ranch rodeos the same time too?

GM: No. No not yet. Parker Ranch came after. After I don't know I forget what year but year after. Yeah we used to rope Waimea too.

LM: And all you guys came up from... McCandless?

GM: No only me. The rest of the guys ...oh we had few two other Loando boys and my brother but [pause] then my brother used to go but not that much. Just me at's all. So I'm not too bad at least I meet the guys in the rodeo ah?

LM: Yeah every place.

GM: Get partner. Was good. [chuckles]

LM: Then you get to get out of South Kona for a while too. [laughs]

GM: Yeah. Something different.

LM: When you were young working on the ranch do you remember being yelled at a lot by the old timers?

GM: Whoa! My brother.

LM: Oh! [laughs]

GM: Alfred lotta yelling. [laughs] Yelling everyday. But no was us young guys. I had two cousins with us was mostly brothers and cousins....and my dad. And we had two outside guys. Ah old people yeah but they was good.

LM: So was all family.

GM: Yeah was all families yeah.

LM: And where did you live when you worked for McCandless?

GM: Ah Hookena.

LM: In Hookena? Close by... How long did you work for McCandless?

GM: Ah let's see ah thirty I went there [pause] forty-seven and I left there fifty-eight...fifty-seven.

LM: Oh so my mom was only... three. [laughs]

GM: I remember her. She was the only one sister...

LM: So what was a typical day for you guys? What would you do first in the morning?

GM: In the morning just saddle up and load up your horse with the ropes then go.

LM: How many horses would you take?

GM: One.

LM: Just one?

GM: One. Those horses was good. Strong. Good horses.

LM: Yeah I was going to ask you about horses. Did you break your own horses?

GM: Yeah yeah break our own. Everybody break their own horses.

LM: What did you guys do to make sure they were good in the rocks cause got plenty rocks in Kona?

GM: Oh yeah. But ah when we ah start 'em off we usually go by our self. When we go home to the cattle we get some young bulls around we chase 'em...and cut 'em. Yeah you just...

LM: Practice.

GM: Yeah we use snaffle bit and the hackamore. And then by the time we put the stand bit on 'em they going already yeah they know what to do but those horses was those horses was.... ah quick, quick I mean real cow sense. Boy you take 'em outside, oh! [laughs] They go. Hang on!

LM: [laughs] How many horses do you guys think each cowboy would have in his string?

GM: Oh like maybe all depend. You get plenty if you can train 'em fast enough. They run about maybe 15, 20 horses.

LM: Wow.

GM: Oh plenty. I had like 14 horses.

LM: Fourteen?

GM: Yeah. So plenty. Oh horses was no problem. They had plenty horses. Plenty.

LM: I know McCandless was one of the roughest ranches to be on...

GM: Oouuhhhh...

LM:cause the land...

GM:boy yeah.

LM:what were some of the dangerous things about...

GM: See horses the bull rip 'em *hemo* the guts and you see slashes and oh! Especially in the kind of bad place slow turn the bull catch 'em ah? They rip 'em up. Oh we see all kinds. [laughs] Men running in... [laughs]...horse with the guts out. Pitiful.

LM: Did you lose a lot of horses?

GM: No not that much. Only in, when we go down in the rough place ah in the bad places chasing a bull and then the bull stop one time ah?

LM: Bam. Ouh.

GM: Right there.

LM: Did most have horns?

GM: Yeah oh... big ones yeah. Oh those bulls those big bulls they like ah over a thousand pounds. They get some big bulls! Yeah and I mean when you chase 'em they run and then all of a sudden I mean they get tired or so you no catch 'em fast enough turn around ah, you right there boom!

LM: Ohhh...

GM: Huh. Yeah oh boy. At's a rough place.

LM: And what about like um Uncle Robby [Hind] was saying had tree molds like great big...

GM: Yeah plenty.

LM: You ever lose horses down in those places?

GM: No so far pretty good. But lotta lotta falling. So some places you no can see ‘em yeah?

LM: They’re covered with plants and stuff.

GM: Yeah with all the fern and stuff like. [chuckles]

LM: And they’re deep.

GM: Yeah. Oh! Oh deep! They deep. Yeah some even those big ones you go take a look you no can see the bottom black...

LM: You could lose some stuff down there. [chuckles] Couple sheep maybe.

GM: Yeah. All bushes. Only on the top section all open. Lot of koa and stuff but open I mean you can kind of see.... rough though up and down. And a lot of fallen down logs but the bottom part had plenty fern. Certain place they get the opening the *kipuka* like that ah? So you gotta try get ‘em before they get in the bush!

LM: Did you guys ever have to like I remember Charlie Kimura said when they’d be in Kau and they’d have to get ‘em out of the Christmas berry they’d throw fire crackers. [chuckles]

GM: Yeah that’s what they was using but we never had any... we go inside with the dogs. My brother had one by himself. We go in the dog chase ‘em in there.

LM: Oh Alfred’s dogs. [laughs] right the mean dogs.

GM: Robby’s friends Robby’s friends. [laughs]

LM: Yeah his buddies. Oh. [laughs]

GM: Yeah then we go inside we kind of chase ‘em kind of follow ‘em up out till they get out in the open and then we get ‘em catch ‘em.

LM: Oh I see. And you guys would stay up in cabins way up *mauka*?

LM: What was the name of the...

GM: Ah one was Komakawai, Kaunene, Keanapakai, and Hapuu.

LM: So there’s four camps.

GM: Four camps. Yeah certain place when we go certain place we go up we stay there and then instead of go all the way back up like everyday we stay two months one month.[laughs] before we [laughs] can go down the road!

LM: Who would cook?

GM: Oh they had one Filipino cook. He stay up there. And ah he Then get his horse and he ride down maybe once in two months get food.

LM: Poor guy.

GM: Yeah. But he was by himself. Kind of old guy.

LM: What kind of what would he cook for you guys? What did you eat?

GM: [laughs] Vinegar and pork...and cabbage.Was squash. Everyday vinegar pork, vinegar pork. So if you like eat something different you gotta cook.

LM: Cook yourself.

GM: Yeah yeah you gotta cook yourself.

LM: And with all the *pipi* around you'd think maybe one day you guys get meat!
[laughs]

GM: Yeah. We get! But everything he throw 'em in the big iron pot and put vinegar. Oh boy...I think I'll cook me one steak. [chuckles]

LM: I heard a story once about um Johnny Medeiros because...

GM: Yeah he was up there with us. Him, Johnny, yeah Johnny, Eddie was little he left he went Young Brothers. Yeah Eddie and Johnny was 2 brothers ah?

LM: Not your brothers though?

GM: No no. Just me and Alfred and Clarence was. Then Clarence left he went Magoon. Then me and Alfred was the last.

LM: Who um so is that all who were the cowboys besides you guys?

GM: Was me Alfred, Joe Gans, my father [pause].

LM: Joe Gans?

GM: Yeah Joe Gans he was... oh that guy could cook biscuits. Whooh! Yeah. He used to cook for the Marks when they when they came up every summer time they come out he used to cook for them.

GM: Yeah what and then had ah yeah Joe Gang and then had me, Alfred, Johnny. Clarence, [pause] Joe Gans, that's all. And my father yeah. Oh! August Loando and Sonny Loando. Five of us. We was the only guys up there.

LM: That must have been good fun though.

GM: Yeah yeah.

LM: So would you guys leave from the main house and go up from there or from the cabin?

GM: Yeah right from the cabin. Yeah we ride from the cabin you just go outside of the cabin and everything's there waiting. [laughs]

LM: And would you guys hunt too up there ever?

GM: Yeah yeah we go ah shoot sheep and hunt pig like that for the house eh?

LM: Since you guys were just catching wild *pipi* I guess you guys didn't rotate the pastures.

GM: No move like that. Just catch. That's all everyday. Just catch. They never had such thing as pasture. All open. One end to the other. All the way down till Kealakekua the Kona Theater from that end to the top section. All open. All wild everything wild... and that's a big area whoa...from one end to the other big.

LM: That's huge. Everyday just catching cattle.

GM: Everyday.

LM: How many would you catch in one day?

GM: Aw! If you get enough rope you can catch ten, twenty, thirty. I mean yeah each guy carry maybe five, six, seven ropes yeah? Then ah get this guy Joe Gans he usually carry rope for us yeah? He get 'em around his neck, around his waist, around his... all his around his mule's neck. So when we run out of ropes we give him yell he come and give us the rope.

LM: He would just follow you guys around?

GM: Yeah he just come around tag along need help he come. That's where we used to get our supply from he was one good guy that Joe.

LM: And he worked with your father and you guys too?

GM: Yeah but ah my father used to drive bus so only when it was vacation school time he used to come up with us.

LM: Oh I see.

GM: But besides that just five of us we regular all day everyday.

LM: Oh that must have been good fun though.

GM: [laughs] Hooo! Thirty dollars a month.

LM: And then when you guys got paid what would you do. What was the good fun thing to do down there?

GM: Drink beer raise hell. Run wild.

LM: Were there bars before down Hookena?

GM: Yeah Hookena, Kealia that little store over here. They had one bar there. That's our hang out. And run out of money charge.

LM: Oh they all knew you guys.

GM: Yeah. We the only guys there anyway. Just the gang right there yeah?

LM: And who used to run the store?

GM: Ah aye yah. [pause] Sam Aiona. That was his bar and he own one grocery store over there too.

LM: So when you guys um well you'd stay up the mountain for 2 months and then you'd come back down down.

GM: Usually Saturdays we come down. Saturday morning we go back Monday morning.

LM: So all weekend then you guys got to raise hell...

GM: Yeah you gotta celebrate like hell before you go back up. Before Monday morning.

LM: Did you guys have dances or anything like that?

GM: No more nothing. [laughs] No such thing.

LM: Were there um [laughs] parties stuff like that?

GM: Oh yeah. The Hawaiian people they used to make good parties. Yeah. There was everybody I mean like all the people around there mostly was like family ah? And you just go. Yeah sleep on the table. Friendly everybody friendly.

LM: So once in a while the Marks would come...the ranch owner...

GM: Yeah. Every year they come up.

LM: And did they go out with you guys riding or...

GM: Ah yeah they go we we take them we get ah Joe Gans..... we'd saddle all their horses and then he'd take 'em. Sometime when we not busy we go with them tag along with them. Yeah and if get plenty small children around then we go one or two of us would go with them and just watch ah? But they come up big gang they come. But they like see the mountain?

LM: And would they go up to the cabins?

GM: Yeah they had that Komakawai was their cabin. And they made one big Quonset so had plenty room. We used to like when they come up we get good food ah? Uuuuh! Come eat. Shoot! Fill up the plate. [chuckles]

LM: And that was um Cynn timer Salley's mom right?

GM: Yes she yeah...ah Tita...Lester the boy. Had what two girls? Two girls one boy Cynthia and Tita and Lester.

LM: And they would come visit.

GM: Yeah they all came and Lester bring his girls and then Tita and Cynthia bring their girls. And then pile up ohhh they get one big gang. [chuckles] They was good though they was real good all the guys come up real friendly. They're not the kindthey no care. They go for broke.

LM: Just have fun.

GM: Yeah they really... yeah. I like that. Hoo! Some of them come they're pretty rough.

LM: Oh yeah they go out with you guys?

GM: They like run they like chase cows too.

LM: Would they um you guys would you take 'em out to catch bull or...

GM: No, no, no. When only the big girls there they used to come follow us. But ah they stay way in the back ah? Tagging along. When we catch them we usually look around for them and then get together and go....kind of just keep in touch yeah? So see if everybody all right. Oh the big girls they was pretty rough some of them they keep up with us! Four of them come every year they come. The girls they like that and when we go lead ah they used to come tail boy. We used to ah open the rope our self and then they come behind make 'em scared you know the bull no like go they come make Hoosh Hoosh like until they start leading then everybody used to come with us. That was big help. And ah...

LM: Did anybody ever get lost?

GM: Oh so far no. No can get lost eh? Sometime you fly on 'em you fall down.....and stuff like that yeah but so far you know so far everybody was lucky though nobody went get hurt. Ho the horses was pretty good though. Good horses strong!

LM: What kind of horse does...

GM: Yeah Morgan, thoroughbred. Cross yeah thoroughbred yeah.

LM: Good feet.

GM: Could be Morgan stock thoroughbred the mares come half and half ah? The Morgan they strong ah? And then thoroughbred they like run! So was good.

LM: Spunky.

GM: Yeah.

LM: Why did you move out to Kahuku?

GM: They had bulldozer opening. And then the paycheck was better.

LM: Better than thirty dollars a month.

GM: Yeah. \$350.00 was a lot of money. The next day I went. [chuckles]

LM: Really. Wow that's big money.

GM: Yeah.

LM: So you worked construction.

GM: Ah no they was clearing the land Kahuku. Kahuku never had too much open then was lot of trees and so we went... me and one other guy. We practically cleaned out that whole ranch. Bulldozer [pause] every day.

LM: What was it like Christmas berry and stuff like that?

GM: Ah no regular ohia and hapuu... thick ah the ohia. So we go inside with the D 9 go open 'em out. Then ah when ah Freddie guys need help I go with them. Brand and ah wean off like that. Yeah.

LM: And they that wasn't wild cattle though was it?

GM: No, no, no, no. [laughs] That was all tame.

LM: Do you remember what kind of cattle they had?

GM: They had the registered Herefords. That time everybody had herefords but now everybody like all this mixed breed? Brangus and allthey get the weight yeah.

LM: That's what they're going for. And what about bull sales and stuff like that. Did you guys used to go?

GM: Waimea.

LM: Waimea Bull Sale.

GM: Yeah they had the Bull Sales that's where we used to get our bulls from. Waimea Bull Sale. Yeah yeah. Plenty people in that Bull Sale. I guess in between guys used to bring 'em but mostly Parker Ranch used to sell their bull calves. Nice bulls.

LM: How was Kahuku Ranch different from McCandless Ranch?

GM: Oh. [laughs] Big difference. No need worry get up in the morning everything tame. The horses all tame. Cows all tame. I used to mostly bulldoze though. Only when they ah when they need help I go with them. Yeah otherwise everyday bulldozer.

LM: And were you ever scared of falling in a lava tube or something? [laughs]

GM: No, no, no, no. Was good. Yeah.

LM: So most of your cowboying was at McCandless...

GM: McCandless...Yeah. Then after [pause] after George Manoa retired then they put me cowboy foreman over there.

LM: At McCandless or...

GM: No Kahuku. Yeah he retired he was the cowboy foreman ah? He came from Maui I think he was working about four years and after that he retired. Then I went take his place. Then I cowboy there steady.

LM: Oh did you learn anything new when you worked at Kahuku?

GM: Well yeah now you know the cows different and driving different and everything different yeah? Slowly slowly slowly. Whow whow not too fast. [chuckles] Good easy. No need worry falling down or running.

GM: No no was good. Everything truck.

LM: Cattle truck?

GM: Cattle truck. Horses truck. Pasture to pasture [chuckles] come off your horse then go drive the pasture then go truck again go to the next pasture. It was easy. Whoa! McCandless no.

LM: You guys rode the whole way...

GM: Yeah...back and forth.

LM: Were there roads going up to those old cabins?

GM: Yeah yeah. I mean um gee yeah after they made road then we used to go down ah every weekend....get the truck ah?

LM: Oh. OK. You wouldn't have to stay for two months? [laughs]

GM: Yeah no need. Every weekend going home. Yeah before never had nothing.... just the horse trail. Yeah Willie Thompson the one went make that. Oh big help, big help. Then we used to truck the cows and bulls down ah? When we go down or if get plenty then I was the guy driving the truck go back and forth ah? So when get plenty I just run one load down come back the next morning. Uhhh more easy than leading 'em down the road. After you get 'em going yeah you can take maybe two three in the back of your horse and go.

LM: Really!

GM: Yeah. They follow just like on horse ah after you lead 'em all over the...

LM: After they've been tied up...

GM: Yeah.

LM: What kind of cattle were?

GM: Shucks they get all kine. Mix all kine mix. I don't know what kine.

LM: And that was from the original Vancouver cattle?

GM: Yeah like the original wild... that ah yeah those long horns...

LM: I heard that they still have a few...

GM: Yeah they still yeah. I think Freddie Rice was up there little while ago back. He was trying to catch some... I mean ah after everybody went they never had nobody ah? So I guess whatever stayed back and start breeding, breeding, breeding. I hear get quite a few now [pause] down in the swamp.

LM: So is that *makai*?

GM: Ah no, no. Up the mountain. They just down in the swamp.

LM: The swampy area...Not the dry...

GM: Yeah. Still I hear getting get quite a bit now. My friend was telling me oh get plenty now coming back again.

LM: So you guys didn't catch 'em all! [laughs]

GM: No. No! Oh they had so much when we left there still had plenty. But now certain area they could make a fence eh? Get bulldozer and then they make fence and then started to bring in the tame cows.

LM: When you worked at Kahuku Ranch who were your cowboys when you became foreman?

GM: Ah was me, Booney, Julian, and Snookie.

LM: And they're still down down ah...

GM: No ah Snookie left he went Parker Ranch. Long time before I went retire he went and then um...Oh yeah Julian and ah Mooney still there.

LM: Did you live down there when you were working?

GM: Yeah yeah right there. At the ranch. Yeah.

LM: At the base the headquarters.

GM: Right. Yeah. After George move out I went take his house.

LM: And were you married already?

GM: Yeah.

LM: So but you were married while you were still at McCandless?

GM: Yeah. Then I came over...

LM: And Freddie Rice was the manager?

GM: No ah Tony. Yeah Tony Freitas was the manager. And right after that then Freddie.

LM: I think was around the same time ah my grandpa went down to Kau...

GM: Yeah yeah I think was just about that same time yeah.

LM: And Freddie's kids were little?

GM: Yeah. Yeah. McGrew...Bonnie. Yeah oh I wonder what happened to the other two girls that they was...

LM: Morag...

GM: Morag yeah.

LM:and Sheena.

GM: Sheena yeah oh I never see them long time.

LM: They still go rodeos and rope and all the rest. Morag does. [laughs] They were small kids when you were at ah...

GM: Oh yeah yeah.

LM: Did you guys um have a *mauka* cabin at Kahuku Ranch too?

GM: Yeah they had one up Mauna Loa but only go when we hunt he like hunt up there or we like spend weekend cabin like that.

LM: Not for work?

GM: No not for work.

LM: It was a lot easier at Kahuku Ranch wasn't it? [laughs]

GM: Yeah. Yeah oh was good was a relaxing.

LM: And then did you stay out there till when till you retired did you say?

GM: Kahuku?

GM: Yeah yeah yeah....Ah... [pause] Ninety ninety-six. When did I retire '96 no.....Ninety-five.

LM: Do you still go work cattle or ride?

GM: Just my place at South Point. I get little over a hundred head down there. Next to Robby. Yeah.

LM: Oh OK. And what are you running?

GM: Ah Angus, Brangus yeah. Ohh my cows are fat! With all the grass we get now ah?

LM: Good feed! Plenty legumes and...

GM: Yeah. Robby...So once in a while Robby stop by.

LM: Oh that's good. Yeah. And you go down every week or?

GM: Ah every yeah yeah and then I come back maybe like Saturday, Sunday then Monday, Tuesday, maybe Wednesday I go back. I'm changing all my fence.... all rotten and...

Mrs: We hardly go because no more soap opera down there. [laughs]

LM: Oh! I know! We had just set up the satellite dish.

GM: How that thing down there? Catch?

LM:the Japanese channel we get. [laughs] And then the um the farm channel and they have like polka dancing on there...

GM: Oh boy yeah funny ah?

LM: And Blue Colman comes down once in a while to help.

GM: Oh Blue!

LM: And he'll watch the farm channel and the polka dancing. [laughs] Nah I'm kidding.

GM: Oh Blue... [chuckles]

LM: So you still go out and fix fence and?

GM: Yeah yeah yeah yeah. I get my water car right next to the house eh?

LM: You can always check.

GM: Yeah not too much water line ah? Like Robby get 'em mile from the top...all the way down! Well mine right there by the house. I just have the tank and the pen right there so easy. Just check the meter. That's it. [chuckles] Yeah.

LM: When worked at McCandless and ah early Kahuku who made your guys saddles? Did you make your own?

GM: Yeah this guy ah had this guy Bill Jack. And the colored man he used to make our saddle fix all our area on the saddle. Yeah oh he make real nice stuff.

LM: You guys had all Hawaiian tree?

GM: Hawaiian tree. You gotta because this...

Mrs: Hey remember your grandpa was a saddle maker too.

GM: Yeah but at's way before at's ah Greenwell ah?

LM: Oh cause your grandpa worked for Greenwell?

GM: Greenwell... Yeah yeah. Kalani Kaolele. Yeah he's a a saddle maker. He used to stay right next to Jack Greenwell right across across of the road. And that's where he used to stay.

LM: And that was your mom's dad?

GM: Yeah!

LM: Kaolele. Yeah OK. And the Medeiros your grandpa...

GM: My father's... Came from Portugal. [laughs] The first Portuguese came from Portugal [laughs] with no more nothing.

LM: So you're third generation Portuguese here.

GM: Yeah yeah.

LM: Plus the Hawaiian side.

GM: Yeah yeah. Lucky my mother was pure Hawaiian so I get chance get Hawaiian Homeland ah?

LM: Then you get half?

GM: Ho! Whew hew... Yeah oh boy no more nothing. If pure Portuguese no more nothing.

LM: But oh so that guy would come help make saddle stuff like that?

GM: Yeah Bill Jack? Oh he worked McCandless? Yeah he was the water boy. He'd go with his mule go down and check the windmills and all that kind stuff yeah. Then ah when he *pau* he fix saddles. Make skin rope and all that kind stuff. Oh he was good. He was and when we came Kahuku all this mainland trees. [laughs]

LM: But you said you needed the Hawaiian tree. Was that better for wild *pipi*?

GM: Oh yeah! Yeah. Good the *aweawe* strong eh? Cause this mainland trees... They rip off. All nail ah?

LM: Right. Right. The screws come out.

GM: The screws all yeah! [chuckles] So I *hemo* one I get one whole can of nails and screws... And the tree all after you take 'em off kind of all rotten from the nails ah? And then when the *aweawe* little bit rotten you pull something strong or when jerk he he rip 'em.

LM: Oh OK. That's the mainland trees?

GM: Yeah, Tommy had [pause] ah the problem couple times with those mainland... he go sometimes he get couple thousand bulls they go rope 'em and drag 'em...

LM: Tommy Kaniho?

GM: Yeah they get some stupid cows too ah sometime they got to rope 'em. They yank 'em around broke broke the *aweawe*. Just last couple of weeks ago one of the

friends was helping them going just running down! [laughs] Went broke. Yeah we can tell it's all rotten ah that *aweawe*.

LM: Oh you see... But that's the from the mainland kind.

GM: Mainland trees yeah. The Hawaiian tree...no break. No, no that buggah strong. Strong. And then you can see 'em ah? That ah the Hawaiian tree yeah the braid right there. Right by the stirrup but the mainland tree still cover ah? So I'm thinking that Hawaiian trees...

LM: So none of your saddles ever broke? None of the Hawaiian trees?

GM: The Hawaiian tree no no...When the one strength broke or two strength broke you give Jack he take 'em all off he'll redo 'em. He put all new again. Yeah, he do all our saddles and he make good whips too.

LM: And all you guys had *kaula'ili* and all...

GM: Yeah yeah yeah. He makes skin. Oh we used to make our own. Until the cotton ropes came out. Nylon cotton they used to buy 'em by the roll ah?

GM: More easy take your knife over there cut one. Eight, nine, ten fathom cut 'em. Make 'em long ah? [laughs]

LM: Yeah that that would be easier then the...

GM: Yeah then braid.

LM: But plenty people um like that now the *kaula'ili* not for use but just to have.

GM:souvenir. [chuckles] Yeah you no see 'em too much now. No more. Hardly anybody get 'em.

LM: And hard to find people to fix 'em if you do have 'em.

GM: Yeah.

LM: But your grandpa made saddles?

GM: Yeah just like *aweawe* and all that stuff that's what he used to do.

LM: Did you learn how to make saddles?

GM: No. Oh I wish. [chuckles] No I used to make skin our skin rope we used to make 'em all. We used to make our own yeah but oh no not Hawaiian tree. No not too many guys do the *aweawe*. I don't know of anybody. Tommy he make 'em but ah

he no braid ah he use the old strap ah? And then he just tie the ring on. He no he no braid that for strand. Hard for find guys braid.

LM: Yeah that's that's tough.

End of Tape ~ Side A

LM: Ah what would you guys do in your free time...like at McCandless?

GM: McCandless. No more everyday.

LM: No free time [laughs] at all?

GM: No more free time every day. Saturdays, Sundays. Like Sunday you like stay home you can stay home but you got bored yeah? So we go go outside.....chase me a few bulls and...

Mrs: Yeah they go down Kona look for girls.

LM: [laughs]

GM: No more.

LM: No more girls in Kona. [laughs]

GM: Yeah. And at that time no more girls.

LM: Very few! [laughs]

Mrs: [laughs]

GM: You gotta go steal one another's one....and then he'll fight! Nah never had any all that time never had.

LM: Well it's all your cousins that's why. [laughs]

GM: Yeah. Never had too much outsiders anyway in that little town.

LM: Did you guys used to play music and stuff like that?

GM: Yeah over here one of the two boys work fence...they play that old Hawaiian slack key... And they can play! All night.

LM: Who were those boys?

GM: Hose.

LM: Hose?

GM: Pulu Hose and ah...Kokele and Eddie Hose. Whoa those guys too good all that family. They can play guitar ukulele even the sisters. They like party too we all in fact we all partying together. Good good fun we used to get. Yeah was all right.

LM: So the Hose the Hose kids were the musical...

GM: Music. When you go in the bar get the juke box ah? All you gotta put five cents.

LM: Might as well bring your own.

GM: Them free!

LM: [laughs] Did you ever move away from the Island?

GM: No always stayed. Stayed right here. Mm. Kealia [laughs]. Kahuku Ranch.

LM: And now looking back on your whole life do you ever wish that you'd been something else or you're glad you're a cowboy?

GM: I wanted to be rough so. Stay on the rough side.

LM: [laughs] So that was the thing to do.

GM: Yes that was the place to be. Right there.

LM: And how many um children do you have?

GM: Four. Two girls two boys.

LM: And they all grew up....riding horse and...

GM: No no no no only Boonie.

LM: Only Boonie!

GM: Yeah.

LM: Oh! And he's still doing it....it's fourth generation.

End