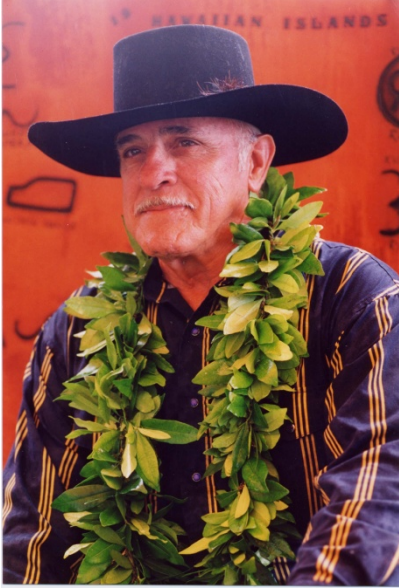


James Richard “Casey” DeSilva, Sr.



“Casey” began working at Hanaipoe ranch on the slopes of Mauna Kea as a young boy. This was the start of his life as a paniolo, working for many Big Island Ranches. An indispensable all-around ranch hand and horse breaker, “Casey”’s career included work on the Shipman Ranch, Nobriga Ranch, Pu`u O`o Ranch, Hualalai Ranch, Pu`u Waa Waa Ranch and probably others too numerous to mention. “Casey” was given his nickname by other cowboys who say he once was very notorious for riding any bucking bronc in the islands and he was as good as the world champion, Casey Tibbs. He later told his secret. He would round up the ranch horses who liked to buck and “buck them out”. It must have worked because Casey DeSilva later became the

State Champion saddle bronc rider.

Paniolo Hall of Fame Oral History Interview

Richard “Casey” DeSilva, Sr.

June 1, 2002; Hilo, Hawaii

By: Anna Ilima Loomis (I)

I was born in Hilo, March 23, 1931, and raised for eight years in Kaiwiki – we had a small ranch and farm there, about 60 acres. Had cattle, had pigs and couple of horses, nothing to do, it was way up in the mountain. And so what we used to do was play with the cattle, you know? My brother get them young ones and put me on and turn me loose.

Over there we used to ride horses to school -- most of the time walk, but once in while we get to ride the horses, everybody pile up on one horse. And then we used to come to Hilo, my dad used to ride race horses, he was a jockey. So that's when I started liking it, to get into horses.

And then I got older and went to work in a dairy and I used to be like a herdsman, take the cows out every day and bring them in in the afternoon. I was about sixteen, seventeen. I quit school and went to work.

I About how old were you when your dad first started teaching you about horses?

Oh, about thirteen. Twelve, thirteen, even younger. I remember they used to put me on the race horses and we would gallop together, and I was young. Sometimes they would run away with me. Then as I got older I learned to ride, and I used to ride some races but I got heavy. I was 128 pounds when I quit. And my uncle had a riding academy down there. So I used to spend time with him, riding his fleet, the green horses he would let me ride, see?

I What was his name?

John, John DeSilva. John and Marion DeSilva. Two brothers had the riding academy and, and John first then Marion. They used to rent the horses, during the war, to the marines and everybody. So the ones they was training, they would let me ride them first then kind of get them tamed down and then they would ride. So I started off real young with horses. Anything they were afraid of, they put me on. So, I got to like the bucking horses. As a young kid, I went all over looking for bucking horses. Always riding bucking horses.

I Why do you think you liked that?

I don't know, the thrill I guess. Just the challenge of staying on, you know? Was good feeling so I used to like it.

I Did you get hurt?

Only one time in Saddle City, a horse kicked the top of my head open. Buddy Gibson was a pick-up man, he was about thirteen or fourteen years old and his dad made him pick-up. So I made the ride and the horse was heading toward the fence. So Buddy came on the left and I reached for him, he pulled back. So I fell, hit my head on the post, cut myself. And then I fell between the fence and the horse and the horse kicked the top of my head open. Just the scalp, wasn't too bad. I went to Kaiser overnight and couple of weeks later I was back riding broncs again.

I You know, before I came out to talk to you I asked a couple of people what you were like, and every one of them told me that you were a real daredevil.

I still love it but now I'm real cautious because I'm getting older, you know? Seventy one, I can't be playing around on young horses. I fool around on young horses but the eight and ten-year-olds that I used to like to ride, I lay off now.

I You know, some guys I meet are more ranchers, they more like raising cattle. And some guys are more cowboys.

Yes, that's what I used to like, more the cowboy. I didn't care about raising. I raised a few head of cattle now and then, you know, but I really rather just go help people, drive their cattle, work their cattle. I been all across that mountain, working on ranches. And rodeos, Honolulu, Maui, over here.

I You were sixteen when you started working for the dairy?

Sixteen, yeah. I quit school when I went to work because my Dad was rough. So I wanted to get out of the house. He was 115 pounds, but he was mean. My uncles were real good and nice men. Easy going. My Dad was the only one who ... (laughs)

I Had you ever worked for a ranch before?

Before the dairy, no. Was only our own and fooling around. Different people with small ranches around that area I used to come in, ride horses for them, you know? In those days they put bags on them and then I would sit on the bags and then lead the horse around and then they'd buck with the bag. The bags were to keep them from bucking.

Afterward I got rid of those bags and I used to just ride them, you know, with the buck. I used to like the buck. Just kept riding and riding.

When I worked for Hanaipoe Ranch up in Mauna Kea, they would all go and leave me up there alone. So what I did for amusement, I'd bring the colts in, and I would buck them out nighttime, you know. And there was one Japanese man that worked for Parker Ranch and he used to see me through the window and he'd stop the boss and he'd say, "oh, that boy. Bumbye *make* though." (Laughs) Because I was always riding those bucking horses, you see. And the boss would chew me out, and as soon as he'd go I'd do the same thing again." (laughing) And I remember it was funny because most of the cowboys, they only ride in the pen, you know, for months they ride the horse in a small pen. I would open the gate and go outside and they'd say, you crazy, where you going? and I'd say, turn him loose. Oh they bucked down the hill and later on I'd come riding back with them. I was more rough rider at the time. It was all fun.

I Why did you want to turn them loose when they were bucking?

I used to like it, I enjoyed their bucking, so. I used to take a lot of chances. But I was lucky, I never got hurt there.

I When did you start getting work as a horse trainer?

Well, from young, I used to always buy, train, sell, buy another one, train and sell, and I'm still doing that today. So I started – I guess around 18, 17, 18. Sixteen already I was training horse. And as I got older I got more into it, you know? In those days, didn't have much rodeos so it was just pasture, and rodeos would go from ranch to ranch. If they had a horse that buck I would go ride him, you know.

I What were those pasture rodeos like?

Some up in this Waikeauka, guavas and bushes and barb wire -- I'm lucky I didn't get tangled up in some of them, you know? And then there was some -- a guy, I remember, he used to put you on a horse and he would let the horse run and -- big guy -- and he would hold the horse. But the horses were smaller then, they wasn't big like today. Mostly Hawaiian horses, so, they weren't too bad.

Like there was this guy out there, he had a small little pasture ranch. And then there was the little ranches, forty acres here and twenty acres there. A lot of places like that. And some other people used to just buy and sell horses, they got ten, twenty acres or forty acres. So they would call me and I'd go over there and ride whatever they got, you know? And some of the corrals was just made out of barb wire.

Yeah, well they used to want to see me ride, see, so they'd call me, come up there, I got some horses to ride. So I went down. And sometimes cattle in the bushes, you know. Was rough country like this. And you cannot rope them in the - you got to chase them. The only time you can swing the rope is when they get out in the open. So we used to go in the bushes and sometimes you had to jump on them. I would jump from the horse and grab them and then yell for help to get someone to put the rope on him.

I When did you first start working as a cowboy?

At Hanaipoe. Hanaipoe was one of the first ranches I worked for. Senator Bill Nobriga and his Dad, JJ Nobriga.

I What was that like up there?

Oh, was nice. But was work from sunrise to sunset. The foreman was pretty rough. You got up in the morning, you'd go and you don't come home until dark, you know? Willy Paiva. He was a good horseman too, he was all around man.

To me it was fun, really. The pay was small but we used to enjoy it. I mean I could ride horse day and night, so it was good, I used to like it. From there I went to Volcano, Keahou Ranch. Volcano area. So we would go Volcano and Hamakua work. Sometimes Volcano, sometimes in Hamakua. We would travel with car, you know, to Volcano and then work up there maybe one or two weeks then go Paauilo and work couple of weeks. Back and forth, like that. So.

I Oh Keahou Ranch, about how big was that?

Oh, big. It was big. Several thousand acres, I guess, a big ranch. Goes all the way up to the slopes of Mauna Loa. Open, lot of lava tubes, forests. Rough country. Very rough country. You got to be real careful over there.

I What kind of work were you doing over there?

Cowboy and logging -- cutting Koa, dropping trees, hauling them to have them milled and we'd work out there for a while and then we'd come back up Keahou, you know? We were always back and forth

I What kind of improvements were on the land up there?

They'd take the trees out and make more pasture. We had a little corral, but not much. Those days was, they never go for the fancy arenas.

I How would they get the cattle back to Hilo?

Truck, they would truck it. And they had a drive, I never go on that drive but from Hanaipoe they drove all the way across the mountain to Keahou. I don't know what happened, I never get on that drive. Something happened I couldn't make it. I think I might have quit, and afterward they call me back again. I used to quit and they call me back, I quit and they call me back.

I Why did you quit?

It didn't matter, I was kind of hardheaded young kid, so I quit. Then they call me back. Nobriga would come and get me, call me back.

I You know where I live, on Maui, some of the ranches are all Hawaiian, some are all Portuguese. Was it like that here?

Well over here Kapapana (??) used to be Portuguese/Hawaiian, mixture. Shipman, at one time they had quite a few Portuguese, then they weed them off, they had mostly Hawaiian and few Japanese. Then after a while, they got Portuguese back again. All depend on the manager. Because a lot of the Portuguese would steal cattles. (Laughter) Rustlers, a lot of them. Or hunters, you know, they were hunters, out there hunting, so.

I Did you ever do that?

Oh yeah. Hunting, outlawing and oh, I used to do a lot of crazy things -- when young you do all kind of crazy things.

I When the Portuguese and the Hawaiian were working together, did they usually get along?

Yeah, used to get along. Friends, we was all good friends. The ones that I remember working with. Never had a problem with any of them.

I Who was the manager out there, that supervised you guys.

Like for Nobriga was Willy Paiva, and then for Shipman it was Tommy Lindsey and he was kind of rough, he was kind of rough, Tom Lindsey -- but good cowboy too. Paiva was a good cowboy. But Tommy Lindsey was more just strictly cattle. Paiva, he would do equipment, mechanic and building and everything. But Tommy Lindsey was strictly cowboy. And he would go out and do everything, work wild cattle with us.

I Back in those days was it mostly young guys like you or were you working alongside the older cowboys.

Young, some older. A few older guys. Was mostly the rough stuff for the young guys. And the older guys were a little more wise. Yeah, we use us to do the dirty work. They do the catching, they do the roping.

I What do you remember about catching wild cattle back there?

No, wild cattle was mostly at Shipman Ranch. The other ranches, lot of times we don't even carry a rope because it was mostly driving, you know? But back around Hilo was small ranches we'd carry ropes and when we have a chance we'd rope. But most of the time you had to chase them and grab them, whatever, you know? Dogs, use dogs.

I never did too much roping wild cattle, it was mostly when I worked for Shipman. But actually for Shipman, other some contract work (inaudible). And I would go and work with them, with the young horses (inaudible).

I Any stories that stand out in your mind from those days?

Oh, yeah, like Puro, when I was breaking horses up there, a lot of people used to come and watch me. They would say I was a devil. The old-timers would. But most of the cowboys ride with their stirrups tied, you know? And I just ride free.

I Why did they ride with stirrups ...

So the horse cannot buck them out. But I used to ride rodeo style. In fact, Sebastian Reiny -- one time we went some place and they had a horse that buck so they took me over there to ride this horse. No one ride him for a long time so they brought me to ride that horse. Somebody mentioned to tie the stirrups and he said, no, no, no, boy. You no ride like that. You no tie the stirrups, no way. From that, I never ride with the stirrups tied. I ride the same way I ride rodeos, in the saddle-bronc style and just go and balance, mostly it was balance. And I very seldom used to get bucked off, unless it's from sleeping and they catch me off guard, you know? Until today, I still ride like that.

I How come you didn't want to tie?

I wanted that feeling I could move my legs back and forth, you know, like when they buck you kind of spur them a little bit. If your stirrup's tied you just locked in there, you know? And even after my old age I had a couple of horses that bucked. I tried to tie them and I couldn't, I couldn't ride with them tied. They never bucked me off so I stay on but I couldn't have tied my stirrups. But what I usually do, I put a stick across the saddle and lock my legs under that stick and they cannot buck you off, you know?

I How did you learn how to do that?

I don't know where I picked that up from but one day I had that idea and I did that and a lot of people do that now. I get a stick, roll him up in my raincoat and tie it to the pommel, under the pommel, and then two strings down to the rings, that hold the cinch. And your legs lock under that stick, so when they buck, when you go that way it hold you in the saddle. So all you got to do is lean back, put both legs under that stick, they cannot throw you off. So that was -- I still do that. When I get a real bad one I do that.

I So that the, so you were working out at those two ranches and then where did you work from there?

From there I worked Hawaiian Ranch (????) But I only stayed there two month. I didn't like the area. They hired me to break horses, in fact, Willy Paiva was the foreman there and he wanted me to come over there to break horses, but because they were union, in the position they gave me, I couldn't ride horses. So I was driving truck instead and working fence, so I quit, I came back to Hilo.

I How did that place get to be the union?

I don't know. The cowboys all went union, so the ranch never last too long, it go way down. C. Brewer, the plantation had the ranch, see, because most of the plantation workers were union. Somehow the cowboys were union too, see?

They thought, I guess, for the pay, because of the money and the benefits they wanted to get in the union. But then afterwards the company, I guess, was losing too much money. You driving cattle and then it's 2 o'clock, shut down, you let the cattle go, tomorrow start over, you know? You cannot do that ranching. I guess that's why they fold up.

I I never heard of another ranch having that, did you?

Uh uh. They tried Parker Ranch few times but they couldn't. I think that's the only union ranch that was.

I So you were on Hawaiian Ranch for two months. Where did you go from there?

From there I went construction. I work construction then I went to Hawaii Kai on Oahu, work for Kaiser. I was maybe twenty four. Then I moved back, I worked for Kaiser until the job kind of closed down. Then I worked for Roger James, breaking horses, Koko Head Stable.

And every Saturday night I would go to Saddle City and ride bronc. Broncs, bulls and steer wrestle, the whole trip. And then every now and then, Gibson would have horses that nobody want to ride and he tell me, Richard, you got a free ride. Shoot, I get on, you know? We used to pay two dollars to ride a bronc. Every time you ride one you pay two dollars, so when he get one that nobody want, he call me to ride. So I would go ride and they hot-shock 'em and everything, you know, to make him buck there. And it was a lot of fun, lot of fun.

I Can you tell me about why you decided to quit and come back to the Big Island?

I wanted to come home, you know? Got tired of the city. When I came back, you know, I fool around for a while working here and there. Then I went to Hualalai Ranch. I work there for two and a half years. I got laid off, then I went to Puuwaawaa in 71.

I Why did you get laid off?

Well, I guess I was a little bit too rough, and they let me go. (Laughter) Then I went to Puuwaawaa Ranch and I stayed there almost eleven years. Over 10 years.

I And what were you doing there?

Mechanic and cowboy. Mostly mechanic.

I You were still training horses?

Oh, yeah.

I Do you just like breaking them or do you like putting on the finishing touches too?

I used to buy most all my wild horses around here that nobody wanted. Even from Parker Ranch condemns. And they'd say, "What you going to do with that?" But I would train them or I get kids to ride them and I sell them as good riding horses. Some went to Honolulu. I had one horse I bought for \$100, skin and bone. I trained that horse. I sold it to Augy (?) Miranda in Honolulu. Nice appoloosa. And then (inaudible) bought it, and some girl bought it from him and took that horse to California and won first place, something -- was in the Western Horseman but I kind of forget what the story was -- but that horse won something big in California. He was a \$100 horse that they were going to shoot and I bought it skin and bone hundred dollars.

I What was your secret?

It was just handling them, you know, give them good care and feed. And then they like you, you know, and they work for you. Don't beat them up too much (laughs).

Like I used to train the rough way, you know. Just get on and let them buck out and all that. But today is more handle them, ground walk them -- when you get on they so soft and easy, you know? I bought that roan over there three weeks ago. And today it's going all over the place. I ground worked him for about half an hour and got on, the same day I bought him. And the third day I was out in the big pasture, riding.

Before too, a lot of horses get spoiled because some guys would rough them up and then they get so scared that it's hard to train them. I bought a lot of condemned horses like that that I trained. I had the patience, you know, work with them. I used to have to work, people call me to help them. A lot of work.

I What do you think was the roughest horse that you ever handled?

I think the Shipman Ranch, they had almost every horse buck there. They had the Hessian bloodline crossed with (inaudible). And those buggers could buck. Oh, they could buck. But I used to like it. I wasn't too bad then, I was in good shape and I could hang on then. But some old timers used to come and watch me and they'd say, "Man, that's a devil!" I used to get on them bare back, you know? Some would put the saddle, but I'd ride them bare back, so they get used to me -- then I put the saddle.

I How come you stayed so long at Puuwaawaa?

I don't know, I just liked the area, the people were good, you know? And, in fact, I want to nominate one of the guys that I worked with. He's still there and now he's part owner of the ranch. Miki Kato. When I first worked there, they hired me as a mechanic. So every time they worked cattle, they would call me to go with them, and I would use one of his horses. He used to train his own, and he had good horses. And when Dillingham sold the ranch, Johnny Medeiros took all the good horses to (inaudible). So we had to start over with young horses.

I About when was that?

About 1972, Newell Bohnett bought Puuwaawaa from Dillingham. I stayed on, but some people left.

There was lot of changes. He did a lot of improvements up there. Brought water in and fixed the roads and everything. He did a lot of work. Though some things that went down was run down that he didn't think was too important. But there were a lot of good that he did, improved all the roads, the pay was better, the benefits were good. When you'd finish a job he'd give everybody a bonus. It was good.

I About how much cattle was there at that time?

I would say breeding cows, maybe about seven, eight hundred and then they'd try to go bigger, sometimes they had to go smaller, because seasonal -- lot of rains and dry weather when a lot of them was dying. Like when Dillingham had it it was easy because they had Puuwaawaa and they had other areas. When Puuwaawaa got dry they'd move them over. But Bohnett only had Puuwaawaa they had to work around it.

I What was that area like compared to other areas you worked?

Oh, rough country, all lava. You gotta follow the cow trails and you can't just run crazy. Not too much wild cattle.

I And you said that they had a lot of new horses?

Yeah, we had to train all that. They bucked some. They would take me to Parker Ranch for pick up horses with cowboys like Keakealani and he would ask the boss to take me. The boss say, why take a mechanic, take one cowboy. "No, no." That's why all those horses (inaudible). So I would get them and poke them, and the boss there, he say, oh, they're not used to being poked. I say well, I've got to know if they buck because the guys going to ride them, you know? You can't have them getting bucked off. Afterwards, he saw they couldn't buck me off, I ended up riding the whole corral full of horses, except two. Other people were coming to buy and I had them all under control.

In 81 or 82, Bohnett laid me off. I went to construction. And I stayed construction until I retired.

I What happened?

I don't know what happen. He just came one day and told me, say he want to let me go. He gave me \$6,000 in cash, gave me a Christmas bonus, two more weeks vacation with pay, so I told him, what about free rent? I say what about my horses? I'm going to need a free pasture. And he gave me a nice lot of recommendations. So everybody say unusual for him to let me go with all that, benefits and all that. And he had everything in writing.

I think one of the guys that work there, just -- you know. He was kind of a foreman, under the manager, so I guess, I think was because of him, you know. But I didn't care. I mean, I told him I think you're doing me a favor when you let me go, and when I went to construction I made more money, I bought a house, I had the place where I'm living now, I had that place when I was there. So I did well. I came out ahead.

I Did you work at any ranches after that?

No, after Puuwaawaa, no. I used to go to Freddy Nobriga's up the mountain, helped them. But I never work as an employee, just help. In fact we still do, go here and there, help different ranches.

I Did it bother you that you made more money in construction and it was hard to make a living as a cowboy?

No, because I still had my horses, you know, and still used to go roping, you know, when they have practice, stuff like that. I used to get into it. So, the cowboy life was still there, yeah? Always had horses. It's pretty much balanced like my spare time I'd be with the horses and working time I'd be with the equipment and stuff.

I One of the other things people told me about you was that you have eight or nine lives already.

(Laughter) Well, I had a lot of accidents. Was an airplane crash in '62, we flew from Honolulu to the Big Island and when we were going back, the plane crash in Waimea. Took off from Waimea. That guy went straight up and that thing fell down. So I had all this ripped off, broke my teeth up here, down here. And that's about it. Went to the doctor, sew it back. Then in '71, I went off the road with a Jeep and broke it off again, they sewed it back. Then I had that horse kick. I had a lot of, I can't even remember all of them. I've been in and out of quite a few crashes. Then I jump off the Rainbow Falls one time. I used to dive all the high cliffs up there, you know, from young, because we live right across. And then one day after I got out of the army, I think was in 1955, I think, we were up there one day and I said, I'm going to jump off that falls -- I was going dive off that falls and somebody said, no, no, you better not dive, you jump, so I went jump. And oh, it was like landing on a block of ice. So I got bruised up little bit and this doctor I went to -- I really didn't have to go to the hospital, you know, but being a veteran they shoved me in the hospital. See, I was bruised up and so they gave me some therapy and stuff but mostly nothing. But I couldn't avoid it.

I What about from the bucking? Other than the time you hit your head, was there any other major injuries that you had?

No, that was the only one, riding bucking horses. Mostly I had a lot of kicks but not too serious ones, you know. The worst, the closest one, was the kick on the head. If it had been that much more I would have been dead. But it just took my scalp off, you know?

I remember David Caires the old man David Caires, he said, oh Richard Desilva dead, he was telling everybody that I was dead, you know? And then no, I'm walking around again. And then I used to have a motorcycle, had a few flips in there with the motorcycles, you know? I was always on the rough side and, I was okay.

I Tell me, of all the horses that you broke in and trained, you know, is there one that you're most proud of having done?

C There was one big Appaloosa, I did a real good job with that horse. Got him here, my boy was five years old. He used to race him over here --, he look like a real monkey on that horse. Big horse, almost 17 hands. And these guys bought it, was at the auction, I think I stopped at five hundred. And these other guys was bidding, and they ended up buying it. Then, I was in a truck accident, working on a big truck and the truck ran away and broke my foot. So I rip my head open up here. So I was laid up for a while. And they wanted to sell me the horse. I said wait, wait, you know, when I get my cast off I come look at him.

So, they took the cast off, I couldn't wait, I ran over there and they had the horse in the corral. I say okay, they wanted me to buy it but I said no, I'm not going to pay like you paid. So, fine. They say ok, try him. Give us what you think he's worth. So I rode the horse two times. The first time, ho! he buck, but I had him, I have him under control. He was big.

And I called him up and say okay, three hundred I'll keep him, otherwise come pick him up. So they call me back, you can have him. So I bought him for three hundred, I train him and what a beautiful horse he turned out to be. That was one of the better horses I trained. That one and a buckskin, a Sierra buckskin I used to rope with. Those two horses were real, real good horses. And then I had a little gray for my boy. He used to win, he won a lot of trophies with that horse too, racing over here and the Waikaloa races, you know? Those three horses were, well, one of the best I've trained.

I How come you think they turned out so good, was there something special you did, or?

Well, they were mostly – people fooled around them before, so they were spooky. So what I did was give them tender loving care and they got to be real tame, and ended up I sold them to Haleakala Ranch. And I think now they retired them and give them to some girl up in Kula some place. Hey, he was huge, oh he was big. But he was soft, nice, so the kids could ride him. But when I brought him here to race, George Manoa saw the boy on him and I had the pony's saddle, so I would reinforce the pony's saddle with nylon rope and he said, “you going to put that kid on that horse? You sure you know what you're doing?” I said yeah. So after the race

he just sit him down, you know? And all this horses coming right open in the back. I was hoping they don't pile into him cause he might get scared and buck. But he never lost. He was good. Was a good horse.

I You did some racing yourself, right? You were a jockey.

I was, yeah. I used to jockey little bit, as a rider. But mostly exercising race horses. Then I rode, against my old man, some of the old timers. A lot of guys were coming from Maui and Honolulu. Then I would just exercise and they ride.

I Do you think you had an opportunity your children didn't have, to live the cowboy life?

Yeah, and pretty soon there won't be any ranches over there any more, you know?

I Do you think that's progress or do you think that's a loss?

I think it's going to be a loss, like Parker Ranch was a big, beautiful ranch. And pretty soon you won't see all that. You don't see cattle now when you drive over. All the open pastures are all empty. They used to be full with cattle, you know? I don't know what's going to happen.

Yeah, they should have working ranches, I think, like how it was before. Even the kids grow up better, you know? Today nothing to do, so they get into drugs and all that stuff. Where before we was always busy doing something. We didn't have toys to play with so we play with the animals, you know? And I think that's a big loss, ranching going downhill like that.

I Is there anything more that you wanted to talk about before we finish up?

Rodeos and ranching. Rodeos was good fun. Crazy, those days, you know? Drink, you suck them up and rodeo and lot of fun. Raise hell. But the ranching was lot of fun too. I like the ranching. Staying up in the mountain, you know? At night, like when I was at Puuwaawaa, some nights I cannot sleep, I wake up, I look outside, my horse is out there. At one o'clock or twelve o'clock at night. I catch them, drink coffee saddle him up and I'm gone up the mountain. I come back seven o'clock, daybreak. When I get home everybody still sleeping, Saturday morning, I'm way up in the mountain. I can see the lights down below, you know? That was lot of fun. I enjoyed it. I used to enjoy riding at night. And like the young horses, they seem to work better at night. I don't know, I ride them at night and they seem to be good, they come good. Quiet, I guess.

I Looking back on your life, what do you think were the best years that you spent?

Oh, I guess, hard to say, yeah? They were mostly good years. My Puuwaawaa was good years. Puuo was good, even Hanaepoe was good. Did a lot of things -- I was out breaking horses and motorcycles and, you know. So hard to say.