

JERRY J. LOUIS, SR. 44 Ranch, Kaua`i



Jerry founded his own ranch in 1962 and has been both manager and ranch hand there ever since. He put together a mother cow herd on 300 acres, which he has meticulously maintained through grazing rotation, control of noxious weeds and keeping his fences and water systems in excellent condition. His good stewardship is visible in the top grade calves that he produces.

Those who work with him say that Jerry is very particular about how his cattle are handled. He is very gentle with the animals, and moves them by call. They say that if he wanted them to, they would follow him to town.

Jerry is known as quite a hand on horseback and has made his mark at many a rodeo. He has claimed the title of All Around Cowboy on Kaua`i.

He has been an active member of the Kaua`i Cattlemen's Association, serving as chair of the membership, brand and theft committees.

Jerry's skills aren't limited to working cattle. He is a very skilled welder and can fabricate almost anything, big or small. He is overseeing the welding fabrication stage of the cattle loading ramp at the Kaua`i Cattlemen's Association's cattle staging facility. This infrastructure has become a very important key to the survival of the cattle industry on Kaua`i.

While running his own ranch, Jerry also worked for McBryde Plantation, from which he is now retired. But he remains a working paniolo on his 44 ranch, which he decided to call it after he had worked it for 44 years. He will probably still be out working it, when it becomes the 54 ranch.



Jerry Louis Interview

December 15, 2008

LW: Okay. let's see... Today is December 14... 12, 13, 14... is it?

JL: Fifteen.

LW: Fifteen. December.

JL: Yes, 12/15. Yeah.

LW: Okay, it's the fifteenth of December, and I'm at Jerry Louis' house in Hanapepe. Do you call this Hanapepe?

JL: Yeah. Hanapepe Heights.

LW: Hanapepe Heights, Kaua'i. And it's about 9:30 in the morning and we're sitting in his...

JL: Patio.

LW: We'll call it patio. So tell me about this again. We're looking at his bio on the Cattlemen's Council web page. So this photo is from where?

JL: Beg your pardon.

LW: This photo, you were telling me where that photo was from.

JL: Yeah, this photo was made the time we won the Kamehameha Day parade. Yeah, we won.

LW: What do you mean we? Who was we?

JL: I had a big gang with us.

LW: You did?

JL: Yeah, the whole gang. I think I have the pictures, you know. You want to see?

LW: Sure.

JL: This is the picture of all the boys that rode. This boy here drove this truck.

LW: It says small ranchers unite in the Cowboy Way.

JL: This is my grandson here. And they were on this truck playing Hawaiian music.

LW: So they were in the back playing music.

JL: Yeah. But this is all the boys that we rode together in the parade.

LW: And they all have small ranches like you?

JL: Yeah. He have a small ranch. And then this boy raise just about only two calves. Two cows. That's for freezer work, you know.

LW: Yeah, yeah.

JL: And then this boy here, he raises horses. That's two calves, two cows, too. And then this boy here was raising cattle with his dad before. But then he gave up. After his dad died, him and I was partners for a while. And then he gave up. Yeah.

LW: He did something else?

JL: Yeah. He gave.

LW: So your ranch is called what now?

JL: 44 Ranch.

LW: 44 Ranch.

JL: That was from my great grandfather. And then the brand came over to my grandfather. Then came over to my dad, but all the family used to use it. Use the same brand. On my mom's side and on my dad's side we used to use the same brand. They used to use the same brand.

LW: And the brand is...?

JL: 44.

LW: It's 44.

JL: Yeah.

LW: Oh, okay. So your great grandfather...

JL: Yeah.

LW: Your great grandfather. Was he here on Kaua'i?

JL: He was in Portugal. Then he came to Kaua'i. Then he died over here. He had a few cattle. Not too much. Same like my dad. My dad when he took over, he wasn't raising too much cattle. He was raising about three or four. And I was about ten years old maybe. Nine years old. And he was raising about two cows. He used to milk them and all.

LW: Oh, really?

JL: Yeah. He showed me how to milk and all. And then after I grew up bigger, then I started to raise goats. When I was young. Then I wanted to buy a horse. So I had seven goats. And I told my dad, Dad, I want to buy a horse. This horse cost thirty-five dollars. So he tell me well, go sell your goats. So I sold them for thirty-five dollars. Seven of them. (Laughter.) And I bought the horse for thirty-five. You know. So I rode the horse for about...

LW: So what year would that be about?

JL: That was in the late '40's. The late 40's. Then came to the '50's and I still had the horse yet. Then she died. And then afterwards one of my friends gave me one horse. And I raised it from colt. Raised to big and you know...

LW: Trained it?

JL: I used to ride her in the rodeos and all. Yeah. We used to get hurdle jumps, you know. Down here at Hanapepe ball park. We used to get rodeos down there. And we used to get parades. Right in Hanapepe town we used to get parades. Oh, was terrific! Before. And then we made an arena in Kekaha. That was in the '60's already. So in '68... I think was in '68 or '67... I came All-Around Cowboy there. I beat the other guy by one second. (Laughter.) By one second, I beat him.

LW: So did you learn to work cattle with the horse when you were young or...

JL: Well I used to watch what my dad used to do. You know, with the cows. And he had only, as I say, he had only two cows. And then as I grew up and he gave up fooling around with cows, then I bought one cow and then I raised it and I'd buy a calf from the dairy. You know let it suck on this mother. So he get two calves sucking on the one mother, you know. And then often I used to milk her, too. Then I gave up with that and I got more cattle. I start raising more, you know. In the '60's... '70's... '70's I had about ten head already. I was raising about ten head. Ten to twelve, somewhere's around there. Then I keep getting more land, then I raised more cattle. Then in the '90's I got bigger. I raised more, you know. And when I retired, I went full force on them.

LW: On the raising cattle?

JL: So now... right now I have seventy-one mother cows. And I used to sell the calves all over here before. They liked my calves. My calves was all tame. I work with them plenty. I'm around them little more every day. Little more every day. Check them out. But then you get one pasture here, you get pasture there, so you get to full time, you know. And then they start buying cattle for...

LW: Here?

JL: Yeah. Then I used to raise for the freezers, too. Guys used to buy for the freezers. Hoo... huge size. Sometimes we used to sell about twenty a year. Fifteen a year. So was pretty good, going on. Then all of a sudden everything wen stop. Then they start shipping out cattle. People don't want to buy now. Because... I don't know... all of a sudden, they been stop buying freezer beef. 'Cause they go to Costco's, buy one chunk like this. They used to put them in the freezer. (Someone calls Jerry.) Just a minute.

LW: Okay, sure.

PAUSE for visit with Mr. Louis' friend.

JL: All right. Okay, So where did I left off?

LW: Let's see now. 'Cause we were talking about cattle and how people kind of stopped buying and...

JL: Yeah, yeah. They stopped buying so then I told my wife, well you know what? I think I'm going to start shipping out. Shipping my cattle out, you know. So I started shipping out.

LW: So how do you do that? With a group you go in a group or...

JL: Yeah but for what I was doing, I had one guy from... you know this Sakagawas... from Maui:

LW: Sakagawas... no, no... but go on.

JL: You don't know?

LW: No.

JL: But any way they buying cattle. And they buy weaners like that, you know. And they had their own feedlot...

LW: Wean offs. Buy wean offs.

JL: ...up in the mainland. So they started taking from me. Until this past month, the price jumped down. Yeah. Came down to forty, forty-five cents a pound. Where we was making about three hundred fifty, three seventy-five. Some we was making four hundred dollars per head. That was good, you know.

LW: That's just for the wean off?

JL: Just for the wean offs, yeah.

LW: So one wean off for three hundred, four hundred dollars.

JL: You make about four hundred bucks.

LW: Well, that's pretty good.

JL: Yeah. Good buy, you know. So we was doing all right. Until all of a sudden everything wen start dropping down. That's what the economy been. We got screwed, everybody got screwed. Terrible. So what I did was had couple of guys, they calling me up. Hey, Jerry, you get some animals for sell? I told them yeah, why? Oh, I want to buy some heifers. I tell well... let me go to check on my check list first. So I check, look all the ones just ready, you know. So I call him up, I tell him I have thirteen. Thirteen left. Okay, I'll take it.

LW: These are the calves, though, thirteen heifer calves?

JL: Heifer calves, yeah.

LW: Okay. You're not selling your mother cows?

JL: No.

LW: No, no, no.

JL: All the weaners. So he came over, picked it up. I gave him one price. A reasonable price, you know. A reasonable price. He was satisfied, I was satisfied. So they took the animals. Then somebody wanted for 4-H, so they called me up. Jerry... I tell yeah. I heard you got some tame cattle. I called this other guy, you know, Bobby Ferreira. You don't know him?

LW: I know the name but...

JL: He was in Hilo. He used to live in Honoka'a. I think he was in... or Waimea. Someplace around there. But any way...

LW: I know a cousin of his.

JL: He lives over here now. He used to run Kipukai Ranch. He used to run that ranch. So then. I told him yeah. Come look at it if you want. So he came look at it. Tame. Walk around, he tell me you know I can't believe it. I told him why? He told me I can walk right next to the cow, the steer right there. I can walk right next to him. And he doesn't even budge. I told him so you getting one good price now for this. (Laughter.) Yeah, so he told me he wanted two. So I ask for what you use this? He told me for the 4-H. So I tell him you know what, I'll knock off fifty bucks.

LW: Because it's for 4-H.

JL: Both of them I'll knock off fifty dollars apiece. So I gave him for three hundred. So they was satisfied. Then somebody else called up. Hey Jerry, you get heifers for sale? Oh no. I say okay, let me go look. I look at it but they wasn't ready yet, you know. So I told him, you know what... he called me in September... so I told him in November, almost they... anyway, in November would ready already. But I'm going to Texas because my grandson is getting married up there. So I'm taking a trip up there and coming back on the first week of December, so I'll call you when I reach the first week of December back. So he told me okay, okay. So he came down. I call him up. He tell me okay I'm going come down. So I separated them already. So he came down, he look at it. I gave him the price. Load them on his trailer, he's gone. He's gone. He's gone.

LW: Now when you first started selling calves, how much were they?

JL: They was about hundred eighty dollars... hundred twenty... hundred fifty dollars. When I first started selling. You know, to the guys around here.

LW: And when would that have been about? What year was it?

JL: In the '70's, yeah.

LW: Hundred fifty...

JL: Yeah. Hundred fifty dollars. Yeah. Was cheap, you know. Well, after everything been come over here sky high, everything wen start raising up. The beef cattle... I mean the weaners, they been stop shipping them out. So people hear that. So now if you want to buy one, you going pay the price that I could get if I shop them out, you know. But usually what I do, I cut it down. I leave a guy a break, you know.

LW: Yeah, local guy. Yeah.

JL: Local guys, you know. I give them a break I tell them this supposed to cost this much, but I'm going to give you this much.

LW: Yeah. Now the guy is on Maui, so he would come to Kaua'i and a bunch of you smaller ranchers would sell to him?

JL: Well, he used to buy only from me.

LW: Oh, here on Kaua'i.

JL: Yeah, because he raised cattle over here, too, see.

LW: Oh, I see.

JL: So I got a deal with him that he would take all my weaners. Well then when he called me up, he told me, hey, Jerry, I'm sorry but price went down to forty-five cents a pound. The most you going make maybe about two hundred... two hundred twenty-five dollars. I told him, oh shucks. So I figure on a four hundred pound animal. So I figure, that's a big loss, you know. So he told me well, if you can sell them around there, sell them. But when the price come up, I'd be willing to take them. Take the rest of them. If you have any.

LW: And then he ships them out of here?

JL: Yeah.

LW: Okay.

JL: What he does, he put them in his pasture over here. He have a pasture up Waialua side. He get one big pasture up there. He put them animals in there for about five, six months, then he load them up in a trailer, the big container. And he ship it to Maui. Then from Maui they put them in the feedlot over there. Or, they ship them right direct to the mainland.

LW: So there's a feedlot on Maui.

JL: Yeah. His own feedlot.

LW: His own. So not a real big operation. I guess Pono Von Holt has a feed... well not really a feedlot, but he's got pasturage closer to Hilo Harbor that the smaller guys bring their stuff there.

JL: Yeah, thy have one feedlot as soon as you come out from Hilo, eh.

LW: Yeah.

JL: Down on the side over there. They still have the feedlot there?

LW: I don't know. I'll have to ask. Right out of the harbor?

JL: Beg your pardon?

LW: Right by the harbor? Or where... out of Hilo?

JL: Out of Hilo. You're coming out of Hilo, already.

LW: Oh, yeah.

JL: As soon as you're making a big turn like that. Right down to the ocean.

LW: I think that's the one.

JL: They had one feedlot over there before. I don't know who used to run that.

LW: Who used to run it... I could find out.

JL: I don't know who run it.

LW: Yeah, I'd have to ask. Yeah, so when you... so you kind of had land to begin with... because your family's been here. Your great grandfather came here to Kaua'i.

JL: Yeah.

LW: And so when did he arrive?

JL: Beg your pardon?

LW: When did he arrive? Your great grandfather?

JL: I don't know... (laughter)... in the eighteens I guess. Must be in the eighteens.

LW: And where on Kaua'i did he settle?

JL: He was in Kapa'a side.

LW: Kapa'a side?

JL: Yeah. Kealia.

LW: Kealia.

JL: Yeah. That's where dad settled. Yeah, my dad was born over there. In Kealia.

LW: Kealia. And your great grandfather worked the ranch or worked...

JL: I think he was working one ranch. One small ranch, I guess. You know all these Portuguese before, they all had cattle.

LW: Yeah.

JL: They all used to get some land, you know. And they used to raise their own cattle. Like my grandfather on my mom's side, he had land, too. But then, they start selling the land,. Selling the land, selling the land so they end up with a portion of maybe about three acres. They end up with, you know.

LW: Yeah. So your mother... let's see... you mother was born here, Kaua'i.

JL: Born here in Kaua'i. Kapa'a.

LW: In Kapa'a. And her mother was...

JL: Her mother was born in Kapa'a, too.

LW: Okay.

JL: Came to Kapa'a, I guess they must have come from Portugal.

LW: Yeah. Okay. So both of sides of your family are from Portugal?

JL: Yeah. They all came from Portugal. I guess on the slow boat to China. (Laughter.)

LW: Slow boat around South America. Yeah. So your family's been here a long time.

JL: Yeah. Yeah. I was born and raised over here. Down at the valley... bumby I'll show you right from here, you can look up.

LW: So the land they owned they all kind of... somehow they got land in there somewhere.

JL: Yeah.

LW: And is that what you're grazing on now or...

JL: No. All lease land. From McBride property... McBride

LW: Oh, McBride property.

JL: Yeah, from sugar company. I used to work for them. Worked there for forty-three years. Just about forty-four years there I worked for them. From scratch to a welder. I just worked myself up the ladder, you know. But was hard. At the beginning it was hard, you know. You make about ninety cents an hour. Ninety cents an hour was, when I first worked at McBride's. Irrigator.

LW: And how old were you then?

JL: I was about seventeen years old.

LW: And did you kind of have some cattle then, when you were seventeen?

JL: No. No, no. Seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, just about nineteen years old then I started. But before that, let's say when I was a young boy. My mom and my dad used to get one cow. Two cows.

LW: So when did you buy the horse?

JL: Was in the early '50's.

LW: Early '50's. So but how old were you?

JL: Early '50's... I was born 1934, so, thirty-four, forty-four...

LW: Twenty. about twenty. Right, twenty.

JL: Eighteen... eighteen...

LW: Eighteen...?

JL: Yeah. Yeah.

LW: So what was your dad doing?

JL: My dad used to work in the power house. And when he used to get days off, he used to sell cars. He used to be a car salesman. Part-time, you know. Part-time.

LW: So where did that interest in the horse come? From your uncles or something?

JL: From my uncles, yeah. They used to ride. My uncles used to ride.

LW: Now is that you mother's brothers or your father's

JL: My mother's brother. Yeah. The other ones, they used to raise cattle, too.

LW: But it was really your mother's brother who rode and...

JL: Yeah.

LW: ...kind of got you interested in cattle.

JL: (Laughs.) Oh yeah.

LW: What was he like?

JL: Who?

LW: That mother's... your uncle... your mother's brother.

JL: Oh, he was a cowboy.

LW: Yeah? Who'd he work for?

JL: He was a cowboy. He used to work for a Chinese guy.

LW: Oh, no kidding.

JL: Yeah. But they used to work today, tomorrow they don't work. (Laughs.) And you know before days was... in those days, maybe they was getting about dollar an hour maybe, But they used to get, as I say, way back... Kapa'a town used get a lot of markets. Hanapepe town we had about five markets. In Hanapepe town. And we had fish markets. We had two fish markets in Hanapepe town. No kidding. And they used to

supply the people right over here. Island wide... I mean in Hanapepe town. And then in Kamakani used to get... the next town, yuh... outside of this. Any way it's a camp but Olokele. Plantation, they used to get one market over there, too. And then Waimea had a couple of markets. Maybe about four markets over there in Waimea. And they used to supply all that. In Kekaha they had markets over there, too, where the Kekaha Ranch used to run that market over there.

LW: So the beef went to those markets?

JL: Beg your pardon.

LW: The beef went in those markets?

JL: Yeah. So McBride used to get their own market. McBride had their own cattle, too. And they used to supply all this island. Over here. You know, in Hanapepe... Olokele... Kalaheo. Kalaheo had two markets, I think. Two or three markets in Kalaheo. And then...

LW: Wow, that seems like a lot, you know.

JL: Yeah. It is. And they used to... and once in a while... I forgot to tell you, I used to sell to the market down here. Chinese guy. He used to take. And then this Japanese market. They used to sell beef plus vegetables. They used to raise vegetables and all. It was Nonakas. They used raise vegetables and they used to sell them right in market over there.

LW: So who would butcher those cattle for those markets.

JL: We used to get a slaughter house. We used to get one in McBride. One slaughter house in McBride, then in Kalaheo they had one. Then Andrade's had one. Then in Lihue they had one by Puhi. They had one slaughterhouse there. Where used to kill the cattle for Puhi Ranch. Kipu Ranch. They used to kill cattle from there. That's why I said we had a lot of markets. Then all of a sudden when Big Save came in...

LW: They all went.

JL: Everything went blank. Everything went blank. Shut down. Shut down.

LW: So those little markets, that like five... what'd you say... there were a lot in each town,

JL: Right.

LW: They just went under. They couldn't keep going?

JL: Just they start closing up. 'Cause the people start going buying up there. You know. They used to take from the locals before. Big Save. But then all of a sudden they been stop taking. From the locals. They started getting this block beef from the mainland. I guess the butchers was kind of lazy, to handle one big chunk, you know.

LW: Oh.

JL You got to cut them on a saw and all that. I guess they must have been getting lazy already, so I guess they said... I don't know. I don't know.

LW: So let's see. It goes from the slaughter house. Local slaughter house gets your cattle.

JL: Right.

LW: Then it went to the butcher.

JL: Right.

LW: And the butcher is where?

JL: They cut it right there. They cut it right in the market.

LW: Oh the butcher's at the market?

JL: Yeah, he's right there in the back.

LW: Oh, I see.

JL: So if you want some steaks, you go over there. Oh, I want certain kind steaks. He cut it for you and right there he give it to you. Wrap it up in paper.

LW: Paper.

JL: Yeah. White paper, you know. He wrap it up in the paper. Put it on the scale. You pay whatever and you're out of there. That's how it used to be.

LW: Yeah.

JL: And we don't have the disease like what we're getting today. All this...(laughs.) We don't have that. They used to carry the cattle... I'll tell you the truth... in the back of one pickup like this. With banana leaves. Cut the banana leaves, you throw them down on the floor, because we no have this plastic canvases and whatnot.

LW: Right.

JL: Throw them on the floor. Throw all the beef on top. Cover it up with the banana leaves again and go down to the market.

LW: Take your beef from the slaughter house in your truck, down to the market.

JL: Right. Out in the open. We just driving right down there. Nobody get sick. Today, you do that they lock you up in jail. (Laughs.)

LW: Oh, no kidding. Health department. They won't let you do that?

JL: Yeah. That's why I said, it's terrible, terrible. I been look all these before. You know. I went through it. Ah, real life. And what you look through today, what was before I wish would come back again. I wish would come back again, you know.

LW: Yeah... simpler and...

JL: Yeah. I wish would come back the same way how it was again. But you got to take care of the people, you know. But, it came rough. Rough for all the people.

LW: It's kind of gone out of your hands.

JL: Yeah.

LW: It's gone off the island and...

JL: Right. Yeah. So they ship all these cattle to the mainland. This the best part of it. They ship these cattle to the mainland. They feed them up there. They slaughter it up there. Put them in blocks. Put them in the chill room. Ship it back to the Hawaiian Islands. That makes sense? Better make sense, right?

LW: No, it doesn't make sense.

JL: Yeah. So you paying the higher price, now. Because there's a middle man in between there, you know.

LW: Probably four middle men.

JL: Right, right, right, you know. (Laughs.) Unreal, unreal. I tell you, it's unreal.

LW: Yeah, so are there still a lot of guys doing what you're doing, then? Running...

JL: Cattle?

LW: Yeah.

JL: Yeah. There's pretty much ranchers yet. Running that. But not as much like before. Before had more. Maybe before you would raise about ten head of cattle. And you can sell two, three to the market. Then I raise ten head of cattle and sell two, three to the market. They used to take from everybody. The markets. As long as it's nice, you know. They take them from you.

LW: Yeah, and the income is kind of distributed among everybody.

JL: Right. Yeah. See like today, there's two big ranches. One in Wailua, and one in... Kipu... Ranch. This one is Spanish, this one is Japanese-Spanish. But they want to control us guys.

LW: Oh, is that right?

JL: Yeah so when you bring your cows to slaughter with them, you got to pay the slaughtering, they turn around and give you ninety cents a pound. Per pound. They give you ninety cents. So you end up maybe with three hundred fifty dollars, on one big animal. And plus you got to pay the slaughtering now.

LW: Oh, yeah. So it's less than the ninety cents per pound.

JL: We had ninety cents way back.

LW: Oh, really.

JL: Yeah, way back we was getting seventy-five, ninety... ninety was our... we went up to dollar. And when these two guys got in control, they take your animal for ninety cents a pound. If you like, you no like. Didn't matter.

LW: 'Cause... yeah.

JL: And then if they take the animal and it gets up to let's say nine hundred pounds, they tell you oh, too big. I cannot take it. Too big. We got to cut the weight down. But they going to cut hundred pounds down, so they get eight hundred pounds.

LW: Why would they do that?

JL: Okay, wait.

LW: Why is it too big. Doesn't fit somewhere or...

JL: It fits in their pocket. (Laughter.) That's how it goes. It fits in their pocket. They take the animal from you, they give you eight hundred pounds. They don't give you the nine hundred. They give you eight hundred. So they making hundred pounds profit. On you now. Plus, you got to pay the slaughtering over there. To them. Cost you about fifty bucks right now. For slaughter them. And then they don't... some of them, they don't give you the weight. Some of these guys, that are friends of mine that bring cattle to these guys, they just give them the bill without weight... what deduction... what they paid you. No more nothing at all. Nothing at all. Just one check to you. Here is your check. Here. Yeah. That's how terrible it is. One time, I call this guy up, this Spanish guy from the other side. I call him up.

LW: He's really from Spain? (Laughs.) When you say Spanish, what do you mean?

JL: They're Spanish people. You know get Portuguese, Spanish, Filipino...

LW: Oh, their families were from Spain.

JL: Yeah.

LW: But they're Americans now.

JL: They're American, yeah.

LW: Oh. Okay. Okay.

JL: Just say they from here.

LW: Oh, okay, okay.

JL: They're local born. We call them Spanish.

LW: Oh, okay. As opposed to Portuguese, huh?

JL: Yeah.

LW: Not Portuguese.

JL: No. They not Portuguese. Lucky. (Laughter.) So any way, I called him up one time. I had a cow that had trouble with her back end. So we wen push the thing back in and sewed it up. Nut I kept her for about a month and a half. And then I called the guy up, I told him hey, I got one cow. You like for hamburger? He tell me oh yeah, bring it. So I told him okay. So I brought it. Bring it to his house, to the slaughterhouse. Put the cow in the slaughterhouse, everything. Two weeks after, I call him up. Hey, Willard. Yeah. I tell him how much the weight was on that cow? He tell me what cow? He tells me that. And they all laughing in the back, now, these guys. I tell him what do you mean, what cow? The black cow that I brought to you with the long horns. I told you to keep the horns, I went up there pick it up on that morning that you wen kill the cow. He tell me oh, that one. Now I got to go home and look for the weight. Yeah. Okay. So I tell him tomorrow I'll call you back. So I called him back. I tell him how much was the weight. He tell me you know what, Jerry, I been sell it to the Filipinos. I been sell it to the Filipinos. So I figure well, okay. To the Filipinos would go about three hundred, four hundred dollars, you know. Okay. One week after he send me the check. So I looked at the check. Two hundred fifty dollars. Yeah, two hundred fifty dollars. I looked at the check. I called him up. I tell him Willard, he tell me yeah. This check, I'm disappointed. He tell me why? Why, what's wrong with the check? I tell what's wrong with the check? What the hell you talking about what's wrong with the check. Only two hundred fifty dollars for that cow? You must be sick. He tell me well, you know what, I been sell it to the Filipinos, for three hundred dollars, and then the Filipinos wanted to kill it, so I wen kill it and I took out fifty dollars more. I told him you don't take out money from my pocket, from my animal to pay for slaughter. You take it from the Filipinos, because they wanted to pay to slaughter. They wanted, not me. I tell him you know what, I gave him one F U. Four letter word. And I told him I don't want to deal with you any more. Because you a bloody crook. I told him straight like that. And I never did talk to him after that. Never. I never bring him no cattle. I told him if I got to sell cattle, I let it die in the pasture rather than give it to you, you crook. Yeah.

LW: Well he must be able to... because there aren't a lot of people doing what he's doing, he must be able to get people to come to him.

JL: Yeah.

LW: Kind of over the barrel head or whatever you call it.

JL: Right. Lot of guys they tell me about him. Stories, eh. I tell them, you guys should know. I tell you guys what he did to me, you guys should know. He tell but what I going do?

What I going do with my cows.

LW: Yeah.

JL: So that's the way they get you over the barrel already. You know? What are you going to do with them? Either you let them lie in the pasture or you make two hundred dollars of it.

LW: So how many ranches about your size do you think there are over here?

JL: I think would get maybe about... let's say would get one big ranch, second big ranch... third ranch... maybe in the fourth category. Maybe would be in the fourth.

LW: Your size ranch.

JL: Yeah.

LW: So the biggest one would be the first category.

JL: Yeah.

LW: So if you went down in size.

JL: Yeah.

LW: So how big is the first ranch?

JL: First one is in Princeville. Yeah. They're raising about maybe about three hundred head, four hundred head of cattle. In Princeville. And then they have Rice. Rice get about three hundred. Two fifty, three hundred. Maybe around there. Then this other Japanese guy, he get about... he get maybe about three hundred cattle. Two, three hundred head of cattle. That's only mother cows you're talking about.

LW: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And then there's some in between ranches and then... so how many guys are sort of at your size? How many other ranches?

JL: Maybe we get about three, four... maybe about three or four guys.

LW: And then a lot of people growing for their freezer.

JL: Oh well, no. They all shipping out, these guys.

LW: Oh, they're all shipping out now?

JL: Yeah.

LW: Mostly everybody's shipping out?

JL: Yeah. Mostly everybody ships out. Some guys they're raising maybe only about ten. Ten mother cows, they're shipping out.

LW: They're still shipping out.

JL: Only five weaners a month, every six months, yuh.

LW: So when about did the shipping out start?

JL: Beg your pardon?

LW: When did that shipping out start?

JL: When it started out over here?

LW: Yeah.

JL: I think it start in the '90's. Early '90's.

LW: '90's.

JL: I think it start. In the early '90's. Yeah. Maybe '80's... late '80's.

LW: Okay. And still in the '70's there were still those small markets and you were having your cattle slaughtered and then taking the beef to the market.

JL: Well this was in the '70's, yuh.

LW: Yeah.

JL: Yeah. Was in the '70's. I used to take them to the market. I used to sell them to the freezers. I used to sell them to the Filipinos. In the camps, like that. They used to buy it before.

LW: So would you drive around or did you have regular...

JL: No, no. Like the camp, in the Filipino camps, the Filipinos used to buy the whole cow. And then they kill them over there. Then they distribute the meat one pile for you...

LW: To their families.

JL: Yeah. For their families.

LW: But they would buy the live cow?

JL: They would buy it alive. Yeah.

LW: And they would slaughter them?

JL: They would slaughter them right there. Because you know, Filipinos they don't throw away nothing, you know.

LW: Yeah.

JL: They keep everything.

LW: Yeah my daughter's boy friend Filipino and...

JL: Oh yeah.

LW: ... his family on O'ahu has slaughter house, I think. But they even still do that on the Big Island, I think. Slaughter the cow in the back yard, kind of.

JL: Right, right. They used to kill them in the back yard. Right. Because even in Koloa I used to get one guy, he used to buy every so often when I get rid of the mother cows, I used to call him up and I used to take them down there. They used to kill them. But then different neighbors come in you know. They can't stand that. Call up the Board of Health.

LW: Yeah.

JL: But these guys no sell. He just buying this thing, he just distribute the meat out to the person. Because you buy so much, I buy so much, and he buy so much, you know.

LW: Yeah. Yeah.

JL: So they tried... they went, went, went until they stopped that.

LW: Yeah the Health Department tries to keep that under control. Yeah. 'Cause, that slaughtering them locally is not controlled enough for the... yeah. Well let's see. So in the '70's, so how many head did you have? That's before you retired. When did you retire?

JL: I retired in '95.

LW: '95. So that was before you retired.

JL: Yeah.

LW: So about how many ... I mean how big an operation did you have then?

JL: Oh, not that big. Would be maybe about twenty cows. In the '70's... '75 so would be about twenty cows.

LW: Yeah now if you had to, if you're running cattle, right, you always have to manage your pasture.

JL: Right.

LW: So was it close enough for you to... I mean just over here or...?

JL: I used to manage it. They were right by Waiowa Bridge, you know?

LW: No, but...

JL: No, you don't know that. (Laughs.) Any way, I have one pasture that is forty, almost fifty acres, that's down in one valley. And the other valley right over here by the... how you came down?

LW: I came from Kalaheo.

JL: Okay, from Kalaheo up this side.

LW: Yes.

JL: You came from the main drag this way?

LW: Yeah.

JL: Okay. You know when you're coming down the hill?

LW: Yeah.

JL: Okay, get one bridge right there, right?

LW: Yeah.

JL: Okay. Below that I raise cattle down there.

LW: Oh, I see, I see.

JL: Yeah. I raise cattle down there.

LW: And that's McBride lease?

JL: Yeah. McBride property. I get just about seventy-five acres down there. And then by Kalaheo... Brideswood... as soon as you pass Kalaheo, there's a junction that you turn off... instead of coming straight down to where you came from. There's the mac nuts trees over. Ulupua Road.

LW: Oh.

JL: I get cattle up there, too. Yeah, maybe hundred and four acres up there. But not in all grazing now because the trees, The trees just got going, you know. And then oil prices just came up, so I stopped

cleaning. So what I do I just take care one good section where I can raise my cattle in. The rest is trees that's overgrown.

LW: So what do you have to do to take care of that land?

JL: I have to shred them.

LW: Shred them...

JL: Shred them with the mower. One mower.

LW: Oh, the tree or...?

JL: Yeah.

LW: Got a big mower.

JL: They come around this big, the trees, you know.

LW: Yeah.

JL: Then I just mow them down. But there's a lot of grass around, though. Lot of guinea grass. So takes about... just about four months before they come back up to this size again.

LW: About three feet.

JL: Yeah. Yeah. So I shred them all down. Then it last for about three, four months.

LW: And then you just let the cattle maintain the grass?

JL: Yeah. Yeah.

LW: But you got to get in there and mow down those trees.

JL: Yeah. Yeah. It's a job, you know. But, I got to do it. Even the fuel price was up. But you know, I had to do it otherwise I lost control of it. So that's the biggest problem.

LW: "Cause the cattle won't go in there if there are trees?

JL: They won't eat it.

LW: Oh. They just won't eat the trees.

JL: No. No. They won't eat it. It's a pain in the butt. (Laughs.) It is. I tell you. But, what you going do with them. You got to do it, you got to do it.

LW: So do you ever like rotate your cattle? Some of the guys on Hawai'i...

JL: Yeah, I rotate. What I have, I have mainly... I like show you one paddock like this. Then I had one more paddock right next to this. And a fence right here. A fence line right round here. And this one here, there's a fence right around here. There's one more over here. Fence around with a gate way down here.

LW: Okay.

JL: And when I move the cattle. If I keep them one week in here, I'm going to shift them to this side. So I just open the gate, call them, and they shift to this side. Then if I want to move it down this side, I call them again after one week. I shift them down this side. And then I shift them down this side. If you want to buy cattle from me, I get them right close to the corral already. One shift, then they got to pass through the corral, so when they pass through the corral, I lock them up right there.

LW: So how do you keep them real tame?

JL: I'm always there.

LW: You're just there a lot.

JL: Yeah. And then when I keep my mother cows, I always watch the calves.

LW: Okay. What do you mean watching them?

JL: Just checking. Which one is more tame than the other one? Because there's certain ones that they kind of shy.

LW: Oh.

JL: That ones I put them on the side. I sell that.

LW: First, the shy ones first.

JL: Yeah, for freezer. For freezer or I ship them out.

LW: Whatever... yeah.

JL: The other ones that tame, I put them on the side. Then I have them bred up. Then I keep them for mother cows. So when the mothers is tame, the calves going to be come around...

LW: Tame?

JL: Yeah, they going come tame because their mothers don't bother them. The mothers come close to you and I can walk right in my corral, feed them, what not.

LW: They don't get skittish.

JL: No. They don't kick, no nothing. Because I don't use a shock on them.

LW: Yeah or a hullabaloo or...

JL: I just hold one stick like this. And come on, come on. And over right there. Sometime my wife and I just separate the cows.

LW: On foot?

JL: On foot. Yeah. No horses inside. When I brand, then I get all the boys come and help me.

LW: Uh huh. Those are the boys... like these boys... other guys who ride and...

JL: They ride and they brand. It's just that when I call them. I have the cattle all in the corral now. No chasing out there.

LW: Yeah.

JL: Let the cattle out, you know.

LW: Yeah. That's supposed to make better beef.

JL: Right.

LW: No chasing.

JL: Yeah. I have them all in the corral. Then we separate the cows from the calves. Put the cows in one pen. Leave the calves in one pen. Then we take one at a time.

LW: With the horse... on horseback?

JL: On horseback. And we brand.

LW: And you brand.

JL: Yeah.

LW: And vaccinate and...

JL: We vaccinate them...

LW: What other...

JL: They worm them.

LW: Worm them... that's it.

JL: But usually when I worm them, if I'm going to sell it to you or I'm going to ship them out. Then I worm all them. That's how I do it. So my cows is not that wild. They're not wild. Few that came out kind of shy but I don't bother with them, you know. But they bring me calves so I don't worry about them. The main thing I got them in the corral. That's the way I feel, you know.

LW: Yeah. Now why is that? What do you mean, main thing you got them in the corral?

JL: No, you see when they're shy, sometimes they're out in the pasture like that they stay with their head like this. So now if I'm going to bring them to the corral, they going to follow the other cows inside. If one stay in there, that's mine. So that's how I operate with them. I watch what I do... you know.

LW: Keep them... yeah.

JL: Keep them tame. Some, as I say, they're shy. But I just don't bother with them. As long as I get them in the corral, and take their calf away when it's ready. Go breed some more, bring me one more calf.
(Laughs.)

LW: So they stay about a week in the pasture.

JL: Yeah. Usually what I do, I keep them about a week in the paddock. One paddock. Then I shift them right around.

LW: And so two weeks... each pasture sits for about two weeks?

JL: Yeah.

LW: And that's good.

JL: Yeah. so I get four paddocks. Five, five actually. Yeah, five paddocks. Actually.

LW: And that's...

JL: So I shift them right around.

LW: Oh, okay. I see. Yeah. Now do you have to supplement? On the Big Island, the grasses doesn't have much magnesium or...

JL: Nourishment?

LW: Yeah. Do you nourish them?

JL: Well you see, like up here, used to be cane land. And then they went to macadamia nuts. They used to put that lime in the ground before. Yeah. They used to put lime in the ground. So the nourishment is here.

LW: Oh, I see, I see. Well you got soil here.

JL: Yeah.

LW: We don't have soil some...

JL: Only where the problem is, is on the mountainside. I used to have a pasture by Halfway Bridges... up

LW: Oh... yeah.

JL: Well any way, where the quarry is Halfway Bridge, up in the mountain. Before the Wai Ele'ele side. You can see the land. I used to get a pasture up there. I kept it for about three years, I think. Then I used to get problems with my neighbor. My cows always used to go inside his pasture. But wasn't my cows going into his pasture. His cows was coming in my pasture. Broke the fence, and taking my cows into his pasture. Because he had his pasture like one golf course. My grass was like this.

LW: Oh.

JL: I had a few cattle up there. And we used to get problems, so the cattle no used to get the nourishment up there. From the grass. But they used to stay up there about three months, then I'd take them off and I'd move them back down here. If they stay up there three months, they lose weight. I can see they losing weight and whatnot so what I do, I haul the whole thing down and I throw them down here. Three months time, they back to normal again.

LW: Wow.

JL: I throw them back up there, same way again.

LW: They lose weight. So you don't... you quit using it up there or...

JL: No nourishment in the grass. No lime, you know. They had that soil in the ground up There, used to get kind of just like acid. Rusty... rusty dirt, just like.

LW: Oh, yeah, yeah.

JL: So I gave up. I gave up. Told the guys I don't want it. 'Cause they wanted to raise it up sixty dollars. I was paying about twenty something dollars an acre. They wanted to raise it up to sixty. I told them you know what? Keep the place. I don't want it.

LW: Yeah, doesn't do good for the...

JL: So I left it there.

LW: Yeah.

JL: That pasture when I first moved in there, they had trees. Oh my God. I cleaned it all. Hard job, you know. Clean them all and everything. Put it up to planting grass and all that.

LW: What kind of grass do you like to plant?

JL: I plant Pangola.

LW: Pangola?

JL: Pangola grass, yeah. But then, after three years I found out I'm losing. It's a losing battle up that area. That's why. And then you get one problem with one neighbor that doesn't fix fence, you got to fix fence, you know. Baloney. Now I'm all alone. I fix my own fence. They broke, I'm there. So when I have big jobs to fix fence like that, I used to call my friends. They used to come and help me. And my wife helps me, too. So now, everything is all built around. Only what I just do is repair. In case he broke, I repair.

LW: I was on Kapapala Ranch, a big ranch... old ranch. Down Ka'u way. Down the south part of the Big Island. And it's so big, he couldn't keep up on his fences.

JL: Oh yeah.

LW: Yeah. He's gone now but his daughter is working that ranch.

JL: Who is that? That's dakine... Lani, huh?

LW: Yeah.

JL: Okay. We know her real good. Oh yeah, she's a good friend of ours. My stepson used to work for him. When they was running that meat packing company. He was working for them.

LW: Oh that... Value Added Meat thing.

JL: Yeah, yeah.

LW: Whatever it was.

JL: Yeah. Yeah. But their grandson, my stepson used to work for him. Yeah. He was supposed to come back to Kaua'i and run his own meat market up here. By that... Olokele. They had one meat market and it was closing down. So we was going take it over and he was coming down to run the market. Because he went up there to train, you know. But Christmas... before Christmas Day he got into an accident. Down at Kona. You know that road going around the hotels... where hotels is... get the ocean... with the small...

LW: Oh, Banyan Drive In Hilo? Not in Hilo.

JL: No, no, no. Not in Hilo. In Kona side.

LW: Oh, Kona side. Oh Ali'i Drive?

JL: Must be the ocean road.

LW: Ali'i Drive, I think that's called.

JL: Yeah. He bang the telephone post. This guy pushed him off the road. Him and his friend died.

LW: Oh Gosh.

JL: Yeah. After Christmas he was supposed to come back.

LW: Oh, golly. Oh, I'm sorry.

JL: Yeah. So Lani and I and my wife, they're real good friends. We was up there when Gordon died.

LW: Oh yeah?

JL: Yeah. We was there. Maybe I saw you there.

LW: Yeah, maybe.

JL: Yeah.

LW: No actually for his memorial, I was on the mainland. I...

JL: Oh, you was on the mainland.

LW: Yeah. But my I'm pretty sure the gal who's going to transcribe this tape. She went. She's my friend who knew the Crans. She knows the Crans real well.

JL: Oh.

LW: Yeah. I know Jon through Gladys. But yeah, like Jon's going to help me with some of these other guys I don't know too well. But any way... yeah... so let me think now. I was thinking about you guys. So in the '70's, ranching at the smaller ranches seemed to be going pretty good guns.

JL: Yeah. Was coming good.

LW: Yeah. So in the '70's then, how were you different at your size than let's say the bigger ranches?

JL: Well, they always was bigger.

LW: Yeah.

JL: Yeah.

LW: You guys were a little different, and what made you like that size? What was different about your size ranch? There were a lot of you and you were doing good business and...

JL: We never had enough money to lease more land.

LW: Oh.

JL: And we couldn't get too much land from the plantation at that time. So you leased just one small portion. And then afterwards, when they throw away certain fields of sugar cane, then you lease that. That's how it was. Yeah.

LW: So since the plantation was still operating...

JL: Right.

LW: They didn't want to give up too much of their land.

JL: Yeah. The only land that we could get was valleys. Where they cannot plant cane.

LW: Yeah.

JL: Yeah. You see way back, they used to raise cattle in there. McBride. They used to raise cattle in these valleys. But then they let it go after they gave up. The economy... I mean not economy but... that's when Big Save was coming in and whatnot. And then, the market wen start slowing down. People wasn't buying from them. They go buying from the big stores, you know. So then McBride gave up raising cattle.

Then Medeiros Farm took over. They took over the place for maybe about four years, I think. But it was only, as I say, they was only eating from the land and not taking care of it. So when I moved in there, I had a lot help, a lot to do. There's a lot of people that does that. They throw cattle, throw cattle, throw cattle. Once they... the cattle is all... the land is all with rubbish. They just move out and give up the place. You know. Yeah. But me... I always take care of my property. Always take care.

LW: By cutting the trees and...

JL: Cleaning. I got a bulldozer. With small bulldozer, you know. I get my shredders.

LW: Bulldozer... what do you do with the bulldozer?

JL: I clean the pastures. Clean pastures.

LW: You just...

JL: Yeah.

LW: What do you need a bulldozer for? Just to push stuff or...

JL: Just push the trees. Wham... was all bad. So I bought this tractor. And I use it to clean all the pastures. But now that I get them all clean. Now I just shred them. I just shred it. More easy now, yuh. I just go with the rubber tire machine.

LW: Oh. So what's the tractor with the bulldozer. Is it with the chain or what is it?

JL: Tracks.

LW: Tracks.

JL: Tracks. Yeah.

LW: And it just...

JL: Oh yeah, you just push, you know. You get a tree over there... (makes sounds)... (Laughter.) I like it. I like it. I used to enjoy it. Yeah. Even now I enjoy go shredding.

LW: And then after you've pushed it down you can take in the rubber tractor with the shredders and...

JL: Yeah. After the grass start growing, if get rubbish that grow, I just mow it down. Until all the good grass grows and then spray it and whatnot, you know.

LW: You spray for weeds?

JL: Yeah. Spray for bad weeds, you know. So it's pretty rough life. Yeah.

LW: Well, Pasture management is a big part of being a cattleman.

JL: Yeah. Right.

LW: And...

JL: The biggest problem, you know.

LW: Yeah. You got to take care of your land.

JL: Oh yeah. If you don't take care, that's less cattle you can raise, you know.

LW: Yeah.

JL: So the more you clean, the more area you get for the cattle to raise. And then it's easier for you to check your cattle every time. Instead of wilding out.

LW: Hidden somewhere... hiding.

JL: Hey, someplace, you know.

LW: Yeah...

JL: Oh, the beginning when I first start raising cattle, down at that valley, they used to come out. And you know when they younger, you want to go roping and all, yuh? So I used to call my friends. Hey, I get cattle out. Okay, we coming down. Coming down... chase cattle... oh my God... through the fence they run. (Laughs.) Then you got to go next day you got to go fix the fence you know.

LW: Because you were chasing them from horseback?

JL: Yeah. Yeah. We got to bring them back in the pasture, you know. So I no care where you chasing them, but as long as you see them, you going to rush them to the fence, you know. Let them go back in. Was rough, I tell you. But good fun, you know. Good fun but those days are over so now I just call them. Blow the horn from the truck. They all follow me to the next paddock. Or they come down to the corral. I feed them. That's what I do.

LW: So when you were younger and did you have to do a lot more horse work on the...?

JL: Oh yeah. More horse riding before. Now I hardly ride. Hardly ride. After I operated my knee, I got a knee replacement, yuh. So I stayed off for about two years without riding. Then I went back for over three months I rode. Ah...

LW: Too rough?

JL: I got a four wheeler after that. (Laughter.) Oh my...

LW: Well you know, you wonder. I mean you were really good in rodeo, but you had to learn that. Did you practice just for rodeo or did you learn that working your cattle?

JL: Working cattle. too. Yeah. Then I started rodeo. Good fun, you know. Everybody get together, have a good time after the rodeo. Oh it was good. Everybody compete against each other, you know.

LW: Yeah, it's healthy. Healthy fun.

JL: All good friends, though. All good friends. No arguments, no nothing, you know.

LW: Oh, that's nice.

JL: Yeah. Was good. Was good.

LW: So do you think... like let's say your typical day, when you were working your cattle... what would that be like?

JL: Typical day...

LW: Well, let's see. I mean would you go out and visit your cattle after work or how did you work it? On the weekend or...?

JL: After work... After work I used to go and check them and all. After work.

LW: And you'd take your horse with you?

JL: Yeah. I used to ride my horse and check all the fence lines.

LW: On the horseback?

JL: On horseback, yeah. I used to check the fence line. No problem. And then when I used to see the fence broken, well I come back, pick up the truck. Go back there fix it. Or carry the barbed wire with you on the side of the horse and...

LW: Ai...

JL: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

LW: I'm sure the horse didn't like that.

JL: Well, we put it in the bag. You know... put it in the bag.

LW: And just for repair.

JL: Yeah.

LW: So did you learn how to train horse from...

JL: I just trained my own. My uncle trained my first horse. The second horse I got. My uncle rode him for a while. And then I took over. And then I rode him. Then I used to ride him in the arena. I used to ride him for parades and we used to get the...

LW: And that's your mother's brother. Your uncle.

JL: That's my mother's brother.

LW: And he worked on the... where did he work again?

JL: He used to be in Kapahi.

LW: Oh, okay. But on the ranch there?

JL: Yeah. Yeah.

LW: And he was a full-time ranch hand.

JL: Full-time ranch hand. Yeah. Yeah.

LW: So about when would he have started working for that ranch?

JL: I have no idea. I have no idea.

LW: Before the war?

JL: Yeah. I have no idea. When he started. Because I was a young boy yet.

LW: Yeah. What was he like? That uncle.

JL: He was good. He was a good uncle. He used to like me, you know. He used to like me and he used to show me all his tricks.

LW: Oh yeah?

JL: Yeah, yeah. He used to show me all his tricks.

LW: Like what? Just...

JL: Like fooling around with horses and whatnot. Roping and all that. But I was young yet. Maybe that's the reason why I went into raising cattle maybe. All that... and my dad. From my dad, too. So it was all right.

LW: Now the Cattlemen's Association wanted me to focus on you as a cattleman. You know.

JL: I was in the Cattlemen's Association.

LW: And I know you think of yourself as a cattleman.

JL: Right.

LW: So if you were to tell like one of your nephews what was important about being a good cattleman, what would you tell them?

JL: My nephews:

LW: Yeah.

JL: Oh.

LW: To tell these young guys who are coming up, and they wanted to be a cattleman, what would tell them was the best... important things to do as a cattleman?

JL: Well right now, for my thinking right now, anybody want to raise cattle today, I wouldn't advise them.

LW: No. You'd just not...

JL: Yeah. I wouldn't advise them. Raising cattle today. I wouldn't. I hate to say it but...

LW: Yeah.

JL: But, yeah, I wouldn't advise them today.

LW: Well, let's say one of these boys, though, you know they come to you and say what makes doing what I do really good? What do you do that makes you be a really good cattleman?

JL: Taking care your cows real good. That's the main source about it. Taking care of your cattle. Make sure they tame and you appreciate them. You got to do that. Otherwise, you'll get cattle that's running over you and jumping over you and if you don't bother with them... like some ranchers I see, they don't bother with the animals, they just rope them and they go in the corral chasing them from here to there. I don't stand for that. First one does that to me I kill them. (Laughs.) I cannot stand that. But so far I get no problems with them. I get no problem with my animals because the way I work with them. Yeah.

LW: It's kind of a give and take.

JL: Yeah.

LW: You work with them and they know you.

JL: Right, right.

LW: They're not jumping over you.

JL: No. I'll just talk to them and talk to them.

LW: Do you think that makes better beef?

JL: Yeah because they're not climbing palis and mountains and whatnot. You know what I mean? Because they just moving around and they not wild. They not wild. When they wild, I guess you might calve more. Hard beef on them, you know. That's why now they got to tenderize them... so, so long before. (Laughs.) Then they say hoo... this beef is soft. But you don't know how long they been tenderizing this. You know. (Laughs.) You might get an old cow. (Laughs.)

LW: Oh, boy.

JL: Yeah.

LW: I know, I know. Yeah. Well do these younger guys ever come borrow your equipment so they can take care of their pasture, too, or do they ever come and say, Uncle, can you help me make my land better?

JL: My nephews don't have nothing. They don't raise cattle.

LW: They don't want to?

JL: No. No.

LW: But these other young guys like friends... younger...

JL: Friends, like that?

LW: Yeah.

JL: Well, if they don't have the equipment I go over there and help them out. But if anything happen to the equipment, they're responsible.

LW: Yeah.

JL: That's what I tell them. Or I go do it.

LW: Yeah, yeah. But do you think they look to you for advice ever, those younger guys?

JL: Yeah. Some of them when they buy the calves from me, I always advise them what to do. And they come back after a while, a month or so. Hey, that cows is running right back in the corral now, eating my grain. I tell them good for you. Good for you. I tell them because when you want to catch them, you don't have to get forty, fifty guys help you. You just go alone, put them in the corral. Then you get somebody else to come help you and load them in the trailer. No problem. That's the way I do mine, you know. So I advise them that whenever they buy cattle from me.

LW: Wow, isn't that interesting. You know who is kind of like that? Soot Bredhoff.

JL: The what...?

LW: Did you ever know a guy that... he's on Maui now. His name is Soot Bredhoff. Soot...

JL: From where?

LW: He ran... Kahuku.

JL: Kahuku Ranch.

LW: For a long time.

JL: No, I don't know him.

LW: But he's on Maui now.

JL: Oh yeah.

LW: But he used to do that... walk around in the cattle and stuff...

JL: Oh yeah.

LW: Yeah. And then there are some smaller operations on Hawai'i that went in for that. Getting the cattle to know you kind of stuff.

JL: Yeah.

LW: But not Parker.

JL: No.

LW: Parker doesn't do that.

JL: Parker Ranch, no. They...

LW: Too big.

JL: I guess they no more the time, you know. Too big ranch, you know. Too big, Parker Ranch. A lot of these big ranchers, they cannot be like us, what we do. Us... we get the time to do it. They don't have the time to do it... they get maybe thousand acres... to be fooling around with cattle. And when you going get the cattle they got to get maybe fifteen, twenty horseback riders to bring the cattle in. And when they bring them in the corral, they bumping them here, bumping them there. So the next time you go there for them, they're going to get bad time. They going to learn they going to get bad time so...

LW: 'Cause that's how they know is by you bumping around them.

JL: Yeah. So this other way. I go out there, I call them. Sometime I go with the truck. One time we had branding down there in the valley. Camp Five. I call that pasture Camp Five. And I told the boys hey, you know what, let's get together, we go down there, we go drive the cattle up. Okay, shoot. We went. Had five of us, I think. Not one head of cattle been come in the corral. They was... whoosh... I tell you, you know what? Tomorrow I going come alone. The next day I went down, came from the bottom section, blew the horn. The cows follow me all up to the corral. (Laughs.) Then I call them up I tell them hey, I got them all in the corral. Okay, we're coming. Okay then. I don't forget that story. Yeah. That time, oh, my God. They tell me, you unreal. I tell them well what I going do? That's how it is. But I just wanted to give the boys a break, you know. Well, let's go drive my cattle. Not one. Not one. Even the oldest cow never come in. (Laughs.)

LW: Well they're not stupid, I guess, huh?

JL: No. No. They not stupid. Because I used to bringing them up, yuh. In the truck, you know. And they follow me right behind the truck. Follow me right to the corral. Go in the corral. They all follow me in. I throw some feed in the corral. I get some troughs. They eat all that. They come right inside, I go outside, I close the gate. I get them all in the corral. Yeah.

LW: Yeah so then you call the guys. Okay, come back...

JL: Okay, you guys can come in. Now is the same way, too. Until now... yeah... I do it the same way.

LW: But when you brand, you roping them and...

JL: Yeah.

LW: ...and bring them down and...

JL: Yeah. Knock them down and brand them and castrate them.

LW: Yeah, whatever you do.

JL: Castrate them, put the ear tags on. We do all that. We do all that. The old style. Yeah, we do all that. So the boys enjoy themselves, you know.

LW: Yeah. Well you got to keep up your horse and your roping and...

JL: Oh yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

LW: And horse skills and stuff. On Hawai'i, on the Big Island there, it's kind of a social thing. Then you feed everybody afterwards. It's kind of a social event.

JL: Yeah, yeah. That's what we do.

LW: And the little kids come. Or the teenagers come because they can knock the calves down or...

JL: Right.

LW: They can fill the syringes or whatever. Yeah, everybody kind of participates.

JL: Yeah.

LW: And the itty bitties at least stand around and...

JL: They bring their children with them.

LW: ...yell and have fun and run around and...

JL: ...and their grandchildren. They bring them with them. You know.

LW: Yeah. So nobody in the next generation in like your whole big family, like your wife's side, your side... nobody?

JL: No. Nobody.

LW: Golly.

JL: Yeah.

LW: That's because...

JL: They always tell me it's too hard job. Told them yeah, it's hard job. The beginning was hard. Now it's easy. Now I just get everything controlled. Only odds and ends that you got to do. You know.

LW: Yeah.

JL: So it's that bad now. Boy, the way it was at the beginning, when you first get started, pushing up fences and buying wire...

LW: Clearing land... oh, buying water.

JL: Buying wire.

LW: Oh, wire.

JL: Me, I put in posts so...

LW: Where's the water on your pastures?

JL: I beg your pardon?

LW: Water on your pastures?

JL: From in the valley.

LW: Oh, it's in the valley.

JL: Yeah.

LW: 'Cause the valley has running water.

JL: Yeah.

LW: Oh.

JL: And then certain time they... like Camp Five... Wahiawa Valley, that one they get steady water down through there. Then Kawaihaka (phonetic) one, that other valley, the time they irrigate... when they irrigate the water come down. So what I do I have one, two... four tanks. Four water tanks that I pump water from the ditch. I pump it and fill it up all in the tanks. So whatever excess go down, they drink that water. Then when don't have water in the ditch, then what I do, I got the floaters, you know, all through the water troughs. Then they drink water right in the corral.

LW: So did you have to build those tanks?

JL: Well, the tanks I bought the tanks from McBride when they was closing down already. Then I bought the tanks from them.

LW: When did McBride close down?

JL: In six... '95.

LW: '95...

JL: Yeah. When I retired. I retired in '95, June, July, August, September, I was supposed to get out in June. I was supposed to retire in June. Then they told me oh Jerry, can you stay a couple of months more? Or you want to stay until sixty-five? I tell them uh.. uh. Couple a months more I stay on to help you guys. I'll stay back until you find a replacement for me. I'll stay back till September. Then they shut down the sugar mill. They went into court. They shut down the sugar in '94. '94... '95. They had the coffee going. But they got rid of all the sugar cane and what not, you know, so whatever tanks they had that never was going to use them, so I bought the tanks from them.

LW: Did you just you left them in place or did you have to move them or... ?

JL: No... I just leave them. I just sat them on the high... you see the... where my pasture is in Pohaka, comes flat like this, and she come so what I do I put the tanks above here.

LW: Oh, I see.

JL: So I get gravity flow... drain them.

LW: Oh, smart, that.

JL: So I pump the water from the ditch, fill it up in the tank. One tank, two tanks, three tanks, four tanks... I fill them all up. Some we catch the rain water. I get a big shade down there that I put my equipment in. I got a big shade. Bigger than this house, you know.

LW: Oh, no kidding.

JL: Yeah.

LW: And then do you take the runoff from that?

JL: Yeah. Then I take the run off water, and plus I pump from the ditch. So whatever tanks is empty I fill them up from the ditch.

LW: So when the plantation was running cattle in the valleys, they were depending on that running water?

JL: They was planning on that running water. Used to run steady before because you know when they used to irrigate the sugar cane, the water used to run always. Steady, down that valley. Always used to run water when they irrigate.

LW: Where were they getting the irrigation water?

JL: From Wai... I mean Alexander Dam.

LW: Oh.

JL: From Alexander Dam.

LW: And the water would run down into the...

JL: Yeah.

LW: ...the valleys.

JL: Then when they used to get a lot of water, they used to pump water from this power houses stay down here. Two. Way back. Bumby I show where the power houses was.

LW: Okay.

JL: And they used for pump water up the road, up the valley, pump it right to the New Mill and used to get reservoirs. They used to get reservoirs. They used to fill up the reservoirs and from the reservoirs they used to distribute the water out. Then above this ditch up here, they used to bring the water from above Kalaheo. Now from the dam. Whatever water comes down, they used to throw it in the reservoir. This reservoir feeds

this one. This one feeds this one, until they fill up all the reservoirs. Then this reservoir irrigate this section field, this one operate that section. And that's how they had them distributed all around.

LW: So they ran cattle upland and in these valleys, the ranches did?

JL: Yeah, they used to run cattle.

LW: I mean the plantations did?

JL: Yeah. They used to run cattle way back over there.

LW: Let's see so the beef, the cows... the plantation beef... was for who?

JL: They used to get their own markets. But we plantation employees used to go buy over there.

LW: At the market?

JL: At the market.

LW: At the plantation market.

JL: Us we used to get canned goods and whatever, vegetables and whatnot, you know.

LW: Yeah. Was it cheaper at the plantation market?

JL: Oh, yeah. Oh yeah. Was cheaper. All the prices from down here was same thing. Was reasonable prices. We had reasonable prices. They used to get their own service station, too, right at the market. In McBride, they used to get their own service station. If you want to buy gas. Then you can charge your gas.

LW: Oh. Yeah. 'Cause you're an employee.

JL: Yeah. If you want to go to the market, you want to buy meat or whatever, you can charge it if you want. Then end of the month they take it out from your paycheck. All cash, used to be. Yeah. Except you have to stand in line. Go to the office, the main office. Stand in line. They give one envelope about this wide. About this high. With your money inside. Yeah. Then they get the deductions. And what you had buy, you know...

LW: So you walk out with cash?

JL: Yeah. All cash. Never had one robbery. Nobody wen rob nobody. (Laughs.)

LW: I notice the gal I'm staying with she doesn't lock her house.

JL: Who?

LW: My friend down in Kalaheo. She doesn't lock her house in the day.

JL: Oh yeah?

LW: Now, even. I guess you guys are nicer to each other. (Laughs.)

JL: You got to be friendly with your neighbors, you know.

LW: Especially in this place, so small.

JL: Because you don't know when your neighbor can help you.

LW: Yeah. It's so true.

JL: And they watch your place. If you not home they watch it. Anybody comes in the driveway, they take down the license number.

LW: So you must feel that ranching is kind of in your blood, you know.

JL: It's in there.

LW: Yeah. I mean it must be kind of sad to be the last one in a way.

JL: Yeah.

LW: Maybe the grandkids will want to do it. Do they?

JL: My daughter is in Texas. And she raises a few head of cattle.

LW: Oh, that's good.

JL: Yeah, she get about five, I think. And she sells it up to the freezer guys, who want to buy freezer maybe.

LW: Yeah. But nobody else? None in cattle?

JL: No, no. Nobody else. Yeah, I just thought of that, that daughter up there now. And she raise few head. Well they got to raise because they get pretty good property there. They bought up there. Her and her husband bought cattle up there and they got to put cattle inside. Otherwise their taxes going be higher.

LW: Oh, I see. Yeah.

JL: You know how it is.

LW: Got to be ag land or something.

JL: Ag land. Yeah, yeah.

LW: Well...

JL: You want to drink a soda or something?

LW: Sure. You can...

JL: A diet soda?

LW: Yeah, that's good. Yeah. Oh my goodness.

JL: You want a glass for it?

LW: Oh, it doesn't matter. I can drink out of a can. Thank you.

JL: You're welcome.

LW: That's great. Yeah, all going to be city people in the end. Or something.

JL: Yeah.

LW: And that's kind of like the local economy, you know where local people are growing and you know stuff like that it's kind of like... I don't know. Local economy is kind of disappearing. Well some people are interested in it. I don't know what to think.

JL: Well I heard yesterday... we got one new Mayor now, after Baptiste died.

LW: Oh, right.

JL: So we get one different Mayor now. Bernard Carvalho. I heard him talking about how he's going to try bring back truck farming and help the cattle people over here, the cattle ranchers.

LW: Really?

JL: Yeah. Bring back what we used to get before.

LW: Yeah so what would that be?

JL: It would be let's say, bring back one market. Or two markets.

LW: Yeah.

JL: Or make big Save, Cost You Less or wherever...

LW: Buy local.

JL: Local beef, at least twenty percent or thirty percent. Yeah. They got to buy local beef. Then not too bad.

LW: Yeah.

JL: Then we can go right back into raising cattle. You know for slaughter.

LW: Yeah.

JL: And build one central slaughterhouse. You know something like that they have it in Honoka'a. They have it in Honoka'a someplace.

LW: Above Honoka'a, I think.

JL: Yeah, yeah. They get a meat packing company.

LW: Yeah. It's not Andrade... or is it Andrade?

JL: What's his name now? Aw shucks. Just the other night I was watching them. They had it on TV. They were showing it.

LW: Yeah. Let's see... Nobriga?

JL: Nobriga.

LW: Is it Nobriga?

JL: No. Nobriga is the ice cream, yuh.

LW: Oh.

JL: In Maui.

LW: Well we got Nobrigas, but I can't remember who's got the smaller slaughterhouse. You'll think of it.

JL: Son of a gun, I can't think what the name. I know Greenwells is in there, too, I think.

LW: Oh, is that right?

JL: I think they have shareholders in there.

LW: Oh.

JL: Yeah. Greenwell... what his name now? You know him.

LW: Rice... no...

JL: You don't know Greenwell?

LW: Yeah, yeah. I know the younger one's son, Jimmy Greenwell. But he's on...

JL: Jimmy.

LW: Jimmy.

JL: Jimmy is a nice boy.

LW: Yeah, he's a nice man.

JL: Nice man. Yeah. I like him. We use to go down to the cattlemen meeting and you know, oh, he used to like my wife, too. He used to like us. He's real nice.

LW: Yeah, he's a nice man. I like his wife, too. I like them. They really try to... cause they're based on O'ahu, but they try to come to all the things on the Big Island.

JL: That's good, though, you know.

LW: They don't make themselves strangers. They're not above everybody else.

JL: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, because they was showing them. If you go over there, you want to buy a few steaks, you know, you can buy them right from there.

LW: Oh, no kidding. That was on the TV?

JL: Yeah, was on the TV. Yeah.

LW: Oh, I know, there's a market in Honoka'a. Right there in town. I know where it is. And they're... that's right. That's local beef.

JL: Yeah.

LW: And they get it from their slaughterhouse.

JL: I think they getting it from...

LW: Maybe I should think about it I love to go up to Honoka'a but it's a whole hour drive, you know.

JL: Yeah. Right, right.

LW: So Big Island's big, right?

JL: Right. We get friends in Honoka'a, too. Andrades...

LW: Yeah. There are bunches of Andrades.

JL: Yeah, yeah. Plenty of them died, though.

LW: Yeah.

JL: I think I have only... I think only Willie. Johnny just passed away. The one he used to run the slaughterhouse.

LW: Oh.

JL: I think he just died.

LW: Really.

JL: Yeah. So Willie is still living yet.

LW: Yeah. Willie.

JL: But they good friends of ours from way back. Willie. Yeah, way back. The man came when we was rodeoing down there. Yeah. Was good fun, too. Oh, he can drink, boy. (Laughs.)

LW: Oh, is that right? So a local slaughterhouse. Where would you put it?

JL: Well, they can find one place to put a slaughterhouse. They can. They can find it.

LW: Well, I guess.

JL: I feel we have a central slaughterhouse, you're going to get your beef the right weight. And you're going to get your money.

LW: What do you mean the right weight? What do you mean?

JL: Let's say you bring your cattle to this guy. Okay. He slaughter it. He don't give you one weight. He just give you one check.

LW: Oh.

JL: You know what I mean?

LW: Right. So...

JL: So the price go down.

LW: So what does that mean? That means the cow could weigh...

JL: The cow could weigh five hundred pounds.

LW: Five hundred pounds. Or it could weigh four fifty, but he's still giving you...

JL: Or four fifty... right.

LW: He's still giving you the same money.

JL: Right.

LW: Ugh.

JL: No, so now he's giving you one check. Yeah, as you say five hundred and he give you for four fifty.

LW: Yeah, that's not right.

JL: You know what I mean?

LW: Yeah.

JL: So you don't know because you not getting your weight. Me, when I used to sell to the freezer guys, pick up the meat from the slaughterhouse, I ask them for the weight. Four hundred fifty pound, you going take hundred fifty. Hundred fifty. This guy hundred forty. Or whatever, mark it right on the box. This your dakine... this your weight for your meat. This the price on the meat.

LW: Okay.

JL: Right to the customer. I would go right to you and give you this here.

LW: Right.

JL: This is your bill.

LW: Yeah. So the grower gets exactly... there's less middle man.

JL: Right.

LW: Taking money out.

JL: Right. So you take it to the slaughterhouse. You pay that slaughterhouse out. Then you got to pay for chill and cut now. They chill and cut right in the slaughterhouse. Now I can take my beef to you now. Your order may be a hundred and fifty pounds of it. Okay. This is your hundred fifty pounds right here. This is the price. This is the weight.

LW: Okay.

JL: So you know you're getting your order weight.

LW: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JL: And if you don't want believe me, I tell you straight. You don't believe me, call the slaughterhouse. But these other guys, they don't give you the weight. If you sell to them one cow and they kill it, they send you one check. Just the check. But no more the weight from the animals. No more the deductions. What did they deduct for? You don't know.

LW: Yeah, that's nuts.

JL: You don't know what you're getting.

LW: Yeah. That doesn't work. I don't like that either.

JL: It's crooked. Okay:

LW: Yeah.

JL: It's crooked.

LW: Yeah.

JL: It's crooked deals. You cannot operate like that.

LW: No.

JL: You're supposed to be honest to people, you know.

LW: Yeah.

JL: Because you raise your cow for let's say two years. You want that money back, right?

LW: Yeah. Sure.

JL: It's costing you money to raise them. Give me one honest weight. What the weight was. Give me the honest weight. That's why me, when I pick up for the freezer, I always go up there. If I take them up on a Friday... this is in Kalaheo by Andrade's. If I take it up on a Friday, on the Saturday morning I'm up there. How much the weight was? They go oh, right over there. Okay. I know what to give my customers already, what the weight going be.

LW: So when you slaughter for the freezer you go pick it up from the butcher.

JL: I'll pick it up and I'll deliver it to the customer. Yeah... I deliver.

LW: Oh, how nice is that?

JL: I deliver to the customer.

LW: You always did that?

JL: Yeah.

LW: It's your own...

JL: No. You see before, I used to call them. Oh, go down the slaughter house and pick it up. Go down the slaughterhouse, pick it up. Then my wife, she said you know what, we got to treat the customers better. We deliver to them. I tell deliver to them? That's a problem, you know. She tell yeah, but you going get better customers.

LW: It's true, though.

JL: So I told her okay. So we go. Pick up the meat, everything, take it to this guy, so they appreciate all that.

LW: Oh, yeah.

JL: They appreciate it.

LW: I'm sure they do.

JL: (Laughs.)

LW: Well now I think I'd better go buy my meat in Honoka'a. 'Cause I don't eat very much so...

JL: All fresh beef.

LW: Yeah, it's good local beef. I mean KTA buys locally but I don't know. I don't know where they slaughter that meat. 'Cause I know Greenwell keeps some back for local slaughter.

JL: Oh yeah?

LW: Yeah. But I don't know where they do it. Any way...

JL: (Laughs.)

LW: I'll go ask, right? Yeah. Yeah, so see I got turned around. 'Cause Kalaheo's down there.

JL: Up this side.

LW: Up this side.

JL: Yeah, go straight up that way. Yeah.

LW: Okay now, so the road I came in on is over down this...

JL: Right.

LW: ...over down this here.

JL: Right down here.

LW: And I was looking up here from the road and I could see up here from the road.

JL: You cannot go further upward. Yeah, you can go little bit more up. You know they had the new homestead. And then on that side, they have the Hawaiian Homestead. Hawaiian people living up that side. Yeah.

LW: Yeah, I think I'll walk around Hanapepe town when I'm done here.

JL: Oh yeah. You walked around?

LW: No, 'cause I didn't have time this morning. But I think I will. After we're done I'll go down there and park my car and just walk up and down the road. See if there's anything I can get. Do a little Christmas shopping, stuff like that.

JL: You see all the stores down there what old timers been close down. People came in and open them up again.

LW: Yeah. Made galleries. I could tell that. But that great old plantation town with storefronts and...

JL: Right, right. Yeah.

LW: Great stuff.

JL: See, used to be, as I said, the Chinese market. This Chinese boy used to run the market. The father used to run it then the boy took over. It's at the beginning of the town.

LW: Oh yeah.

JL: There's one building right there, if you going down through here instead of hitting the stop light...

LW: You would go up the one lane bridge.

JL: Yeah.

LW: Yeah, right there.

JL: The one lane bridge.

LW: Yeah.

JL: You can cross the bridge. Before you cross that bridge, there's a store right there. Green store. Used to be one more market right there.

LW: Oh, another market. Tiny town like that with two markets.

JL: Yeah the same owner.

LW: Oh, did he have different things in each store?

JL: Yeah. Yeah.

LW: What was in each store?

JL: Well they used to get fish market. Beef cattle, pork and plus they used to sell fish. The other market above used to deal the same thing, too. But the same owner now. They used to get one up side and one in the end. And then, right as you pass it down here, as soon as you take that junction road and then you come up this way for go to that bridge, the narrow lane bridge, before that there's a long building over there. Used to be one fish market, used to be one restaurant. Used to get beer bars on this side. Used to get beer bars over here.

LW: What is that?

JL: Honest to God. They used to get a lot of them. They had two theaters in Hanapepe town. Two theaters.

LW: Wow.

JL: And about five beer bars.

LW: What? Beer bars?

JL: Beer bars, yeah.

LW: Oh, okay. Five bars?

JL: Right. Right. Five or six.

LW: Who went into all those bars?

JL: I tell you. And they used to make money. We used to go in there, too. (Laughs.)

LW: You spent your money on the beers, too.

JL: The buggah was only about twenty cents, twenty-five cents a beer, you know. Not today.

LW: Wow, twenty-five cents a beer.

JL: Today you can buy a one whole carton for the price they charge you for one. (Laughter.)

LW: Yeah. Well I guess you needed a place to socialize.

JL: Right. Yeah.

LW: Right, talk to people and...

JL: Used to be always crowded with people. Hanapepe town.

LW: Yeah. I got off the road there, it said historic Hanapepe town and I got off the road there 'cause my friend said oh, Hanapepe's so nice. You should walk around there. And I came around the corner, 'cause I got off that first road... came around the corner and went oh wow, this is a beautiful place.

JL: It's all different now. It's all different. Compared to what was before, you know.

LW: Yeah. Yeah, I could tell. Gallery, art gallery, art gallery, art gallery, art... you know that's all secondary stuff.

JL: We used to walk from up palm tree to go school across here. The school is across here. We used to walk every morning to school.

LW: Oh, yeah, yeah.

JL: Only when we used to get a ride, was when rain. Other than that we walked to school. Every day.

LW: Did you have a big family? Here?

JL: We had five of us.

LW: Oh, five.

JL: Five in our family. Yeah. One died already.

LW: And so are you the only one running cattle?

JL: I'm the only one. Yeah. My one sister in Illinois. One brother in Honolulu. One sister in Wailua. She lives up Wailua. Homestead, yuh. My youngest sister lives up there. My oldest brother lives in Honolulu. Then my brother above me, he just passed away not too long ago.

LW: Young.

JL: Yeah. But we used to walk to school. We used to walk for go movies. Then we bought bicycles, you know. And I ride bicycle, go to movies. Yeah. I used to do a lot of things way back when I was young. Shine shoe and all, you know.

LW: Oh yeah?

JL: Yeah, used to get plenty of the soldiers.

LW: Oh, where?

JL: You know where Salt Pond is? You don't know?

LW: Oh, my friend told me I should go see the salt pans.

JL: It's all covered with water, dirty water.

LW: Oh, right now it is.

JL: Yeah. I just went down there yesterday to go to the (inaudible)... trip around there.

LW: It's too icky.

JL: All dirty water. But you can see all the places where they make salt, you know. But it's all dirty water now. Until that all settles up, then they go and take the water.

LW: Yeah.

JL: But unreal, though, how the thing works.

LW: Is it?

JL: Yeah. Unreal.

LW: So how do you...

JL: They dig one hole in the ground. They make their salt beds here. They make them out of the mud. Then it dries up. Then they dig one hole around in the ground. There's water in there. That's the only type water that you can get for make salt. They you dip the water, fill it up in a tub. Where you made your bed. You fill it all up then tomorrow you go back again, you check. The next day you go back check. You get nice hot sun, the salt will settle right there. They just scrape the salt out, put it in a bag. Put it in one pile over here. Then you let it dry up.

LW: And then that's the salt.

JL: And then you bag it up. Yeah.

LW: Wow.

JL: Yeah. Unreal, how they do it.

LW: So how do you get to the salt pans from here?

JL: Oh, okay. If you going down... you want me to take you for a ride?

LW: Sure.

JL: Let me show you over here.

LW: Okay.

JL: You see where that nine hole is, the ninth hole right there standing up?

LW: Which one now? This one? The white one?

JL: Yeah. Yeah, the white one.

LW: Or down below? Oh, okay.

JL: There's a power house there. That's where I used to live up there. Small kid, we used to live up there. Then there's another power house right there. The white one...

LW: That you see the roof?

JL: Yeah. There's one more power house there. And one more right down this side but you cannot see it now. The trees is all overgrown. They had three power houses over there. They used to pump the water up for the sugar cane. Yeah. They used to pump the water up. There's a... you see right above that white post there... something like a line going up there?

LW: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

JL: Okay. That's a pipeline. That pump now pumps the water, but then everything is shut down. (Inaudible)... the only one they run is the one above there.

LW: Okay so do you use those pumps now? Or no?

JL: Only there. Only that pump up there. The one with the fold over there.

LW: Yeah.

JL: That's the only pump that's running now. This one here have the corn guys. They planting the field over there. But they let this place just get overgrown. Used to be real nice. Used to be like this. Clean.

LW: You mean the whole... where all around those pumps were clean?

JL: All where the trees is, used to be clean like this.

LW: And they grew sugar in there?

JL: Huh?

LW: They grew sugar in there?

JL: They used to grow sugar cane over here, over here. Used get sugar cane in here, now they have taro patch now. That's a taro patch.

LW: Oh, I see. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Oh that's what this is down here. Taro patch.

JL: Yeah. Yeah. So this is all overgrown. Then I used to live right down here before. Down in the valley. My boy is living there. He's construction dakine. He lives down there now. Yeah.

LW: Wow, look at all that taro. Unbelievable.

JL: Yeah. Then after my parents died then we moved up here.

LW: You get a little more air up here?

JL: Yeah.

LW: You get used to that on the Big Island. Having all a lot trades, you know.

JL: Yeah, yeah.

LW: And it felt kind of stuffy at my friend's house yesterday.

JL: Oh yeah? And this is all the sugar cane they planted. I think in 2010. I think they going to shut down this sugar company, too.

LW: Wow...

JL: The economy is so bad you know. Got so bad, Oil prices came up. They cannot afford it, yuh.

LW: They can't operate, Gosh... what is that going to mean? It's kind of hard.

JL: Bad for the people, you know.

LW: Yeah, it's so true.

JL: That they own their homes, you know. Cannot pay for it, you know.

LW: Yeah, I know.

JL: It's sad, you know. This house here when they had the hurricane.

LW: Uh huh.

JL: 2002... no, '92. Yeah, '92. We had a big hurricane over here. Iniki.

LW: Uh huh.

JL: Broke everything down.

LW: Yeah.

JL: So these are the new one that we put up.

LW: I did an exhibit about Iniki. So I saw photographs and it was pretty devastating.

JL: Oh yeah. It was. Yeah. Yeah.

LW: So this house was before the hurricane?

JL: This house is brand new now. Yeah.

LW: Oh.

JL: When we bought in 1960, I think. My dad bought this place with nine thousand dollars.

LW: Geez, that's nothing.

JL: With the house on top. Had a big house.

LW: Wow...

JL: Yeah.

LW: Wow, that's something, huh. You want to... let's see... what kind of photograph we have here. You want to lend these to me? And I'll have Gladys scan them. And when I send you... see what happens is Gladys will take your interview tape and she'll type it out. And then I'll mail it to you and you read it. Because there might be some place names that we got wrong or you might have said something you decide you don't want in the record. You could take this out... (he laughs)... okay, so you read it.

JL: Okay.

LW: And I could return these pictures.

JL: Sure...

LW: I could return these when I send you that copy of the interview.

JL: Sure. Sure.

LW: Okay let's do that.

JL: Yeah.

LW: I think these would be nice to have. With your other ones. And since we talked about them and what you probably should do is let's get the names of these guys. Do you have a pencil or pen?

JL: No, I think they're gone.

LW: Okay. So we'll put this in here like this. Okay so now what you do is you go like this... you just say... and give that guy a name.

JL: Oh, oh.

LW: And then we'll...

JL: I cannot spell that good, you know.

LW: Oh, that's okay. Oh, you want me to do it?

JL: Yeah.

LW: Okay. Who's that guy? I'm not a good speller either.

JL: Okay.

LW: What boy is that?

JL: Okay. This boy here is my grandson.

LW: Okay and his name is...

JL: Name is Evan.

LW: Like Evan...

JL: Evan Kanahele.

LW: Evan?

JL: Yeah. Kanahele. And this boy here, this one here...

LW: This one on the...

JL: And this one here is Michael Freitas.

LW: Okay. Let's see. Freitas is usually F R E I T A S.

JL: Then this one here, is David Kawai.

LW: Okay.

JL: Okay then this top one, this one here is John Rita.

LW: John Rita or Ritter?

JL: R I T A. Yeah.

LW: Rita.

JL: Rita. Yeah.

LW: Rita... okay.

JL: Then this one here is Jimmy Cabral.

LW: Okay. Now you'll have to spell Cabral... is that like C...

JL: C A B...

LW: Oh, like that?

JL: Yeah, something like that.

LW: Sounds right.

JL: And this here is Warren Louis, Jr.

LW: Okay. Is that a nephew?

JL: Yeah. And this is Warren Louis, Sr.

LW: Okay. This is a nephew, too?

JL: Yeah.

LW: Senior...

JL: Senior, yeah.

LW: And do you know who that guy is? It's hard to tell. Can't tell, huh?

JL: This one here... (laughs)...

LW: Can't tell who that is.

JL: No.

LW: Okay, that's good.

JL: I cannot think of his name now. I get hard time looking at his face. Question mark, huh?

LW: Yeah, we can hardly tell. That's okay. It's all right. We got most of them. And what parade is this again? This is 19... this is...

JL: Now...

LW: When would that have been?

JL: Was it in the '80's...?

LW: '80's...

JL: I think was in the '80's.

LW: Okay, and which parade was it then?

JL: I beg your pardon?

LW: Which parade is it?

JL: Oh...

LW: What's the name of that parade.

JL: Kamehameha Day.

LW: Okay.

JL: Kamehameha Day parade. Koloa.

LW: Okay. Good,

JL: Yeah, I think it was in the '80's, yuh. Yeah.

LW: Okay, we'll return that.

[Tape Ends]