

Joaquin Joseph, Jr., McCandless Ranch & Tongg Ranch, O`ahu



As the first-born son and namesake of a McCandless Ranch cowboy, Joaquin had ranching in his genes. “I was born a cowboy type,” he says.

Known among his peers for his roping ability, Joaquin says His favorite part about being a cowboy was riding out on the range, catching cattle and bringing them in for branding. But he also had to be a jack-of-all trades in his job. Back then, a cowboy had to do just about everything – fix fences, shoe horses, and work with cattle. But Joaquin is proudest of his skills as a horse trainer.

“I’m going to be 72 this month and I still train,” he says. “When I ride, I like to feel the animal under me.”

He probably inherited his love of horses from his father, Joaquin Joseph, Sr. He remembers that when his father was dying and had come home to spend his final days, he looked out at the arena and asked to be put on a horse. He wouldn’t rest until he was sitting in the saddle.

“That’s going to be my last wish too,” Joaquin says.

Paniolo Hall of Fame

Interview with Joaquin Joseph (J)

By Ilima Loomis (I)

March 15, 2003

Pahala, Hawaii

J: My dad used to work for my uncle. They used to deliver milk here, and we had bottles; you run from one house to another house, pick up their bottles, stuff like that. Then from there we moved to Makua. My dad went get one ranch with my uncle Reiny. My uncle Reiny was a boss at that time, he was a foreman for the ranch. My father used to drive truck and cowboy too.

We were up there for a couple years with my uncle, I think it might be seven or eight years over there. And then my dad and my uncle had one friction between each other, and my dad got out and moved to Maile, by

St. John's Road. My dad had some race horses -- he used to do a lot of horse racing in Kailua. My dad never did go out and pick up jockeys; we used to ride the horse for them on the race track. We used to have cowboy race or regular jockey-race. We had a big track right in Maile, by the beach. Quarter-mile track that we used to train our horses on. As we were growing up, we used to go Fridays down to Kailua, and come back Sunday. We were growing up and after we got married, then we start working for the feedlot. That was in the 60s or 70s. I think we spent a couple years down at the feedlot. Then I quit after about four years and went to work for the City and County (of Honolulu), pumping cesspools for about three or four years. Then I quit and went to work for Tongg Ranch. Tongg Ranch I was pretty long over there, maybe about seven years. They had another guy that was the foreman, then they threw him out and made me the foreman.

But I never liked the way they were running it; they was half-killing the poor guys over there. I told them I no can be a boss like that, because a lot of them, they were terrific workers, but the boss wouldn't give them credit. I turned around and went to the feedlot again. I stood pretty long down there, I think about 18 years. From there, when we got out of the feedlot, that's when we came over here (to Pahala, Hawaii). We moved this side because I retired. I told my wife, "It looks like we better get away," because it got crowded. I never like it. That's when we bought this place, and I work for Forest Ranch, the big ranch down this side, for about three or four months, just for help. From that day on, I just run my own animals, I go rodeos. In Honolulu we used to do a lot of parades, a lot of horse shows, gymkhana -- that's why you see a lot of trophies.

I: Can we go back a bit? When you grew up, your dad was working for McCandless. What was his name?

J: Joaquin, same as mine, but he's senior, I'm junior.

I: What was his job?

J: My dad's job was truck driver and cowboy. When they get enough cows, he'd take 'em down to the slaughterhouse and then he'd come back, then when they don't get enough he'd go out and be cowboy.

I: Where was the old McCandless Ranch located at that time?

J: Makua (Oahu), past the cave. That's where it was. That ranch was pretty big. When my dad went to work there I was about 11. We stood quite a while, might have been nine or 10 years, I think. That's how I know Albert Silva. His mother is a Silva, but she's a McCandless lady. I know her well.

I: What was the ranch like back then?

J: Oh, it's more like open range. Not like today. Them days, if we rope one cow, they used to get pin oxen. It's like a big bull, but we cut them. So say you go out and rope one cow, and you tied 'em outside in a field. We used to call this old man Tutu, and he used to go out, talk Hawaiian to the pin ox, and once in a while we used to ride them. I'll never forget we used to ride this black one all the time. Anyway they (the pinnocks) bring the cows down.

They had big corrals down below by the beach, by Kuaokala side. The train used to go around there before, way back, it used to bring the pineapple and stuff like that. In Waianae, at the police station and the drug store, they used to put water over there (in the train). If the old man (?) no take us to school, we used to wait, wait, and when we hear the train coming around the corner we'd jump behind the train. That's how we'd go school. It would go up from there to Makua. People, they used to let us, as long as we behind, not in front. The train used to go slow. It used to bring cane and pineapple, come around, 'eh?

I: Back in those days, where was the ranch office?

J: It used to be right in Makua, past the graveyard, down on your right.

I: Did you spend a lot of time around there or were you off on your own?

J: We used to do the ranch stuffs there, because our dads wanted us to be next to them, the old-timers. That's why we became pretty good ropers, we were always with them.

I: What did the ranch buildings look like back then?

J: Hard to explain, but it was a big, big, big house. You can sleep in there, and have office too. Almost like a gym, all open. Had big rooms inside. It was a green building. And right next to the building was a big corral. If you go past that, where the ranch was, and you keep going down, and you come around, we call it Kuaokala, where the missile is, right below it had one stone wall corral, and I think it's still there, not too far away from the road. In those days we had dirt road. Right below that there used to be a stone corral. I remember that corral well, because my dad, they used to trap cattle before. They'd go a certain time in the night, the cows were kind of wild cows, we'd get one long rope. Then they come down and drink water. When they come drink water, after so many go inside, then they close it up. We used to push the rope and lock the gate.

So we used to do a lot of going up there, and when the ranch went over that, that's when the Army came in and took the place over. I think it was in the 40s or 50s. Willie Enos, he was a good cowboy too, he used to take charge for McCandless after that. We used to go over there, help him a lot, round up -- what we can catch. The cattle was so wild, they used to go on top that place like Kuaokala. We was all married already. Albert Silva's brother Adrian used to have a mule. We used to go up there (to Kuaokala), shoot the cow and

bring the meat down. Used to up there a lot. Used to go Fridays and come back Sunday, sleep up there -- because they get a small little house up on top there. All were you see on that mountain I travel, all over that mountain.

Gordon Cran, he said he used to work for Dillingham, eh? Dillingham Ranch? Gordon Cran was a pretty active guy too, when he was young. He used to build arenas and stuff for people. That's how we know Gordon. But I never see Gordon go any rodeos or anything, but he was a pretty good cowboy outside.

I: Tell me about the land out there in Makua. What was it like?

J: Oh, it was pretty rough. You get a lot of rocks, koas, lantanas. I mean, not like this here (in Pahala). This is God's country. Over there, everything was.... In them days, nobody had dogs. Like today, everybody get dogs that help them out a lot. But them days, uh-uh. That's why you see all this (opens his shirt to show scars on his neck). You see that? Falling over with horses _____. Sometimes you like duck. See, when you ride cowboy, you no can just let go the reins. You gotta hold the horse's head all the time up. Sometimes you can't help it, but the horse stumble too, sometimes. Sometimes he hit something and then stumbles. That's why you see a cowboy always with his hands up. You got to be checking on the animal all the time. You know how you drive car? You use the brakes a lot too, right? Same with a horse. If you don't, then you're in trouble.

So I've bust all my _____. Now it's kind of catching me up, my legs all _____. I broke bone, all ranch kind, eh? Before no bother me too much. Now I'm getting a little older, all the calcium getting into the bone.

I: Can I ask you a question? Sebastian Reiny, he was ...

J: My father's cousin. What a cowboy. There him, right here (shows picture). He's my uncle. These guys are all nothing compared to this guy. Every cowboy you seen here is nothing like this guy. This guy would ride a horse without saddle, bucking horse. And them days, they don't bring one horse inside like today. Like people, they bring horse inside two-and-a-half years old, three. Them days, they ride horse seven, eight year old, **big**, solid horses, kicking horses, all da kine solid horses for work. But he never gave up.

I: What was the most amazing thing you ever saw Sebastian Reiny do?

J: No mind me, because my ears stay a little bit deaf from the wind, eh?

I: What was the most amazing thing you ever saw your uncle Sebastian do?

J: Well, he used to be cowboy like us, outside rope. He used to do a lot of riding. He had a mule and another horse called Pohaku, a kind of roany colored horse, and a dark mule. Man, he was a roper. He used to fix skin ropes, terrific. I get one in there he made for me when I was 16, cause I used to go with him. Every time when he used to go out I used to say, "Uncle, where you going?" "I'm going on top." Oh, them days, we no can get out of the house till 18. Those days the girls had to be 20 to get out of the house. We used to go with him all the time, go up the mountain. He was a pretty damn good roper. He can rope. But I think he went in the Mainland one time, to ride bucking horse or something. They made one big history in the Mainland, him and one other guy. Went up there to challenge, eh? I think he went win something. But all the history I know is just when I was working with him.

I: What did you see him do?

J: Well, the last time I seen him, oh man, 45 years ago I think. I seen him when he broke his neck up here. He was riding one *hapa laka* (half tame) horse, the kind horse that's not trained well yet. Half broken. They said he was chasing one cow, and they gave him one helmet. He was the boss. I tell you, this place get a lot of *pukas*, a lot of holes. The horse somersault, he fell and hit his head, smash his helmet, broke his neck. They rush him to Queen's Hospital, that was the last time I seen him, and then dead. Two weeks after, he died.

I: How old was he?

J: Oh, I don't know. I think he was in his 80s or something. He was real old already. Because we was all of age already. But he was still strong. Like I said, he was a strong guy. A terrific guy. But, he died on a horse.

I: What was his personality like?

J: Oh, nice guy. You would love him. But he was always with his tobacco. He's over there, *pbt!* (spitting), like that. No step on him, because he spit on you (laughter). But _____ used to love him, because he used to joke all the time. He was a real joker. People love him, because he wasn't the kind mean guy or anything like that. I mean we used to enjoy him, every chance, when we was young, we would run over there, talk stories with him, he'd say all kind jokes to us. He was a beautiful guy.

I: Was he married?

J: He was married at one time, yeah. He had two kids, one boy named Charlie, like him (??) , and one other named Lucile, the youngest one. The son's still alive, he's staying some place Makua. When I left over there about 16 years ago that's the last time I seen him. Where Albert Silva stay, he used to go right down the

beach. They had one tent down the beach all the time. He had house, but he used to like more fishing that's why, the son. Kind of big. "Charlie Boy" we used to call him. Big, bigger than the father was.

I: How big was Sebastian Reiny?

J: Oh, maybe about 6 feet. He was a pretty big guy. But I gotta say he was a handy guy, terrific handy guy. A terrific guy.

I: Did you go to work for McCandless?

J: Well, I never work there, but we used to help a lot. With our dad, you don't stay home, you know what I mean? You gotta be with the cowboys all the time. We never did want to show our dad we're not going to do it. "Tomorrow we go roping," he said, or, "Tomorrow we chase cows," or we're going to do this, or we're going to do that. We was always behind with our fathers. Our fathers was pretty strict guys. See, if they had fathers like our fathers today this world would be straight. But today you no can do all that. And my father wasn't mean -- he used to punch us, or hit us in the back, that kind of stuff -- but he was **strict**. He would give you three chances. The third chance, he'd say, "Get in the room." He no hit you in the back or anything, he hit your **butt**. And when he hit your butt, brother, you're sore for one month! (laughter) Cause he no play, he hit hard. So we was afraid. Everything he say, "Yes, dad," or "No, dad." "Yes, mom," or "No, mom." That's how **we** brought up, see? Today, everything's kind of different. Today you take one kid, hit him in the butt, they like take away your baby from you. So how can you train them? You cannot? I can see if you're going to half kill 'em they should take 'em away, but if you're going to give 'em a little tap, that's how it goes. But our dad would keep us straight. Like I say, I'm 73 and I don't know what one police station looks like.

I: What was the first place you worked after you left home?

J: First place I went work was for the Navy. At Lualualei? I worked over there I think for about three months or four months. If you're not a veteran, they reef you, they lay you off. And if they need you, they hire you back again. When they went lay me off, that's when I told them I'd never go back. I liked the outside more, like cowboy, and small little jobs outside. More cowboy type than other stuffs.

I went down to the feedlot after that, worked down at the feedlot, I think for a couple years. That's when I start working for the City and County (of Honolulu), and other stuffs.

I: About what year was it that you were at the feedlot?

J: Oh, around 1969, I think.

I: What did you do there?

J: Cowboy. We take out cattle for slaughterhouse. Every morning when we get there we load up the cattle for the slaughterhouse, take maybe 100-something heads. Then Kahua Ranch used to take 75 or 100-something. We'd get them all ready. In the afternoons, about 2:00, me and the boss go out and we pick the best cattle, the beef ones, give the others a chance to come up. Then we take 'em out and we scale them. After we *pau* scale them, we put them in the pen, because I got to leave the house 4:30 in the morning. We got to load the cattle at 5:00. So we go down the cowboy shack after that, pick up our horses, we know what to do, open the gates, get them all ready. Then we chase the cattle down, then we put 15, 15. Them days it was all trailer, today they get big trucks. When they *pau* that, getting the cattle ready for slaughterhouse, and they're all gone. In the morning, that's when we check the cattle. If the cattle sick. Each ranch get their own apartment like, their own corral. If you're Parker Ranch, you get your own. If you're Kahuku Ranch, you get your own. Any kind of ranch gets its own. They give you a big piece of paper, they tell you where the ranches is, what number, all that kind of stuff.

So when you bring the cattle out, the sick cattle, you bring them to where the hospital is, they put one tag on top, see? After we get that tag on, then we put the number of the gate who owned that cattle. So when the cattle *pau* sick, then we take that cattle, put it back to the same pen. That's our job. We had about five cowboys. Then we take them over there and we inject them, too, give them all their medicines, vitamins. Sometimes you worm in one day maybe 500 or 600.

I: How many pastures did they have in all?

J: Well, it's a quarter-mile long, man. Eight rows of 12 pens.

I: Can you describe the location of it?

J: It's in Campbell Industrial Park. Well, when you're going down that road (at Barber's Point), you go all the way to the end. Almost to the beach. You can't miss it. They get this big place they call the bone rendering plant. Over there, that's where when the cows die, or they get bones, like from the markets and all that, they throw 'em in there. And they crush the bones so fine, you can feed animals, put it in the plants. They take the juice from that cow -- cow eat cow, can you believe that? They make the juice -- you know like when you cook, you get all the fat. And the fat is mixed into the feed.

I: And you feed it to the cows?

J: Yeah, they take it and get one big tank, and the thing is all hot, day and night. The thing go inside there, they come and pick up that. And when cattle are ready to go slaughterhouse, I think a little more than a month, they take that and mix it with the feed. Feed come yellow, yellow, yellow. Then the cows eat that. But they come real nice, that's how they get choice.

Yeah, we used to go pick it up and mix it all up. They had like 20, 30 and 40 feeds. The 20 is feed that come in, it's not too rich, they put a lot of hay, then we throw the feed on top the hay, to teach the cattle how to eat. When the cattle start learning how to eat, then they come to 30 feed. Then when they start eating the 40 one, the cows don't eat hay, they're strictly feed. That's the yellow one.

I: What did it smell like?

J: Oh, it smell like regular feed. The 20 one kind of smell a little bit more because it's the plain one, eh? The other ones you can still smell the feed. It smells rancid.

That job I kind of like more. After that, when I retire from down there, that I kind of like more, because you were more on the horse. You sit on one horse sometimes eight hours, 12 hours, 15 hours. But you get so used to riding every day, every day, five, sometimes six days a week. All depends how they need you. If you feel like overtime, that's up to you. It was pretty good. Good life. That would be good for these young guys, need more experience.

I: That wasn't a union job, was it?

J: It was a union. Meat Cutters.

I: Was it good for you to be in the union or was it trouble?

J: To me, every union is the same. Even if you get something to squawk (about), they only waste your time. What are you paying the union for? But you still gotta join it, you see what I mean. I don't care what you do or what the boss do, because we had one *pilau* boss, but every time you say to the union, "How about trying to help us out?" "Yeah, yeah," but we never did hear too much about it till we had to go out there and see the bigger boss. But like I say, union -- all these kind unions I don't fancy too much.

I: So you stayed how many years with the slaughterhouse?

J: I had so much at that time, then I quit, then I went back again. So, about five to seven years. The first time, I stood over there about three years. Then I went quit. Then I work for the county a little while. Then I turn around and went back to the feedlot. No, then I went to Tongg Ranch, **then** the feedlot.

I: Can you tell me about the old Tongg Ranch? Where was it?

J: In Ewa.

Mrs. Joseph: By Honouliuli? You know where the old slaughterhouse is? That was Tongg Ranch, but most of their pasture lands were up in Kunia, Nanakuli.

J: Makakilo. All that mountain used to be for Tongg Ranch now. From Makakilo, all the way around to Nanakuli.

I: How many cattle were they running at that time?

J: Oh, 600 or 700, maybe more than that. They used to raise Santa Gertrudis.

I: How many cattle would they send to market a year at that time?

J: It all depends. Sometimes they take the older ones, or the younger ones. They used to take that and take it down to the feedlot. Take them down, fatten them up and then they butcher them.

I: Who was the owner of Tongg Ranch at that time.

Mrs. Joseph: Rudy Tongg was the old one and then Ronnie Tongg took over. The father got hurt.

J: The father played polo. He went get crippled.

I: Did they manage the ranch themselves, or was there a manager under them?

J: John Rego, old man Rego. I was before him, before he came in. But I never like, that's why I told him, nah. I never like the way Ronnie -- he was the foreman, eh? -- a lot of guys in the morning, when we come in around

nine o'clock, maybe one guy like a cup of coffee or a sandwich, because we got to be on that job early. And he live in the mountain, you can't have sun all day. We're digging holes, putting fences up. Stay up there, then turn around and this other guy, he was the foreman, but he used to steal a lot of cows, and they caught him. But they never fire him. He was lucky, I tell you. David, Fat David. He *make*. We knew, but we never like squeal. So they caught him, him and his sons. That's when the boss told me, "Joe! You be the foreman." So for a little while, not much. Then I never like the way he was running it. We out there busting our necks all day, all day, and at night if you sit down he would sqawk with you! So when I make foreman I couldn't squawk with him, because I never like get fired.

We was up the mountain, and everybody was sitting next to the big truck. And he said, "What the hell they doing? Why they sitting down?" I said, "They're just drinking a cup of coffee, having a little sandwich." He said, "I'm paying them! I want them to get out there and start!" I got pissed off and said straight. He said, "I'll see you down at the office!" I said, "Yeah, I like talk stories with you." I went down and I told him, "I can't run the way you're going. People, they're not animals. They're human beings. We dig sometimes 30 holes a day!" I mean, you're not digging soft kind, its almost like rocks, eh? I never like, then I quit. I told him, "You can keep your job, I don't want your job. I don't work with slave people."

I: Can you tell me about the ranch buildings that it had at the time?

J: Well, the ranch was more by Ewa. The houses were more down by Ewa side. They had one polo field over there, everything. But the ones we go, outside we had corrals. We used to drive them in, the old cows to the slaughterhouse, or the ones they want, they show what they want and we take them to the slaughterhouse.

(break)

I: Where was the (Tongg) Ranch office located?

J: Tongg Ranch was down by Ewa. Now that there's so many houses there, it's hard to tell you. You know where the slaughterhouse is, the old road that comes around? It's not too far from there. When you come along the old road like that, right across was. I don't know if they still get the quonsets over there. We had a regular house. Had double apartment, and right behind, I used to keep my mule. See this mule? (shows picture) Guess how old that mule.

I: Oh, I don't know. Twenty five.

J: Thirty-six. And this mule made history. This mule right here, I go rodeos, I go outside, ranch work, any *kine*. When I was down here for the Forest Ranch, I used to use him a lot. He was more surefooted.

I: What's his name?

J: I call him Manuel

(Mr. Joseph asks his wife to bring him his lasso, one his uncle Sebastian Reiny made for him when he was 16.)

J: That's the one my uncle made, Reiny. Look at it today, feel that -- it's still good. That's cow hide, you know? They take it and braid it. He braid this -- it's so tight. He braid this and then after that he take it all out, and he braid it again. When he get it like this, he stretch it. Then he take it all out again. By the time he get through with it, the rope's like this. I was 16 years old, now, and look at it. It's the one he made for me when I used to go with him and go rope. He told me, "I'll make you one rope." He used to make ropes all the time and I used to watch him. I wish my dad _____. I don't know what happened to my dad's saddle. Maybe he lent it to somebody and they never brought it back.

I: Can you tell me a little about the trail rides you guys did?

J: Yeah, we used to bring the people from the office down below, the big office -- we had a lady that used to help us.

Mrs. Joseph: We had an agent down there who would book the trail rides. He was also the owner of the stables. They'd bring them up by the bus load. He'd sell 'em a golf package and a horseback riding package, it would have lunch and everything. It was at Makaha Valley.

I: Was it your own business or were you working for ...

Mrs. Joseph: We working for the man who owned the travel agency. Jim Hildreth -- Makaha Travel.

I: Where did you take the riders?

Mrs. Joseph: We used to take them up to Makaha Valley, we used to show them the heiau and the old coffee fields, and they'd have the rock walls, pig farms and taro patches. It was more like a scenic ride, and we had this one hill we used to go up on top, it was like a lookout. You could look all the way down Makaha to the ocean. We used to cross the stream in two or three places, and sometimes you'd take along lunch, stop by the

stream, pack lunch. Once they started developing the valley over there, I don't know what happened to all the trails. We used to take people on a four-hour trail ride, and that's a long ride up in that valley.

J: We had like about two rides for one hour. We never did just one trail all the time, sometimes people like come back -- up high, down low. We had lunch rides. They used to take 'em up there in the jeep. That was beautiful because they had one big, nice cold-water stream that used to come down. Nice. People used to like that -- take off their shoes, go inside the water, sit on the rocks, eating lunch. The lunch used to be like sandwiches, apples, juice. It was real good, nice, beautiful. It's nice to ride up there on that mountain. We had lunch ride, two-hour rides, three-hour rides and four-hour rides were the most. But we had them at certain times, like Wednesday we had lunch rides. We had a lot -- maybe 24, 25 horses. My daughters, my sons and everybody would guide.

Before that, Doctor Lynn McKinney, a vet, he get one place up here in the Volcano area. He was running, he had one stables going up there before us. Then he gave up, and this guy Jim Hildreth, he heard about me and he asked me. I said yeah, because I never had a job at that time. He had an old house over there. He had everything inside there. It was pretty damn nice. He had only about eight, nine years lease, and they wanted to see how he made out. I told him, two years is too short. He said, "I'll get it, I'll get it." One day, they call us in the office, me and my wife. I don't know what kind of deal they had between them guys. They said, "Well, Mr. Joseph, we just bought all the horses." We said, "What?"

?????

One day he told me, "You want to buy these horses? I'll sell them all to you." I told him, "Yeah, but if I take the place, I don't want to get two years. At least maybe 10, 15 years you can make something out of it." He said, "Any time you want 'em." But she (Mrs. Joseph) never like. And we got out.

I: So the longest place you worked on Oahu was at the feedlot. Did you stay working cowboy the whole time?

J: Well, off and on.

(New tape)

J: I work for Bill Lacey, three or four years, me and Adrian Silva. We used to be cowboys and he had a riding stables. When the riding stables no work we go outside and cowboy, eh? He used to raise Brahmas before, those big Brahma bulls. I stayed there for quite a while, living there too. Yeah, I was with Bill Lacy for quite a while, on Oahu in Waimea Falls. I was young at that time.

Mrs. Joseph: You were in your late 20s. I went riding up there, that's how I remember. I came to Hawaii in 1957, and my girlfriend and I went horseback riding at Waimea Falls Park in 1958. We were vacationing out at Kaaawa, had rented one house, went swimming and horseback riding.

I: So how many years you worked out there?

J: Oh, I think it was maybe two or three years out there.

I: It was doing the trail rides?

J: Yeah. Albert Silva's brother Adrian, I couldn't stand him. I quit. I had just one horse at that time, but we used to use the ranch horses at that time, but I used to get my own horses because I like go outside and play too, eh? I used to use my own. Next to the house I made my own pen.

I: Tell me about how you came out to this place (in Ka'u, Hawaii).

J: Well we came one time over here, in Hawaii, and the way things was going on over there -- my brother, he died last year, about six months now, five months, he just died -- we came out one day and we wasn't looking over here, we was looking at Hilo first, nice place, but the only trouble with Hilo was rain, rain, rain, always rain, too damn much. Then I kind of slack out for a little while, I was still working over there, cowboy and stuff over there. Turn around, we had this guy, Joe Lee, Chinese guy -- when I had my own stables at home, 24 horse stalls, I had an arena, big beautiful house, five bedrooms -- we go talk story, this guy say, "Oh, I have a big place, 40-something acres." He say, "If you looking for one place go look at it." So one day we came up, me and the wife, we came here. This was all cane fields still. So we came up here ride, my brother brought us up to look. The house was not like this, I fixed everything you see here. Turn around, we fall in love with it. Then we went back and sold our place and we bought this one. They had seven more acres on the top of it, and the guy liked us, because my son used to fight chicken with him. He say, "Well, Mr. Joseph, I give you that seven acres." So we had 54 acres. Guess how much I paid for this. Make a guess. I pay only \$60,000 for this. I'm not kidding you. We get two houses, one over here and one over there. This was a porch over this, just a porch. Then I fixed it up and made a roof.

I: So how long have you been at this place?

J: About 16, 17 years. And I love it. Now, when I go Honolulu, I no like it there. I was born and raised there -- it's not that I don't like it, but I was more raised up like this kind of life. Not next to people, you know what I mean? I can't stand that. I like to be free. People come over, we talk stories, and if not, it's quiet. You don't have cars running, guys screaming. Couple times I go to Honolulu, you no can sleep for three days. My home town was Waianae. Now you look at Waianae? It's a dump.

The whole town is on the other side. When you go over to Waianae town, on the other side, that's where all the stores was before. Catholic church over there. The old church, when I got married, I got married in that church. Not this wife, my first wife. She died. And her (Mrs. Joseph's) husband died too. We got together and we got all our kids. So we got 35 grandkids.

I: How did your first wife die?

J: She was sick. When she died, my baby was only three years old. My boy was 11. Her's (Mrs. Joseph), her husband ride with one other guy, and the guy was all jealous or something. He went down the road, one guy cut in front of him, he turn his car and hit the telephone post. The guy never died, but her husband died.

I: So how did you meet your second wife?

J: Through horse. She loved horses too. And after that we stayed together for about a year, then we got married. See how the kids would like her. But they all love her, so. Beautiful.

I: You said earlier you got injured while you were working at the feedlot. What were some of the worst injuries you had over the years?

J: Well, one time I got hurt on the feedlot. This other guy, _____, he used to work with us. He would check the cattle, sick cattle and everything. When we were ready to come home, maybe another 45 minutes, usually we come bring our horses, wash them, feed them, take care of them, because they work hard all day, eight hours, sometimes 10 or 12 hours. We just came inside and the big boss came. Bob Johnson his name was. He said, "Joseph and _____, I seen one sick cattle." He told us what pen. So we never like rush. I was riding one horse for Greenwell, one gray horse, nice animal. I was riding him way down, I'd been riding him about two months down there, and then we'd go down to the pen, we try to bring him out and we couldn't bring him out, because when they're sick, they get hard headed, eh? So we brought two or three with him, and you've got to go about a quarter mile. So we had to take them down, because they get four gates, eh? We close the three gates, went out and separate them. Came back, had to bring that other one back to the pen.

Then, all of a sudden, yellowjackets. They get big pipes like this, they get the poles, with the rod going in where you locked it. I went take the damn thing and shoved the rod in there. I must have touched the yellowjacket nest. My horse was over there -- I never see the yellowjackets -- and every time he move, I push him with the spurs back next to the fence. He know how to do his job. All of a sudden he start jumping with me, I keep on going, keep on going. Finally, he couldn't stand it, because I'm pushing him and the bees are pushing him. I didn't even see one bee fly. Just when I went to turn the horse, the yellowjackets were on top his nose, stuck on his nose. So I grab his head, he jump like that, he went up in the air with me, his legs went over the fence. But when he went over, I hung on him already, because I don't like it if he went over, it would break my legs

already, the wire might catch me and he going to fight to get over. He's a horse, he don't go back, mostly he go to the front. Oh, I hang on him. My friend's on the ground, he's running, tie his horse up, run and grab the bridle. But he go slowly, then grab him and he hold the horse down. Ho that horse went stand up straight. When he went he went catch me in here (behind the knee). When he spin my leg went right around. When he spin me, I fall right on top the horse's neck, and right inside one pile irons. Kind of hurt my back for a long time. Even now it's a little bit bothering me. Over the years, like I said, all the calcium get into your bones. Didn't break, but really twist them. So the doctor told me the thing would stay like that. By I no like operate, I scared. I just take the pain. And I still rope, still go rodeos.

I: Did you do a lot of horse breaking?

J: Before, yeah. People used to bring horses over there for I break in like Kahua Ranch, Greenwell, used to bring. Then I had a lot of people outside that used to bring horses for me. I used to do a lot of training. I had my own ring, I had everything set up, everything perfect. That's why a lot of people know me well. Maybe not a lot of younger guys now, but most all the older guys. I used to do a lot of training. I had a 24-horse stall. And we used to keep the horses there, feed them every day. The feed was kind of cheap. If you work there, they cut half. Say if you pay 10 dollars, you pay only five for a bag.

I: I'm ready to wrap up, but before we finish, was there anything else you wanted to talk about?

J: That's all, that's all. Like I say, you can see how much stuffs I went through. When I was young. I don't care where I was before, when I like go work on the ranch they say, "Yeah, okay! Come on!" They know us already. They'll kind of do it different, everybody get their own system. But now, if you say "I'm a cowboy." I like **see** if you're a cowboy. Once you go there and show them you're a cowboy, they keep you quick, eh? Today, I'm sorry I did all that quitting. Like I tell my kids, "If you get one job, stick with it." You're not getting younger. When you get older, you think, this job, that job, it's alright. Those days, three days you can work with the guy, you can tell the guy, "the hell with it, I don't want your job." Down the road, I get another job, easy. But today you no can do that. Those days you no have to go high school, like today, to get a better job. You don't have to. Today you got to get all that diplomas and this and that. Computers, you know. It's kind of rough on people today. Our days, it was so easy to get one job. The guy no give you 10 cents raise, you look for another one.