

THOMAS “TOMMY” KANIHO Hawaiian Ranch Co., Hawai`i

Tommy was born in Waikī`i, the son of famous Parker Ranch foreman William “Willie” Kaniho. Tommy was raised by his grandparents at Kahuku Ranch in Ka`u. At that time, Kahuku was part of Parker Ranch.



Tommy became a skilled and reliable working cowboy out in the tough country of Ka`u. He learned from his grandfather, Martin Martinsen, who was the Manager of Kahuku Ranch. He rode with Ka`u paniolo Henry Makuakane, Willie Mokeau, Nui Kane and the Akiu brothers, Charlie and Fidelis. They faced the daily challenges and dangers of hunting and catching the wild cattle, which led them across the unforgiving lava and into lurking tree holes. Many injuries were sustained and lives threatened in that rough Terrain. They worked from before sunup to sundown for \$1.00 a day and 30 lbs. of poi a week.

When several ranches merged, forming Hawaiian Ranch Company, Tommy worked for the Company for 26 years, until it was sold to Parker Ranch. He then moved to Molokai where he worked for a couple of years for Del Monte as a heavy equipment operator, and then to O`ahu where he worked in artificial breeding for Meadow gold Dairy.

Tommy retired in 1990 at age 62, and came home to Ka`u where he started his own ranch on just 25 acres of Hawaiian Home Lands. Today he and his family run a 400 cow-calf operation on 1,800 acres at South Point.



THOMAS KANIHO INTERVIEW

July 3, 2009

LW: Okay, let's see. Today is the 3rd of July, 2009. We are on the Southpoint Road, sitting at Thomas Kaniho's place. (Mr. Kaniho's wife, Felicia, also present. Introductions are made.) So you have quite an interesting history. You've just been working on a ranch for a really long time.

TK: Yeah, I started way back in the '30's, in the late '40's. I started off with the Parker Ranch.

LW: I bet you were riding before you could walk.

TK: Yeah, you know those days. The family, big family and everything. I was raised by my grandfather, step grandfather. Actually my mother died. She was only 30 years old. I was just about 4 years old. And she passed away so my father remarried again. And then he married into the Martinsen family. At that time he was the manager of the Kahuku Ranch. Kahuku Ranch used to be owned by the Parker Ranch. So he remarried. Then he (Martinsen) had a big family. He had thirteen girls and two boys. But his boys were older, huh. So he wanted a boy so he asked my dad. So that's how I came to Ka'u. I came to Ka'u when I was about four years old. I was raised by my step grandparents and then stayed there. Worked on the ranch.

LW: Who are they, your step grandparents? What's their names?

TK: Martinsen.

LW: Oh, they were Martinsens?

TK: Martinsen. Martin Martinsen.

LW: So your dad's wife's folks.

TK: Yeah. Yeah. That's right. Exactly. My dad was married three times. His first wife was from Kauai. She passed away. And then he moved to Kamuela. Actually my dad was raised by Ikua Purdy. You know the Ikua Purdy?

LW: Oh, sure.

TK: He was raised by them. My dad was raised by them and then he started off working cowboy from Kauai. Then he came to the Parker Ranch. Most of his life he worked for the Parker Ranch.

LW: He was a famous guy from Parker Ranch.

TK: And then he started off there. Then I started with the Parker Ranch, way back in the early to middle '40's. Started working. I was young. Only about twelve years old. Start working and...

LW: What did you do?

TK: I work for the Parker Ranch. Dollar a day. And do dark to dark, though. Those days, you know, family was big and everything was long term.

LW: They gave you some meat and poi, yuh?

TK: Right, you get free meat, you get free poi, you get free doctor. Everything was... dollar a day would go a long ways. And you go in a store you buy about ten dollar worth, you need one truck to carry everything. But not like nowadays. Shucks. Hundred dollars you...

FK: Today you spend ninety-four dollars you carry the package.

LW: That's two bags.

TK: But those days, everybody they had their own garden. Everybody they plant their own vegetables and everything and all that. But that was most.

LW: But what was your first job on the ranch.

TK: I started with the Parker Ranch we do all kind, you know. Fence job... and then we used to haul lumbers up. That's when in the '30's they had the depression, right? The depression and then they had this CCC... something like that was.

LW: Yeah... the camps.

TK: Yeah. And then they were building the tents up at Kahuku between the boundary of the Parker Ranch and the forest reserve. So we used to haul lumbers with the mules. We start from the main highway all the way up to Mauna Loa. On the slope of Mauna Loa. Well they call that Punalukahawai. That's the name of the place where we built a shed... water shed. And then we had one cabin up there. We build one cabin up there. Everything was hauled by mules. And they had the CCC staying up there. They had their own. The Parker Ranch furnish them with the food like meat, and then rice and cracker. All that. Those days they didn't have helicopter, yuh. So everything was hauled by animal. Everything. So we go all the way up to there, and then we take lumbers up. They haul lumbers by mule. We have two mules. They have two by fours... sixteen footers, yuh. So they hang them by the side of the mule. They take four of that. And five iron roof in between. Iron roof. And then we go.

LW: Wait now...

TK: That's a whole day ride. All day. But you have to be careful how you make the turns. You cannot... there's a lot of trees so you got to make it wide, and then turn slowly. Because you cannot make it sharp. You make it sharp, the back mule going to fall. 'Cause the other mule going to move the pressure and then the lumber, everything fall. So you just...

LW: Wait... this is on their backs or on their sides?

TK: No, on the side. You have the pack saddle. And then we have the two by fours running out like that. And then we hang the two by fours on both mules and in between the two mules...

LW: You have the...

TK: Yeah, the iron ones... the iron roofs. And then you go up. All day. All day job. And then we get up, then would be dark, yuh. It's getting dark. Then next day come back down. And then following day go up again.

LW: I bet coming down was faster, huh.

TK: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Coming back is faster, yuh. And animals like to come home, too. And then everything. And then the... but the boys up there, living up there, during the weekend they walk all the way down, you know. To the main highway. Some go to Kona, some go to Volcano. They walk across, you know. Do all the walking. No more horses. They walk. And I don't know what they get paid for but we just provide the food and stuff, yuh. And everything. They do all the work. Then after that as I got older, work fences. And then 1950 something... wait, wait, wait... no. In the '40's. The Parker Ranch sold Kahuku. James W. Glover bought the place.

LW: Glover?

TK: Glover. And then he the one really. He had lumber mill up there and all that. And then he had a heart attack, he passed away in the '50's. The early '50's. No, no, no. In the '40's. Because I was still out. I didn't go in the service when he died. He passed away. And then Dillingham bought the place from Glover. Then the guy who ran the ranch up there was Freddie Rice. You know Freddie Rice, huh?

LW: Yeah. We know who he is. He was the manager there?

TK: Yeah.

LW: Under Dillingham?

TK: Yeah. He the guy really improved that place. He the guy who you give the credit to him. He really developed the place. Freddie Rice. And then I stayed...

LW: And you worked for him?

TK: No. I didn't work. I worked for Glover up to 1949. And then. Wait... I think up to 1948. Right. '49 I worked for C. Brewer. January the second. Yeah. 1949 I worked for C. Brewer. All these areas here, yuh. Then that was named as Ka'alu'alu Ranch at the time.

LW: Say it again.

TK: Ka'alu'alu Ranch. That was the name of this ranch. And then I worked there. I was hired as a horse trainer. Train horse, eh. And then worked for C. Brewer for what? Twenty-seven years.

LW: Who taught you how to train horses?

TK: Well actually, those days... now, you know, it's a big thing. Those days, they blindfold the horse. You know the horse you blindfold, you saddle them up, then everything. And you get on him and everything. But you can just imagine, the horse doesn't know nothing.

LW: They call it *pani maka*.

TK: Yeah, yeah, yeah. *Pani maka*, right. So they... when you open the blind from the horse the horse doesn't know anything, right? You know you just... happen he look on his back, see something on his back, there you go. You either hang on...

LW: Or fall down.

TK: Fall down. Either way. I mean you just got to stick some. And the poor horse doesn't know what's what. You cannot turn him. You have to take your hat off and fan him. And then sometime they come up to the fence. Hoo... your eye get big, you know. You don't know what he gonna do. He might go over the fence or something like that. Then after that I learned from... had this guy from Kapapala Ranch. He was a guy from the mainland now. He's from the mainland. I don't remember his name, though. But he used to work for Kapapala Ranch. He used to train horse. That's where I learned. watching him. Don't know but just watching him, how he do it, he handle the horse, he hobble the horse and everything. He do everything on the ground. Before he get on him. By the time he get on him, the horse practically know what you wanted done, eh. So he was the guy. Really good. Then he worked for Kapapala Ranch oh, maybe about five or three or four years. Then he went back to the mainland. He bust his shoulder. Training horse. The horse went backwards on him. And then landed on him and bust his shoulder. Then he was crippled on the right side. But that's where I really learned, you know. Was from him, watching him doing the work and everything. Then we started changing over and training horses. But the beginning part, hoo, was hard. The horse doesn't know anything, eh. And they were older. The horse was about five, six years old. So they matured. Like nowadays you ride a horse, two year old. But before you ride him, he practically know everything. You do it on the ground and he practically know everything. So nowadays is much easier to train horse than the days before that. Before oh, everything was hard. You learn from experience, eh. What you go through. Then the older people they tell you do this. You do that. You know just got to follow up with that. That's how you learn. And then stayed with C. Brewer. I worked with them for what? Twenty-six years. And then do all kind. Cowboy work, cattle work and driving truck and all kind, you know. They use sometime to...

LW: What kind of cattle work did you do?

TK: The cattle work... well when I started they had cattle. Before we started, before I came to C. Brewer. When Kahuku Ranch, they were shipping cattle to Honolulu. You land at Ka'alu'alu. Ka'alu'alu Bay, they had a chute down there. And then from there we ship the cattle to Honolulu. And then...

LW: On the steamer?

TK: Yeah. Then when it came to C. Brewer, they kill the cattle over here. That's when they had the wars. Wartime. The war time. And then the airport was down here. South Point. We load the plane with the carcass. Only the carcass. They fly them to Honolulu. And then we used to go load that, you know. We do all kind, yuh. When you work ranch you do all kind of job. You do cattle work, horse training...

LW: But down here what would cattle work be? What all is involved with cattle work.

TK: Cattle work we usually drive for brand. You know you brand and you wean. Okay, branding is to identify the calves. For the ranch. What brand they use. And then you have cattle work. The cattle work is really steady because they run over two thousand head, yuh. So you take off the calves from the mother. You have to put them in the certain area.

LW: That's all on horseback?

TK: And then you have to separate them for market. You get your steers go to market. You have your heifers. Heifers is the female ones. They are replacements. They keep so many head for replacement for the cows, you know. Every year when they brand and they wean, they take so many cows out. Then they put in

new heifers. Young ones to replace them that they took out. So you practically all year round, you work cattle. Then once in a while you go fence and your repair. When they're not too busy in cattle work and then we go fix fence and stuff like that. But I hardly used to work fence because I used to train horse, eh. When we slack on the cattle work, I go back on the horse.

LW: Oh, but you're training to work the cattle. They're like cattle horses, right?

TK: Yeah. They're trained for cattle work. All cattle work. And then we use the horses for... you know we get so many horses. We breed our own. We handle our own and everything. For C. Brewer Ranch. And then we work cattle practically all year round, you know.

LW: How many horses did you have?

TK: Each individual have... cowboy... on the ranch. There was nine of us. They allow eight horses. Working horses. Each man get eight horses. And then there's one horse, it's the young one. That wait until he get to know how to work and do his job good. Then you discard one. You know, keep replacing. Yeah... the replacement for the horse. That's why you have each cowboy get nine horses total.

LW: And you needed them all... you needed nine?

TK: Well, actually we used every horse. You say if we get eight horses, we bring up four, we leave four rest. In a month's time then we change over. Take this other four come back to work, the other four go rest. That's why you have so many horses, eh. And then... well we had trucks, you know, haul the horses, eh. But way back in the '30's, they didn't have trucks. You know, all drive. They only drive the cattle. Everything was drove. But in the '40's, when we came into the '40's they get trucks and everything, you know. Then they would haul our horses. And then not traveling with horses. So that's how. One time they had twelve horses per person because those days they used to travel with horses. No car, no truck and so you take your horses so many places, certain areas you leave the horses there. Then the next day you just commute with the car. Go over there and start the work, eh, and everything. So those were the old days. Then you gradually get it more modern and everything then nowadays they get trailers and all. Small little trailers, you know, two horse you can go and do the work and all. But before that no.

LW: You needed more. Because you had to walk, otherwise.

TK: Yeah. Then I work for C. Brewer and then with Kapapala combined. We combined with Kapapala Ranch.

LW: Oh, C. Brewer and Kapapala combined.

TK: Yeah. Then we joined in the late '50's. We combine as one. And then in the early '60's we combined with Keauhou... Volcano. So then all that came to be one ranch. Sea Mountain, eh. That's all they call that all Sea Mountain. Start from here all the way up to Keauhou, Volcano. And then this was all Hawaiian Home Land. But they had the lease on it, so we had cattle here. So that made it harder, you know. What it did is kind of put the three ranches together and use like Kapapala and Keauhou mostly for breeding. That's where you get your calves and cows come from. This lower area, they try to save it for the fattening. Fattening their cattle and everything. You take from Pahala on to this side. Well this side, down here... well, they were raising cows. But from Pahala... below Pahala and below Na'alehu was all paddocks. That's where we get our fattened stock and it goes to Honolulu, eh. Everything goes to Honolulu. Everything was shipped to Honolulu. Then finally they started the new idea and the feedlot. Then we went into feedlot.

LW: There was a feedlot down here?

TK: Yeah, we had a feedlot between here and Pahala. We had thousand five hundred head feedlot. And you know, all everything was grain. The grain come from...

FK: Albers.

TK: Yeah, Albers. Albers. That's where the feed came from. They haul it out.

LW: Where's that? Honolulu?

TK: No, Hilo.

LW: Hilo?

TK: Yeah. And then they bring it from Hilo, they put it in a... we have an automatic feeder. So much go out at a time. They fill up all that. And then we go.

LW: But the three areas were all controlled by C. Brewer, then.

TK: Yeah.

LW: So the feedlot is a C. Brewer feedlot.

TK: Right. And then we put them in there. The thing is the feedlot. What they did, 90 days just to change the color of the fat. That's about all.

LW: Really?

TK: Yeah. The fat come... see, pasture fed, the fat comes yellow. Grain fed, they come white. The fat is white. So that's why we put them in the feedlot. Actually 90 days is just to change the color of the fat.

LW: Unbelievable.

TK: Yeah. And then it goes out and so every week we ship to Hilo. And then...

LW: The carcass or...?

TK: Yeah. That goes. Then on top of that, then we ship some to Honolulu. Honolulu feedlot.

LW: Oh, the calf to the feedlot?

TK: Yeah. They had their own feedlot. Hawaii Meat had their big feedlot down there. So we sent so much over there. Well they had... when you combine the three ranches, you got to look at it this way. You got to save so much for yourself for the island here, and then what left over you had, you ship to Honolulu. So you got to make sure you get enough to support the island here. You figure if they say they need about five thousand head a year in Hilo, so you got to get that much in reserve for them.

LW: Wow... that's a big herd.

TK: Yeah. And then the excess goes to Honolulu. What left over you have, then it goes Honolulu. And then everything.

LW: So C. Brewer had a feedlot and a processing plant here in Ka'u.

TK: Yeah.

LW: Oh, I didn't know that. Somehow I missed that one.

FK: That was the early years, though.

LW: Before the war? No, before the '60's.

FK: Before the... no, afterward.

LW: Oh, after the '60's.

TK: '60's and '70's.

LW: It closed up in the '70's.

TK: Yeah. From the late '60's to the '70's, that's when they had the feedlot.

LW: Oh, okay. Okay.

TK: Before that, you know, it was all grass fed.

FK: Because I came back from Honolulu after... I was married before... my husband died. Then I moved here. I had three young ones. They told me to come home. So we came home. And that was in '72. And then after that they started the feedlot.

TK: Then they had the feedlot. We had over two thousand head in the feedlot.

LW: Just the feedlot.

TK: Yeah. But before we put them into the feedlot, we had the place down below Pahala... irrigation place. We bring so many head in there. See? So we had about a hundred acres. Four hundred head. We rotate them. Twenty-five acre. Every seven days we rotate. They chew down. They don't eat all the grass, we mow it. Go to there and then we partial feed them so that when they go into the feedlot, they just go to the grain. Some of them they don't eat grain.

LW: Oh, is that right?

TK: Yeah. Ad then you got to discard them, yuh. You got to take them out from there. And then some don't... not every one. Oh, maybe about one out of a hundred.

LW: Just doesn't eat grain.

TK: Doesn't eat grain. You can put them in there, they don't touch it.

LW: Then what do you do with that cow?

TK: Then we grass fed them. They go in the grass, then they get fed, then we send them. But then you get different price, yuh. When you say grass fed and feedlot, two different prices.

LW: Because the fat... they look different.

TK: Yeah. So now even nowadays they trying to go back to grass fed. They're trying to do away with this feedlot because they say the grain... you got some kind of infection in the meat and all kind stuff. I don't know.

FK: When I went to Oregon, they had the big feedlot up there. What they do is feed them vegetables. Cabbage, all that. Whatever the farmers throw that thing away, they pick it up and then feed the animals. And then they had rye. Rye for grass.

LW: Did you have like that irrigation area? Did it have different grass than...?

TK: No. Well we had the pangola.

LW: Pangola?

TK: Pangola grass, but it's just like *maninia* grass. You know... the same family only this one is bigger and she develop faster than regular. *Maninia* smaller, eh. But then we raised there. So many heifers, so many steers. All goes in the feedlot. From there they go into the feedlot. And then you replace them again. Put another herd in the irrigation.

LW: Just like a system.

TK: Get one system going in one circle. So every thirty days they out they go. They finish or no finish, out they go. Because you cannot put them in the next one because they just eating grain and not getting... you just losing out. So have thirty head in this pen. When you ship, thirty head go. Even if fat or no fat. They just go.

LW: Yeah. And then you bring in the new thirty.

TK: Yeah.

LW: And then you feed them grain.

TK: Yeah.

LW: And maybe there's one that doesn't eat so good. You take them back on the grass. Make them eat. Where do you put the ones...?

TK: Goes in the regular. Get some raised grass fed animals. So we put them in the same paddock with them. See, like in Honolulu, the manager in the feedlot, if the calf... he pull out his steers says they kill

seventy-two a day, yuh, in Honolulu. So he put them into the slaughterhouse. This one not finish. He take one from there, replace this one. And he put this one back. Oh, that doesn't go. You losing money. You know why? You just feeding him for nothing.

LW: He's never going to be fat.

TK: He not going to...

LW: He needs to be hamburger or something.

TK: Maybe couple more days, maybe another two or three months before he finish. No, we just ship the whole thing.

LW: So did they have to be a certain pound to be finished.

TK: Yeah. You got to be at least seven hundred. Over seven hundred pounds. Not less than that.

LW: So maybe some cows don't get seven hundred pounds. But you got to process them anyway. Right?

TK: Mostly he go. Mostly all of them reach the seven hundred pounds. But they not finished yet. You know, the covering of the fat. You got to get the covering. That's what they grade you on. So when they go in the slaughterhouse, they have these people, they grade the meat. And they can tell you how old the animal is and everything. And how good they are. And then they do all that there. So when we ship ours, it just goes there and they do the grading. We don't do it.

LW: The processing house does it?

TK: Yeah. Then when they send you the report, they tell you so many heads wasn't finished. You know. The fat is still yellow and mostly you go about 85 days. Ship the cows off. The fat is coming white. But we go 90 days and then we ship them out.

LW: But thirty days of that is just to turn the fat.

TK: Yeah. Just... that's what it's all about and because the grass fed is yellow, eh, the fat. So they just throw them into the feedlot. So 90 days is only a short while, you know. And change the color of the fat. The fat come all white.

LW: Then they grade better when they get into the feedlot?

TK: Yeah. Then they grade them. When they go, yeah.

LW: And if they grade better, you get a better price?

TK: Yeah. You get the feedlot stuff, you get a better price. And then maybe you go 90 cents a pound and stuff like that. And then the grass one, maybe they go 85. Ten cents to fifteen cents different. So that's how they mostly grade the cattle. So they do all the grading. We don't do the grading. We only ship them there. Then what we make extra money on, like old cows, that's free money for the ranch.

LW: How come? Because they're...?

TK: Because you had your calves from them, eh. So that's a bonus for you. The cows... and the bull. You know, breeding bulls.

LW: Where did they take the breeding bulls?

TK: The bulls go for sausage, eh. You know by Miko they...

LW: Because they're kind of tough or something?

TK: Oh yeah, so they grind them all up. And the old cows and all that. So that's free money for the ranch. And you start selling cows. Even they pay you what? Two hundred dollars, two fifty a head. They pay you by the carcass anyway so that's free money.

LW: Yeah but their meat doesn't grade so well. But you had lots of... they've been...

TK: That goes. Usually they use them for boneless stew or hamburger and all that. Like the bulls they use them for sausage. So they grind them down and everything.

LW: So in the group that's getting fattened for market... you know the group in the slaughterhouse, it's both females and males.

TK: Yeah. Yeah.

LW: But out in your pasture where you're building your herd, you just got your mamas out there.

TK: Yeah. Yeah.

LW: And you say they're producing more for your herd, yuh?

TK: Yeah, yeah. You go for your calf crop, yuh. That's how you make your figuring for your shipping for the year. According to your calf crop. Your calf crop, you get a great calf crop, you going get surplus.

LW: Okay.

TK: And then you send that to Honolulu. That's all the surplus.

LW: And so... when you see how many calves you have early on.

TK: Right.

LW: And then you plan out, you say when I ship these I'm going to probably be shipping this many. Right?

TK: Yeah. That's why when you get your calf crop, you break them down now. So you know say you need five thousand head for Hawaii here. Okay. You make sure you get that five thousand put away. At least you do it. You always run a hundred head over. You got to put some extra head. You know some can die and stuff like that. So you come out with that. And then the extras, you send them to surplus. I almost got fired from C. Brewer.

LW: Why is that?

TK: From that.

LW: How come?

TK: Well we had surplus. I had surplus. And the Japan people came over, they wanted to buy that cattle. Well, the manager of the ranch was on vacation. So I was fully in charge. So I had so many head surplus so I said sure. Was dollar a pound, not dollar a head. So I sold them. I sold the surplus to them. Hoo... the main office found out, boy! I had to go Honolulu. They questioned me. But where I got them beat, they told me when I accepted the supervisor job, they said we're hiring you to make money for the ranch. Right? So when I went to Honolulu they said you know you're not supposed to send the cattle to Japan. I said you didn't tell me that. You didn't tell me that. You told me we're hiring you to make money for the ranch. So I said that was my surplus. So that's why I sold the surplus. I said you guys, you must think. Dollar a pound. So you was getting about four hundred dollar, five hundred dollar per calf. According to the weight. So I got my lesson. They let me go on that one. Because hoo, I thought I was going get fired. But they blamed themselves because they didn't tell me that I only can sell to the feedlot, not to anybody else. But they told me you are there to make money for the ranch. So that was the one thing...

LW: But it sounds like you made money for the ranch, yuh?

TK: Yeah.

FK: I work for companies, too. For income tax, they don't want to sell the surplus this year, maybe they over due on their cow... you know, whatever they sell. So whatever surplus you get, you keep it till next year. So that's what it was all about.

TK: Yeah. So I stayed with them and when they sold the ranch to the Parker Ranch, well, that was it. I stayed with them for one year. Take the inventory.

LW: Oh, stayed with Parker for one year.

TK: Yeah.

LW: So they sold this whole big ranch?

TK: The whole thing. It went to Parker Ranch. And the following...

LW: When was that? '70's.

TK: In the '70's... yeah. Five... '76, right around there.

LW: So Parker Ranch was controlling...

TK: Ka'alu'alu Ranch, Kapapala Ranch and Keauhou Ranch. All three.

FK: That's when C. Brewer was losing money. They were investing their money. They had coffee fields, they had mac nut, so they were sending all these things to a foreign land. They were planting. So at the same time their money over here was invested in the hotel. Remember Waiakea Village?

LW: Waiakea... Villas... Waiakea Villas...

TK: Yeah.

FK: Their villas. So they invest their money figuring they can make money on the tourists. But that was the wrong area where they built. It was inconvenient.

LW: So it didn't help them with the ranches any way.

FK: So what they did was they put the ranch money to build the hotel... that's the Villas today. And that never made money. And then another one they built Punalu'u. Punalu'u was making the money. Punalu'u. And then they took that money again and invested it someplace else. Then that went down.

LW: So that was Hawaii Meat Company. What was that? Was it...

TK: Yeah... Hilo. Miko.

LW: No... no, no, no. When Parker was controlling it... what was it called? 'Cause it controlled... didn't they have a name for it... all three... Hawaiian Ranches or something?

TK: No... that's what it was. The first name was Hawaii Ranch, then went Sea Mountain.

LW: I see, I see. Okay.

TK: That's what.

FK: Then they change into Sea Mountain...

TK: When they first merged?

FK: Everybody from Kapapala, all over was all Sea Mountain and Punalu'u. They name it after Punalu'u. Punalu'u was Sea Mountain.

LW: Oh so it was all part of that development. The ranch became part of that bigger development.

TK: Yeah. So they...

FK: It was a big investment in Punalu'u. But you know the restaurant was making money. And Volcano wasn't making money. They owned Volcano, too. C. Brewer Company. Not own but they were leasing. And that wasn't making money. And Punalu'u was making money. And then they started to improve. They wanted to sell some more land. Above... they bought some more land and all this.

LW: Overextended.

TK: Yeah.

FK: And when the buyer came over, broke all that area, that was it.

TK: So C. Brewer... Yeah, that's how they started. The first was Hawaiian Ranch. Then eventually when they got Punalu'u going, Sea Mountain Ranch. That's how they got the name. Sea Mountain Ranch. So had three names, huh. Ka'alu'alu. First was this ranch, was Ka'alu'alu Ranch, then you have Kapapala and Keauhou.

LW: Where'd they house you? Did you have a house that went with the ranch?

TK: Oh was right up here. Yeah. The ranch quarters was right up here (off the South Point road). Before you hit the lava flow. You get one lava flow right by up...

LW: That's Kahuku... you mean Kahuku?

TK: No. Right up here. Ka'alu'alu Ranch. When you're going up you going meet the lava flow. Right further back get one driveway going up. The headquarters was up there.

LW: Oh, I see, I see.

FK: You know where the green house is right by the corner.

TK: By the turn.

LW: Yeah.

FK: There's a road that goes in. And then right now it's a radio station up there. So that used to be the headquarters.

TK: Headquarters.

LW: So you had housing at the headquarters?

TK: Yeah.

FK: The employees' housing was up there.

LW: So how many of you there? Did I ask that question already? When you were working, when it was in full swing? How many?

TK: Nine cowboys.

LW: Nine cowboys?

TK: Yeah. And then one supervisor and everything. Nine cowboys.

LW: And you were with them twenty some years?

TK: Yeah. And when they sold the ranch to the Parker Ranch and then I went to the sugar company. They put me in sugar company. From a cowboy to sugar, I didn't know. I thought cane was cane. (Laughs.) I didn't know they had all different kind... the seeds and everything. But I had to go learn, huh. Then I took care. I stayed with them for one year, no?

FK: No. Less than a year. Then Parker Ranch hired him back again. To work on the ranch. At the same time I had to go Molokai because I teach. I'm an instructor for hotels. So I went Molokai. And I like Molokai. It's real good. Then he wasn't raised from the company. They wouldn't give him raise. He was just making about seven hundred dollars a month, you know.

TK: Parker Ranch, ooh. From thousand, I was making thousand three hundred a month from C. Brewer. Parker Ranch... eight hundred dollars was. Oh, forget it! Yuh? And I asked for raise and they said oh, you just new, you know. We cannot give you raise.

FK: But then he worked for the ranch how many years. And he's not new. And he knew all the places over the area.

TK: I just told them I give you two week notice. Then after that they said, oh we go take you back and everything. I said too late. I made up my mind already. We went Molokai. She was working. I wasn't working. And Molokai hard to get job.

FK: No more job.

TK: No more job.

FK: Only Del Monte at the time.

TK: So I went over there, Del Monte. I wen apply at Del Monte. And they were looking for heavy equipment operator. I was lucky. I knew everything about heavy equipment. I used to drive for the Hawaiian Ranch... Sea Mountain Ranch. I used to drive tractor and any kind, huh. So I went. Got the job there. Hoo, was nice, you now. Nice place to live on. Everybody's friendly.

GS: You know the Duvachelles?

TK: Yeah. She used to work with one of them.

FK: Yeah. We all know them. I taught one of the... wait... she married. Her name was Eiko. But married to one of the Duvachelles. I taught them all about restaurant work and stuff. So was nice. I used to work Hotel Molokai, Pauhana Inn and Sheraton. You know just to teach the workers.

TK: You have relatives in Molokai?

GS: No, but I met Jimmy Duvachelle at the National Finals Rodeo. One time a whole bunch of people from Hawaii went and they were in the opening parade. Old Hawaii on Horseback. And he was one of them. Plus I know some of the kids because I used to photograph rodeo. So they used to come for the State Finals.

TK: Oh.

GS: Nice man. Sings, plays guitar.

TK: Yeah. He passed away? Who was that?

FK: No, he's still living.

TK: No, the guy who used to run the mule train. He used to go down Kalaupapa. Oh, Sproat... Sproat...

LW: Kindey passed away. Kindey passed away. Kindey Sproat?

TK: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

LW: Yeah, he passed away. Just in spring, I think.

GS: He used to work in Kohala, yuh?

TK: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

LW: He used to ride the ditch, huh?

TK: Right.

FK: Yeah, yeah. The mule train. The brother and them used to ride.

TK: Yeah, he used to run the Molokai trail ride, the mules. Go down to Kalaupapa.

LW: Did you keep mules on the ranch? Did you keep mules in the '60's and '70's on the ranch? Keep mules?

TK: Where? Here?

LW: On the ranch, yeah. Or just early on?

TK: Yeah, in the early days, yeah. But the later, when came into the '50's already, they *pau*. No more mules. Because the plantation they had these trucks and everything. They do away with the mules. The most thing was mules, eh, before the plantation. They haul everything on them. And they used to get all these saddle bred horses for the *lunas* and everything they travel with the horse, those days. But after that, when came into the '50's, already *pau*.

FK: My father... my father used to have a stable for all these *lunas*, you know. The big shot foremen and stuff. So they get beautiful horses. So he used to feed them, clean the stable... they had a stableman but when he goes on vacation my father used do all. He used to shoe the horse, train the horses, all that.

LW: Where was this?

FK: All in Pahala.

GS: There's a stable in Mountain View, too, yuh?

TK: Yeah. All the plantations had stables.

GS: 'Cause my granduncle was a *luna*. And he used to live close to the stables.

FK: That was old, all in the '30's and '40's you know. My father used to be a foreman, too. Contracting mules out and then they get so many men working for them. And then when they sell the sugar, they work all year all on that land until about two years and a half, then they would cut the cane and sell it. Whatever they sell they would take out all the expenses and the bonus money comes back to my father and he divide it among all the workers.

LW: So you had to wait a whole year to get your bonus money?

FK: I remember my father... the last time when he was paralyzed, they sold his field. He had stroke, too, you know. And then they sold the field and he had bonus money. Six hundred dollars. Hoo, that was a big money, boy.

TK: Oh, big. Four, five hundred dollar, big money. Nowadays four, five hundred dollars is a drop in the bucket. (Laughs.)

FK: You got to get five thousand before it's there.

TK: Yeah, the pay was really small but...

FK: Dollar a day, he used to work.

TK: Dollar a day. Dark to dark. I think when I work for Glover I think that's when I was working, I started out with Glover. He was making that Pahala road, eh. Going to Hilo. I started off with him. And then my grandfather was running the ranch. So he asked Glover for get me back. I came back on the ranch again. Then I started with Glover again. So I went back. I started working on the road. That's how I learned how to drive heavy equipment. All this kind, and then went back on the ranch again. Then started all over again. Start training horse. Ranch life is all right but it's rough, rough, rough... raw.

LW: What do you mean rough?

TK: Working on the ground it's not like... you take like Kapapala. All those places, huh. And then you have all this kind lava flows and then Kapapala, tree molds. Hoo, lots of them. Kapapala Ranch.

LW: Right, right, right. Tree molds.

TK: Yeah, get all. Some this one (indicates size), some bigger.

LW: Gordon's (Cran) daughter Lani, she and the horse went into one.

FK: Plenty accidents get.

LW: Had to get a helicopter to take the horse out.

TK: Hoo, I had my days. Bust all my bones and everything. Broke my rib. broke my neck, everything.

LW: Breaking horses is hard work.

TK: Yeah. Before you work in the Parker Ranch, everything is roping. You get wild bulls and everything.

Bring them down from the mountain. But they have the... you call it pin bulls. These pin bulls they train them. When they're young, they feed them grain, and they train them to learn how to come home and everything. You go up there, you rope with those pin bulls... you rope wild bulls and I no care how big the bull. You get this pin bull right alongside him. They right along side him. End of the rope. The bull is tied to the tree. You go right alongside him. You put the rope around his neck, around to the pin bull's neck and in between they have a swivel. Turn them loose. The pin bull bring him home. He know where to go, man. Yeah. You come down by the main highway you see them all standing, waiting. They travel on the highway, coming home. But those days no more traffic like today. Maybe one car every four hours or so. One car.

GS: They call that *pine*, yuh?

TK: Yeah, *pine*. That's what they call them pin bulls. And they had this guy, I was small boy, you know. I go with him. And then he trained them. He go up there. He had two. Two pin bulls. He have to watch them. They (the pin bulls) kill them. They kill the animal. The two, he had two. Hoo, that two, he got to watch them. So he save the biggest one (bull) for these two. So he leave them over there, tie them up, and then he leave them there. They stay with the rope. Just tie them to the tree, they stay there until he come back, eh. Then he go up he get the rest. Then he start letting them go. They coming home already. As soon as he turn them out, you take the rest. Keep going up and get everything, come. They come down, they bring them all the way. Only these two, he have to watch them. Because I guess they been so abused, on them every time so if you not there, they take him (the bull), get one tree like that, they go one side the tree, he go the other. They pull him... choke him to death. So you go over there, that's why that guy, he go over there. If they do it, he go in the front of them, he whack them, give them lickings. They back up, he go down the road.

LW: You mean the tame ones would bring the wild one...

TK: They bring them down. They bring them all the way to the headquarters, Kahuku. By the ranch. Go in the corral. They go in the corral. They take out the bull, but when you take out these bulls you got to be watching. You got to keep an eye on them or they coming for you. But you stay along with the pin bull, huh. The pin bull help you out so you stay alongside. They don't go. But they see you in the open, they coming. But you run by the pin bull. Then you take that one, next one come in. All that. Then they put them in. They used to raise pigeon pea up Kahuku. For fattening cattle. But those old days was all hand, eh. No more machine. You got to go with the horse and plow the field and all that. Plant the pigeon pea, but hoo, they love that. Cattle they love it. And then they ship them to Honolulu. From there go down to Ka'alu'alu, eh.

LW: So did you have different grasses? Like for down here and up there?

TK: Well down here the grass they got before was *pili* grass, that. The Hawaiian grass, huh. *Pili* grass. But when come dry weather, that thing all dry out, eh. So then they brought this buffel grass from Australia.

LW: Oh... buffel?

TK: Buffel, they call it buffel. And that's good grass.

FK: That's the one you see sometimes in summer time. But not high on the mountain area. It's kind of reddish.

LW: Oh, right.

TK: Then they brought that. That good. You can take the punishment. First rain come, they go right back

up. So that's what we've done here.

LW: Well you've been getting rain, huh. Looks nice.

FK: Yeah, we've had few times.

TK: Yeah. Usually it's dry around here.

LW: So that's the one that's down here.

TK: Oh yeah.

LW: You have other ones?

TK: Up in the higher elevation you have kikuyu. Paspalum... or Rhodes Grass...

LW: What's the middle one called?

TK: Paspalum.

LW: Paspalum. Okay.

TK: Yeah. It's more like... similar to kikuyu but only little more dark green than the kikuyu.

FK: My son called it "grandpa pull you grass". (Laughter.) 'Cause he have it all in his yard, yuh.

TK: So high elevation, yeah. No can beat the kikuyu, though.

LW: Yeah, it's good for the cattle.

TK: It's good for the cattle.

FK: Kikuyu is good because the cow would eat it and then it comes back.

TK: Right back.

FK: When it just drizzle the thing would come all green again.

LW: That's good, yuh?

TK: Yeah. That's kikuyu. Down here, it's what I have in my yard. Kikuyu. But only that. Kikuyu grass for a house, you got to keep it short. If not you get hard time lawn mower. You know... so you get like a cushion.

FK: Yeah, it's like you walking on a cushion.

TK: Yeah, the cushion. They do good down here and on the lower elevation.

LW: Did you seed?

TK: Yeah. All seed. From Australia. You go on the horse and they throw it. But like down here, good, yuh. You go on the far end and the wind carry, yuh. And you throw it way up, the thing carry. The wind just spread it all. Yeah. It's good. Really good. And then like in Kahuku, what Freddie Rice did, he bulldozed the whole area. There's a lot of tree ferns and dakine and *hapu* and all that. So what he did, he bulldozed the thing and everything and go get kikuyu grass. He just dig it up and then he just throw it on the ground. And let the bulldozer go over the thing and drag something over and cover. That's why the place now you go up there it's nice. Really nice. It's all open, eh. And all kikuyu grass. And he get his paddocks all covered. So that's the guy I give a lot of credit to. Boy, he really did good. How he got the money was all Ocean View... you know Ocean View?

LW: Yeah, yeah.

TK: That was all Kahuku. So he sold all that. That's why he started was what? Thousand five hundred dollar for five acre or three acre?

FK: Five hundred dollars.

TK: That's why he told me, you got to buy some land. He told me buy some land. I tell him, on the rock. Forget it! I said that to him. You ain't going to get anybody. Look today. Holy Christ! Now they selling them by the square foot, not by the mile. Hoo, today, boy, the money is there. And look how many people out there. Hoo, but a lot of these people from the mainland, huh. They come down, they buy it and everything but oh, but they raise flowers up there and everything. Up there. Terrific. Even plant coffee. What dakine flower they plant?

FK: Protea.

TK: Protea. Hoo boy! I used to... when I first came back I used to go work part-time for Charlie Young, huh. He haul water for Ocean View, huh. Only had him, the one was hauling water. Now they get about five, six trucks of... every day... hauling water.

FK: But this time the vog came in. Destroyed all those plants.

TK: Yeah, that thing really kill. A lot of them lost out because of that vog.

LW: I know what I forgot to ask you about. Did you supplement minerals with your cattle? Minerals?

TK: What?

LW: Supplement?

TK: No. The only thing what we used to do is dakine... what they did was the fat of the cow, I think. They made it into some kind of chemical. They mix it up with the feed. The cow fat.

LW: Oh. Yeah. But you wouldn't add potassium or anything to the ...?

TK: No.

LW: You just let them graze?

TK: Like now, everything go mainland, eh. No more slaughterhouse in Hawaii.

LW: The calf goes to the mainland, yuh?

TK: Yeah. That's what we do. Cow/calf operation. Same here. I do the same thing.

LW: Oh, do you? So how do you find that change from when it was the '60's and '70's and that?

TK: Hoo, big changes. Oh. We still used to ride horse from here to there and back. You take about two hours only for traveling. And then traveling coming back. That's why you reach home... you leave home dark, you get home dark. You got to ride horse, eh. All the place you go you ride horse, ride. Ride horse. All that. Parker Ranch the same thing. When they brand way up Kawaihae Uka, all those high places, early in the morning. Five o'clock... coffee! But one thing they do this, Parker Ranch, free breakfast, eh. (Laughter.) Yeah. There you go up the restaurant, you like stew in the morning you get stew... stew and rice. They feed you, though. Then five o'clock, on the way. Then would be a wagon come in the back with the salt beef. You seen that salt beef? They salt that and preserve it. And then they have this taro, Hawaiian taro. They smash it up soft. Now not too soft. But it's kind of hard yet. They wrap it in the *ti* leaf. Then when you go up there, that's what you get. They boil that. They throw away the water and then the thing salty, you know. But they strain it, eh. They boil it about two, three times. Then you cut yourself one piece of meat. One hard poi. That's it. And coffee. (Laughs.) But he go. Those old people... hoo, you better be there fast, boy. You know the fat... hoo, they love the fat. They love the fat. Those guys can eat fat.

LW: Really?

TK: Hoo, the cow fat, boy. They're there. They taking the pan. Hoo!

LW: What do you mean? Like your parents or grandparents or today?

TK: My father used to work over there. I used to go. Parker Ranch.

LW: And he could eat a lot of fat?

TK: Oh, yeah. My dad, if no more fat on the meat, he no like. Yeah. You no hear about high cholesterol or stuff.

FK: Just like me, too. When we slaughter cow. So when I cook stew or something I trim that fat out. He grumble.

TK: Oh, no more taste, you know. If no more fat, no more taste. the meat. Even me. Even me I like my fat.

FK: He tell me I cut the meat since you going make stew today. He leave all the fat. I trim it off. (Laughter.)

LW: Your daddy was a famous cowboy for Parker Ranch. He was well known.

TK: Yeah, yeah. He work for long time for the Parker Ranch. And then...

LW: Still got Kanihos working out there, huh?

TK: Yeah. Had this guy from... was raised on the ranch. His parents used to stay up you know the sheep station, Humu'ula. His parents was up there. And they had one son. They call him Take. Japanese boy. Mother and father is Japanese. Japanese boy. Old man Carter taught him. Teach him and everything. That guy. He was small. Oh, but brother can ride horse, though. Ho, bucking horse mean nothing to him. But he was small. Parker Ranch, Carter told them that nobody fire that boy. Anybody fires that boy they go pack their things. That boy stays. And he knew that Humu'ula like his five fingers. Every place you mention, he know. And everything. He can... hoo, the fog is so thick we reach home in the fog. Hoo, he good at everything. And he used to stay. He worked with my dad up there. My dad was there. And then they wen send one Portuguese guy from Hamakua side. He came as a supervisor for the Parker Ranch. So they wen send him up there. Humu'ula. He wen fire that boy. He fire the boy. The boy went down. See the old man Carter. Old man Carter tell dakine... you go right back. You tell him to come down. He come down. Those days only on the horse, eh. He came down. Old man Carter told him, get your things and pack your things and move out. He fire him. I told everybody that boy doesn't get fired from the ranch until he leave the ranch on his own. And if he work till there, he died. Stayed there. And he bought one home at Kaumana. He married and he had two children.

LW: What was his name?

TK: Take. Yeah. Fujioka. Old timer.

LW: Is he still around?

TK: Oh, no.

LW: Long gone?

TK: Yeah. He died. Shucks, I was still a boy when he was running around there. (Laughs.) But he knew his stuff, though. He was good. He was good. And he (Carter) wanted to make him... well, he didn't want to accept. He was supposed to take over the Humu'ula Station, but he didn't want. He told Carter, no, he don't want.

LW: He wanted to be cowboy.

TK: Yeah. He wanted to be just a cowboy. So he did good, though. He stayed up long time.

LW: So your little bio here talks about these other paniolo like Henry Makuakane and Willie Mokeau and...

TK: Oh, yeah, yeah. They all died. They all worked with me.

LW: Older than you, though?

TK: Oh yeah, they were older than me. Willie Mokeau, oh yeah, that's a relative from Hawaii.

LW: How old were you when you were...?

TK: Oh, I was only eight, nine years old. I was up Kahuku. They was working up there... Kahuku.

LW: You remember anything that happened with these guys?

TK: Oh, when they left the ranch they worked for the... what that? WPA.

LW: Oh, because of the depression?

TK: They ended up working for them.

LW: Did they teach you anything? Do you remember them for...?

TK: Well the only thing I can think of him, the horse wen drag him.

LW: Which one?

TK: Oh Willie.

LW: Willie?

TK: Yeah. The old man, Willie. He got buck off and then the horse wen drag him. My grandfather shot the horse. Oh, yeah. That's the only thing I can remember of him because I was only one small boy.

FK: This Willie generation, my daughter was married to the great grandson. His grand daughter lives up here in Wai'ohinu.

LW: How about the other guys?

TK: Henry Makuakane? Well he came, work with me when I was up at Kahuku Ranch. And then when he left Kahuku Ranch he worked for the plantation. Sugar cane.

LW: Were you just small kind then, too?

TK: No, I was matured. I was matured already. Henry came from Kona.

LW: Oh. What do you remember of him?

TK: Well he was just a ordinary working man. Do anything. Fix fence and cowboy work and...

LW: Hard worker?

TK: Yeah. He was good worker, too. And who else you got there?

LW: Nui Kane...

TK: Oh yeah. He was a cowboy, too. At Ka'upu. And now when he left, well he had borrowed some money from the Parker Ranch. He started a boat business in Kailua. Boat business. And then he worked for the ranch and then what he used to live on was goat money. He used to go catch goat and sell to the Filipino. And then when he paid it off, he quit the ranch. Then he went in Kailua, he was running tourist. All this kind fishing business and everything. He was doing good. Then I don't know, he came down to one place where he was kind of short of cash, I think. And then who that... who that guy? Carlsmith. Carlsmith. He's a realtor. He's a realtor. They bought his place. They gave him ten thousand dollars. For his place. But the house is his. But he didn't know, eh. He didn't understand, only the house he owned. The land, he bought the land.

Carlsmith bought the land. So he stayed there. Now that where the Sheraton Hotel stay. That's why he... yeah, big money. Nice place he had. Then he stayed there about one year then Carlsmith move in. Told him he had to move out. Ho, he went berserk.

LW: Yeah, that's hard.

TK: He went berserk. He had six children and everything. But the children was kind of grown up already. Teenagers and everything. Then he cracked up. They sent him to Honolulu. Kaneohe. He cracked up. Then finally they wen release him. Then he came back. But he still doesn't forget Carlsmith. So what he did, he caught a ride going to Hilo. Somebody had notified the cops. When they got there he was just about to kill Carlsmith. And they caught him. Then he went back, he died. He just... well, they say he starve himself to death. Yes. You know he was so depressed that he couldn't... because for the amount of money he sold the place, where he could get bigger money. But he didn't know, eh. Made ten thousand dollar, only the land, eh. But the house is yours. He figure where the house is, that's his land, eh. That's how he mistake. Well, he was good cowboy. Oh yeah, that guy can ride, too. Oh yeah.

LW: There's the Akiu brothers... Charlie and Fidelis Akiu.

TK: Oh, oh yes. That's two brothers. Two brothers. That's the one trained the pin bull. He was the guy that trained the pin bull. Oh, he knew Kahuku like his five fingers. So long you tell him direct where, he find them. The bull. He'll get him. I used to go. I was oh... young... only about six, seven years old. I ride one small, little mule, go with him. I go follow him, eh. That's how I see. And then he turn them loose.

GS: Which brother was that?

TK: Charlie. Then the other brother was Fidelis. Fidelis. Two brothers. Fidelis was a cowboy. But Charlie was the guy who trained the pin bulls. Every day. That's his job. Every day he train them and everything.

LW: Would they do wild cattle every day?

TK: Eh?

LW: Would they rope wild cattle every day or just sometimes?

TK: No. Usually when they finish in Waimea, they send the cowboys over to Kahuku. And then they go up they rope and tie and everything, you know. But some, they can drive them, they drive them. The ones that break away and everything, they let it go for that day and then they keep working the ones they can handle. And then they go back. Go get them. Then they start roping. But they get dogs. My grandfather had dog. The dog was smart. He just go over there he get the cattle. Once the cattle get in an opening he stop. He don't kill them That's you guys' job. He just sit there and wait. My grandfather call him, he go back again. If he get another one, coming out. And he just come. When he reach in the open he just stand there. He just stand. He don't do nothing. The cowboys got to do the rest. But I tell you, that guy used to haul that dog. Old man Carter make him haul that dog on the horse in the morning. Yeah, he start out about two o'clock in the morning, he go up ahead.

LW: Old man Carter would?

TK: Yeah, and then when the cowboys come. The dog is up there. The dog is only waiting for them. As soon as they come and they set up the line and everything, then the dog on his job. Bark. Bring them back

out. They run out in the open, he stop. He stay there. And Charlie Akiu used to be there. He just stay there, watch.

LW: You know what kind dog it was?

TK: Yeah.

GLW What kind dog?

TK: It was a pointer dog. Yeah, pointer. Oh good! The dog was smart. My grandfather's dog. Oh, he's smart. Even goat. He go chase goat. He crawl until he get real close to the goat.

He crawl. If the goat look at him, he stop. Only you see his ears flapping and everything. He stay that way. The goat go down, he walking again. Yeah. I used to use the dog go catch goat. I was a young boy. Make some school lunch money, eh. And take the goat go up by the road, sell them. One dollar for one goat. And then you keep up with him. You get four, five goat, he going to line them up, you know. Soon as some goat run, they lay down, he jump them. He go get the next one. But you get one other smaller dog, eh. I had one small, little fox terrier. He cannot keep up with the big dog. So the goat lay down, he take that one. (Laughs.) Yeah. Those days hard, yuh. Everybody work, eh. So make a few dollars. Lunch money, yuh. For school.

LW: So what do you think is the most important thing about being a cattleman.

TK: Oh, gee that's... you know, to be one cattleman, first of all you got to be good what kind cattle you going to begin with. Say Angus, Hereford. Or you know, what animal would do good in that certain area. So you got to make a study first. And then find out which will do good. Like way back, everything is Hereford... Hereford. Now you have Hereford, you have Angus, you have Brangus, you get oh, Simenthal. All these different bloods. Yeah. They all different blood so that's why now different. It used to be like down in this area here, you cannot beat the Hereford and Angus. They can take the weather. Even the Santa Gertrudis another a good one.

LW: What's good here?

TK: They can handle the dry, huh.

LW: Oh, they are good here.

TK: Yeah.

LW: Oh, okay. So you have a Hereford?

TK: And Angus.

LW: .Angus mix?

TK: Yeah. Mix. Well why you like the Angus for down here, the Hereford, they get cancer eye. You know from the dust and the sand. They end up with cancer in the eye. All. But you get like the Angus, they all dark. Just like one albino, eh. You know what I mean. They cannot take the sun and the sand, eh, the Hereford. That's why they cross them. You get the crossing. But still yet you get the cancer eyes, though. Even the crossing. So long their eyes, they covered, eh... so they all right. But like the Herefords strong. Charolais is

another one. Charolais, down here, hard.

LW: Too hard for the Charolais.

TK: Yeah, yeah. Too bright. And they all white, eh.

FK: That's the thing. Their eyes teary, yuh. Teary. But they're big animals. They got big bones and everything.

TK: And they nice and they finish off, eh. They terrific, the Charolais. Meat... fat... meat... fat. Hoo, you get top grade, you know. When they slaughter them. And then they grade the meat, hoo, you get top price for that. They one of the greatest.

LW: There was a what? One time, what was it called? Saler, that they bred up above Honoka'a. Up above Pa'auilo mauka. SC was called the ranch. Called SC. You ever heard of that brand? Saler? S A L E R. That's the only time I every heard of that one over here. I guess it's saler. Saler.

TK: It's one ranch up there?

LW: Yeah, Dutchie Schumann's ranch.

TK: Dutchie Schumann.

LW: Above Pa'auilo mauka.

FK: Oh, Dutchie Schumann. That's the one that used to own the place above Pa'auilo.

LW: Yeah, yeah.

FK: The girl from Molokai, her husband worked for him.

TK: Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah. He get nice land. But up mauka he get that fire brush, eh. Yeah, that thing is taking over that land way up there. See...

FK: Dutchie Schumann... you should know him.

TK: Yeah, yeah. Dutchie Schumann. Yeah, I know him.

FK: I think Lorenzo worked for him.

TK: Yeah. He's still running the ranch? No? He died?

LW: They did some cross breeding that was a little different from other people. That was recent. Just in the last... in the '90's.

FK: I wonder if that's the one we seen in Seattle.

TK: Yeah. They were supposed to send some bulls down for... I don't know... he didn't know the name of

the person. When I asked him, they were raising some bulls.

LW: But you're still running cattle.

TK: Yeah. I run goat. The wife run goat. The goats over there, they're hers.

FK: We get goats, we get cattle... we have them all in the back here.

TK: Yeah. At least thousand eight hundred acres.

LW: Oh wow.

TK: From the Hawaiian Homes. Even some people down here raising cattle, too. They all lease. The problem is you no can go big. The lease, month to month lease. They won't give me a long lease. I tried for long lease. They won't give. And then they had windmill guys was going to start windmill down at South Point. This time the Chairman came up. He talked to us. So he told me oh, they leasing the land to them twenty-two years lease. So I tell them oh, how come he can get twenty-two years and I cannot get nothing. Month to month. Oh, that's a different thing, he say. That's a business. I say what do you think I'm doing? You think I'm going eat all that cattle I get in the back there? You nuts! Then he in turn wen tell those guys that I was making a squawk. So when the guy came, he approached me, I just told him off. Hey, as far as I'm concerned that's good for the locals. You going build one windmill, electric coming over there, they subdivide this place for the housing, they get electric and everything. I wasn't against you. The only thing I just said to him was why I cannot get twenty-two year lease, too. He said oh, what kind lease you got. I say month to month. He say oh, my God. He say you cannot go big. I said that's right. I cannot go big. I say next month they tell me I want their land back, that's it. So he said oh, I wanted to know why you was against me. He said now I know why. You only asking for the lease. I say yeah. You can get twenty-two years, I can get twenty-two years, too. Then you can go big. But month to month, no way. Put big money involved inside there and then they take the land back. oh, my God. The same as happened to Nobriga, eh, in Humu'ula. Nobriga is the same thing.

LW: Nobriga? Where, at Pa'auilo mauka?

TK: Saddle road. Up Mauna Kea. Humu'ula. He had. Nobriga had up there. They took the land away from him. His lease was up, they took the land away from him. And what... not so bad if they take the land and they put people on the land right away. The thing just sitting there. Now, nothing.

LW: Be another ten years before...

TK: Yeah. You know. Why take the land away. I would just leave it as is. And then eventually tell him, give him time to get all his cattle out. Then now what, he turn around and sue Hawaiian Homes. And he won.

LW: Oh, did he?

TK: Yeah, he won. Because they was his cattle that they sold. What they did, the Hawaiian Homes wen round up the place. They wen get couple guys and everything and all that. They round up the cattle. They got the cattle. By law, any time you round up cattle and there's a brand on the animal, you got to notify the person. And if he doesn't do anything about it, that's yours. They didn't notify him. Hawaiian Homes didn't notify him. They sold the cattle. He turn around, sued them. And he got his money... double the amount. Now what, they have cattle up there but people are shooting them, eh. Still get some more. Get people shooting them.

They taking them home for eat.

LW: Poaching them?

TK: Yeah. Like him, he not worried. He got his money back, eh. If they was going put somebody was going take over the land right off the bat, I could see it, you know. They take the land tell him well, we give you thirty days to get out. That's why best you get one long term lease. You get one year to clear out. If they going take the land they got to give you one year notice. But you got one long term lease. But month to month, you only get thirty days. And you get so much head, you no can eat that much cattle.

LW: So but I mean but is this a business... do you think there's future in ranching? You think there's a future to ranching in the Big Island?

TK: Future?

LW: Future like to the business of ranching?

TK: Gee, right now?

LW: Or just everybody just got to do freezer cattle or...?

TK: Mostly nowadays all the big ranches is folding up. And only these small guys raising cattle. You take like Parker Ranch is down. Right? They only get few heads. They was one of the biggest. And what? Hu'ehu'e Ranch, same thing. They going down. They subdividing all the land. That's the Stillman, them, daughters eh. They sold that land and everything so that now they cutting it up for subdivision. Everything's coming... instead of ranching. McCandliss Ranch is same thing. They took the land back. All the people who own land, C. Brewer was same thing. Wipe out. Yeah, they selling all their land now. Kahuku same thing. The park bought the area but they don't want the low area. So they selling this lower land. Ten thousand dollars an acre, no. Ten thousand dollars an acre. So guys are buying.

FK: Make one subdivision. Little by little they buy the land.

TK: Yeah, people coming from the mainland. One guy bought fifty acres. One guy bought twentyfive acres. Ten thousand dollars per acre. Holy Christ!

LW: Yeah, it's a lot. Then they have to put up a multi-million dollar house in there.

TK: Yeah.

LW: Good lord.

TK: Ten thousand. There's a guy up there by the turn. You see the big shed over there. He build up that house. He bought twenty-five acres. He build a house and everything. That warehouse up there and everything. Move back to the mainland. No more job.

FK: No more job. He's construction.

TK: He's a contractor worker, no more job. Hoo, like nowadays, everybody getting laid off. And the houses... oh, lot of *haoles*... the guys losing their homes left and right. No can meet the mortgage.

FK: I get three grandsons in construction. All apprentice now. Mason. The father is mason. He's apprentice for Isemoto. They hire him, took him away from where he was working to build tanks. So he's the builder of the tanks all in Waikoloa. And all there. That's my oldest son. So his son is mason. So I think the oldest son is working, the other two, mine is working in Honoka'a. And I get one son, Rufer, he works in Honolulu. (Laughter.)

TK: And come home every weekend.

FK: He work for the government. So he works in Honolulu. Hoo, what a mess, no, now?

TK: Yeah, lot of people without job now. That's pitiful, no?

LW: Not these big ranches any more like C. Brewer one.

TK: No more. Yeah. Parker Ranch is gone. The second biggest ranch was Kuka'iau Ranch. That's where... who... my neighbor... you just said... up Pa'auilo.

LW: Oh, Schumann.

TK: He's right next.

LW: Yeah... he's next to him. So who owned Kuka'iau Ranch again?

TK: Kuka'iau Ranch was bought but mainland guys, eh. Mainland people. And what became of that?

GS: Yeah. They were going to subdivide it. And after that...

TK: Oh, subdivide, too?

GS: They were going to but they had to sell the property and since then I haven't heard.

TK: Oh, no. See. No more the big ranches. You don't have any more big ranches.

LW: No, I don't think so.

TK: That's why I say it's pretty hard. Only like us, small ranches, eh. So we try work together with everybody. Yeah whoever come help you. You come help me. I help you and stuff like that.

GS: Kind of like a coop.

TK: Yeah, yeah.

LW: So when you ship your cattle, you get together and you ship?

TK: Yeah, we bring them in, we brand, we wean and everything. Then send the calf there. Only this last time we had little bit humbug. We had to wait for our money. He never pay about three months, I think. We had to wait. That's why I say like us, not bad. You know. We get retirement money, but the guys who...

LW: Who don't...

TK: Yeah. They paying the lease, and they not working, they living on their cattle and they no get paid right off the bat. Oh, you need the money. That's why...

FK: This guy used to take our cattle, Weider.

TK: Winston. They live right outside of Onomea.

FK: But they took his land away.

TK: Winters... you know him?

LW: I was thinking you were talking about Pono Holo? No not Pono Holo. What's Pono's last name?

GS: Von Holt.

LW: Von Holt.

TK: Pono.

LW: Yeah, I thought Von Holt was... they had that land outside Onomea. Who is that?

TK: That's the one. Winston. Yeah. He was the one. He was buying all our cattle. And him... good idea. You take them there, scale them and everything. Only he give you the check and he say you got to wait one week, though. Before you can change the check. So I mean, at least you're there. One week is no big thing. But when you got to wait for months...

FK: He was leasing land over there, yuh.

TK: Yeah. That's why. Jammed him up. The lease expired, huh. So he lost the land. Too bad, but. He had a nice place. He had it all top shape. He know how to run it and everything. And ship them to Kawaihae. You know. Before was not bad. Right to Hilo, eh. But not any more. Everything goes Kawaihae. So that's a lot of...

GS: One more thing.

TK: Yeah, yeah. Like now what? HT & T get all the contracts for hauling for the stores in Hilo. From Kawaihae. So they not bad. At least they get something going, yuh. But when the plantation wen close up they was in a tight spot, because they used to haul all the sugar. Now not bad. They back on their feet again because they hauling all for the stores, huh. They got the contract.

LW: Now which one is this?

TK: HT & T. So they not bad now. They back in shape. Like before all in Hilo, you can go to Hilo and Kawaihae. But not now, now all Kawaihae, eh. That's why you buy stuff and you send it by container, hoo, some guys they say it's cheaper to buy in bulk from the mainland and pay the container. They say you make out better. Gee but I didn't try because I don't need that much. Yeah, I have a friend down here, he get every week containers come in. He raise cattle, he raise pig and goats and horses. Hoo, he make enough go of it.

He's all right. But he started off with small and then I guess he got grant money and everything. That wen start him off. But he keep right in there. He stay with the by laws of the grant money, eh. You got to make a report every six months or something like that. What he spent for and all that got to be.

FK: You got to write the books, you got government money. You have to.

TK: Yeah, he stays within there and any time he need some more he get some more. Too good, that. I give him credit. He used to work with us. I worked with him. He went college. And then all with Billy Bergin. Billy Bergin used to work over here. When he was going school.

LW: Yeah, he told us. He helped to herd goats or something.

TK: Yeah, yeah. Billy Bergin he used to, And then when he come... he was going college and when they come school break he work for us. Him and five of them. Came here, work. Alfred. Who? Who? Oh, had three, four more other guys.

FK: Truman. Truman was one of them.

TK: Yeah. Truman. And McKillup.

FK: And what was his name? Miranda.

TK: Miranda.

FK: Miranda in Kauai right now. He more involved in rodeo work.

TK: Yeah, he was here. All them, they go school, they come down summer break. So Billy Bergin was taking care of the ROP herd. All registered animals. All AI breeding.

LW: AI...?

TK: Artificial breeding.

LW: Oh, yeah.

TK: So he take care of that. He was going to be a vet so I figure that would be down his alley. And they need pregnancy tests and all this stuff. And the bull semen. He ordered the... you know we ordered the semen tests and he breed them. And then McKillup used to take care the fence men. He was a rough guy, but. Truman was the same thing. And then the rest of them work with me. As cowboys.

LW: So you trained them up, sort of.

TK: Yeah. But they were good, you know. Only spring break they come back, eh. They work. Do their part and everything. And then they...

FK: I get one grandson. We adopted him. My nephew's son. The oldest son. We adopted him. With grandpa he learned all about the ranch. Shoe horse, train horse, everything.

TK: Everything.

FK: When he graduated from high school, Billy Bergin came down here. He wanted him to go to school. But he joined the Navy. And I wanted him to become a... what do you call that?

TK: Veterinarian.

FK: Because he's smart, knew horses, cows and everything. Everything. He knows everything. Fix fence and everything. He learned all from grandpa. So we wanted him to go veterinarian school. Because he knows horses, cattle, No. He comes back and tells me, Grandma... Grandpa... you know I not going school. I'm going join the Navy. Cannot do anything. That's his choice. That's his choice. So he left us. And then he comes home once in a while. He married. Hilo girl. And then they get two, one boy, one girl. The two is always down here, too. Always making trouble with the Uncle. So the younger brother bring them home to Honolulu. The father in the Navy. They stationed in Kane'ohe.

LW: That's not so far away. Could be lots farther away.

TK: Billy Bergin retired, huh?

LW: Oh yeah. He's retired. I think his wife finally retired. But... in his retirement he wrote all those books. He got three... third book or fourth book. I don't even keep track any more.

GS: The third one came out.

LW: Yeah, so he had three books he wrote. About the history of Parker Ranch mostly.

TK: I don't mind we getting one, though. Good to read.

LW: Do you have any final comments you want to make about cattle operations or being a cattleman?

TK: Like I say, you know, it's individual. What kind of breed they want. Individual, you know. Certain kinds they want certain kind. That's the one, you know. But first you got to know your background. The location. What kind animal can stand the climate over there and what is the best way to go about it. Right now I go for Angus and Hereford. But I not too keen about Charolais. Charolais little bit too... they good animals in areas. But not for here, yuh. The turnover, they slow. You know, they slow because they get bigger bones. That's why when you start, they grading them, they no grade as high as the Hereford and the Angus. They small bone but they get a lot of fat, you know. So like Charolais, they bigger boned animal, eh. So it take them little bit longer to finish them. But they got the frame and everything. That's why it's so hard, eh. That's all I can say. But you want to start a ranch, first you got to study your location where. First the location. What kind animal can handle the country and stuff like that. And then you go from there. Yeah. Same as like Kuka'iau Ranch used to have lot of good cattle coming through there. But eventually they change and so Kuka'iau Ranch had nice cattle over there. But like you said now, everybody... no more big ranches.

LW: But Kuka'iau, it was a kind of plantation ranch, yuh?

TK: Yeah. Same like Na'alehu here. Used to be a plantation. Started off as a plantation.

LW: Oh, yeah. C. Brewer I guess was sugar, right?

TK: Yeah. Same. Here was same thing. Sugar. First was Ka'alu'alu. That's one.

GS: I know what happened. Kuka'iau Ranch... I don't know who owned it. But then they sold it to mainland guys and it was Mauna Kea Ranch. And then those guys sold it somebody else.

LW: Well, I know that they had like Bishop Estate people working out there. I don't know how that was.

GS: Oh really? They were trying to cut it up. That's all I know...

LW: Yeah, I don't know either.

TK: Because you take all the big ranches, even Huihui. Pu'u Wa'awa'a. Same thing. All subdivide. Pu'uanahulu, same thing.

LW: You think Kahua has more head now than Parker.

TK: That's the only biggest ranch.

LW: The only big one? They have more than Parker now?

TK: Oh, yeah. They get cattle over here yet.

LW: Oh, yeah, yeah. Hmm. I didn't know Parker was so diminished.

TK: Yeah, Parker Ranch... small. They raising cattle but very small. They only get about what? Six cowboys.

LW: Wow.

TK: That's all.

LW: They used to have thirty or something.

TK: Oh yeah, once upon a time. All the location they had... Humu'ula, Waiki'i... over hundred people they had employed.

LW: Oh, more than a hundred. Yeah, just for the ranch?

TK: Yeah. Parker Ranch. No more a big ranch. Kahua is the only one. The only one. Today I can say Kahua is the only ranch that big ranch. Can hold up. But the rest no more. Pu'uanahulu. All them all subdivide. Pu'u Wa'awa'a same thing.

LW: Oh yeah, yeah. I mean it's a state park now.

TK: Yeah.

TAPE ENDS.

