

William J. Andrade, Sr.



Willy Andrade grew up in Honoka`a, Hawaii, working on the family ranch his father started in Ahualoa. He was only 8 years old when his father was killed by a wild horse. But the paniolo was already in Willy and he continued until he built up his own ranch on his father's land. It took two days for Willy to drive his cattle from Ahualoa to Waimea, and then to Kawaihae to the waiting ships, driving all night to make it by daybreak. Willy continued to run his ranch throughout the 30 years he also worked for the fire department. As late as 1978 he was still roping wild cattle in the forests of the Shipman Ranch up on Mauna Kea. Besides leaving a lifetime legacy as a paniolo, Willy will always be known for starting the Hawai`i Saddle Club, building an arena and

putting on the first rodeo in Hawai`i. Willy's paniolo story won't stop with him, as his five children have followed in his footsteps.

Paniolo Hall of Fame Oral History Interview

William J. "Willy" Andrade, Sr.

May 30, 2002; Ahualoa, Hawaii

By: Anna Ilima Loomis (I)

I'm William Andrade. Have a ranch up here in Ahualoa, and also my sons have a ranch down at Kalapaa. I was born here in Ahualoa, my home town, right in Ahualoa, born and raised. Went to school in Honokaa. As a young boy, worked on the ranch all my life. Well, not all my life. I worked on the ranch here until I was oh, twenty years old. I worked for my parents.

We had a ranch up in Ahualoa and also up in Waimea and what we did, as a youngster, we used to drive our cattle all the way from Ahualoa all the way to Waimea. Along the old Mamalahoa Highway. And we had another place up in the mountain, above Hanaipoi. We used to take our cattle from here to Waimea, from Waimea drive it all the way to Hanaipoi. And also when we would sell our calves, we'd drive them from Hanaipoi, oh, twelve o'clock at night. We'd take them all the way down to Waimea, from Waimea drive them all the way down to Kawaihae. Put them on the *Humuula*. And we did everything on horseback..

They had a long roadway from the corrals down into the pier. And in the pier there you'd drive them right up into a little corral and into the *Humuula*. The *Humuula* would come right up to the pier. Before that, as a young boy, I remember Parker Ranch would take the shipping cattle, swimming the cattle out.

I How far out did they swim the cattle?

Well, the boats would come in, I would say that swim out would be about, oh, maybe fifty feet, maybe little more, hundred feet. And they would toss the ropes to the small boats and the people out there, the workers on the boat, they would tie the cattle up to the boat and take them up to the whatever ship there was.

I About how many cowboys would be doing it?

Oh, quite a few of them. They need quite a few of them, I really don't know. But I would say maybe about, at one time going out, maybe I would say five or six of them you know?

I Do you remember about how many cattle they could take down there at one time?

Oh, I would say maybe, those days, I really don't know. But I would say maybe over a hundred head, maybe two hundred head. You know, this was all fat cattle, would go to market, would go down to Hawaii Meat.

I I was going to ask, you said your family had land in Hanaipoe. Where is that?

Oh, it's up at about 6,000 feet elevation, up in Mauna Kea. We had a place up there that my step-dad leased from another fellow, and we used to have cattle up there like we drove, like I say, we drove cattle from here to Waimea, Waimea to up there. Would take us to get the cattle up there, a little over two days, you know. Yeah, you drive it to Waimea one day, the next day up. Right when we get to, I would say, three quarter way up, you know, we rest the cattle there and then come back the next day and a short drive up, up into the steep parts of the mountain.

I About how old were you when you were doing that?

Oh, I was fourteen, fifteen years old, yeah? Like I said, I worked in the ranch ever since I can remember, you know? And we then also drove cattle from over here all the way to Paauilo plantation. Like I said, there were no trucks, so Kukaiau Ranch and the Paauilo plantation used to ship their cattle to hilo to Shipman slaughterhouse on the train. But driving them, taking them to the train, I didn't do that. What we did was drove

them to the Paauilo plantation, who used to have a ranch, a plantation ranch there. We used to drive them over there and they would take it from there.

I What kinds of things would you see when you were on your cattle drives?

Well, was very interesting. You had to drive them along the old highway, Mamalahoa Highway, and you have to have a point man up in front which would stop the cars, pull the cars on the side. And you would take, move the cattle to the side. Of course, you know, you would drive them along the road and move the cattle to the side and, you know, the car would have to stop, kill the motors, you know, we ask them to kill your motors and drive past the cars. It was, so the noise wouldn't get them scared.

I And what kinds of things did you see or do along the way?

Well, there wasn't much you would do. You'd just, you know, keep your cattle moving. And if you would ride with your partners, you know, you would talk, talk along the way, you'd talk. But keep your eyes on the cattle while you're driving. So that, you know, everything will go smoothly.

I And you guys would drive during the night too.

To Waimea, no. Only down in Kawaihae see, because the heat. Like one time we drove little over a hundred calves down. We left Hanaipoi at twelve o'clock at night, we drove them all the way down to Waimea, we ended up there about six in the morning, little after six. We left them there in the corral, the Parker Ranch corral down there. And six o'clock in the evening we started again, back down to Kawaihae, see, would be all at night so that the cattle would be fresh. Because you know, they cannot take the heat.

I Can you give me a quick description of the house that you grew up in? Was it up here, or?

Yeah, the house. Well see, my grandparents lived right above me over here. In fact, my grandparents had a slaughterhouse. My grandparents and then also my parents took over the, you know, the business. And now my brother John, he's running the slaughterhouse, he calls it JJ Andrade Slaughterhouse. He's not running it now but his daughter is running it -- Jill.

But anyway, they started the slaughterhouse way back, I believe in the late 1800s. And then my dad took over the business from my grandparents. And like I said, the location is still the same place. My brother John is living in the area where my my grandparents lived in, and also where my dad folks lived in. And he kept the slaughterhouse going and as a young boy I worked in the slaughterhouse, you know, slaughtering cattle, delivering meat. Those days we used to -- well, for an example, during the war, we used to kill let's say,

twenty head, you know? And load them up in the truck, around one o'clock in the morning and take them all to (inaudible) airport. Take it to the airplane there, load into Hawaiian Airlines and on to Honolulu. And also we had a -- well, pig farm too where we used to slaughter a lot of hogs. And all of that would be distributed to markets here and in Hilo.

But like I said, as a youngster I worked in the slaughterhouse, slaughtering cattle. Working in the ranch, driving, repairing fences, a handyman. Doing all kind of work. And getting up early every morning, getting up early, and do all of these chores. Summer months were steady -- during school I used to do it in the afternoons -- but summer time I used to work on the ranch every day, until I was back to school.

I worked on the ranch until, like I said, I was twenty. And from there I worked for the county for about a year. Then I went into the fire department. And that's where I retired from, after 30 years of service in the fire department. But fire department, you have a lot of days off and on my days off, I'd continue ranching. And like I said, at that time I built my own ranch. I went up to raising quite a few cattle and now I turn it over -- three fourths of my cattle, turned over to my sons. They're running it now and I just keep a few, just about a hundred breeding cows.

All of my kids were brought up on the ranch, all of them were 4-Hers. And they also, my youngest ones, not the older ones, Peter and Dane, they were in the High School Rodeo. In which they did represent the State of Hawaii, up in the mainland.

I Let me, before we move on, let me stay with your childhood a little bit. A lot kids would be really shocked to see what goes on inside a slaughterhouse. Was that hard for you to work there?

Oh no, it wasn't, no, because I was brought up -- and I understand what you say, working in the slaughterhouse, all the blood and things like that. But for me, I was brought up that way and I was used to it and it never did bother me. My first job was to, as a young kid, to clean all the offals, you know? Then of course, like anything else, you kind of get good at skinning, so you get promoted -- instead of fool around with all the insides, you go be a skinner, and I was a skinner sideman. \

I What became of all the offal and the skins and the bones?

Oh well, like I say, we had a pig farm, hog farm. So what we did with all the offals we had a big boiler, you know, we'd cook it and feed it to the pigs. The hides would be shipped over to the mainland. We kept ourselves busy. We had to do all the kind of work, feeding animals, pigs, and well it was pretty interesting.

See, it started from a small, small slaughterhouse. They used to go out, one of my uncles. Which, when after did that work there, he used to go out on a donkey selling meat. That's what they did. And my time, as a

young boy, we used to have a truck with a screen box in the back of it. And we used to go out to the camps. And take it down and, you know, down to the camps. And when they would go out, you know, the people come out and pick whatever meat they wanted. And those days like ten cents a pound, 25 cents a pound, whatever it was. But that's the way it used to be. I used to go out as a young boy, I used to go out with one of my uncles, you know, in the truck, you know, to ride along with him. On my free day, I would go out with him, to learn, you know, what's going on.

I Do you happen to know when your ancestors came from Portugal to Hawaii?

Well, my grandparents came here in, I believe it was in 1876, I think, or 1874, I'm not sure.

I What were the names of your mother and father?

My dad, my father, he was John Andrade. My mother was Rose DeSilva. It's funny, because you take now my grandmother, that's on my mother's side, her maiden name was an Andrade. But then, of course then when my grandmother married a DeSilva – her maiden name was an Andrade. Funny.

I Do you think there was some connection?

No, no, no, no, there was no connection at all, no. Was entirely different. A different Andrade.

I The family business, that was through your dad, right?

A Yeah, through my dad, yeah. So also on my mother's side, my grandparents, the De Silvas, he was also a rancher too. He raised cattle and they had a ranch up here. Those days, like I said, the Portuguese people, when they came over here, they came here to make this their home. So what they did, was whatever little money they had, they invested it in land, you know, they bought land. And that's how come you take now, you know, a lot of the Portuguese people have land, because they came here to make this their home, you know, and they bought land.

I Your dad was a rancher.

Yeah, in fact he got killed by a horse.

I When you were eight years old?

Seven.

I What are your memories of him?

Well, he was a really good business man, you know. He built a place in Honokaa, he had a bus business going, from Honokaa to Hilo. He had one going in the morning and one from Hilo coming out here at noon. Then he built the building down in Honokaa there in 1926. And that's where he had his meat market down there. So whatever was slaughtered up here in Ahualoa here he would take it down there, and he would have it cut up and delivered to different areas. In fact, at that time, I think he was the only one who had a meat market, in Honokaa. No, I take it back, there was another one, John Dias-Souza, he had a market also, too. But my dad, like I said, right in town there he had a market, right in town. He had a restaurant, a bar, and a hotel.

I Sounds like he was kind of an innovator.

Yeah, he was a go-getter. He did all kind of thing -- for an example, supply the plantation with firewood. They had bullock wagons, you know? The bullocks, they was twelve on the team, six on each side. And they would haul this firewood. They would haul them down to the mill down here. And that's where it was cut, it would be loaded in the wagon and the men would, you know, haul it down. And as a young boy, I used to ride the wagons too. And you know, how smart those animals were. There was no reins, no nothing, but just by talking to them. And there could be a fork road like this here and you tell them "ha" or "gee" and call the name of the animal -- that animal turn that way.

I Do you have any personal memories of him as a dad, as a man?

Well yeah, because he was a very loving person. He used to take us all over. You know, we had a Model T. I remember riding the Model T, coming up -- see, from here we move down to Honokaa. And, you know, he used to drive us up, up, down, up to the place up here on the Model T. You know, all of us would ride in the back here. You know, those days was rag tops -- the top would be down and we'd drive up to here. And he was a very loving father, you know -- and he used to really take care of all of us. He was a real, like I said, real good business man. Too bad that he died at the age of 45. He got killed by a horse.

I Can you tell me that story?

My dad used to do business with Ronald Von Holt, who was the owner of Kahua Ranch. Mr. Von Holt used to help out the small ranchers by buying all their cattle. He was a very good man. One time, my dad bought some untrained horses from Mr. Von Holt. They drove them down to Ahualoa from Kahua Ranch. One day our working cowboys were driving the untrained horses into the corral. My father had driven up to Ahualoa in his truck, but from the ranch house up to the corral, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, he walked up where he usually rode a horse. One of the horses broke away, and caught him right in the middle of that gully, you know, hit him right against -- on the chest, you know? Throw him in the gully, a little gulch like. And according to the boys there, he stood up, you know, they pick him up, and they put him on a horse and bringing him back down. But he died, coming down on the horse. He was crushed inside.

It was very hard on my mom, because my mom had all seven of us, plus all the businesses. She really had to struggle to keep the business going. Which she did. In fact, we owe everything to her; she kept everything going. She kept the business going -- all of us, well, we're all in the school, you know? We did help whenever we could. That's how come I started working in the slaughterhouse and do all this work. If it wasn't for her, we wouldn't have -- like what we got, the land, we all got the ranch land back here. And if it wasn't for her, probably we would have had to sell it. But she kept it and we were fortunate enough that we got land. She kept the business going. In fact, right until today the business is owned by my sisters down there in Honokaa.

I That must have been a lot more responsibilities for you too.

Oh yeah -- my oldest brother, John, he was in school and my mother sent him to St. Louis College. And then afterward he came back, he worked on the ranch for a while then he started driving the bus from Honokaa to Hilo. And I did my share. After school I would come up and work, feed animals, feed pigs, then started work in the slaughterhouse. And working out in the ranch. And well of course, my mother remarried, Dan Correia, my step-dad, and he was big help too, working with us.

I Most boys, you know, would learn how to ride and how to be a rancher and how to do all those things from their dads. After he was gone, who was your mentor and who took care of you and showed you how to do all those things?

Well, when my mother kept the working men there -- take my uncle, for example, he worked for us -- and we had a lot of old-timers from up here, all horsemen. I used to go out riding with them. I started riding as a young boy and, you know, whatever knowledge I got was watching, observing all that there.

There was a couple of old timers -- those days used to make rawhide ropes, they called skin ropes, kaula ili -- anyway, so this one guy that work for us there, he made me a nice skin rope. And when you get a skin rope, you'd feel real cowboy like. Like I said, as a young guy we had to, you see, they'd be roping and you'd be knocking down calves. So you have to graduate from things like that, then you'd be doing the roping.

I Before we go on, can you describe what Honokaa town was like back then?

They had hitching racks, where you tied your horses up. Right in the corner, one of the corners, they had a big tree there and a big hitching rack where the cowboys come down, tie their horses there. On Sundays, even the Parker Ranch cowboys would ride all the way down. Yeah, because Honokaa town was the town. Remember, Honokaa town was the second biggest town in Hawaii

I On the Big Island?

On the Big Island, yeah. Waimea didn't have a town, Waimea was just, just the Parker Ranch headquarters and a few stores here and there. Wasn't a town at all. And the cowboys used to come right down here. In fact, Parker Ranch used to supply horses and mules to the plantations. They would drive the horses down all the way from Waimea down to the plantation, whether it was Honokaa or Paauilo, they would drive it all the way down. And when they would come back they would stop in Honokaa town. And then on weekends, see, they used to ride down on horseback. And they used to have hitching racks now in certain areas where they could tie their horses up.

I What would people do when they came down into town?

What they would do? Well, they go to the movies; they would go in bars and drink and have a good time. Activities, there wasn't too much. You take now on Sundays, baseball was really something for the people. And there was a lot of people that used to come from all over, for the plantation to watch baseball games. And there were -- in town, there wasn't much. Not my time, but way before my time Honokaa town used to have, right through town, they used to have races. Horse races. Right down the main street. And, you know, this was in, before my time, maybe 1927 or '28.

I don't know what activities they did except the cowboys would go in bars and get themselves all feeling good. Of course, the women stayed home when the cowboys got into town (laughter).

I Let's talk about when you started your own ranch.

All right. See, the land was turned over to me in 1948. In 1948 the land was turned over to me. My mother turned it over -- my brother got his share and my other brother got, and I got my share of the land. And I started with a few head of cattle, you know? I bought some cattle from these Japanese people. And they were black/white faces and I didn't know that they were bred to Holstein bull. And I bought six heifers, you know? I say well, I'm going to start my ranch out, you know?

And pretty soon they started getting heavy, big, and I thought gee whiz they're going to calf. So first one came out, the calf was too big, I couldn't get him out, you know? Died on me. The second one, the same thing. So the other ones, just happened that I pull them out the right way – I saved them. So I started from there with a few head of cattle, on the ranch I got from my parents. Slowly I went up, I worked improving my land -- there was one year I was rancher of the year. Improving my pastures, partition fences and types of cattle that I raised. And I started going into, trying to get good blood line the cattle. I got bulls from here and there. Those days the Herefords were very popular, then the Angus. And then I worked on improving the breeding herd. Then I, as years went by, I got some beef master bulls. It's a four-way cross. A Brahma, short horn, Angus, Hereford, I'm not sure, I might be wrong on that. Anyway, it's a cross with a Brahma -- it was to get bigger calves, heavier cattle.

But anyway, I worked on these cattle, improving my pastures and from there I got some lease land. I got land up at Puakala, that's up from Shipman. So, see I went in, right after I retired from the fire department, I went to work for Jim Dalbert, running his ranch for him. Then I got the lease from Shipman and I started running the ranch on my own.

I Where is that located?

Up at Puokala, it's above Hilo, straight above Hilo. Anyway, I started working my cattle there. And we raised more cattle there and we used to sell them. We used to haul them all by trailers, trailer them down, all the way down to the feed lot here in Paauilo. And my boys did help me a lot up there too. And I lost the lease in '97, that's when the Nature Conservancy people bought it, bought the land out from Shipman. So they raising birds now instead of cattle. Well anyway, so then what I did with most of the cattle there, I gave my sons, let them start up their own ranch. And what I have right now is what I owned back here.

I So you started out with, what, less than ten cows. How many head of cows did you have at its peak?

Well four hundred cows, four hundred breeding cows. I started up here with a little over a hundred acres and I bought some land. I leased land over here and right over here in this area right here, over four hundred acres I'm running up here.

I What are some of the improvements you made to the lands over the years?

Oh, what you had to do is plant different types of grass, fertilize, you know, lime it to improve your soil to get better grasses. And what I did was plant different types of grasses -- lot of legumes, clovers. And cross fences, make it in smaller paddocks, rotate them, you know. That way you could get more carry capacity.

I Did you find that over the years you tended to keep doing things the tried and true way or are you someone who tries to find new ways of doing things?

Well, see, my way of working is trying to do things are going to work. Like you take now planting, like say improving on your stock, your breeding herd. You want better quality beef. Now I'm working with charolaise bulls, okay? I feel that you cross-breed them with my breeding cows, get quality beef, less fat on it, you know? And I think the market -- I know they like the charolaise crosses, so you go with the demand.

You want your reputation of raising good cattle. When I wean my calves off they'll go four hundred pounds on the scale, see? And there's certain areas you can put on more pounds, you know, on the calf. You take now a seven-month-old calf, you take now down towards the ocean side you can put up a calf maybe six hundred pounds. All depends on the location you have. And up here, the type of grasses we have, the best I can do is about five hundred pounds, four-eighty, five-hundred-pound calves, you know? So I think I'm doing pretty well for this area up here.

I One thing I wanted to ask you: why have you worked to stay in this business for so long?

Okay, number one, I really loved it. I was born and raised in it. When I left the ranch to go work for the county and work in the fire department, I always wanted to be a cowboy, I wanted always to be a rancher. It was hard for me to leave it. And I felt, gee whiz, I had to better myself in doing something. .you work on the ranch there for the family. I wanted to do something else to see what it was like. Then when I went to work for the county, I work for the Board of Water Supply for one year, then I felt, gee whiz, if I get into the fire department I'll get lots of time working on the ranch. Because I really love the ranch. So that's what I did. Work in the fire department and I spent all my days off in the ranch.

And as much as I could I would try and improve it, make it bigger. And my goal was to get it as big as I could and of course, to make anything big, you have to have quantity, more land. And like I said, when I retired that's when I went bigger. Because I had the time to do it, because I loved it too much.

It's just like as growing up, you know, I really liked rodeos, you know? And Dr. Willet and I, we started -- this was in 1953 -- he and I were talking one day, we went to a wedding in Honolulu. After the wedding we met this guy, Bob Brown. And Bob Brown was the first guy brought in quarter horses to Honolulu. We talked to him and went up to JD Souza's place in Kaneohe, and they had a place in where they buck out animals for the servicemen, you know, for the servicemen who wanted to ride bucking horses.

So in the back of his tavern, he had a place where they buck out. So we looked at the arena there. And you know, I say, gee whiz, why can't we go back home and build something like this back home? So we talked to Bob Brown. We took the measurements from the arena there. We came back home, Dr. Willet and I talked to my parents.

I Now who is this?

Dr. Willett.

I What was his first name?

Well, Edward. Buzz. He was a doctor in Honokaa. And he and I were good, good friends. And he liked horses. We came back here and we talked to my mom and my step-dad. First of all took property right in Honokaa which we did, we got the property. They said okay, sure. So Dr. Willett spoke to this Ethel Andrade which was the secretary from the manager of the plantation, and asked if she could write to the ranches.

She called the different ranches and we had a meeting. We named the place Hawaii Saddle Club. So we had 150 some-odd members. So we worked on the thing there, we got the first rodeo going up, without any bleachers. The second year went in there, we promised the people we would have bleachers for them. So we got the bleachers done and we sit down two-thousand people. And it was really a lot of hard work.

And the bleachers all was made of eucalyptus, all gum tree -- had to go in the forest, cut the logs, haul it to the saw mill, rip it and build this big stand. And it was hard to get the stocks, we used to use Holsteins bulls, Holstein steers for that was first and second rodeo. After that we started getting, you know the Herefords and the Angus bulls. So, like I said, we started this rodeo. I really enjoyed it. In fact, you know, until today I participate rodeos, my kids. I like rodeos, you know? I love rope. I used to ride bulls and rope, did whatever I could in rodeo, and believe it or not, do you know I was a jockey? I rode a lot of races in Maui, lot of races in Kauai, Oahu, down Kailua Race Track.

Races was in Hilo. It was in the Hilo track, race track. And we used to go from one - so we'd start, let's say we'd start in Hilo June 11, and October was the Maui fair, we used to run in October down the Maui fair. And we'd make a circuit, we'd go to Kauai, from Kauai we'd go down to Oahu, Kailua, and from Kailua to Maui and Maui back home here.

I How did you get into being a jockey?

Well, being a jockey, well those days I was light and being that, working in the ranch, riding a lot of horses. One time we bought, we bought horses from Parker Ranch, thoroughbreds from Parker Ranch. And you see, way back, we used to have quarter-mile races in the cane field over here. And from there, well we started going to Hilo. At one time I was training fifteen thoroughbred horses in the back here. And we took it, train them over here and took it to Hilo and trained it in Hilo for the distance. And, well, I wasn't supposed to be a

jockey but being that I was training them over here I got to Hilo and started riding and riding and pretty soon from there I saw that I was light enough to be a jockey. So they used me as a jockey and I rode -- well, many, many horses I rode. And like I said, we traveled the circuit. When I'm not working in the ranch, I'm in Hilo, you know?

But what they did was get trainers in Hilo who would train horses and I would go in and ride them, see? Like this horse here, (turning to a photograph) I got this horse here from Parker Ranch. When we bought this horse, a bunch of horses from Parker Ranch, this was the runt of the bunch. And I picked this horse up to be a cowboy horse. And I made a cowboy horse out of him, and believe it or not, I used to rope calves with him. Heel with him -- I used to be heeler, on rodeos you know? He was all-around horse. And he was pretty fast, he went, like I say, he went to Kauai, Maui, Oahu, you know? He was a pretty fast horse.

I Do you have any stories from your racing days?

Racing? Well, you know, way back, the Baldwins was very, very good with horses. They were the ones that made the races in Maui. In fact, when I ran over here, we used to run on the flag -- flag start. In Maui it was on the starting gate. And they were so big and popular that the race would be eight horses running at one time, some nine horses, whatever. And the races was, like I said, good, big and honest.

I liked it, you know, as a young boy, riding. And I used to sit down at Maui, in the jockey quarters, we used to have a lot of fun with the jockeys. I used to stay down there over a month, wouldn't come back home, stay down there and we'd work horses, riding, exercising them. We used to get horses from different people back here to race, make the circuit. And I enjoyed it, I enjoyed it for a while.

Maui was really good because Maui, when you ran a race, if you come in the winner you take off your saddle and go on the scale. It was really almost like a pro, you know, like mainland, you know? They were really, really good. When you get off the horse there, you had to weigh not less than 126 pounds. So we had to carry, you know, carry a lead, if you don't make your weight you carry them in your pockets, carry, you know, lead on your saddle. The other race tracks, they never did that. But Maui did it. And you start -- let's say the C section, if your horse would win, or come up second or third, you'd go up, up class. One class higher. Keep going until you go up to the A class. See, then you'd be running the top horses.

I What the most exciting race that you remember riding?

Well, there was this one race that I ran in Hilo. In fact, I broke the track record on that race there. I ran a horse called Hot Date. It was a close start -- we started off tied and I beat him by half horse length. Was a real good race. But it was an exciting race for me because those days you had to bet. I mean, you bet with one another, you'd bet with different people. Not me -- my step-dad was the one who did the betting. When you run on a race day, you don't get no money, it's whatever you bet, you know, your bets bring in your money.

I One thing I wanted to ask you – while you leased Shipman lands, you worked at catching wild cattle. Can you tell me about that?

Well, up there there's cattle; in fact, right up until today there's a lot of wild cattle up in the forest. But anyway, when I was up there, I would say, two thousand head of wild cattle, maybe more.

And you take one year alone, I got 156 of them. Wild cattle. There's a lot of bulls when you go out there. They were very mean cattle, and you have to rope them. You would go out with the horses, and at first you had to cut their horns off. Tie them to a tree, lead them out to the trailer the next day.

I don't know if you ever heard of this guy Herman Pacheco, he was one of the great cowboys up there. I think he was the best man for wild cattle in the State of Hawaii. He was really, really good.

I Could you tell me a story about some time when you saw him chasing the wild cattle?

Well, I'll tell you, this one time, I was there and I seen it. He and I were chasing six bulls. I chase one and he chased. I roped one. And you know, after I got to him he had already three caught, tied. That's how good he was. And there was lot of times that he would rope these real big bulls. He roped these big bulls, he would knock them down and tie two legs of them. Three legs on them! And go for the next one. That's how good he was. He was a hell of a good cowboy.

And like I said, we're not talking about runt cattle, they were cross breed cattle, like you take Santa Gertrudis cross with Herefords -- they were big bulls. They would dress out twelve-hundred pounds, fourteen-hundred pounds, dressed out bulls, you know? Big, big bulls. And when you put the rope on them, they were very mean. They would come get you. He lost quite a bit of horses in wild roping there.

I What kinds of things did you learn from him?

Well, when you rope them you have to know how to tie them so they won't choke. You have a horned animal, you cut his horns right away, and you tie him on the horns. So when you bring him out the next day, his horns are tender, he's easy to control. Of course, when you first untie him from the tree, he's going to come get you. He's going to come get you and you keep going on your horse, down the path, he's going to keep coming after you until he kind of slows down, then he's going to follow you. And you lead that animal all the way up to the trail, like leading a dog in the back of you, they'll follow you.

I Can you describe the, what the land was like up there? Is it real wet or is it dry?

Well, wet. A lot of places swampy. Certain places were good but lot of trees. It was rough country. In other words you're muddy, swampy, trees and it was rough going.

Loading up was lot of hard work too but, we used to have a horseshoe on both sides, welded on the ends of the trailers. So when you get to the trailer there, that eye there, you thrown your rope, your lasso rope over to that eye there and hang it, then take the animal right to it. And you hold it with your horse there and someone else will go into the trailer next to the bull, they pick up that lead rope and tied him to the trailer. After tied there, when you loosen the rope the animal is caught there and stays right in the trailer, yeah? You take your lead rope through the trailer and drag him in with your horse.

I Oh, so it's kind of like you can make a pulley?

Yeah, right, yeah.

I I know the country's real rough back there, did you have any wild adventures when you were catching the wild cattle?

Oh yeah, I got my horse gored, you know? In fact, one of them died. There was this one time that we was down in, almost at the forest line, roping these cattle. I rope this one bull. And there was a gully where my horse couldn't go across. And I was right on the path there and I couldn't get my horse to move, and the bull just came right in, nailed him on the -- hooked him right on the side there, you know? And of course, the horse, he was standing alright. It wasn't down he was badly, badly hurt. And took him, oh, he didn't die then and there but oh, maybe about a month later, you know? Punctured something inside. But that happens, you know?

I How attached do you get to the horses that you use?

Well, you get your favorite horse. If you had a good horse that you can go out and chase the wild animal, and he's, he's like your pet. You know that he's going to get your job done, he's going to get things done for you. And that becomes your main horse. Of course, you have other horses that are good but in everything you have one exceptional one that you really like. So I had one like that, he was a good horse, I really liked him.

I What was his name?

Bill. (laughter) Yeah, I still have him until today, still have him up here. He's an old white horse. He's old but he's a good horse.

I Well, the last question I want to ask you is this: your life is really an example of the past generations, in many ways. Do you see a place for ranchers and cowboys in Hawaii in the future?

Oh yeah, sure, there'll always be, always be ranching over here, you know, in the State of Hawaii. There'll always be ranching, cowboys, there'll always be cowboys. But number one, get land, land's are getting more scarce, you know? Harder to get. And more and more people are moving in, you know? It's going to get smaller, let's face it. Like you take, well for example, with me, what I have, I feel that what I have, I want to keep it for my children, you know? Because if I'll sell it, I'll have the money but no land. They can't afford to buy land later on. I hope that people will continue ranching, because ranching has been a good life.