

## Saddle Road Project

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from tape transcripts or notes for the following interviews

that of X 6-11-96 @ PVD and all subsequent

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William C. Bergin DM Date 12-27-11  
Signature of Interviewee

Charles Langlas Date 12-28-2011  
Signature of Interviewer

The following optional conditions limit the release of information, as agreed between the  
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(revised)

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Interview #1 with Billy Bergin 6/11/96 at Puu 'o'o Tape 1 side A

BB: My name is Billy Bergin and I am a veterinarian who has practiced on this island for about twenty-nine years but basically was born in 1940 in the community of Laupahoehoe. And the bulk of my youth was spent on the ranches that surface Mauna Kea from all through Hamakua and through upper Waiakea and Pi'ihonua as we sit today at a place called Saddle House that used to be part of the W.H. Shipman lease. In 1952 at age twelve I went to work for the company called W.H. Shipman Limited. And they had four major ranches.

He had four different ranches. This one was called Puu 'O'o and it was made up of the bulk of which would have been Territorial and State leases. And adjacent to it he owned about 6,000 acres in fee. And he called that Puakala Ranch. And that really became one company called Puu 'O'o Ranch. Across the lava to our east of course would be a ranch called Keauhou Ranch that now is Bishop Estate land and adjacent to the golf course there at Volcano. Directly makai of there he had Ainahou Ranch which has since been given to the National Park Service. And centered around Hilo, from the area of King's Landing and wrapping all the way up through the Puna communities was a ranch that he referred to as Kea'au and it's just a large holding of predominately wild cattle. In any case, working for him at age twelve, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen gave me access to all four properties. And having already had considerable knowledge of the Hamakua side of things with Kukaiiau Ranch, I eventually went to work for Pu'uwa'awa'a Ranch for the summers and Hawaiian Ranch in Ka'u and Parker Ranch centered around Waimea. So my childhood and early adulthood was spent working for different ranches on this island. That, coupled with once having had a family, having taken the family on a trail ride that spanned eight years where we incrementally rerode all of the old cattle trails and horse trails that encircled the island, gave me access to a knowledge of a lot of areas in addition to having worked for those companies. The comfort of having ridden through those properties over a period of days, having a fairly good idea of what the terrain was like and the environment. This particular setting right here, what is called Saddle House, was at the very last state lease split off as about a 200 acre fragment of conservation land that was not included in the state agricultural pastoral lease that went first to Parker Ranch and then eventually to Freddy Nobriga. And the state's desires was naturally to keep it in conservation and keep basically cattle traffic out. And for the fact that it does have some relationship to the nene life cycle, having it maintained in somewhat of a pristine fashion, kind of gave me a lot of reminiscent comfort with the fact that as a little boy I spent a lot of time working out of this cabin when it was really just a cook house and that was just a kitchen portion as we see it today. In any case, the bulk of my contact with the land around it would be on horseback, in the cattle business as it was conducted in those days.

But again, from the historic preservation and ride through the old Ainahou Trail that would go from here to Keauhou and the Volcano. Over the many, many years of living up here, staying through the weeks in the cabins with the cowboys and the foreman who was Tommy Lindsey, and the head cowboy who was a fellow named Toshi Imoto, I-m-o-t-o, that there were a lot of unique things about the countryside that was shared with me. And naturally the bulk of them were centered around Ainahou Trail. But also up higher and closer to Puakala was a place called Ioane's Cave where the old Robin Hood cowboy of years gone by used as an encampment or hiding place. That the actual finding of a cave that was described to me by Tommy Lindsey as an intermediate staging area for the adzes craft people that would climb to the summit of Mauna Kea to the adze quarry and bring the rudimentary, the more unfinished product, packed to this intermediate cave where they were refined and the finished products sent on to the shore line communities, left fragments of adzes, of unfinished or unsuitable pieces left. And Tommy never showed me that cave but I would suspect from his describing it, it's probably within a radius of a mile or two of this very cabin that we sit at.

CL: Did he name that cave?

BB: No. Son Bill is having to go to work this morning. Otherwise he wanted to be able to be here long enough to show you one cave that's straight above a little place that we called Aina Holey. ~~Holi~~ And that's a little heiau where we spread the ashes of a son that we lost, Bill's brother. And when they were all little and spent many summers up here and vacations up here, in their hikings they found a cave that Bill describes of considerable volume but having no evidence of adze remnants, but definite bone artifacts or pieces or limbs that he thought, and he described as bones of a goat or pigs. And whether that represented an area which there's any kind of inhabitation of people and/or those animals that wouldn't have to be dependent upon the finding of people with the right training.

CL: I know that the boundary commission testimony indicates a couple of caves that were sleeping caves, on the border of Piihonua and Humuula. But hard to locate from the testimony. But probably around in this area but I think on the boundary.

BB: Tell me, have you had an opportunity to interview or have Toshi come here and be with you?

CL: I talked to Toshi at his house for a couple of hours. And then I sent that tape to be transcribed. So I haven't been able to look at it overall since. I'm trying to remember whether he mentioned caves. I don't think he did. I don't think he seemed to know of any caves. I think another guy did. I think Eugene Olivera thought he remembered a cave. But I don't think Toshi mentioned one.

BB: Yeah, you know I had spent a good deal of my youth with those men and several others of em and Toshi by his nature would not be interested in something like that. Toshi had some sisters that were buried up in the hills behind the cabin up at Puu 'o'o. And you would never hear about that from Toshi. It was always someone else explaining that he had lost a couple of sisters and I think a brother and that's where they were buried.

CL: I think he did say that. He did mention that. I think because I asked about burials, if he knew any burials.

BB: Yeah. There's another resource person that as you get closer to the Humuula border that might be able to help you. And there is a footing the foundation that remains and he wanted to show me one day where it was. And that would be Sonny Kaniho from Waimea.

CL: Oh yeah. I talked to Sonny.

BB: When he was a baby his family was moved by horse wagon up from Keamoku, up here as his father was transferred up here. And I had to go castrate a colt of his a couple of years ago and I got kinda lost of all things and I was late getting to it. And that cost me an opportunity to spend a little bit of time with him because he wanted to take me by jeep and show me the footings, the remaining stone foundation in the cabin they lived in. And that's not far from the highway. And I think that would have historic interest. Now getting back to this particular location right here, the Ainahou Trail as it's called, is unfortunately been somewhat damaged by the work that HELCO did. You see those massive pole lines coming down through there? Well they made no effort to try and see what they were doing or where they were going. And I haven't been able to connect, and maybe a guy like Toshi could help me because he rode that trail a lot. Where as we go up here you can see the remnant of the trail and then you walk on in there and then it just dies, once you get into the clearing where the caterpillars cleared for the pathway of the electrical lines.

CL: So you know I think at one time it went up to Puu 'o'o.

BB: Went right up to the house.

CL: But you can't find anything of it further up?

BB: I think once they fenced off that area and started to more intensively manage it, the natural pathway you'd have to really know. And it's hard. I think cattle trampled and kept it, it would be really hard to

CL: But you can see it right where Saddle Road, right coming off of Saddle Road?

BB: Yeah and you can see it cross this, I presume this is the Old Government Road to Hilo. I think that's what it's referred to, the road that you came in on. Cause it winds up through here and it goes all the way up through Humuula.

CL: Oh yeah. That's probably right because I know that it was right at the Humuula sheep station.

BB: Yeah. But in any case I would personally consider that of historic interest you know maybe modern history but still yet there's an awful lot of interest in it.

CL: Oh yeah, it's probably a hundred years old, maybe a hundred years old.

BB: Easily I think.

CL: What I haven't been able to, well, I suppose it was Shipman's. It's hard to tell but it looks like from earlier maps that there might have been a trail toward the middle of Ainahou. You know that section below the sheep station going down toward Volcano. So I suspect that maybe the Ainahou trail that people drove cattle on might have been a little more recent.

BB: The lower one. Yeah I agree with you. There's another resource person that you should interview and that's Rally Greenwell.

CL: Yeah I set up to see him in about a week I think.

BB: Yeah but he made that ride a lot. And he would have some inkling of, if it was Parker Ranch, they would move higher and cross, right? No reason for them come all the way down here to the forest and cross over. But for Shipman it made a lot of sense. Now Shipman had Keauhou, Parker Ranch had Kahuku. But they'd all cross through Ainapo and wrap around the top of Kapapala and end up at Kahuku. Well both parties want to go at least till Keauhou where there was a cabin. And Ainapo had a cabin and stuff so there was reasons for both parties to use the main trail. However I would be inclined to agree that there is, you can almost see evidence in there. There's stone walls on your left hand side going up there, there's organization that happened on that side of the highway.

CL: On this outside?

BB: Yeah. As you go up toward Puu Huluhulu, that little hill across from the turn in to Humuula.

CL: The guys that drove the trail tell me that at the south side of what's the nene reserve now that there's a wall down there. I

don't know. They say you can see it from Saddle Road from a certain place but I haven't seen it myself.

BB: The stone wall. It's fairly clear you know but it's tucked up against, there's a pahu'a you know, like a lava flat, then there's a little bit of a growth of a shrubbery of small gnarly ohias. And you can see it right beneath there so it's kind of in the shadow of the trees so you kinda...

CL: You have to know where you're going.

BB: Yeah, I mean this road, from Hilo to here, you figure since 1952 it's been my choice of travel. When I'm going to Kona or Waimea so there's a lot of things that I just have looked for over the years that I'm accustomed to looking for. And even as you wrap around through Pohakuloa like that of things that older men told me to watch for, things to see. Rally knows of wonderful things about trapping cattle and stuff, wild horses and stuff. But basically and specifically on this particular portion, if we could kinda take a walk and go, we can drive up fairly close to it but make a couple of stops and point out a couple of things and try and locate this cave. If not I think it'd be worth a day like today where you could spend it will Bill. And Bill has done a lot around here on foot that a person such as myself would much rather do on horseback. And because of that he's got a greater appreciation, especially if I can't exactly locate that, that cave.

CL: You're talking about the cave for the adze.

BB: Yeah, he was never, I don't think he ever was satisfied that he could find it. I think he's a little concerned that it wraps a little bit more toward the grove of ohias that we pass through going to the burnt remains of Freddy Nobriga's place, in that area. But Toshi might, Eugene might have an inkling. Eugene has surprisingly wonderful clarity.

CL: Yeah, I had a good time with him.

BB: For what he's good to talk to is his life. I'm very interested in the history of an old cowboy that was sort of a legend up in the mountains named Ioane. And Eugene in the last two years or so has been able to give me personal contacts shared moments with Ioane and his manner of dress and his manner of speaking and the prayers and not the recital of the prayers but the fact that he prayed a lot. And Eugene has been quite documentary for me. There's some people that you can't necessarily lay a whole lot of faith in what they do say but I've been impressed with the accuracy and clarity and the memory and the dates that seem to fall right into place with Eugene's. I think he's a resource that's gotta be taken a lot more serious than he let's himself come across.

CL: Some younger people were dubious about him but I thought he was good, a good informant. He was the first person I talked to about Puu 'O'o.

BB: He had a lot of time up here, an awful lot of time up here. And yet he worked for Shipman in places like Keauhou, he was at Ainahou. There's a person that you might consider talking to and that would be Eddie Midalia. I don't know if you've met Eddie yet.

CL: I had his name and nobody could tell me how to spell it and I can't find it in the phone book so I haven't been able to locate him.

BB: I think it's M-i-d-a-l-i-a, Edwin, really it's Adrian is his real name, Adrian Midalia. But his wife was a clerk in that little store across the street from the Chevron on the corner of Kauhailani and Kinoole. And you can find her there every day. It's a real nice Chevron. It used to be Tony's Chevron, Tony Hokama Chevron.

CL: Oh yeah.

BB: Just above it is a little drive-in and across the street above it is the chop suey house. But she's, whenever I walk in there she always tells me that Eddie says to say hi and stuff like that so recently I was trying to research some brands of Shipman's and I remember as a little boy he had multiple brands. Some represented this and some represented that and Eddie was a help in getting those clear.

CL: Yeah. Well several people said that he'd be a good person to talk to and then I just, let's see, I've seen Hokama's and I can't

BB: It's changed it's name now. I don't know what it is. It's the store used to be Ando store and it was there from when I was a little boy. We used to call it Ando's store, maybe they still do but they could have changed.

CL: I seen that. I don't know whether I, they may have changed it but I remember seeing Ando store.

BB: It's just an old kind of plantation...

CL: That's where she works.

BB: Yeah. But anyhow, you know of personal interest to me is the trail and of course these caves of which I, I've never been a cave dweller of any kind but the kids seem to have that interest.

CL: So you mentioned three caves then I think, Ioane's cave, one that you were told about and one above Ainahou, Ainahou Li'i, is that what you called it?

BB: Aina Holi, Holi is the name of the son that died, H-o-l-i. So we made a little heiau for him up there. And then the third one would be what Bill thinks is just more of a goat or pig habitation area. But usually when you find bones down in a cave people have put em there. Animals sure go down in caves and die too but is wasn't so long ago that there were sheep and goats out here so, pigs of course.

CL: So three you've seen.

BB: No actually none have I seen. Three I've heard of, I've been told a lot about. Ioane's cave would have been from Toshi guys. Eugene, Tommy Lindsey, Eddie Midalia, all of those guys would have seen the cave. Tommy Lindsey is the one that told me about the intermediary adze quarry, adze cave. And then Bill of course *and* ~~in~~ Holi found this cave right up here. And they were thinking, well this must be the one. And Tommy was still alive and when they asked Tommy about it Tommy said, no you gonna find chips of granite like rock, real hard rock. And he said that you can see that people did plenty there. And it's not, it's fairly clean except for some bones, maybe decomposed. So I would tend to you know after we take a run up through there and see what we can see, rely on more your follow up. You know I hope I've been somewhat helpful but the trail would be my primary interest cause I love trail riding, love preservation.

CL: While I've got you on the subject, let me ask you if you ever heard from either Tommy Lindsey or anybody else about any heiau in the area. Somewhere in Piihonua there was supposed to be a bird catcher heiau.

BB: You know it does ring a bell. And they would have had to be from Tommy. Tommy had interest in that sort of thing. Toshi doesn't. All of these other guys they would be peripheral to it, they would have heard what was said or seen what was seen but Tommy would go look and go try find those things. And it must have been from him. Piihonua as a boy growing up we thought was just a tiny little part of upper Kaumana. And come to find out it's a massive expanse of land. And I hear things about Morita's Camp which is down the road here.

CL: Yeah, right. Did you ever see it?

BB: No but let me give you another name of a fellow that could help you on that. And his nickname is Casey DeSilva. But his real name is James. It's in the phone book and it's a Kona number. But he's a Kaumana boy. He's sixty-five now but he's an able horseman and hiker and everything like that. As a young man hiking and



hunting up through here he really knows a lot about what's inside there.

CL: D-i?

BB: D-e-S-i-l-v-a. And he would be able to help you locate places like that.

CL: Yeah, several people have mentioned that and I think Eugene said he'd gone there once. But I'm wondering whether there was anything, you know, what was there.

BB: I think it probably would be the foundation, stone foundation of a house maybe or old fireplace or something like that. That would be what probably you'd expect to find. And my memory is that it's quite a ways off the beaten path of the Saddle Road itself.

CL: Yeah I've been looking for somebody who might have spent time there as a hunter.

BB: Casey he still could go back there and find it, he's strong and kept himself in good shape. He might want to do it on horseback. He loves to that sort of thing but he ah, I can't help but think that there's a lot that that guy knows you know. His oldest brother, Frank, was a great hunter. He died about a year ago. He used to come up and borrow this cabin all the time. Frank's gone and Casey's one of the younger brothers. Be too bad to miss interviewing him because he, the area to Kaumana to end of this forest he would be very knowledgeable about.

CL: Yeah. and I haven't found anybody for that area. I talked to some Japanese cane growers in Kaumana and they're real interesting to talk to but they didn't go up above ~~se~~ the Flume Road, especially not early because they said, about the time they were getting to be young men they were restricted from going up there. The Army blocked off the road during World War II and so they don't know.

BB: They wouldn't have a chance to be up here. There were times when Casey, I mean they were poor people and they're large families or brothers and sisters and they hunted for, since

CL: Yeah, I'm sure there was ways to come up other than taking the Saddle Road.

BB: Oh yeah and he knew them you know. But he, Casey has preservation at heart too, he loves old things. I think he'd be good to interview. He's very clear. Now he worked for Shipman for a period too so he would have another guy you might ask him about things like those quarries site. He was an energetic guy and he was everywhere so he may have seen some of those things too.

There's another fellow that, you know and I'm trying to stay as documentary as I can because I don't want to lead you in a direction that would be, cause you to spend time and not have some real documentary information out of it. But Arthur Lorenzo worked up for that period too and I'd be a little bit concerned about the ability to document there. But he again, see I mean if you can get a tip of where this thing is at from anybody that was peripheral to Tommy and they stayed, see when Shipman lost that lease they all moved down here. So they lived here and a lot of times with nothing to do grown men will go and do things what young boys tend to like to do simply because there's nothing else to do.

CL: Were you already working here when Shipman lost that upper lease and they moved down here?

BB: No. See by that time I was going through, I was probably in veterinary school. I came home in 1968 and he had already lost it and they were located here. And they were just hanging on here as they would then lose the Piihonua lease which is right next door. The lease they lost is the one that would be called Puu 'o'o. And that's the one that Doctor Stanley has now. First it went to Gordon Cran and another guy, what is his name. But yeah, but I would come here, I mean if they had horses or cattle to work on, I would come here as an adult.

CL: I think I've heard that the Puu 'o'o lease was lost in the '50's, late '50's.

BB: Could have been, but that seems a little early. (end of side A)

Tape 1 Side B

BB: In 1958 I worked for Parker Ranch and yeah I'd have to think on that a little bit but in any case this, instead of just being a line camp this became the main house. You see the woodwork changing there? You see that battens? Okay that wall right there, that was just the cook shack and that's what maybe ten feet by twelve feet, that was all that was here. Because the old beat up corral that you see out there that's laying flat on the ground, we bring all of the fat cattle from all the way in by Puakala, Puu Akala which is like twenty miles, thirteen miles in, we'd walk em over a period of two or three days and get em down to this corral and we'd wait all day long for the trucks to come back and forth from Hilo Meat Company in Kea'au and we'd ship fat cattle all day. Well the guy would stay here and cook us breakfast, lunch and dinner but we would go back up and sleep up at the main house. When they lost the main house then this four bedroom bachelor's cabin that was bought from Olaa Sugar, as it was known in those days, was taken down and rebuilt and put up. Then they put these two walls as a jointer to form a dining room. Then this became a

full-on house. Then this house would be on that 200 acre triangular fragment that was retained by the State for conservation as they allowed the rest of Puu 'o'o to be leased out. And that's what Parker Ranch acquired thinking this was part of it. When they found out that it wasn't, they walked away and said they don't care what becomes of it because they don't have anything to do with it. I had a historic interest in not wanting it to go down to nothing and I was for twenty-five years the veterinarian for Parker Ranch and I asked them at that point in time, is probably half way through that span of years, if they didn't mind, I'd like to maintain the house. And they said they actually had nothing to say about that, they didn't care one way or the other.

CL: Parker?

BB: Parker. Although they knew it'd make good security to have someone here because they had cattle in there see.

CL: But actually Parker didn't have any control over it right?

BB: No. See Shipman, I was explained to by I think Tommy, that way back territorially during years when people such as Shipman and the big five were the powerhouses, he asked to extend a 200 acre triangle so that he would have contact with the highway so that his trucks could come in here without going all the way around through Humuula and coming to pick up cattle inside. And that's a real four wheel drive trip and those big cattle trucks weren't equipped whereas right off here, this is a two wheel drive road. And you walked the fat cattle to here and then you truck them from here. Well by the time that Parker Ranch picked up this lease everyone used goosenecked trailers, those low lying cattle trailers that they move around in. Everything's four wheel drive. They could get cattle in and out of here much easier. And the modern big cattle rigs are four wheel drive anyway so they didn't really need it. But it was a house and they wanted the house for security, and then didn't have it. So since then the State has been very kind to at least my name and family because they've known I had a historic interest and they'd rather have somebody at least maintain the serenity and pristine nature of it. But there's nothing written about that. There's no lease, they can't lease it cause they'd have to go to public bid and they can't do that with the conservation lands.

CL: So they informally let you stay?

BB: Yeah. I was just telling the kids, I think <sup>1976</sup>1970, 1996 is twenty years it's been. There's been a few inquiries, people that wanted to change that and get it and it's been like through three different government administrations, and they've all kept the same feeling that whenever they would come up here there wasn't activity. There weren't, there was no gunfire, there was no

debris, there was nothing that would keep you from thinking that it's not being \_\_\_\_\_. Just listen to the birds, you know it's quiet.

CL: So you must have gotten in here not long after Parker took over.

BB: Yeah. There had been quite a bit of pillaging you know. The day he lost the lease the woodstove was stolen out of here. It took about two years to track that down.

CL: The day Shipman lost the lease.

BB: Yeah. As it was being auctioned someone was lifting off the woodstove. And finally that was found up on Mauna Kea in a State lease and gotten back and I took it. I saw to it it got back to Roy Blackshear, which is to be Shipman's Limited's heir. And I think it's still in his basement. It's probably continuing to decay but at least it's back in the family.

CL: So let's see, were you around when this section was added to the Saddle house?

BB: I was but I was mostly working for other ranches by then. I still lived in Hilo, I was still very close to Tommy, close to Toshi. Toshi by that time had gone to work for Don Carlsmith, but the cowboys you know I remained friends with them all of my life and I was always welcome to come here. Basically, it wasn't so much that I was drawn away from Shipman's operations but if you were gonna be developmental in your own career, and I knew I wanted to become a veterinarian and I wanted to work with large animals, that exposure to ranches throughout the island was a smart move. So when I'd go to Ka'u and work for Hawaiian Ranch which was Brewers combining of ~~Ka'awala~~, Keauhou, <sup>Ka'ala'ala</sup> it used to be Shipman, and Kapapala Ranch. Then my clear understanding of the people, the language, the places went all the way to South Point. Then to go to work for Dillingham's, for Don Carlsmith, who had Pu'uwa'awa'a, Holualoa in the middle of Kona and Honomalino that almost went to South Point, then really I had trafficked along the whole island on horseback and with cattle, so for my career it was good to change venue every once in a while just to work for Parker Ranch for summer. And it all came back to be a very wise move. Course all of those companys paid better than Shipman too so. That had bearing on a young man too.

CL: Toshi said that's why he quit.

BB: Really. Oh Toshi was, in my lifetime Chuck, and I spent three months short of ten year in Kansas which is cow country and cowboy country, I've yet to see talents in a single man whose <sup>sum</sup> ~~some~~ total are greater than Toshi's ability as a horseman, as a cattleman, whether it be with wild cattle, with gentle cattle,

with tame horses, wild horses, with quality horses, with mustangs, that single man has every quality wrapped up in one. Very, very capable person. And yet unappreciated and when he left he didn't want to leave at all. I mean you're talking about generations on this mountain. But I think he made a good move you know in his life but some day he'll be celebrated for how good he is.

CL: So let me show you this map. Do you know this old horse trail?

BB: See Casey would know.

CL: Eugene knew this. He said he used to ride this down to Hilo. and it went up to Puu 'o'o.

BB: Isn't Morita Camp along there someplace, is Morita Camp further in here?

CL: Yeah, probably. I don't know if anybody told me exactly where but

BB: I think it's on the right hand side of the road coming up. It might be along in here see. Figure this is forest right up until here right.

CL: Yeah. Now do you know this area in here as Ainahou?

BB: Yeah. Shipman had just lost that as the Governor declared it conservation. But he used to graze, there's about 11,000 acres out there. He'd graze about 1,100 calves. He'd take all steers our there. There's no water except for springs.

CL: There is springs though?

BB: Yeah, walk the cattle across there and say goodbye. And one year later he'd go back. They wouldn't even go look at em. And he'd go back and they'd be in really good shape. It was really good country. Of course this goes all the way up close to Humuula. It's a big place for just 1,100 head.

CL: And when did Shipman lose it?

BB: I would like to say in about 1950. Cause I came to work for him in '52 and he had just lost it, he had to get the cattle out. It was kinda a commotion about that.

CL: Yeah Eugene he'd worked at, but I didn't get the year straight from him. You know you're talking and sometimes you move on to another topic and you

BB: Don't get to wrap it up. Yeah Casey would be helpful on this. Of course looking at a map but going there and looking is where he'd be helpful.

CL: Yeah. So on this map they indicate caves, right here which is an old, it looks like a jeep road I think. And another one over here. And this is about where I think the Boundary Commission shows a cave, talks about a cave.

BB: What Bill would be talking about is right in this area right here. See the Ainahou Trail, can you see that red kind of a yellow line, brown line, zigzagging across? Had you been up this road through here?

CL: No, no. I didn't realize it was the old road.

BB: Yeah, the old Government Road.

CL: I didn't know what it was and it had a gate on it so.

BB: Crosses along here. If you really look for it you know you can see segments of it way down here.

CL: Yeah I know there is one quite a ways down. There's another one that goes some ways down there's another one that goes some ways off the road and that's where I was told Puerto Rican Camp was.

BB: Yeah. Again Casey would be able to help you.

CL: So you took this trail down here down to Kea<sup>u</sup>hou.

BB: Yeah, several times.

CL: If they weren't driving the cattle, they weren't driving cattle anymore down in the trail eh?

BB: Well no. That would have ended probably in the late '40's and '50's yeah. Cause then by then trucks were more able. The big change of why cattle quit moving that way was because Parker Ranch sold Kahuku Ranch. They had 120,000 acres on the diagonal corner of the island and people such a Rally would bring cattle back to the main ranch from there. They wouldn't truck em because there wasn't a way to truck em. They'd walk em back. But when they came to walk em back, they would have taken cattle to go there. Like for instance maybe 500 or 1000 replacement heifers from the main ranch to go to Kahuku. So they'd walk em down there and those cowboys would meet em half way with the calves coming back. They'd just exchange herds when they come back, or make the whole trip. Depending. But then Shipman, going back and forth to Keauhou, made a lot of sense. Because from Keauhou he would shoot makai and end up in Ainahou. By the time I was around see Shipman

[Ranch]

took Ainahou Ranch and made it purely a Santa Gertrudis operation. So he didn't want Hereford cattle or anything else coming in and out of there. That was a pure ranch there. This one was pretty much a Hereford ranch.

CL: Yeah. So how come you took the trail?

BB: Of interest, of historic interest and

CL: But not for the ranch.

BB: No. All of the folklore, luckily I'd done it before the '84 flow and then we've done it since then. These boys, you'll eventually meet the rest of em, but Bill is the eldest but Holi's the one we lost and I adopted a nephew that's Bill's age. Then we have a young boy that's a freshman in college. They made this ride around the island on horseback. Of course Brady, Pat was five months pregnant with <sup>him</sup> ~~em~~, but she rode from Kamuela to this house over a weekend with him inside of her. They made that trail ride before the flow. '84 took out maybe a mile or two of it but you can still find your way across it. Then I've had other interested parties wanted to make the ride so one time I had to spread Tommy Lindsey's ashes so Ron Bachman and myself rode from Keauhou here during that. And other time I took a family trail ride that included Pono VonHolt from Kohala, he and his wife yeah. They wanted to make the ride so we did that too. That's when the sons of mine who'd gotten into mountain biking did it by mountain bike and had to carry their bikes across the '84 flow and that was a disaster.

CL: I don't think of anything else right off that I had planned to ask you. Oh I know one thing. When you started working up here, Tommy Lindsey was the, what would you call him, foreman?

BB: Foreman, yeah.

CL: And was he foreman over all for Shipman or just up here at Puu 'o'o?

BB: No. John Peacock was the manager.

CL: Okay. Over all, the whole ranch.

BB: Yeah. He had Tommy Lindsey in charge of Puu 'o'o and he had a fellow named Kona, Solomon Kauinui that was the foreman at *Puu Akala* Puakala, which was like another ranch but it was adjacent. Sooner or later Kona went down to run Kea'au and Tommy became the foreman for the whole Puu 'o'o, Puakala Ranches. At that point though Tommy had come here when Shipman lost Keauhou. Tommy was the foreman at Keauhou Ranch. In those kind of years Herbert Shipman really basically ran the ranch. He would have foreman or leadmen at different locations but he ran the whole thing.

CL: Good. I've had a lot of trouble getting that straight. I heard all those names and I

BB: Up here Toshi would be the lead man. He'd be the straw boss so to speak.

CL: Under Tommy.

BB: Under Tommy. Then when Shipman lost Peacock they moved Tommy up to manager and for a short period Toshi was the foreman. Then about six months later Toshi left and joined Carlsmith which caused a lot of social problems in the ranching circles. Those days people were very, very possessive, paternalistic and clannish about people. And they felt that they were indentured servants and not human beings. You know there's another person you gotta talk to and his name is Buddy Hewitt and he lives in Hilo and it's under George Hewitt. Now he was a cat operator for Shipman and Buddy is half Hawaiian, very handsome person. But he's a product of Waiohine and his father was a road overseer, pure haole engineer. Mother was a Mokiau girl. When he worked for Shipman he did all of the roads, he did all of the water holes, he did everything like that. But Buddy has great reverence for things Hawaiian. And he'll tell you of for instance a petrified log that he uncovered beneath a water hole. But he and I have never had a discussion about the caves. He may know. Cause that was all the way down through that he was down here with a D-6 cat. And if you take a Hawaiian and you let him run a cat, those people are so sensitive to little markers that they can see, and that they've been taught to look for that represent something Hawaiian, either a burial or mark or something like that. It's really profound in Kona where you have so many artifacts like that. There's certain operators that never hurt anything. I mean even accidentally they won't do it cause they know what to look for. Buddy would have a historic interest. And I'm pretty sure he's right in the phone book. And if he's not, get a hold of me and I'll get a hold of him cause his son lives in Waimea. But Buddy's a sharp guy. Even if you got him to meet you up here and he could take you and show you some things up there, very knowledgeable. And he's documentary. You get no, there's no romance or BS from him.

CL: Did you ever see the earlier one before ah Bell, Tom Bell?

BB: Tom Bell had left and gone to Kapapala under kinda strange circumstances.

CL: Yeah I heard there was some kind of blow up.

BB: Yeah, Shipman was a funny duck and apparently Tom had taken and given away some holly, holly.



CL: Oh yeah that's right, I did hear that story, yeah. I think Toshi had that story.

BB: Tom had an interesting history see. He's a Waimea boy and his name was Tom Bell. But his father, his nickname was Gallagher cause his father was an Irishman, you know product of Ireland that was a teamster that worked for Parker Ranch. And he sired Tom Bell from a Bell girl. And Tom grew up a very handsome, able bodied, I found a nice, nice picture of him taken on horseback in about 1925. And I had that blown up and it's on the wall inside First Hawaiian Bank in Kamuela. His daughter, Elisebeth Bell is like the secretary to Walter Dodds, the overall big president of First Hawaiian Bank. And that's why I thought it'd be nice to have that picture in there. You know Tom, in researching his lifetime, he got bounced off Parker Ranch for doing the same sort of thing, not so much with plants but he would take like at Waiki'i, that was the pride of A.W. Carter's focus of Parker Ranch. Everything beautiful happened to happen at Waiki'i. Well he was the foreman at Waiki'i. And he was quite a party animal and he had a big weekend New Years, the fair up there. And he was giving everyone a turkey to take home. Those turkeys were bred and fattend for A.W.'s table, not for his girl friend's father's table. And he got bounced out of there in a hurry too under those circumstances. But Tom was a good man you know. I never worked for him, never worked around him or anything but I knew his wife and she was a gracious, beautiful woman, worked for the Department of Health. And how I rekindled that relationship was about maybe four years ago, it was on a weekend where the storm (?) hit the Big Island real bad. And there was a rodeo I know in Waimea, and I wasn't in the rodeo but I was around and Mrs. Bell called. She feels, she's old, still gets around, still drives herself around. She had tried the entire yellow pages for veterinarians and no one would respond. But her deceased husband Tommy's old horse, Thunder, was dying, just laying out in the rain and dying. And she couldn't get anybody to come help her. So I drove over the Saddle and on to Glenwood and went to her house and the horse was dying so I put em away. And she had em covered with blankets and everything like that, water and the rain but because it was Tom's horse and it was dying, it was a hard time for her. And it was cold and rainy and just the worst time of her life. And when it was over she asked me to come in for some coffee and cookies so we went in and sat down and she asked me if I happened to be, she wouldn't remember me because I was pretty little, if I was Doctor Bergin's son. And I said I was and she said, she started to tell me some real nice things about my dad that I'd never heard. But during the war as they were building the airport as we know it to be today, that would be the USED and WPA,

CL: Which airport?

BB: Hilo airport, that she was like an emergency aide to the Department of Health for that project. And she said there were lines of men that had no work, you know was coming out of the depression, and they would do anything to work at a place like that, make a few bucks for their families, and they were destitute. My dad would drive from Lapahoehoe where I was born and you gotta imagine, he probably passed eight or ten doctors through Hilo and went to the airport. He'd have a free day for them, a day a week, and all of those people would come and get medicated by him and he'd turn around and drive back to Lapahoehoe that evening. And I reminded her that I kinda followed Tommy's career. We didn't talk about holly at all and she asked to pay me. And I told her I knew of her family. She's a Rickard from Honoka'a in Kohala. They're famous and a wonderful family and I told her that I knew a lot of her folks on the other side but I just wanted to do it as a favor, realizing the trouble she was in. So she asked me if there's anything she could do that would be special. And I said you know I'm a great collector of old cowboy pictures. Do you have any pictures of Tommy? And about two weeks later she had one of her daughters drive her to Waimea and she brought me three and one of them was of Tommy breaking a colt at Keāhou Ranch that wasn't a good picture. You couldn't, you'd have to know that's Tommy. The other one was this nice one of him mounted on a horse he had just completely trained for Parker Ranch and that was the year '25. And the horse was sold to an Argentine polo player. No, it wouldn't have been '25, it would have been later than that. But it was sold to an Argentine polo player by A.W. Carter. So I think that was kinda like the, no it could have been '25. It's written on the picture anyway. But that's how I got to rekindle my relationship with her. And then she came to my son's funeral and Brady's graduation and stuff. We've stayed in touch ever since then. But she wouldn't be, she was very much an indoor person. Some wives they can tell you exactly this and they're with the men or the men talk to them a lot. I don't think Tom shared a thing with her. She wouldn't be a helpful resource.

CL: Okay, Don Carlsmith had said he'd thought she'd be good but

BB: You might you know.

CL: Well what I can do is call her and see whether she thinks she has anything to say or not.

BB: She was even to me not as helpful as I would have liked her to be but that picture was worth a million words, it's so beautiful. Gracious lady.

CL: Anything else you can think of?

BB: No. I know there will be things but as long as you and I can stay in contact. You don't happen to have a card with you.

CL: I don't have a card but

BB: I have your number where I can find it so okay.

CL: And I'm in the phone book so it's easy.

BB: It's L-a-n (end of interview)