

Interview with Dick and Leina'ala Devine 5/23/96 Tape 1 side A

CL: So can you tell me, well I should first I think before I do... My purpose is most importantly I'm to interview people and find out if there are any Hawaiian sites or historic sites in from ranching days or anything like that that might be affected by construction. That's the most important purpose of my inquiry. But I am also interested in the history of the area because that's background for talking about anything like that. And so I'm looking for anybody who can tell me about Puu 'o'o Ranch or Humuula or anything along the Saddle Road. But I assume that you know more about Puu 'o'o than other areas. Maybe we could start out with you telling me what year you were born and where you were raised and stuff like that. Cause then I know, that gives me some idea where to go.

DD: Well I was born in Evenston Illinois and when 1907. And my dad was a civilian employee of the Navy and we moved to Hawaii when, Honolulu when I was four years old. And lived in Honolulu for four years and then moved to Hilo. And I've been here ever since.

CL: What did your dad do here in Hilo?

DD: Well he, I'm trying to think when he first came here what he was doing. He worked for a contractor, Charles Will.

CL: Oh yeah, I've heard that name.

DD: Umhum. And as a superintendent what have you for, he was mostly involved in concrete, construction and so on. In fact when he came to Hilo Charles Will had the contract to build the Shipman or Hilo Meat building down on Front Street, that one Kamehameha Avenue. Do you know where that is? It's the beginning of Kamehameha Avenue that Walder occupied for a while, Fred L. Waldren.

CL: I might not have seen that you know. I didn't come here until the 1970's.

DD: But that building is still there.

CL: Oh on Front Street and

DD: Right next to the river. It's a concrete building there.

CL: Oh okay I know what's there. Yeah right. There's a woodworking something in there now I think.

DD: I think so, I'm not sure. I'm not sure what's all there now. But when he came to Hilo he went to work for Charles Will. And that was one of the contracts Charles Will had was to put up that

building and also the Federal Building, the post office.

CL: Oh really.

DD: Umhum. Like to say that when my dad died he was postmaster in one of those buildings and I was managing the meat company in the other.

CL: Oh you managed the meat company?

DD: Yeah. I managed the Hilo Meat Company for thirty-nine years.

CL: Was that when you started working for Shipman or not?

DD: Well, yes and no.

CL: Well you can tell me what the complications were.

DD: Shipman had a controlling interest in the meat company and I was working for the meat company. But I was also, in fact Shipman pad half my salary and the meat company paid half my salary when I first started with the meat company. The meat company was in pretty sad straits at the time. They had bad debts that exceeded their capitol and Herbert Shipman of W.H. Shipman Limited, he was pushing to have me put into the job of running the company. And I think I did, one way or another, for thirty-nine years.

CL: When did you start there?

DD: In, let me see, I think it was 1933.

CL: And before that were you working somewhere else?

DD: Yes. I worked for an accounting firm, Marshall Henderson. I went out of, came right out of high school and went to work for this accounting firm and I worked for them for eight years and then I went to work for Shipman and Hilo Meat. I was happy working for the accounting firm and I wasn't wanting to go to the Hilo Meat. I told Walter Henderson that it, Christ what am I gonna do work for the Meat Company. I faint at the sight of blood. But anyway, he said you're going to work for the meat company whether you like it or not. He said I can't afford you anymore. So I went to work for the meat company in 1933 and worked there until 1972.

CL: It was still in the same place?

DD: Yeah. Mother you should come here and correct me.

CL: I think it must have, I came here in '73 so I don't remember the Hilo Meat Company there anymore then.

LD: So what do you...

DD: I said I went to work for Marshall Henderson out of high school in 1925 and then I went to work in 1933 for the Hilo Meat Company. And Shipman, Shipman and the Hilo Meat paid, each paid half my salary when I first went to work for the meat company.

LD: When did you build the new building on Kekuanaoa Street?

DD: Kekuanaoa, oh the plant there yeah. God I can't remember right now. Anyway.

CL: Oh you moved there from the place down on Front Street?

DD: Yeah, to Kekuanaoa Street just below the shopping center that, we put up a meat cutting plant there and sausage kitchen.

LD: Well at that time, when you moved, then Brewer acquire a bigger share of the company.

DD: Say what?

LD: Brewer, Brewer.

DD: What about him?

LD: Didn't they acquire a bigger share of Hilo Meat?

DD: I think they did.

LD: Cause they had Kapapala Ranch.

DD: Yeah. They acquired a controlling interest at that time, the Kapapala interest in Hutchison's Sugar Company. Anyway Brewer acquired the controlling interest of Hilo Meat.

CL: So who, what all ranches shipped cattle to Hilo Meat?

DD: Shipman and Kapapala [owned by Brewer] and Kukaiau, [owned by] Davies, and we bought cattle from a lot of independents, little Hamakua people and all that, C.L. Chow at one time who was involved with the Standard Meat Market.

CL: Is that Hamakua? Was that Hamakua?

LD: No.

DD: Well it was out in Hamakua but it was, C.L. Chow was a independent rancher.

LD: Didn't you get cattle off and on from Parker Ranch and from Kona, from the Greenwell's?

DD: Umhum. Parker Ranch had an interest in Hilo Meat Company's

small stock holding. And they really didn't ship cattle here. They really set up Hilo Meat to buy cattle from everybody else. I mean this island was the only island that produced more than it could take care of itself. They had to ship to Honolulu. And Parker Ranch shipped all their cattle to Honolulu. Yeah, to Hawaii Meat Company that they had a controlling interest in, in other words to, if they started dumping cattle on this island that'd be chaos. Too much produced and no markets so Mr. Carter, A.W. Carter, who was a trustee of Parker Ranch, who was quite an astute person and he figured out that they'd better not, that it didn't take much figuring that they'd better ship all their cattle to Honolulu. Otherwise there'd be too much competition here. So he set up, he was the one was instrumental in setting up Hilo Meat Company and getting the various ranchers to take stock in it and let Hilo Meat control more or less what was sold on this side of the island and

CL: Who would you say supplied the most cattle to Hilo Meat.

DD: Well it was maybe a toss up between Shipman and Kukaiaua Ranch.

CL: And Shipman, correct me if I'm wrong, Shipman had Puu 'o'o, and Keauhou and also, what did they call down in this area?

DD: Keaau.

CL: This is called Kea'au Ranch? How big was that? You got any idea?

DD: I'm trying to think what it was initially. Originally old man Shipman had 72,000 acres that ran from the ocean up to the National Park. Then he sold off quite a lot of it at one time when he was land poor. He needed money so he sold off quite a bit of that land from actually from the Puna Road up to the National Park boundary. It was a long pie shaped piece from the narrow point up at the National Park and the wider part down on the ocean.

CL: So you're talking about Herbert or?

DD: That was W.H. Shipman, Herbert's father.

CL: I'm not, when did, how long did he live? Do you know?

DD: Who?

CL: W.H. You must have seen him.

DD: Oh yeah.

LD: We were married on his birthday.

DD: Yeah he was a

LD: He spoke fluent Hawaiian.

CL: So I guess he must have been around till the '30's.

LD: We were married in '38 so he was still alive then. And

DD: When did he die anyway? I should know but I can't remember now.

LD: Well wasn't he alive when the war started? '41.

DD: I forget now mother. I know he was alive when we were married because he was in the hospital at the time. I went in and told him we were getting married and he didn't seem to register so I started repeating. And he said, oh I heard you, I know. You got married. He was quite a guy. He was a feisty old guy but I often felt that he put on this feisty attitude because he had a big heart. People would talk him out a lot of things. I remember the first time I heard him speak Hawaiian. This tall, spare, Hawaiian lady came in and to see him and I had never heard him speak Hawaiian. And she said something to him in Hawaiian and boy this guttural came out. He let go a string of words in Hawaiian to her and the two of them went at it and golly I couldn't believe my ears the way he spoke Hawaiian. And afterwards one of the Hawaiian boys that worked for Henry Haa said to me he said, oh we shame. You know the old man he speak good Hawaiian. Our Hawaiian is pidgin. The old man really smart with Hawaiian. And I remember one story that I think the old man himself told that he was out working on the ranch out in Ka'u and somehow he, through mental telepathy or something, he decided his wife was ill and actually she was. So he decided he'd better go see her and so he was riding horseback and he was riding at night and they got off the trail but he could place the moon in one spot and the eruption with Mauna Loa was in eruption, Kilauea was in eruption and he kept those sites and what he thought was right and the way he told it to me was he got off his horse and struck a match and there was the trail. But anyway.

CL: You mean from the Keauhou Ranch?

DD: From Kapapala.

CL: Oh from Kapapala.

DD: Yeah from that side of the, out in Ka'u. And he said he was riding with this fellow, other fellow, stranger. And they were riding together heading toward the volcano. Actually he was heading toward Kea'au. But they were going by way of the volcano and they were riding along and they were both talking, speaking in Hawaiian. And when it got daylight this Hawaiian guy suddenly realized he was riding with a haole. Ika haole. Couldn't believe it from the Hawaiian the old man spoke. Ika haole.

CL: So I think, let me ask you, do you know anything about the beginning of Puu 'o'o' Ranch?

DD: Oh my goodness.

CL: Did you ever hear anything?

DD: I can't remember now mother. Do you?

LD: Well Shipman owned in fee simple a little portion of it and they leased the rest from Hawaiian Homes. Remember that?

DD: Well they leased yeah from the State of Hawaii at one time. The lease, the total area there was what about 7,000 acres. They leased from individual plantations that owned the upper areas that didn't you know, they had sugar lands below but the land went on up and they leased the upper areas to Shipman for ranching. I know it was the land of Hakalau and the land of Honohina, Makahanaloa which is Pepeekeo and Onomea. They leased quite an area from these plantations, all Brewer plantations.

CL: Oh that'd be the north side. Yeah.

DD: Right. And then the largest area was State land or Hawaiian Homes land. Forget whether that was about 20,000 acres something like that.

CL: Yeah actually, let me roll this out. This is an old, old map.

LD: I have one of those.

CL: You have one of these? It's a nice one. Yeah here, in here is Puu 'o'o. So I think this part here is State if I'm not wrong.

DD: Right. Says Piihonua, has got those, yeah that's State land.

CL: And then up here, Paukaa, Makaanaloa, that's what you're talking about they leased from the...

DD: Yeah. That was all Brewer plantations.

CL: Okay. I guess, this is all State here right? So maybe, um, Ginny was telling me at one time Puu 'o'o ranched Ainahou down here or leased Ainahou down here for a little while. Maybe that's the Hawaiian Home lands.

LD: No. The Hawaiian Home lands, I remember you had to get access to Puu 'o'o from the Hawaiian Homes. Or there is an access that you had to get.

CL: Oh, maybe through Humuula side.

DD: I don't remember that now. I know the land of Piihonua was all State land and there was a little piece of the land of Waiakea, a little smidge down somewhere in that.

CL: Oh here probably, this side. That you had?

DD: Maybe was part of that lease from the State. And then all that other, Makahanaloa and Papaikou and Paukaa and some was all leased from Brewer.

LD: But where was Ainahou leased from? Was it the National Park?

DD: Weel there were several Ainahous. One was along the Chain of Craters Road. Who did Shipman, Herbert lease that from? Quick, quick, quick.

LD: Well the National Park.

DD: Yeah I guess it was the National Park. Yeah because the National Park had taken over.

LD: It was on the Chain of Craters Road. But the Ainahou that is by the golf course.

CL: But there's another Ainahou up here by Puu 'o'o. So I guess Ainahou if they did, if they ran Ainahou they must have run that with Keauhou Ranch yeah?

DD: Yes.

LD: They didn't have too many cattle at Ainahou, on the Chain of Craters Road.

CL: Yeah. Probably small yeah.

LD: I don't know whether they ran any cattle there. Herbert used that. He was a horticulturist and he had all kinds of plants there and he was a foremost orchid raiser. And I remember Christmas I was in charge of decorating their Hilo house. And he had boxwood and lots of exotic plants that aren't native to Hawaii that I was able to get, make wreaths and he had it all at Ainahou on the Chain of Craters Road. But I don't remember cattle there.

DD: They ran a few head of cattle but not, I'm trying to remember how many. Not very many.

CL: Have you got any idea how many cattle were run up at Puu 'o'o?

DD: About 5,000 head.

CL: Okay, great. And how about Keauhou?

DD: I don't remember now, but 1,500 comes to mind but

CL: Fewer?

DD: Yeah. Puu 'o'o was Shipman's main ranch at the time that I was involved with him and say they ran figure about 5,000 head on the Puu 'o'o Ranch.

CL: Yeah. And at that time was they still ranching down at Kea'au too?

DD: Yeah but I mean it was categorized as a ranch but it was more a wild cattle operation. You know it wasn't controlled like Puu 'o'o. (end of side A)

Interview with Dick and Leia'ala Divine Tape 1 side B

CL: Did you ever go up to Puu 'o'o yourself?

DD: Yes. Not for, I worked Shipman for how many years before Herbert finally took me up to Puu 'o'o. Yeah. I never got invited to go up Puu 'o'o for some reason or other. I never could figure why. It was part of the Shipman organization.

CL: About when do you think you went up there?

DD: '33 comes to mind now whether that has to do with first going up to Puu 'o'o or

CL: Before the war though.

DD: Which war?

CL: World War II.

LD: 1941, it was before '41 he went up.

DD: Yeah, oh yeah.

CL: Yeah. The reason that's significant to me is cause Saddle Road was built about '42 I think.

LD: Built during the war.

CL: Yeah so somethings changed then, once the road was built. How did you go up, which way?

LD: The Saddle Road.

DD: The Saddle Road. Seems to me the first time I went around through Waimea and up the other side of the island.

CL: Yeah by car?

DD: Yeah.

LD: The Mana road?

DD: We went around through Kamuela and then up the...

CL: Past Waiki'i? this Waiki'i, through the Saddle, through here? This way, through Waimea and then through the Saddle.

DD: Yeah umhum.

LD: You know what would give you a clue? The telephone company had a station on the way up to Waiki'i. I don't know whether you know there. As you go up the hill from Waimea, just before you reach Waiki'i, there are some old fashioned homes on the left. Those, that was where the telephone company operated. And telephone company boys lived there. And that was a long time ago.

CL: I wonder when telephones came in. Around 1900, around in there somewhere.

LD: And I don't know if their transmitter was there. Those houses still exist.

CL: Before you get to the, that new subdivision. Yeah.

LD: Well the subdivision starts on the right side. But

CL: they're on the left.

LD: They're on the left. They're about three or four, and definitely old fashioned you know. I remember as a little girl

DD: Yeah that was phone company headquarters. I know that. And like you said there's several cottages there where employees lived.

CL: Where did you grow up?

LD: Honohina. I was born in Hilo Hospital. Our family lived in Honohina.

CL: Down below at the coast or

LD: Yeah, on the highway.

CL: What was your family name?

LD: McClean, but our family name was Macy. My mother's name was Macy and they lived at Ninole. Big family.

CL: Your father was McClean and your mother was Macy.

LD: Yes. And my grandmother was the first English teacher. She was hanai, you know what the word hanai means, to Kohala family that sent her to the Kohala Seminary. And she used to ride horseback along the coast and teach Hawaiians. And my grandfather was a whaler. That's a naughty word.

CL: Well you know I've been reading about this trail. I read a 1949 newspaper about this trail up from Kaumana, yeah up from Kaumana up to Puu 'o'o and they call it the Macy Trail. Think that has anything to do with your family? I wonder if I, I guess I didn't bring that in. I forget, I think, I can't remember the first name. Built they thought in the 1860's. Was the Macys here already then.

LD: Yeah. My mother was born in 1881 and she was fourth I think, family there were nine, nine children. His name was Benjamin, Benjamin Macy.

CL: Your grandfather.

LD: My grandfather.

CL: You never heard anything about any Macy building that trail by any chance.

LD: No but there were just two Macys, my grandfather and his brother. And his brother settled on Oahu and he settled on this island. They both were whalers and they were out of Nantuckett and they jumped ship when they hit the Hawaiian Islands. Decided to stay. You know too bad Catherine isn't here. Our granddaughter is a student of Hawaiiana. She has a fellowship from the National Science Foundation. I don't know whether she's working on her PHD or what but she speaks fluent Hawaiian.

CL: Oh really. What's her last name, is it

LD: Fuller, Catherine Fuller, F-u-l-l-e-r.

CL: I haven't heard her name.

CL: She went on the Hokulea. And she was in contact with the Kamehameha Schools. And I know she came up one year and stayed with our son David on the other side of the island and they, she said, we've got to find a marker which was put there by a Macy, which was a guide for sailors coming in Kawaihae. And they found it. And she came with, another time and we went to Kohala where she said they had irrigation set up and you could see the levels.

CL: You never heard anything about how early Shipman started Puu 'o'o Ranch did you?

DD: I should know. Damn.

CL: That's all right. Don't frustrate yourself. What about this other, you know the north side I've been told was once separately run at Puakala Ranch. And I've been told that it was started by Hitchcock. Did you folks hear anything about that?

LD: Well there's a door on the house at Puakala that has a painting that was Hitchcock, done by Hitchcock, on the door.

CL: Directly on the door.

LD: You remember that?

DD: Umhum. Boy. I'm sorry those dates, can't put a finger on it.

CL: That's all right.

LD: But I don't know whether he ran it or

CL: Somebody told me that he had built it and I think Roy Blackshear said that he thought that Hitchcock had had it before, before they used it.

LD: Puakala used to be owned in fee simple by Shipmans. You remember the 500 acres that Shipman owned. Wouldn't that include Puakala?

DD: Yeah right.

LD: fee simple that Shipman owned, and that includes Puakala.

DD: I think it did.

CL: Oh, where the ranch house is.

DD: Umhum.

LD: But they started Puu 'o'o before we were married, I know that. Puu 'o'o before we were married. That was 1938.

CL: Yeah, I think it goes back at least to 1913.

DD: Sort of rings a bell.

CL: Yeah. But before that I'm not sure. Who do you remember as the earliest manager up there at Puu 'o'o? Or do you?

DD: Well Doc Schutde was manager up there for...

CL: Oh he was?

DD: Yeah. He and Ali Shipman were both veterinarians and Ollie Shipman was the one that brought Doc Schutde down here. Anyway they were both veterinarians and buddies and all that and when Ollie Shipman died, Doc Schutde married his widow.

CL: What about David Kaiewe?

DD: Yeah he was a foreman for Shipman Limited for many, many years.

CL: Okay. But he didn't, was he up at Puu 'o'o?

DD: Not really. I mean he was in charge of Shipman's cattle operations but he actually lived in Kea'au. But he would go to Puu 'o'o whenever they had a drive or shipping cattle or what, you know whenever there was cattle action.

CL: But this other guy, Doc Schutde, he lived up there?

LD: It was S-c-h-u-t-d-e.

CL: Okay. He lived up there?

DD: I believe he did. This is before I got involved with the Shipmans but Ollie Shipman brought him down here and set him up at Puu 'o'o running the ranch.

CL: Brought him from where?

DD: California or somewhere on the Mainland. I don't know just where on the Mainland.

LD: Where did they, went to vet school. Maybe Roy would remember where Ollie went to

DD: He probably would.

CL: So when you went to visit there he was gone I guess wasn't he. Yeah because

LD: Yeah because Dick wouldn't have gone until after he took over

CL: Was there somebody else up there managing then when you went up there.

DD: The name Hunter comes to mind.

LD: Hunter?

DD: I think he was managing though before I got involved.

LD: Hunter managed Kukaiaiu.

DD: You sure? Oh yeah, yeah. Why did I get Hunter confused with Puu 'o'o? Probably wasn't Hunter.

CL: The other name I heard was Tommy Lindsey. Do you remember him being up there?

LD: Oh yes. He ran the show. Our son worked for him up on the ranch. But they came down every day. Once in a while they'd stay up. They had a small ranch house up there. But most of the time they came down. But in Tommy Lindsey's time David would know.

CL: He was gone. Oh I see what you mean.

LD: He would know all about the ranch in Tommy Linsey's time.

CL: I'm not sure what else I can ask you folks.

LD: And of course Tommy Lindsey married a Shipman.

CL: Oh is that right. Oh I didn't know that.

LD: Jane Shipman. She was the cousin of Roy's. Not Roy, Herbert's.

DD: Her father was the brother of W.H. Shipman, Herbert's father.

CL: Oh that's how he was working up there.

LD: No, he was always a cowboy. But in later years he married Jane. And her father was County treasurer.

DD: Yeah, perpetual County treasurer. Didn't matter whether Democrats were in power or Republicans, O.T. Shipman was always the County treasurer. Both parties would have him. Ollie, uncle Ollie.

CL: That's a different one from the one that brought Doc Schutde.

DD: Yes.

LD: Yes Ollie that brought Schutde was Herbert's brother. And this Ollie is uncle.

CL: Can you folks think of anything else you can tell me about Puu 'o'o? You never heard of anything like caves up there that people used to sleep in or heiau, bird catcher heiau or anything like that?

LD: David might know, you know Tommy Lindsey told them a lot of things that Tommy had gotten from his forebearers.

(end of interview)

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