

Interview 2 with Eugene Olivera 6/23/96

Side A

CL: You talked about driving the cattle from Puu 'o'o down to Glenwood and shipping them on the train. When did that end do you think? How long did that last before you shifted to trucks?

EO: Gee I was about fourteen years old, about 1923 is [+14 would be 1937].... I think I really don't know now.

CL: When you started working at Puu 'o'o I think you said you were what? You were about twenty when you started working there yeah?

EO: Yeah but before I start working they was through over here already. Then they was all stop on that. They was hauling by the eight-wheeler trucks only, the small trucks.

CL: Yeah, okay. That's what I wondered about. So you saw them...

EO: Before I started go to work [at Pu`u `O`o ranch].

CL: Before you started working.

EO: That's right.

CL: You went up there?

EO: Oh yeah because I work with CC Camp up there. And I live right down here at Mountain View eh. So we used to go up there every time. We used to see them ship the cattle out. When was small. They made a reservoir down in here, down below, up there, up the reservoir used to, used to get the red fishes, small red fishes, and we used to go up there.

CL: That's a goldfish?

EO: Yeah the goldfish.

CL: So then after they stopped with the railroad then they was trucking from up from Volcano?

EO: Yeah Keaou Ranch, Keaou Ranch. Then they truck em from there come down. That time Shipman had this meat market and all down here, the slaughter house.

CL: At Kea'au?

EO: Keau yeah.

CL: And the other question I had was do you know, when you first started working up at Puu 'o'o, they already had a saddle house

there?

EO: No, no. Saddle house was way after, way after. When we start selling the, when Mr. Shipman start selling the ranch and then we made the saddle house.

CL: After they lost that upper lease there.

EO: Upper lease, the big house.

CL: Okay. Before there was nothing there at all.

EO: No, no. That's why and then after that, before that we used to take our cattle to Humuula, the sheep station. We used to ship out from the Humuula when they made the Saddle Road. So from Humuula we used to ship we used to ship down to Olaa slaughter house. Then from there on we made our own, we made the saddle house up there and we made our own corral, we used to ship from there. That's where Bergin stay now.

CL: Yeah that's right. I saw that. I went up there and saw that with him.

EO: Aww that's a, you oughotta go up and see the ranch house, all koa. That is all run by _____ that. Yeah I think they went enlarge em I guess, enlarge that house eh, a little bit?

CL: The saddle house? Yeah.

EO: Yeah, had only the kitchen and our bedroom, and all pau eh? but you have one, two, and then control room (?), then hallway going in eh, towards the kitchen. And the kitchen the bigger. Dining room we eat and the kitchen. That's all had at the time. But I think the last time I was there they extended on the porch on by the store on by the water tank side, outside. They make it out a little bit. Just like this KY house, when Parker ranch took over, I guess they went extend em eh.

CL: So was that the same time when you built the saddle house and lost the big ranch house, was that the same time that Shipman starting running cattle down Ainahou?

EO: Oh no.

CL: At Humuula there.

EO: Across the road you mean?

CL: Yeah.

EO: Oh no, before that. When we still had Puu 'o'o. We used to run our heifers all across the road. After Parker Ranch wen give

up the lease, Shipman took over.

CL: And just before that, was Parker still running cattle there when they had the lease or had they given up?

EO: No, they had cattle across the road. But the Ainahou section, they went give up. Yeah, Shipman took over, we took over.

CL: But until you took over, did Parker still have cattle in there?

EO: No, no. They took out their cattle. Cause we put all our heifers in there.

CL: So it had been empty for quite a while or

EO: Quite a while. Couple of months they were empty. Only had sheep and goats in there, wild sheep and goats.

CL: Who do you think was the foreman when they built the saddle house?

EO: Was Tom Lindsey.

CL: Hard to get everything, you know the dates and everything straight. And then did you keep working up Puu 'o'o until Shipman pulled out entirely?

EO: Yeah. Off and on because from there, from the saddle house, we used to go work on what you call it now, this place we had, we well Puu 'o'o and we keep that Puakala, we keep Puakala. After move Puakala, they work on the saddle house but in the meantime we used to come down Kea'au, work down Kea'au. Then when Mr. Shipman died we had only few Santa Gertrudis down here. We used to work that Santa Gertrudis. Then why, Blackshear came and everything went change, gone to the dogs.

CL: Yeah he didn't want ranching eh.

EO: No he no want no ranching.

CL: So that Puakala place then, was that sold before, no Shipman still kept owning it I think yeah.

EO: Yeah.

CL: They just stopped running cattle there I guess, or what?

EO: Some other boys they took some steer paddocks. They took some paddocks from there. That Dr. Campbell and all. I think five of them was in cahoots. They took over. Then after that, I don't know, the State took some parts out, for the birds and that

Honohina section, ___ camp side, all that, they took that.

CL: Okay, but Shipman still owned part of it until recently?

EO: I think he get what you call that frog (?) pond, couple acres. I think he still own that and by the house. I think he still own that I think. I'm not so sure but I think.

CL: So they were just leasing to those other guys?

EO: They leasing yeah. What his name? From Honokaa, Portuguese guy from Honokaa, he still get but he told me pretty soon that his lease is all over so he gonna (?) What is his name? Was I know he's from Honokaa. Cause we used to go rodeo (?) together, on the car, the old road, (?) not this new one, the old one. But the same place but the old.

CL: So up until Blackshear took over, you folks were still running Puakala?

EO: Puakala yeah. Puakala and down here, Keaau.

CL: So then the other thing I wanted to ask you was about those hunter camps that we talked about. Morita Camp, Puerto Rican Camp.

EO: Yeah Puerto Rican.

CL: Did they have anything there. Was there any like shacks or anything there?

EO: No, no. This is just sittin up in that Wailuku River. Just allowed to camping, go hunting eh. And then used to camp in there. Used to get, in Puerto Rican Camp they had few iron roof, for get water and all that. That's all. Never had no home no nothing.

CL: You could get under the iron roof though to get out of the rain?

EO: Yeah that's how they do that though. They get the logs so high eh. so they put the roof and then they get eh. But on the side they had only that hapuu, the leafs. To block for the rain no come in eh. But by Wailuku gulch, had a big fall, big fall over the river eh. Come from above. So they sleep in there, big place.

CL: Oh, cave like.

EO: Yeah cave.

CL: You're talking about Morita Camp now?

EO: Yeah Morita. So they used to sleep in there. Nice and dry,

and the water, the water right there. They had a nice, nice place there. Yeah you gotta go, go in eh. You can find that Morita cause you go up the hill and right down you hit that Wailuku gulch, right on your, yeah your left hand side, right in there, you can see. I think they still, some boys still use em I guess so. Some younger boys they know from the old time. I think they still use em.

CL: Do you know any, can you think of any old timer that's still around that used to use it in your days?

EO: Not, I no think so. I think it's all, all of them are dead. But Martin Ha, used to be the oldest, Bentos from Honomu, that Portuguese family, you know on the wife's side. All most of the family used to hunt up there.

CL: Their name is Bento.

EO: Bentos. Her side it was Bentos.

CL: Well I think that's mainly what I wanted to ask about. I can't think of anything more.

EO: So Toshi had a lot to say eh?

CL: Yeah, yeah we had a good talk.

EO: When his time was, was Tom Bell and Kona Solomon. But that's the dad. Tom took over. This old man, David, was in Toshi's time too. Yeah Koshi, Yakichi, that's the guy. If he was alive he could tell you the history.

CL: Yeah he mentioned him.

EO: Yeah, Yakichi. That's an old timer. The horse kill em eh. The horse kill em. Yeah Yakichi. The horse kill em. Still drunk. Yakichi, on the father's side they no talk too much English yeah. Most Hawaiian and Japanee eh. So you cannot understand that too much. Yeah Kona died before Tom. He was acting as a foreman up there after Tom Bell pau eh. He was acting as a foreman. Then that's how everything came all wild. All the cattle started get wild. Drink, no take care the cattle, just let em go wild. Then that's how Tom went up there.

CL: Cause he had to get somebody to take over.

EO: Take over. But couldn't, get all that acreage and all and still he have to come from there, come to Keauhou, take care of Keauhou and down Ainahou. Oh, trucks going up with sthe horses. One week later horses coming down again. Oh boy, sickening.

CL: Well you trucked em down Saddle Road and

EO: Yeah. From had Saddle Road yeah we used to truck em cause we had our own eight-wheeler truck, one Chevy. Coming down it's not so bad but going up oh. You just creep up that road. But no was all paved was all only gravel, all Saddle Road. You only creep go up. Take a day to go up if you get about five horses. Take a day. Then we leave em right by the saddle house, by the old horse trail. We drop em there and turn the horses loose. Somebody come pick em up eh. Then from there they run up right up to the house. And then we go to the Humuula. When reach Humuula, then we call, hey, the horses right up and we here waiting. We leave our truck in Humuula.

CL: Oh. Where? By the sheep station?

EO: That's right.

CL: And then somebody comes down.

EO: Yeah someone come down in the truck, pick us up with a Model A. Used to be Model A. No four wheel drive that time. They left the road until the Army leave em close, up in war time pau. And we start get our four wheel truck. And was Model A, one ____, Model A small pickup, just like a circus I remember. Some going up hill, some going down hill, some go up hill, some come down, all directions into, we used to ship cattle from Humuula eh. Then we used to come early in the morning. In the night we used put the chain on the tires. Then some place you cannot go even with the chain. Slippery eh. All they skid so, the other car, get the other car come down this way. The other one he pass the other car come down the other way. You get two cars, one get bad stuck, the other one pull em eh. So when they take em out, you no want to go in the morning. Oh the sore the hand, cold, you no can use gloves. Those days no such thing as glove, boy, you gotta stouch that mud and all oh man. And we were the youngest one, me was the youngest one, eh? So the youngest one, oh, come on boys.

CL: So the trail you took the horses up those days, that's the same one where they got the road go up to Nobriga's place now or not.

EO: No, no. No had that road. That was all pasture lands.

CL: That's all new then?

EO: Yeah, it's all, Carlsmith made that road. Carlsmith. After Shipman he took over that forty acres. Yeah and then he made that road. Prior to that no, was all the whole pasture.

CL: Then before the only way to get up to Puu 'o'o house was through Humuula yeah.

EO: Humuula yeah you gotta go through the Humuula.

CL: Unless you took that horse trail.

EO: Yeah. If you To ride the horse you gotta come from Kaumana right up. On the old horse trail. But they used to go through Waimea then come Humuula and then go. Through Humuula at that time before no had that Mana Road. Was all through the pasture too. All through the pasture used to go. Oh boy, that was days. You tell people about that, they don't believe. They don't, no way.

CL: Yeah because all different now.

EO: Yeah. In the war time they made that Mana Road from... support in case the military, they had something for...

CL: What was that USED or not.

EO: I think was USED. Yeah USED was. But see yet the road was all bumpy, bumpy. Saddle Road was just like a dog hind leg before. Voom, voom, all kind turns. Yeah. Just like the surveyor went follow the cattle. How the cattle go that's how they used make that road. (?) trenches. Oh then you come down going up ooh. And on that gravel road, all day long they hear the truck. You get five cattle, six cattle inside that's some weight boy. You rattle even. And we used to make five, six loads a day, start early in the morning. Up, down. They has to get our truck, Kea'au used to get one other Ford. The Ford wasn't too bad goin up because he get an extra compound, but our Chevvie just a straight up four. But they couldn't smell that truck. Oh that powerful was. They start ahead out of us, about two three load. Pau we beat em. We get after the end boy, up the hill, say what a truck boy. But they had that extra compound eh, the only thing had another. But ours they go, they catch it up with em. Anyway my old boss Lindsey, he used to drive the truck too eh. And he was a rough driver too that. Ooh he just go.

Yakichi, he can tell you, he can tell most where all the Chinese guys or Koreans used to sleep there and all eh. That's the first guys that make the fence eh.

CL: Puu 'o'o fence?

EO: Yeah that forest land. They the one used to camp up there before. That's way back before our time already. That I no remember. But he could tell you all that. That boy was sharp.

CL: He was older than you.

EO: Way older yeah. Jack Cook died. Jack Cook used to live down here. I don't know if you know one house right down there we call Jack Cook. Some haole people stay in em now. The house, just you climbing the hill one white house, two story house.

CL: On Peck Road?

EO: Yeah, on Peck Road.

CL: I don't remember Jack Cook but I, there's those three, four houses down there.

EO: Yeah the old houses, yeah. Well Jack Cook and him just like half brothers, Yakichi. They used to drink too much, eat too much. That's how he kill hisself. Yeah you know over there that's cold as a bitch. Oh, and 1:00, 2:00 in the morning he's salting meat. Yakichi you god damn you, we like sleep. There him with the ax chopping that meat, salting it all drunk. No take one hour he go sleep he's back again for work, ready to work. How you can do that Yakichi? But that good cowboy. In every inch of that property he know boy. From Puu 'o'o to Honohina. But that time the old man David eh used to run, Yakichi, Puka. Pau, he just know where the steers going come, he [say], come, come follow me. Follow him, he tell, okay, how many guys raincoat? Hemo the raincoat, here come the steers coming down the gulch. Hey he start tell, okay shake you fellow raincoats. Sometime our horses like buck, you know, try the raincoat. Oh he got em? He said no. He said, Koshi, follow behind. And some guys go on the side. Cause you gotta reach like this go over, and the corral is down. Cause if you sometimes you chase em and you don't beat em, they like come up again. But he just go, he brings em right there and all. He say just you stay behind, shake that raincoat, keep comin.

CL: Shake the raincoat it scares the cattle?

EO: Scare the cattle. They're scare the daylight, they. They think the devil after them.

CL: Yeah they wouldn't be too tame anyway those cattle.

EO: Oh no they were wild. And that's the time they fired Tom Bell eh. Then old man David went there, him and Kona Solomon. Solomon acted just like foreman but old man David, he was the head man. He tell what's go eh. After that oh, the pipi start come all wild. Tom Bell used to keep em nice, hoh the nice pipi he had. The first I move up there, you know like this table, you know, can play checkrs on that. Oh beautiful cattle they had. All Herefords too. But you go down the other section, the other paddock below, oh, you look that paddock and you look the up paddocks. Oh the big difference. Soon they see you come with the horse shoom, going. There he goes. They have to try get em in the corral, every paddock, lead em up on. Then put em with the tame ones, mix the cows with the tame one eh. Bulls can go, steers slaughter house. Don't keep em. Some no like come in, rope em. Just rope em, take em down the corral, slaughter house. Not just like now. Now oh man they just say little bit bruise and bled and they no want em in the slaughter house, boy. Before anything goes.

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