

Interview #2 with Rally Greenwell 7/8/96 Tape 2 side A

(PG for Patricia Greenwell, CL for Charles Langlas, RG for Rally Greenwell)

CL: So what I wanted to ask you Rally, first of all how long were you in charge of Keamoku before you moved on? I know you started in '34 I think.

RG: I was in charge of Keamoku only for about maybe three years. And then when I became assistant manager I still more or less was in charge of the whole ranch, I mean under Harwell Carter. But just Keamoku alone probably about three years.

CL: Okay. So did you stay at the Keamoku station? Did you live out there?

RG: No, I commuted. I lived in Waimea but I went out everyday.

CL: Okay. Was there people who stayed at the station at that time?

RG: There were about three or four people that lived out at the station.

CL: What kind of things were they doing, those people that stayed out there?

RG: They were repairing fences and pulling noxious weeds mainly. And if there were a few cattle that had to be moved around, they would do that.

CL: But then if there was a big drive?

RG: Then the cowboys from Waimea would come out and handle it.

CL: And what about, did those same guys handle the cattle at Waiki'i?

RG: No. The Waiki'i men, if it was a small job then there would be a few men at Waiki'i that would handle the job. But if it was a big job then the Waimea cowboys would come in.

CL: So Waiki'i station had its own cowboys. Keamoku had its own.

RG: Yes, but those men mainly were fence men and worked on noxious weeds.

CL: Okay. Otherwise probably they just kept an eye on the cattle to see.

RG: That's right, yes.

CL: You know somebody had tried to describe, I think Henry Ah Sam, had described Keamoku station to me. What do you remember there? What buildings?

RG: I remember the wool shed, one cistern, the baler, and the corrals that the sheep were held in.

CL: The baler was not part of the wool shed?

RG: No. The baler was in the wool shed.

CL: Yeah, same as at Humuula.

RG: That's right, the same as the Humuula one.

CL: And then what buildings were the men living in?

RG: The men lived in a house just above the wool shed on the hill. Probably about 100 yards away from the wool shed.

CL: Do you remember another little cottage?

RG: There was another little cottage on the Waimea side of the wool shed. And there was one Japanese fenceman that lived in there.

CL: You remember his name. I heard his name but I can't remember. It's all right. I think I got his name from Henry.

RG: I've forgotten.

CL: It doesn't matter. So, did he have a wife?

RG: No, he was single.

CL: Was it just cause he was the old timer that he got the separate place?

RG: I think the reason he got the separate place because he was quite a bit older than the other boys and he probably wanted to be by himself.

CL: And there was two others besides him?

RG: Two and sometimes three.

CL: Who was there? Do you remember the names of the guys that were there when you were?

RG: Ah, Koichi Tomi was there. Alex Hokama was there, Alex Bell was there, a boy by the name of Nakasone. That's all.

CL: Okay. And that house that they were in, did it have several rooms?

RG: As I remember it, it had one big living room and I think three smaller room plus a kitchen.

CL: Do you think you could draw me a diagram of it? A little floor plan?

RG: On here?

CL: Sure, why not. It's pretty collapsed now and I didn't see it. Yeah, I heard it was collapsed.

RG: It's not there any more.

CL: Maybe there's foundation though or something. I don't know.

RG: No they moved that building.

CL: Oh they did.

RG: Yutaka would of remembered.

PG: At Keamoku house?

RG: Yeah.

CL: I didn't actually see it. I only heard from somebody who had gone through.

RG: Yeah the Keamoku house I think, am I still on tape?

CL: Yeah. Is that bad? That'd be interesting if they moved it.

RG: Can you take me off tape.

CL: Sure.

RG: Uehara

CL: The Japanese man in the cottage.

RG: The Japanese that was the fenceman that lived in the cottage. I knew it'd finally come to me. I hope that's made alright.

CL: No, no. I'll redraw that, that'll be fine. And then the gulch was, there was a gulch back here I think somewhere yeah?

RG: Like that came down.

CL: Okay. And did the gulch go on up farther?

RG: Yes it went way up

CL: Didn't curve around or anything?

RG: No that gulch went up quite a distance.

CL: And I heard something about an olive grove.

RG: Up in here, above the house. This, later on this old road went up here and then up to Waiki'i. Used to go up to Waiki'i.

CL: Oh, during your time you could take that road?

RG: Yeah. You go past the house, gate there. Then you went up past the orchard, there was another gate here, came into this paddock they call Pihewai and this road wound up to Waiki'i.

PG: Was that a car road?

RG: After we had four-wheel drive vehicles you could go up in the car.

CL: But was the road there before you had the four-wheel drive vehicles?

RG: There was a horse trail.

CL: It was a horse trail?

RG: Yes.

CL: Okay. Johnny Lindsey said he thought there was wagon road that they used to, from Waiki'i to Keamoku that they used.

RG: That could have been, yeah. I think that's probably correct.

CL: Great. The only other thing I wanted to ask was, well maybe I'll have to get that out again. This one shows Keamoku I think. No wrong one. It has the station and it shows this long wall here. You remember that? I don't know if you can see this.

RG: Yes I remember. This would be the wool shed eh?

CL: Well maybe it is. I thought that these were rock walls but it could be the wool shed.

RG: Well I know there was a little rock wall on the lower side of the wool shed. Then this, if this is a rock wall here, that rock wall there was a kind of a little curve here and the little cottage that I was talking about would be right inside here

somewhere.

CL: Um hum. Like about here.

RG: Yeah I guess so. I remember this stone wall. You remember Pat?

PG: Yeah. Is this the gate right here and then you go through it and then turn right. Okay.

RG: Yeah, we planted olive trees all along here. Yeah I remember that rock wall. It's still there.

PG: And then the olive grove was up on a flat.

RG: Up inside here someplace.

CL: So does this [4wd track shown on USGS Quad] look like the road that you were talking about?

RG: Yes, that's right.

CL: Okay, and this would probably be the one. No that doesn't look like it, goes up to Waiki'i.

RG: No, it could be, He`ewai goes up. Where's Waiki'i now? Here's Waiki'i up here, yeah. But it ends here eh.

CL: Yeah. There's another one here. But I don't know. Maybe this is something new.

RG: This probably goes down to that paddock we used to call Puu Ke'eke'e. That's right.

CL: So there's some other, how far up do you think the ranch house would be if the olive trees were here. There's some other walls in here. I don't know what those would be. Unless it's

RG: Then the ranch house would be right in here someplace.

CL: Oh not that far up.

RG: I don't think it'd be that far up. You gotta go look.

[bit omitted]

CL: Yeah, I'd love to. I've been wanting to look at it.

PG: All right let's go. I haven't been there for years myself.

CL: You want to go?

PG: Sure.

CL: The other question I had was not about Keamoku, unless can you think of anything else we need to say about it?

RG: Not now. But if we go and visit the place they probably be a lot of questions you'll have.

CL: Yeah that's what I think too. The other question I had was about, did you ever go in cattle drives through, from the Humuula down to Kahuku Ranch?

RG: I never went from Humuula to Kahuku. But what we used to do was that, and I went on those drives. We'd take cattle from Kahuku up to the Volcano House area and leave them there for about a week to rest. And then Willie Kaniho, who was cowboy boss, he would come with his crew from Humuula down to the Volcano House and pick the cattle up and take them up to Humuula. I never went on that trip. But I did go from Kahuku to the Volcano. And that took us about three days.

CL: Uh huh. What years were you doing that?

RG: I think '36, '37, '38, through there.

CL: Um hum. So if you, how did you get down to Kahuku?

RG: We went on a car from here. And then we had horses at Kahuku.

CL: Yeah. So then after you drove the cattle up to Volcano, you took the horses back to Kahuku?

RG: That's right. We walked them back.

PG: How long did it take you to get back to Kahuku?

RG: A day. Cause the horses would travel fast. With cattle you'd go very slowly and you'd have to rest em over night.

PG: Where did you rest em, coming from Kahuku going up to Volcano?

RG: The first night we rested em near Pahala. The second night was up where they call Halfway House, fairly close to Volcano and then the third night they at the Volcano area.

CL: Did you go through Ainapo?

RG: When they left the Volcano House, then they went up to Ainapo I understand. I did not go on that drive.

CL: Okay. So did they also, I thought I heard that they also

brought cattle down from Humuula down to Kahuku.

RG: That I don't know. Not during my time.

CL: Oh okay. So what were they, they were just taking them from Kahuku up to Humuula and Parker Ranch then.

RG: They would take them up there and fatten them up there. And from there they would come down to Waimea and either be slaughtered in Waimea or sent to Honolulu.

CL: So I guess they were just taking whatever the increase was.

RG: That's correct, yes. But we did ship cattle to Honolulu, directly to Honolulu from Kahuku. We took them down to Ka'alu'alu and put them in the water and they were shipped to Honolulu.

CL: Did you get involved in that too?

RG: I did yes. They were put in a chute and the chute ended over a little cliff. And the life boat was tied just beyond there in deep water and these cattle that were in the chute were pushed out the end of the chute and they were forced into the water and then they were tied to the lifeboat. And then the lifeboat was towed out to the big boat and they were hoisted on the big boat. And there was a rope tied from the end of the chute to the little life boat and the rope was put on the animal in the chute and tied to that rope going out to the lifeboat so the animal could not run away. It was pulled out to the lifeboat.

CL: So then when you got to the big boat, how did they hoist em up?

RG: They would put a sling under the belly and hoist em up with a hoist.

CL: That must not have been too easy to get the sling around em. And they're swimming in the water?

RG: They were tied to the lifeboat. But they had a sling with chains around the bottom which made it sink and they would put it under the belly. Have you been in to the First Hawaiian Bank and looked at their pictures down here in Waimea?

CL: No, but are you talking about the pictures at Kawaihae?

RG: Same idea.

PG: Shows a cow in a sling being hoisted up in the boat.

CL: I hadn't thought about putting it on em though.

PG: Well neither had I. Where you say the chains went down?

RG: Well the chain was heavy. If a rope, it would be floating but you put a chain on there.

PG: Well they make the cow swim over the...

RG: No, it would, they put it down and pull the rope back and get under there and hoist em up. I went on both taking the cattle to Ka`alu`alu and putting them in the water and also taking em up to the Volcano and then from there they were taken to Humuula. I do know that we used to take replacement heifers to Kahuku from Waimea but we used to put em on the truck and take em over. But that was later.

CL: Yeah. Maybe in earlier years they might have driven them down.

RG: It could have been but I never heard of it.

CL: Well I think that's about all I had to ask. Somebody had mentioned that you were on those cattle drives so I thought I'd check it out.

RG: You talking about cattle drives, I think one of the most interesting cattle drives that we used to do was when we would take 1000 or 1,200 head from Waimea to Keanakolu and we'd bring about the same number down from Keanakolu and we'd meet half way and switch gangs and have these cattle pass each other and they would never get mixed up. Everybody was watching, taking care of his position.

CL: Never?

RG: Never.

CL: Well that's all I have to ask that I can think of. Maybe I'll stop.

RG: Any time you want more information, give us a call.

CL: Okay. (end of interview)