

Interview with Henry K. Ah Sam II June 2 & June 18, 1996

1. personal biography

born 1923,
1929-1931 or 2 lived at Waiki`i while his father was foreman
at Humu`ula (but family lived at Waiki`i so he could go to school)
1939 began working for Parker Ranch
1940-42 at Keamoku
1943 went into service
1948 back working at ranch until retired

--he was in charge at Keamoku 1940-42
--before him Tomi was taking care of Keamoku; after him
Thomas Liana (has died)
--worked again at Keamoku 1948-71

--his father Henry Ah Fong Ah Sam; used & known by middle
name Ah Fong; he always went by Ah Fong too (even in service)
until 1948

2. sheep & Keamoku

sheep taken from Keamoku before he ever went there (perhaps
c. 1923); moved to Waiki`i first--he remembers seeing sheep
sheared there as small boy; 1932 the sheep at Waiki`i moved up to
Humu`ula

moved from Keamoku (he heard) because of k_ (Spanish needle),
which got into the wool; sheep like to eat it

heard they brought rams from Australia, kept them Keamoku,
then moved them to Humu`ula

Keamoku station: ranch house (2 bedrooms, parlor & kitchen)
on hill above, w. trees and gulch running mauka; shearing barn,
watertank, 4-5 corrals (which they built with rock), smaller house
(perhaps 2 rooms) below. No bunkhouse. (See marks made on USGS
map.) Saw 3 cisterns--one in back of barn, 1 up where the ranch
house, 1 farther up where the olive orchard. Thinks they got
water from the gulch into the cistern.

His time (1940-42) there were 3 cowboys there, stayed in
ranch house; old Japanese man (single) in the small house. (He
returned to Okinawa.)

They covered area from PTA down to beach and from Puuanahulu
boundary over to Saddle Road junction; did small jobs; when there
was big job like branding, move cattle to another paddock, cowboys
came from Waimea to help.

Also a long straight wall (shown on map, just below the small
house) which was old, built before his time there.

Later on (c. 1950) there were Filipinos at Keamoku, raising
chickens (for themselves, mostly fighting chickens) and turkeys
there; many coops for chickens; turkeys ran free & raised for
Parker ranch--they wandered down from Waikii, then started to feed
them corn down at Keamoku

3. Roads/trails/sites/cover

--doesn't know of any heiau or burial sites in area

--doesn't know of any springs (incl. at Waiki`i); water was piped in; gulches (Auwaiakeakua, Popoo, etc.) ran only in storms; maybe used to rain more before, because he knows it used to rain more in Kamuela where he lives

--knows of old "trail" (15' wide, stones placed in by hand) which ran through from Keamoku (comes through above sheep station) to south; only visible on lava flow over in Puuanahulu, south of Kalawamauna; heard people from Waiki`i used to use it to go to Pu`uanahulu & Kona; saw sleeping caves along it, with corned beef cans and horseshoes, etc. left there; actually followed it some ways into Pu`uanahulu over the boundary because they used to go over to dig out fountain grass & keep it out of Parker Ranch (then when WW2 came they stopped digging it out and it took over); doesn't know name Kealanuiku`i for it

--the old mauka road Waimea-Kona (stone) that preceded paved road, he heard built by prisoners who were kept at the Saddle Road junction

--thinks the present 4WD trail from Pu`u Ke`eke`e down to Keamoku was built by army & doesn't remember old trail there

--remembers old house foundation (grasshouse or woodhouse?) just above the old Waimea-Kona road, below Keamoku S.S. and on the Waimea side of the gulch

--asked about trees above Keamoku: `ohi`a trees over on Pu`uanahulu side of the fenceline but not Waikoloa side, only `a`ali`i; mamane over toward Waiki`i

4. old Waiki`i station (before Waikii village) used to be in a different place, on makai side of SR where Waikii gulch crosses the road; thinks only 1 house there (like Hopuwai house); saw only the posts left from it

(Hopuwai house still there; Laumai`a house gone)