"Cowboy, I work around the ranch for [thirteen] years. Cowboy job. Work with old-timers' team. I was the youngest, you know, I came up with the old-timers. I had the same pay with the old-timers in all the jobs I had. And I go to the slaughterhouse, skinning. I came good as Daddy [Ernest Richardson] them."

The third of eight children born to Korean immigrant Gi Hong Kwon and Elizabeth Napuehu Kwon of the Big Island, William Kwon, Sr. was born in Kō'ele on April 15, 1921. Gi Hong Kwon, a Lāna'i Ranch cowboy, planted trees, worked in the nursery and slaughterhouse, and performed other duties assigned by manager George Munro.

William attended Kō'ele School. In 1932, soon after the death of his mother, he moved to Moloka'i along with his brother Sam Shin and his sister Alice. They lived with their aunt. William attended Ho'olehua School until 1935, when they moved back to Lāna'i.

Beginning in 1935, William worked for the Lāna'i Ranch under manager Ernest Vredenburg. He worked first as a custodian and yardman, then in the piggery. He later joined the fence line crew, putting up fences for cattle throughout the island. William remained a cowboy until 1948, when ranch operations declined. He worked a variety of jobs until 1952, when he began working as a fish and game manager for the Territory of Hawai'i.

"Uncle William," as he is affectionately known, retired in 1986. He lives in Lāna'i City with his wife, Evalani Kaopuiki Kwon. They have five children.
This is an interview with William Kwon, Sr., at Lāna'i City, Lāna'i, on August 13, 1988.

Okay Uncle William, let's start with your name. What's your full name?

My full name is William Kwon, Sr.

And when were you born?

April 15, 1921.

And where were you born?

At Kō'ele.

Kō'ele. And what was your mother and your father's names?

My mother's name was Elizabeth Napuehu Kwon.

And where was she from?

She came from Kohala on the Big Island.

On the Big Island. And what was your father's name?

My father's name was Gi Hong Kwon.

And where was he from?

He came from Korea.

Do you know about when he came from Korea? About what year he got here?

That, I didn't even ask him about that.
(Taping stops, then resumes.)

MM: Yeah. Okay, but what brought your father to Hawai'i? Did he ever talk about that?

WK: They came over for work, anyway, find jobs. That's why they came over. When the immigration guys came back, you know. All the Japanese, Koreans came over, eh. Sometime he caught the boat and came over, too.

MM: So, when your father came over, where did he go first?

WK: I know he told us that he worked on Kaua'i.

MM: He worked on Kaua'i?

WK: Kaua'i.

MM: Do you know where?

WK: Kapa'a. I think Kapa'a, anyway. He was something like a camp police.

MM: But did they have a Korean Camp or something?

WK: Yeah. They get individual camps, eh. Korean get their own camp, Japanese, Filipino, all the different ethnics.

MM: Yeah, yeah. And then, after that, do you know how long he stayed on Kaua'i?

WK: No, no. From there anyway, I think he went O'ahu, I think. O'ahu or the Big Island, he went to. He act da kine same kind job, camp police.

MM: And then when he was on the Big Island, is that when he met your mother?

WK: Yeah.

MM: So do you know about when they moved to Lāna'i?

WK: Hmm. (Pause)

MM: Were all the children born on Lāna'i?

WK: Yeah. I think so, all over here.

MM: Okay. So the oldest is Elizabeth [Keahi]?

WK: Elizabeth.

MM: And so do you know about when she was born? No? Let's see, what
brought your father from Hawai'i to Lāna'i?

WK: I think before he came over, I think he went Maui. He was on Maui, too, you know. He worked. (Chuckles)

MM: He worked all over, huh?

WK: Yeah. Then they came to Lāna'i.

MM: And then, when he came to Lāna'i, what kind of job did he have?

WK: He was working with Old Man Munro, George Munro. Planting trees, yeah, that time. I think some kind of tree planting.

MM: So that's what he was in charge of, the tree planting? Did he have to run the nursery, too, or . . .

WK: I think maybe they got nursery workers, and they take the trees out, you know. I think they had nursery workers.

MM: Yeah. So did you ever work with your father?

WK: Oh, no. During [Ernest] Vredenburg time [i.e., from 1935 on], yeah, we worked, too, you know.

MM: Yeah. But during Munro time, you didn't work with him?

WK: No, no.

MM: So, when you were a small boy, what can you remember about the ranch? Wait, first of all, did you go to school? Which school did you go to?

WK: Up here on Kō'ele.

MM: The old one, or . . .

WK: The old school.

MM: . . . the one up by [where] the golf course [is today]?

WK: The old one up here, the golf course one.

MM: Oh, the one down by the green?

WK: No, the top.

MM: Oh, the old golf course one. So on top. [The one-room schoolhouse located approximately where the seventh green of the Cavendish Golf Course is today.]

WK: Mm hmm.
MM: Is that the only school you went to, and from what year?

WK: From kindergarten up to elementary.

MM: Okay. And so, how did you folks get to school?

WK: Walk.

MM: About how long did it take you?

WK: Oh, take about less than fifteen minutes.

MM: So, were your classes—the people in your class, were they all the same age or different ages?

WK: I think it was, yeah.

MM: All the same grade?

WK: Yeah.

MM: Okay. So, what was it like? What was a typical day like for you when you were going to school? About what time did you have to get up, and ...

WK: Gotta get up maybe about seven o'clock. And my mother get all this pancakes ready. You know that small thin pancakes?

MM: Yeah.

WK: Yeah, that thing about, maybe one foot high. Used to wake up the kids, have pancake and cocoa. Then, oh, we make our own bento, lunch. Rice with sausage, canned sausage.

MM: What, the Vienna sausage ...

WK: (Chuckles) Vienna sausage. We used to take to school. We go there, they never did have any cafeteria, you know. Everybody bring their own lunch.

MM: So you made your own lunch?

WK: My mother do all that. They made all in the morning.

MM: Oh, so your lunch is ready, your breakfast is ready. You went to school, and ...

WK: And then we go home. Sometime we go home for lunch, you know. We don't [always] take our lunch. Lunch hour, we go back. Come home and come back. Take about half-an-hour lunch and back.

MM: And then after school pau, what did you do?
WK: Go home and play. (Chuckles)

MM: You didn't have any chores?

WK: No chores. Well, used to go cut firewood. We had the wood stove those days. Cut this eucalyptus trees for firewood.

MM: What about--did you have electricity at that time?

WK: No, none. We were using kerosene lamps.

MM: So did you have to fill up the kerosene and . . .

WK: Mm hmm. And then later on, then came this gas lantern, and we used to get the gas, oil--we used to have this icebox. Use block of ice, old style. From there, then came up to gas icebox. Little bit modern, and then we get gas lantern.

MM: But before you folks had the icebox, what did you folks use before that?

WK: If you didn't have--we were using block ice, anyway. That's the only thing. But before that, we didn't have. We used to get that screen box, big one. Hang 'em on the outside of the building. Cold [weather], eh, those days? We get any kind meat, they hang 'em inside, keep 'em chilled.

MM: What was it made out of?

WK: Well, wood and screen. You know, something, like a screen, about the size of the door, I think.

MM: Oh, like the regular screen door.

WK: Maybe three by three. Screen on, and the door, you can open and hang your things inside. It was [called] the "safe."

MM: And then, when you had icebox, where did the ice come from?

WK: That block ice came from down here, from the city.

MM: They used to make the ice in Lāna'i City?

WK: Yeah, they make 'em. I think was down here, the [Hawaiian Pineapple] Company shop, I think. Yeah, company shop.

MM: And then, did they deliver the ice?

WK: I think so. I guess so, you know. Truck used to bring 'em up.

MM: Because nobody had cars those days, huh?

WK: No, no, no. Used to bring 'em up.
MM: So, did you have any other kind of jobs when you were going to school?

WK: Mostly only playing. Oh, yard work, clean the yard or something like that, you know. That's when I was about eight, nine years old.

MM: What kind of games did you folks used to play?

WK: I would play all kind, make our own toys.

MM: Like what?

WK: Make your, you know like a... Take two cans, put the string from here to here. You walk on the cans.

MM: Oh, you walk on the can?

WK: (Chuckles) Get your toes between like that.

MM: (Chuckles) Oh, between the strings? (WK chuckles.) What kind of cans you used? (Chuckles)

WK: Oh, just milk cans, or that... 

MM: Oh, the condensed milk cans?

WK: Yeah, or that, what you call the salmon can? You know, the red salmon?

MM: Oh, the salmon?

WK: Yeah, can. (MM chuckles.) Use all kind. I use that for phone, telephone.

(Laughter)

MM: Two cans and a string, okay. And what else did you...

WK: Then we used to make this broom-handles game. Cut the stick and then make two, one about this long.

MM: What, that's six inches or so?

WK: You hit 'em like that and thing fly off, you know.

MM: Oh, with the can, you make the can?

WK: No, no, no. With the broom stick handle. Broom handle, you know the stick? You cut that thing.

MM: Oh, and you fly the stick up and you hit 'em?

WK: Yeah. You make one, kind of like an angle slope about three, four
inches long. Put 'em around next to the hole, get one hole like that. Put that thing over the hole, and you hit 'em like that, the thing fly up, and you whack 'em. See how far you can hit that thing. [WK is describing a game called "peewee."]

MM: Hit this stick. (Chuckles) And what else?
WK: Bean bag. (Chuckles)
MM: You fill it up with rice?
WK: We used to put grass inside.
MM: Was light, huh?
WK: No. Use that for hit this other--chase 'em, you know, and hit. Used to, yeah, that, that game was. And then riding stilts.
MM: You make your own?
WK: Make your own. Used to go up that, you know up in the forest [behind Kō'ele area]?
MM: Yeah, by the eucalyptus trees . . .
WK: Yeah.
MM: . . . back there?
WK: From Kō'ele we walk, go up with that thing.
MM: Oh, on the stilts?
WK: Yeah, play that thing right up. Go up the mountain, play, you know, jump from the bank, like that, jump down.
MM: Uh huh. So besides you, who were the other kids growing up around that time?
WK: Oh, my kid brothers and some other Hawaiian boys from over here.
MM: Do you remember the names of the people around your age?
WK: Because Uncle Biggy [Junior Kaopuiki] them wasn't here. They was down Keōmuku.
MM: Still down in Keōmuku, yeah?
WK: Yeah.
MM: 'Cause he's about your age, yeah?
WK: Yeah, yeah. Oh, Uncle Sol Kaopuiki was, too, I think, that time,
those days. Little bit older, eh. We used to play together, all the Hawaiian boys.

MM: When you were older, what, you said, I think you were about twelve years old, you left Lāna'i?

WK: Yeah, about twelve, I think.

MM: Uh huh. And then how long were you gone?

WK: I left Lāna'i, went over to Moloka'i because I lost my mother in 1931. So in '32, I think, I went over. Caught the steamship, inter-island ship, went over to Moloka'i with my brother Sam Shin and my sister Alice. We stayed with my aunty, Annie Rodrigues.

MM: And then, how was it different from Lāna'i, Moloka'i?

WK: Well, the climate over there was almost about the same, you know.

MM: Where did you folks stay on Moloka'i?

WK: Way up on, what you call that place, Hanekekua.

MM: Hanekekua?

WK: Yeah, that...

MM: Ho'olehua?

WK: No, no, no, no. Right below of George Cook's place.

MM: Up on Moloka'i Ranch?

WK: Yeah, yeah. That's the ranch property, anyway, but get one modern name for that. Anyway, that's where we stayed and go school, Ho'olehua.

MM: So, did your uncle work for the ranch, too, Moloka'i Ranch?

WK: Yeah, he worked for Moloka'i Ranch.

MM: So how was that ranch different from this ranch?

WK: Well, that place is more rough than our place.

MM: More stones and stuff?

WK: No. Get more lantanas than anything, you know. And down over there [Moloka'i Ranch], the kiawe side down Maunaloa area? All that down the beach, all that area is all George Cook area, yeah. Over there nice place, but the mountain area was lousy. Lot of deer down there, too.
MM: So, you like Lāna'i better than you did Moloka'i?

WK: Well, Lāna'i is my home anyway, you know.

MM: So you missed Lāna'i when you were on Moloka'i?

WK: No, well, we had to go school, so we just stuck it out, you know, stayed there. Yeah, we had good time over there. Sometime I ride horse with my friend, that ranch foreman. George Aweau's son, Arthur. He has a hapa laka filly. He and I ride that horse and go school (chuckles) in the morning then come back. Come back, the time I walk, come home. But the school is what, over a mile, you know, from our place. Mile and a half, two miles.

MM: So where did you learn how to ride horses, over here or . . .

WK: Over here, on Lāna'i.

MM: When you were small boy on Lāna'i, were you folks able to go out with the cowboys?

WK: No, no.

MM: Go to work with them?

WK: Oh, yeah. We used to go ride wagons. Me and this Robert Kauila. We rather go ride truck.

MM: Did they put you to work?

WK: No, no, no. We just go riding (chuckles).

MM: Just go riding.

WK: Yeah, with--like with Uncle Johnny, Johnny-boy, Richardson [i.e., John Richardson] and then with that big man [Sam] Koa used to get his truck, he go haul gasoline or something like that. Every time we go with them to ride the truck, they tell us, "You folks gotta sing before you guys can ride the truck, you know." We had to sing one song. They tell, "Okay, you folks can come on."

(Laughter)

MM: And so it's just to go holoholo with them?

WK: Yeah, with them. Even go ride wagons. We rode wagon from here to way down to Awalua.

MM: And what were they doing with the wagons?

WK: Oh, they were hauling--making that pipeline from Maunalei, come right around.
MM: Oh, for the water troughs for the horses?

WK: Yeah, for the . . .

MM: Cattle?

WK: Cattle, yeah.

MM: Oh. So they took the water from Maunalei to Awalua?

WK: It's not way down, it's way up, but they have to haul the pipes from there, bring 'em up, eh.

MM: Oh, I see, uh huh. Then, after you came from Moloka'i and you came back to Lāna'i, you were about, what, fifteen, sixteen years old?

WK: I left down there about fifteen years old [1935].

MM: Uh huh. Did you go back to school?

WK: No.

MM: You went to work?

WK: I came back to Lāna'i to help my old man take care my brother and sisters. That's why I came back. Came back and worked for [ranch manager Ernest] Vredenburg.

MM: So when you first, at fifteen, what was the first job you had then?

WK: Da kine custodian.

MM: For what?

WK: (Chuckles) Clean yard. (Laughs)

MM: Clean yard. Okay. And then that's . . .

WK: Yard boy.

MM: Is that what your father was doing at that time, too?

WK: My father was taking care horses, same time cowboy. They get all kind, different kind job, yeah. He wasn't planting trees, I think was Vredenburg time, no, this?

MM: Yeah. It's about [1935], yeah? So when you came back, about how old was your father?


MM: He was in his sixties? And then so, everybody told me, you know,
like the ranch, the houses were kept real nice and stuff, so tell us how the yards were laid out. I mean, who planned the yards?

WK: You mean these houses, the two-bedroom houses? Right now?

MM: I guess after they brought up the houses. I guess had two different sets of houses, yeah?

WK: Oh, yeah. When they brought up the houses from Miki [in 1937], we were cowboy that time, I think.

(Interview interrupted, then resumes.)

MM: Oh, earthquake! (Pause) Gee. (Pause) Wait. Before they had--when you were small boy, they had older houses, yeah?

WK: Mm hmm. Had one-by-twelve houses, they call 'em. That's one-by-twelve lumber houses.

MM: One-by-twelve? With the battens?

WK: Yeah. (Chuckles)

MM: Yeah. And then, how big were those houses? Did you folks live in a real big house?

WK: Pretty big.

MM: How many bedrooms had?

WK: I think bedrooms was about two, three--two bedroom. Big living room; kitchen big, too. Wasn't too bad.

MM: Did you folks cook inside or outside?

WK: Inside the house. We had wood stove, yeah.

MM: Yeah. You folks had your own bathroom, or outhouse?

WK: Outhouse. And shower, we take a bath inside the house, you know. They get the shower.

MM: So, had plumbing for shower inside?

WK: Yeah, yeah.

MM: Oh, okay. And then, what did your yard look like?

WK: Those days, that old-house-type yard, it wasn't that spic-and-span. You don't have to keep 'em too much. It had yard, but not like the second house [Miki house].

MM: So that one, everybody just took care their own yard?
WK: Yeah.

MM: Did you folks grow your own vegetables and anything like that?

WK: Yeah, yeah. Right.

MM: Who took care the garden?

WK: Garden? My old man. (Laughs) My old man, he no want us to take care the garden when we get junk hands.

MM: Junk hand. (WK chuckles.) What, did he have a green thumb?

WK: Green thumb is the word, you know.

MM: (Laughs) And then--let's go back. When you were a small boy, what kind kaukau did you folks eat?

WK: Food?

MM: Yeah.

WK: Ate poi.

MM: Where did the poi come from?

WK: Come from the boat [from Maui]. Come up to the store over there.

MM: The ranch store?

WK: The ranch store. The people go down over there with a bowl or something, and they pour inside [the bowl]. But the thing come inside one barrel, eh. It come hard, you know, it's not soft.

MM: Was the poi fresh or was sour?

WK: Fresh, fresh. Fresh poi. They gotta go inside, and how many pound you want, they put it in the bowl.

MM: Yeah. So you folks used to--somebody used to go down and get all the food from Keomuku side?

WK: I think, I don't know where it come. How the food--I think from Mānele, I think.

MM: Mānele [i.e., food arrived from Maui and was unloaded at Mānele]. And they bring 'em up. And they take it to the ranch store.

WK: Over there.

MM: What else you used to buy from the store?

WK: Oh, canned goods and whatever. Small store but get candies like
that.

MM: So, did you folks go every day for your candy, or was that a treat?

WK: Only once in a while.

MM: Once in a while. (Chuckles)

WK: And like, come weekend, then they can have something special like that, you know. And my father tell, "What kind you want to eat?" You want Mother make cake or something, you know.

MM: And that was for special . . .

WK: Special.

MM: Make cake.

WK: Most all the time, we only live the simple life. Chicken, we raise our own chicken like that, you know. Eggs, we get our own eggs.

MM: Did your mother work, too?

WK: My mother, housewife. Housewife. I think she was taking up laundry, too, I think.

MM: For other people?

WK: Yeah.

MM: Had plenty single men, yeah?


MM: So, she used to do their laundry? Whose laundry did she used to do?

WK: Some of the workingmen. Not--maybe one or two like that, yeah. That's all, 'nough. Taking care the kids was good enough.

MM: Okay. When you came back, were the houses already changed?

WK: When I came back from Moloka'i?

MM: Yeah.

WK: No.

MM: They still had the old houses?

WK: Old houses.

MM: Yeah. So about when did they change the ranch again, moved up all the other houses?
WK: When that houses came up? (Pause) Forgot when the houses came up from Miki.

MM: About 1937 or 1938?

WK: (Pause) I still remember we moved from the other place, you know. One, two, three, four. Four time, I think, we moved.

(Chuckles)

MM: Four times? How come you moved so many times?

WK: I don't know. My father leave the house, then the next house better, better than the other one we had. Then somebody move, then take the house, you know. Then the last house was right on the corner, I think, before the main highway.

MM: Down by where the corral used to be?

WK: No, no, no. Where that... (Chuckles)

MM: Where they moved the church?

WK: ... below Daddy them place. Down. Oh, right by the [Ka Lōkahi O Ka Mālamalama Ho'omana Na'auao O Hawai'i] Church, yeah, the church.

MM: Yeah, right in there?

WK: Right inside there, yeah.

MM: Where the church used to be [before it was moved in 1988].

WK: Yeah.

MM: In the front of the church or in back of the church?

WK: That way, I think, right alongside.

MM: Where the quonset house used to be?

WK: The quonset house too far down, I think.

MM: Too far down. Oh, I think I know. The other side of the banyan tree.

WK: Was all in line, you know. Had plenty eucalyptus trees, those days.

MM: Yeah. So, when they brought the houses up from Miki...

WK: Had lot of eucalyptus they had to knock down. Clear out. That's why, each yard had about two, some had about three, three stumps. You had to dig 'em out your own self. (Chuckles)
MM: So, when did they start fixing up all the yards and stuff?

WK: From that time ween start. Even you stay down house, we gotta go up, we go work over there, then we go back home, yeah. Clean up like that.

MM: So, who planted all the hedges, all the hibiscus hedges?

WK: You plant your own. Each individual, they do your own.

MM: But you know, had the lanes?

WK: Yeah.

MM: So everybody planted and made their own?

WK: They plant that and take all the boundary, yeah, the straight line. If they no want to plant, well, the company plant that. The ranch hand. They plant that, and then you make your boundary. Oh, was beautiful, you know, those days.

MM: Yeah. And then, so which areas did you take care of?

WK: All our yard.

MM: When you were custodian?

WK: Oh. Ranch boss yard, yeah.

MM: So where did you take care?

WK: The one right next to--your folks' house was staying.

MM: Oh, by the manager's house?

WK: Mm hmm. The foreman house yard. I used to take care that, and then the Vredenburg house the other side.

MM: Yeah, that whole big area.

WK: Yeah.

MM: And then, so you used to take care by the [ranch] office?

WK: Yeah, around there.

MM: That house next to it, and then the manager's house, and then . . .

WK: Yeah, the office area, yeah. All in the front portion, all that area. And the manager's place.

MM: And then after that job, did you have another job?
WK: Yeah. Then I tell him, "Ey, Boss, I like promotion." (MM chuckles.)

"Where you like go?"

I go, "I like go feed pig." (Chuckles) So I stayed with my uncle.

MM: Who was your uncle now?

WK: Sam Shin's father.

MM: Oh, was that Bon Soon?

WK: Yeah. Shin Bon Soon.

MM: Okay. So this man Shin Bon Soon was married to your mother's sister?

WK: Sister, yeah. Anna [Napuehu Shin]. Well, anyway, I think he and my father came over the same time from Korea, I think.

MM: Oh, so they knew each other, too.

WK: They knew, yeah.

MM: At that time, had plenty Koreans living up there?

WK: No. The ranch had only about, only two. My father and that one [Shin]. Then Vredenburg hired one Korean guy, that guy came, just like a yard boy for him.

MM: What was his name, you remember?

WK: Ah, what that. Po. I used to know him as Polo. Tall, tall Korean guy. That's the one, [Kuniichi] Sakamoto had twins, yeah. The Sakamotos, you remember them. You remember their family . . .

MM: Yeah.

WK: ... Sakamoto? Well, the twins [Ted and Tom Sakamoto], that's from him. That's his kids, that. Real good man.

MM: So when you was taking care--where was the piggery?

WK: Right down here, this gulch, right here.

MM: In Pālāwai?

WK: No, right here.

MM: No, right down . . .

WK: Yeah, Kāpano.
MM: Kāpāno?
WK: Kāpāno, yeah. Kāpāno, eh, they call?
MM: Okay. And then so . . . .
WK: Had one Okinawa, Okinawa people were taking care, they had the pig the first time, piggery. Then they sold 'em out.
MM: So they had the piggery and then they sold out to the ranch?
WK: Yeah, the ranch bought that place. Bought the pigs. So I work down there about what, two years. Almost two years, I think, I worked with my uncle down there.
MM: Okay. What kind of job did you folks have to do?
WK: Pick up what stay down there. Somebody used to bring the slop down, I think. I used to cook the slop, you know. Cook 'em and feed the pigs.
MM: Yeah. So somebody used to go around and pick it up for you folks?
WK: Yeah, yeah.
MM: Ranch guys or . . .
WK: Ranch.
MM: Uh huh. And then, who used to do all the butchering?
WK: I think was the old-timers. Maybe Bill Kauwenaole them. I wonder if Daddy, too, that time, butchering.
MM: Did they ship the pigs out or was all for over here?
WK: Over here. Da kine only for the people. The public.
MM: The Lāna'i stores?
WK: Those days had only two stores.
MM: What stores were they?
WK: Okamoto and Yet Lung.
MM: Yet Lung. Okay. And then, so after the piggery, what other jobs did you have?
WK: Then I promoted to fence line. (Chuckles) Work fence line, and then after that, cowboy, start going cowboy. Fence line was all with Uncle Biggy them, that time, anyway.
MM: All the young boys?

WK: Yeah, young boys. Uncle Alex [Kaopuiki], the one died, George Kahaleanu them, all these guys. And quite a few boys from Big Island, too, came over, eh. In fact, one of the cowboys was--they work on the fence line, you know, regular cowboy, all on the fence line. Napaepae . . .

MM: When slow, they all go down?

WK: Yeah, fence line. That cowboy just like utility workers, eh, you call that. Work cowboy, fence line, cut kiawe post for the fence, like that.

MM: Lot of maintenance, yeah.

WK: Yeah, you know. Even like build up honeybee hive, the boxes, put hive, yeah. All that come in section, then you have to put 'em together, and nail 'em all.

MM: Oh, the beehives?

WK: Yeah, the beehives.

MM: Oh, and that was Keōmuku?

WK: No. We did that all up here, all the beehives that were down there. All the--Maunalei had one, Hauola, Keōmuku side had beehive. So build 'em all up here and then take 'em all down.

MM: So was Murata [i.e., Ichiro Tamura] the only one that took care the bees or did you folks go and help?

WK: No, we used to go only haul the bees nighttime, transfer 'em to a certain area, you know. He [Tamura] used to tell me, "Eh, Kwon, you like I go teach you how for take care bee?"

"Nah, I no like." (Chuckles)

MM: And then so, what did they do with all the honey?

WK: The honey, they process 'em, eh? Then they ship 'em out, again. They used to sell 'em out.

MM: Were you still living at home at that time?

WK: Yeah, over here. Cowboy, I work around the ranch for [thirteen] years [1935-48]. Cowboy job. Work with old-timers' team. I was the youngest, you know, I came up with the old-timers. I had the same pay with the old-timers in all the jobs I had. And I go slaughterhouse, skinning. I came good as Daddy [Ernest Richardson] them. (Chuckles)
MM: So the slaughterhouse was down below the corrals?

WK: Way down there, way down.

MM: Was there somebody in charge of the slaughterhouse? Was there one man in charge of the slaughterhouse?

WK: No, no, no.

MM: All the cowboys go down there and work.

WK: Like Uncle Bill Kauwenaole, Aunty Elaine's [Elaine Kaopuiki] father, he was the foreman, that time, for the slaughterhouse. He take care.

MM: So everybody learned how to do all the jobs?

WK: Oh, yeah, when the piggery was down here, he move 'em up to the ranch.

MM: Oh, the piggery moved.

WK: To the ranch area right below the slaughterhouse, that's where they had the piggery. Keep 'em over there. Much closer, yeah, go work. And my Uncle Shin was still taking care that. And the pigs, too, we had to slaughter pigs, too. Had the pigs right there, eh, take 'em right to the slaughterhouse.

MM: More easy, yeah.

WK: Yeah. It's about maybe here to that house, I think. That far from the piggery, the slaughterhouse [approximately fifty feet].

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

MM: So, you were about--you were still a young man.

WK: I am, young.

MM: So when you became--they called you a cowboy, about how old were you then?

WK: Eighteen, nah. Nineteen, I think. By nineteen I was a big drinker that time.

(Laughter)

MM: So, Uncle, when pau work, is that what you folks do, go drinking?

WK: Pau work. Yeah, we used to, in front, right in the slaughterhouse, we drink. The Filipinos come up, they go buy that intestines, yeah, the Filipinos, they bring wine like that, you know.
MM: They make their own wine or . . .

WK: No, no. They buy the store kind.

MM: . . . they buy at store and they bring for you folks?

WK: We give 'em the intestines free. Sometimes we charge 'em one dollar, eh. (Chuckles) Then sometime, we, with all the boys, we stay down there, we go make jook. You know the big wok, the one they boil hot water for the pig? Clean 'em up nice, and then we make jook inside there.

MM: So everybody stay down there and eat.

WK: Eat lunch. We used to do hell down there. Maybe after work, maybe 2:30 we pau like that, everything, clean up the slaughterhouse, suck 'em up. (Chuckles)

MM: And where did you folks get all your liquor?

WK: From the Filipinos. If they don't bring 'em, we bring our own. (Chuckles) We get special days, eh, for drink like that, you know.

MM: Special days? Only certain days you drink?

WK: Yeah, we make for that place, the slaughterhouse. Yeah, for slaughterhouse, you know, like Mondays, eh? Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, we do the slaughtering.

MM: Oh, I see. So that's the days that you make your work pau early and then you clean up.

WK: Clean up, eat. And we had all these other boys like Uncle Biggy them come down, help. They take care the hides, salt 'em up, you know. Wash 'em down, salt 'em up.

MM: So they used the hide for their saddles and stuff, too?

WK: That one, they ship 'em out to the Mainland.

MM: Oh, really?

WK: Yeah. After we get one big stack like that. First you gotta lay 'em flat, eh. You salt, flat, flat, flat; make the [stack] high; and then you got to ship 'em. Not enough room [otherwise], eh.

MM: Yeah, yeah. Oh, I wonder how much they used to get paid for that?

WK: I don't know how much hide they bought those days, yeah. Yeah, interesting.

MM: So, it's like certain days you do certain things? Certain kind jobs.
WK: Yeah. Mm hmm. Certain days, tomorrow we go cut fence post, everybody go down.

MM: Yeah, do the job. Down--you go Keōmuku?

WK: Yeah, all down Keōmuku side.

MM: Get the kiawe. How many times you round up [cattle]?

WK: In a year, about what, two, three times a year, I think, round up. The best part of round up when you . . .

MM: I'm going turn this over.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

WK: The branding part, me, I like, branding. Good fun.

MM: Okay. So how many times you brand a year?

WK: One time a year.

MM: One time, I see.

WK: That's when you pick up all the newborn calfs like that. But they gotta make 'em come little bit big, then you brand 'em.

MM: So then, how long were you with the ranch?

WK: Oh, from '35 to '48.

MM: Nineteen forty-eight?

WK: Nineteen forty-eight, yeah. That's when I quit the ranch. (Chuckles) I quit on my own, and I left the ranch.

MM: And then . . .

WK: I went to O'ahu.

MM: Uh huh. Off island.

WK: Yeah, to work on the Isleway, boat eh.

MM: That's the barge for the boat?

WK: Yeah, Isleway barge, tugboat.

MM: Is that the one that used to come between Honolulu and Lāna'i?

WK: Ah, no, no. That's when Isleway took all the tugboats. Used to be run to Lāna'i, the old boat. And then the company got new ones, eh, this new one, the one, the lately one. Then Isleway had the old
ones. Used to ...

MM: Was it only to Lāna'i or to all the other islands, too?

WK: The Isleway one, they run all the island. Moloka'i, Maui, Big Island, Kaua'i. That's the kind tugboat I was working on.

MM: Yeah. What kind of job did you do on the boat?

WK: Able seaman. Scrub deck, chip rust from the boat, and work on the barge, take care the freight, yeah, when the thing come off, stack 'em up. And run that kind finger lift. From the barge to the pier and bring all the freight in or take the freight out. That's the kind job.

MM: So how long did you do that job?

WK: That job, only about one year, I think, and the company fold up, gave up. So I had to come back again, back to Lāna'i again. Then, what, '49, I think, I came back over here.

MM: And then after that, what did you do?

WK: When I came back?

MM: Mm hmm.

WK: I ask the boss, "I like come back work." I work for something. Little bit while, I think, a little while, then pau, no more job already.

MM: Is that when they closed down the ranch?

WK: Yeah, was going out.

MM: So, they were laying people off.

WK: So, anyway ...

MM: Oh, you know what I wanted to ask you, okay. Tell me about the home guard during the war.

WK: Oh, during the war, '41. Oh, practically all the young boys from the ranch all wen join that—most of them, anyway, some wen get inducted, anyway, in the real army.

MM: I see. I'm going to turn this around.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO
MM: So, what did you folks do in the home guard, I mean . . .

WK: We went under training, rifle. If you want to go to rifle, you go rifle. We get rifle platoon, machine gun platoon. That's about the two main one. Then trench mortar, mortar firing or something like that.

MM: And that was just to protect Lāna'i?

WK: Lāna'i, yeah.

MM: So, did the army provide you folks with rifles?

WK: Yeah. We had all equipment from the army. Even we had to take physical, that time, the army doctor come over. You know who was that doctor? [J.] Fleming.

MM: Oh.

(Chuckles)

WK: The old man, Fleming. He was the doctor that came up. We take physical in the old gym.

MM: Uh huh. So only the men could be in the home guard?

WK: Only men. Was only men those days.

MM: Uh huh. So did you folks have practice or something?

WK: Oh, yeah.

MM: How often?

WK: That's all depending they get time. Because was all company men, you know, all field workers, eh. Filipinos, had plenty Filipinos, you know. Japanese join. Maybe one time a month or two times a month, you know, something like that. We get together, we get training.

MM: And the training was the rifle handling and all that.

WK: Yeah, all that. Inside here. You know where all that log cabin used to be, the log cabin [Hawaiian Pineapple Company seasonal camp area]?

MM: The old post---baseball camp?

WK: Yeah, right there. Used to be the grounds we used to train. Then we used to get field maneuvers, you know, go down Païkaholo, used to get our firing range down there. So we go down, go shoot the rifles down there.

MM: And then, did you have practice drills and things like that?
WK: Oh, yeah. That's the kind, yeah. Close-order drill, they called it.

MM: Close what?

WK: Close-order drill.

MM: Close-order drill. (Chuckles) Were you folks the ones that used to oversee the blackouts and stuff?

WK: No. Before they used to have the other one. The other guys.

MM: Another group?

WK: Another group.

MM: What were they called?

WK: They called, some the home guard, but we called--our side was Bataan Soldiers. Them guys is the home guard.

MM: Bataan?

(Laughter)

MM: How did they get a name like that?

WK: We named our own self, Bataan Soldiers.

MM: So you're the Bataan . . .

WK: Soldiers. (Chuckles) Infantry.

MM: And the other guys were the home guards?

WK: Yeah.

MM: What were the difference between you folks and the other guys?

WK: (Chuckles) The home guard was before us. This home guard. Before we form the Bataan Soldiers. They were ahead. That time was wartime, eh. They only had a couple guys here and there, but they had their own guns. They were using .22 rifles. (Chuckles)

MM: And then when you folks formed your group, then everybody had the same kind?

WK: When the army came in and then try build up the . . .

MM: So the army set you folks up?

WK: Yeah. Came, took over, eh. Oh, yeah, they never did get army guys over here, that time. That's why they had these other guys, the
home guards.

MM: So, I heard you were in charge of the ranch area.

WK: No, no. When I was inside with the Bataan Soldiers, then we had.

MM: You were in charge of the ranch?

WK: Nah, never in charge.

MM: No. (Chuckles) That's what Uncle Biggy told me. (Chuckles)

WK: Well, anyway, that time when I came up, first-class private. Private first-class (chuckles) like that. But we had fun.

MM: So that was just through the war years?

WK: Yeah. We had good fun with these guys. My brother was inside the Bataan Soldiers, too, the one died, George, George Kwon. He was working for the ranch, too.

MM: I see. Okay, you know we were talking about after you pau work at the slaughterhouse, and, you know, you folks drink up and whatever. What else did you folks used to do for recreation?

WK: Oh, go up the billiard, pool house, eh, the recreation hall. So we had our fun up there, play Ping-Pong and billiard. Recreation we had, and some boys like go play basketball, they get right outside, eh. [Basketball court was adjacent to pool house.]

MM: So you had your own basketball court . . .

WK: Oh, yeah.

MM: . . . and stuff.

WK: They had their own, yeah.

MM: Oh, I heard--didn't you folks have your own groups, too, music groups?

WK: Music, we had our own group. Only us, anyway, up the ranch. All the young guys. Uncle Biggy, me, had these other guys. Uncle Alex. George Kahoohalahala was inside, too.

MM: What did you folks call yourself?

WK: Kō'ele something. [According to Elaine Kaopuiki, the group was known as the Ranch Serenaders.]

MM: You have a picture? No more. (Chuckles) So you just used to entertain only at the ranch or you folks used to go down the city, too.
WK: No. We come down there play, that school, they tell us go play for them. For proms, like that, we go play. All us come down, we play.

MM: What kind music?

WK: Oh, Hawaiian, any kind music.

MM: What kind of instruments you folks play?

WK: Guitar, ukulele, steel [guitar]. Had one guy, that's the leader that play the steel, eh, Benny Puou. He died already. Oh, we had a time! During the ranch time, play for the big shots up here on the, you know that . . .

MM: Haole Camp [in Lāna'i City].

WK: . . . the Haole Camp that, the one they wen go renovate inside there.


WK: Yeah.

MM: That house. Uh huh.

WK: Play for the Haoles [i.e., pineapple plantation managers].

MM: That's only on weekends or certain nights?

WK: Oh, certain time they like us there, they call us to come. It's not everyday, anytime occasion. That's only for holidays like that. If we come down, we go open dance for the people anyway down here.

MM: Yeah, down in the gym?

WK: Yeah, the old gym [in Lāna'i City]. Sometime if maybe get about six or seven guys all playing music, they sometime end up only two guys playing and the rest all on the floor dancing.

(Laughter)

WK: Yeah, good fun.

MM: So how was life in those days . . .

WK: To me . . .

MM: . . . compared to now?

WK: Like those days was, maybe a little bit hectic, but good fun, you know. To me, I enjoyed my life back there better than now. Had more, you know. If you don't do it, you won't get it, you know what I mean. You have to do something to get ahead, yeah?
MM: Yeah.

WK: It was fun. I enjoyed with all the boys who I worked then with. In fact, all the boys who worked for the ranch, I think practically almost all mostly related. Yeah, all family. My brother-in-law Arthur Gibson, Bernard Gibson was all working for the ranch that time. And the Napaepaes, that's Uncle Ernest [Richardson] da kine family. That's the brothers, the Napaepae to the Manos, I mean, family to the Manos, too, yeah. Elaine, Aunty Elaine.

MM: Kauwenaole.

WK: Get plenty boys from Hawai'i, Maui. I think some from O'ahu, too, I think that time. Good fun. Every month the boss send me out, go shoot sheep for him.

MM: Is that Vredenburg?

WK: Yeah. Every month, you know, I go out, shoot. Gotta walk. Give me the pickup truck, I go out. But only shoot da kine near to the vehicle. I don't shoot da kine way up. So I shoot about . . .

MM: How come, because he liked to eat sheep or . . .

WK: Oh, yeah.

MM: He liked it.

WK: But not only him going eat, so I shoot about four, bring home. And he go choose what he like and the rest of 'em, divide 'em to all the workingmen, eh. That's how everybody get sheep.

MM: At that time, had plenty sheep?

WK: Quite a few way outside there. And below [Kaumalapau] Harbor, this side had. Few head, about twenty, thirty, I think, but more was on that side.

MM: What other kinds of things did you folks do for recreation?

WK: On the olden days, (chuckles) swim, oh, go swimming.

MM: How do you folks get to the beach?

WK: Ranch truck.

MM: Who had the ranch truck--who could drive the ranch truck?

WK: I used to take his pickup truck, eh, the ranch pickup. So, me, I drive, take the boys. After all they like go hunting. He give me the gun, I go out, go hunting. Uncle Biggy like follow, go come, throw 'em on top, we go, maybe three, four guys. Everybody go out. Go shoot deer then probably end up Manele swimming.
MM: Swimming and then come home.

WK: Come home, all drunk.

(Laughter)

MM: Was it you the one that used to make the swipe?

WK: No. Benny Puou, the one, our steel [guitar] player. And like us, we was supposed to be the tasters, eh. (MM chuckles.) If the ear come red, ah, the thing ready.

MM: It's good.

(Laughter)

MM: But I heard had plenty bugs inside.

WK: Ah, that, oh that was the [Ichiro] Tamura's one.

MM: Oh, Tamura's one had. But Tamura used to make his with honey?

WK: No, sugar.

MM: Sugar.

WK: The ranch used to order plenty sugar, eh. Never not enough flowers [for the bees], eh. And the ranch bought, we to take down the bag sugar. Brown sugar. He (chuckles) used all that for make swipe.

MM: They used the sugar for the bees?

WK: Yeah. Feed the bee. But this Japanese used 'em for make swipe, but we know. One time we was down there, the ranch boys down there cutting kiawe right next to his lot. It happened to be up on the wind. The wind was blowing towards us, eh. With the foreman, Kauila, Old Man [James] Kauila, he tell, (WK sniffs), "That smell over there."

(Laughter)

WK: Bumbai lunchtime I go down there and check 'em out. We go over there, the old man there in the house talking story. "Tamura-san."

"Yeah."

"Aru ka?"

"I no make, though, today. No make, though."

"Sure?"

"No more." Somebody stay walking around in the yard, casing out
da kine, checking out all the spot. We find this valve, the swipe. Over there, was Benny, Ben Kahaleanu. They don't know had a big cockroach inside. (WK makes slurping sound.) Get our canteen, you know canteen?

MM: Fill up their canteen?

WK: Poke 'em inside there. And we go find one gallon kind canteen, the big one. Put all that one inside.

MM: Fill 'em up.

WK: Fill 'em up. Had about five of that, I think. Filled up. The same time, go call the old man, he come outside. We go check his house. "A little bit aru though." Only half bottle, he bring down. Oh, we try that. "Yeah, good, though. No more some more?"

"No more, though. No make, though, pau."

We know where. We used to get somebody go sneak in the house while they talk story outside, eh. Bring out about four gallon. Go fill up four more gallon water, put em back, (chuckles) put 'em inside there.

(Laughter)

WK: Pau hana, then we come home, see. Keōmuku, get one gate. You come Hauola, get one gate. Maunalei get one gate. Every gate we stop, we suck 'em up. By the time reach up here, Koʻele, the last gate was right on top where the target range [Kakaʻalani], five gallon, pau already.

(Laughter)

MM: And what, is your horse on automatic? (Chuckles) Your horse was on automatic?

WK: No, I go come on the truck.

MM: Oh, on the truck. (Chuckles)

WK: (Chuckles) Ah, we get good fun.

MM: Uncle Ernest [Richardson] said the horses those days were different.

WK: Smart.

MM: Mm hmm. Did you have your own horse?

WK: Yeah, yeah.

MM: You take care your own?
WK: Yeah, I train my own, too. You have to train your own, eh.

MM: Yeah. How many horses did they give you?


MM: Who taught you how to train the horse?

WK: Just by watching, watching the cowboys. Then, if you don't know how, then you ask question. Like Uncle Ernest, go ask him question. How, how. How you do this? How you do that?

MM: How about--did they give you your saddle, or how did you get your saddle and your rein, and . . .

WK: Oh, my saddle, I get from my father.

MM: Mm hmm. And where did he get it from?

WK: Get 'em from the Big Island, from the ranch boss. They order the stick come in, eh. I mean, this unmade, you know, just the stick because they had to wrap 'em. Daddy, sometime, he do the wrapping.

MM: So you--so the cowboys make their own?

WK: Yeah. Go make your own, mostly make their own. So, like the Hawaiians--before they used to use all stock saddles, that Mainland kind. No good, nobody like. Even if we go roping, like that. Small that . . .

MM: The pommel?

WK: Yeah, how small for hāwele [wrapping the rope around the pommel], eh, they call that. We rather have better riding, eh, the Hawaiian stick. Stock saddle, more hard riding. You no can ride that all eight-hour day or nine hours. So everybody convert to Hawaiian stick.

MM: And so everybody fix their own, make their own . . .

WK: Yeah, and then, in da kine leather part, like the wrapping, Daddy [Ernest Richardson] them go make. And the leather part like that stirrup and all that, we go make our own. Come inside the saddle shop. We get all the leathers, you know, inside there.

MM: Where the saddle shop?

WK: Was up there, the ranch.

MM: Oh, they had a saddle shop up there.

WK: Yeah, that's where that old man Simeon Kauakahi, you go over there, tell him what you like. Make this, that. Make the pattern, he cut,
you know.

MM: And then you put 'em on?

WK: Yeah, make your own.

MM: Oh. Where did they--they order all the leather from the Mainland?

WK: Oh, the ranch boss do that, eh, the ranch manager. We had nice stuff, you know, we used to get up there.

MM: So, no more your old saddle already?

WK: My old saddle, when I left, I don't know what. Oh, wait, somebody I give 'em. Nice stick, that.

MM: Where did they get the stick from?

WK: Big Island.

MM: Big Island. You had to go certain place to go get 'em, or certain man made?

WK: I think somebody make over there. Get some Big Island boys, they from over there, eh, come over here. So then they bring.

MM: So they know where to go.

WK: Bring. Over here, some guys, Ernest Keliikuli, used to go make his own.

MM: Out of what kind wood?

WK: What, sand down tree. They call that--you know what is sand down tree? [WK is referring to 'īnia.]

MM: I think I know, yeah.

WK: The one get the seed on top, yellow seed.

MM: Uh huh.

WK: I think [from] that, they go make. I think Daddy wen go try make too, I think, that thing.

MM: And you gotta look for certain shape.

WK: Yeah. And then the pommel one, too, eh, different kind, how for cut 'em. But good, though. Real interesting when you watch them how they do that. We used to go make all stirrups, you know, saddle, put our boots. Sometime they make round, eh.

MM: Yeah. (Chuckles) You know, if your horse sick, and if your animal
sick, or whatever, who take care?

WK: We got to make our own remedy. You know sometime they get sore eyes like that, watery eyes, eh. Sometime Daddy them go put cigarette, you know, chew the tobacco and spit 'em in the eye like that. Sometime they get the pink eye, you get the pink eye medicine inside.

MM: So you folks take care the animals yourself?

WK: Oh, yeah. Take care your own thing. If they get muscle strain or something, gotta go rub 'em down. They get the horse liniment, too.

Before during my kid days, I see how they bale da kine wool.

MM: Yeah. From the sheep?

WK: Yeah.

MM: Had plenty sheep that time?

WK: Yeah, they shear the thing and then bale 'em over here in the stable.

MM: So, but when you came back and you started working for the ranch, no more sheep already?

WK: No, they had. When I came back?

MM: Yeah, when you was about fifteen.

WK: Yeah, they had yet.

MM: Still had?

WK: Wait, 19--no, couple more heads, I think. That's when they wen open hunting, eh. That's was the last one, '51, '52, I think.

MM: And the rest were all wild.

WK: Pau. No, no, pau. No more sheep.

MM: Pau, no more sheep.

WK: Wipe out. [Lāna'i Ranch stock gradually converted from sheep to cattle during Baldwin's ownership, 1917-22.]

MM: Uh huh. Yeah. So did you have to go help shear the sheep, too?

WK: Shear, no, I don't.

MM: Who did that?
WK: That's all the old-timers.

MM: Like who? Who was the old-timers?

WK: Like my father, I think, all the rest, da kine, all them. Hawaiian guys, the one who know.

MM: Did your father ever tell you how he got to be cowboy?

WK: No, I no think so. I think he just learned by himself.

MM: Oh, okay.

WK: I'm glad though, I came to their standard, though, came up to their. . . .

MM: How you feeling, tired?

WK: No, no.

MM: Your voice. . . . (Chuckles) Let me see. Anything else I missed around that time? So when you came back [from Moloka'i in 1935], you lived at home. So who did all the cooking? Who take care of you folks?

WK: Where? Right after we came back?

MM: Yeah, after you came back.

WK: I came back, they all big already, eh. The children all big. But the cooking, when I came back from Moloka'i, we learned. We cook ourself, too.

MM: Were the girls still at home, too, your sisters?

WK: Yeah, yeah. They cook their own. They learn how to do house chores like that, you know, wash clothes. It wasn't da kine, down. We were a happy family, you know. Live on what you get, you know.

MM: I see. So when the ranch was closing down, then you were pau with the ranch, about when was that?

WK: Fifty-one. It was going down, eh, that time, the ranch was closing, eh.

MM: So then what did you do?

WK: Doing odd jobs, go work on different kind company. I used to go--oh, I was working down Standard Oil for about, what, three months, I think.

MM: In Kaumalapau [Harbor]?
WK: Yeah. Go help da kine, they go repair the tanks like that. So I took a job with them. Then what? Next one they had one Mullen drilling company for find water. They came in, go work with them up here, drill, tap for water about six months.

MM: Six months. Did they find water?

WK: Yeah, we found. You know in Kōʻele, back of the reservoir, we went about 1200 feet, strike water. Funny, eh, you figure how high [altitude].

MM: Yeah. You think you have to go more down.

WK: Twelve hundred feet, yeah, strike water. We were talking to the Haole the one he bring the drill up there, "How deep you folks went up here?"

"About 1300 they struck water." Yeah, about that.

MM: Oh, so they did find water.

WK: Yeah, they went up here. Then they cap it.

MM: Oh, but what about the place where the target range, did they . . .

WK: They get. They get water.

MM: They have water. How come the equipment's been there for so long?

WK: I don't know. They got water already. Yeah, that company, then after that . . . Oh, before that, '49, I was working for da kine, Western Builders.

MM: Doing what?

WK: Contractors. All the city, inside the city.

MM: Oh, new houses?

WK: Paving, pave all the roads, in '48-'49.

MM: Before that, was the roads paved?

WK: Only the main street, the main road. (Chuckles)

MM: Lāna'i Avenue.

WK: Lāna'i Avenue, Fraser Avenue, and Queen Street, I think. The rest never get. All the block, no more road, you know. No more pavement.

MM: What they had, just gravel?
WK: No, just dirt.

MM: Only dirt. (Chuckles)

WK: Plain dirt. That's why they used--over there get Japanese, they get public bathroom outside, eh. From your house to the public bathroom, muddy, eh, so they get this kind geta. You seen that Japanese geta?

MM: Yeah. So that's what everybody used to wear?

WK: Used to make our own, too, with two by fours. (MM chuckles.) You try ask Daddy [Ernest Richardson]. Daddy, he know that.

MM: But how come you have to wear 'em? How come you had to wear geta?

WK: For get over the mud. You don't like walk with slipper, eh. Your geta more high.

(Laughter)

WK: And not slippery, eh. That's why Japanese smart, you know. Yeah, I work for the company, Western Builders. Build this highway, that. Then after that, '50--I think two-and-a-half years, I think, still over here.

MM: Just doing the roads?

WK: Yeah, the road job. We wen make that Mānele Highway.

MM: Did they bring people to work or did they hire everybody from Lāna'i?

WK: They get their own man and then few from over here, they hired.

MM: Funny yeah, even way back then, they bring people from the outside.

WK: Well, you no can help, better get the key man, too, eh, especially the operators for the equipment.

MM: Yeah. I see. I going stop here, and the next time we talk about after the ranch closed down.

WK: Yeah.

END OF INTERVIEW
This is an interview with William Kwon, Sr., at his home at Lāna'i City. The interviewer is Mina Morita.

Okay, Uncle William, the last time we talked, where we left off was when the ranch closed. But before that, did you spend any time down Keōmuku side?

Before the ranch closed?

Yeah, while you were working or when you were growing up, did you spend any time down there?

When I was working I spend my time down there. We used to make that forest fence, eh, up in the mountain with Daddy [Ernest Richardson] them. So we stayed down at the [former] schoolhouse, you know, the cottage.

You mean, there was a schoolhouse and . . .

The schoolhouse was, and then the [teachers'] cottage. They had a cottage right next.

In . . .

Down there, Keōmuku.

. . . next to it.

Yeah.

And so you folks used to set up camp over there?

Yeah. We used that as our home base, yeah, then we go up to the mountain in the morning.

And how long did you folks used to stay there?
WK: Hmm, I think we stayed down there for a couple of weeks.

MM: At a time.

WK: Mm. And the weekends we come up [to Kō'ele].

MM: Who did the cooking and stuff for you folks?

WK: Well, we cook our own.

MM: What kind of kaukau did you folks have?

WK: Oh, the can, you know, the regular kind can. Canned goods, eat fresh meat, goat meat, you know, deer meat, yeah.

MM: So how many of you used to stay down there?

WK: About four, four or five of us.

MM: But that happened like once a year?

WK: Yeah, that was only that time. That year. Yeah, that time we was making that short fences up in the mountain. Below the forest.

MM: Maunalei side?

WK: No, all on that mountain.

MM: Oh, that whole ridge? Was that to keep the cattle from going this side?

WK: Right, right. Below the forest line, yeah, boundary.

MM: I see. And then, what did you folks used to do while you were down Keomuku? Did you go fishing or anything like that?

WK: Oh, yeah, for recreation, we go fishing like that, catch fish, you know. After the work--after work, they come down, we go fishing. Come back, we eat, sleep. (MM chuckles.) Talk story, drink.

(Laughter)

WK: Yeah, with Daddy. Daddy was, too. My father [Gi Hong Kwon] was. Could be more than--maybe about six, I think, six or seven of us.

MM: When you folks work, did you folks ever go to Lahaina like that?

WK: No, no, no. Oh, that time was Vredenburg time, that time we start working down there, Vredenburg, yeah. And Tutu Man used to go Lahaina that time.

MM: Tutu Papa [Daniel Kaopuiki, Sr.]?
WK: Yeah. Used to go Maui.

MM: Was he going for ranch business or just for himself?

WK: No, no, for himself.

MM: He go back and forth.

WK: That was ranch time. I used to see him run his Akamai. That boat was Akamai, yeah.

MM: Mm hmm. And during Vredenburg's time, what ranch stuff had down Keomuku side?

WK: Vredenburg time? All, you know, that Lāna'ihale Church, used to be one Lāna'ihale Church that right next to the...

MM: The Gays' church?

WK: Yeah, the [Charles] Gay church. That's the one they call Lāna'ihale. Anyway, that was abandoned, and then Vredenburg was using that as a kiawe bean storage. Store 'em all inside there.

MM: I see.

WK: For the cattle, eh. For the ranch cattle.

MM: Did they use the schoolhouse for anything?

WK: No, no. The schoolhouse, ah, what had inside? (Pause) We didn't put anything inside there, I think. We only use the cottage.

MM: And let's see. Who were the people around that time that was living down there?

WK: Oh, only Tūtū Papa them.

MM: That's all?

WK: Yeah.

MM: And he was still working for the ranch?

WK: Oh, yeah. He was working for the ranch.

MM: What did he used to do?

WK: Them, they take care the windmill. You know the one, the cattle one, all around the--yeah, the bottom.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

WK: Oh, quite a lot, you know. One, two, maybe about eight, I think.
MM: Windmills?
WK: Yeah.
MM: And what did they use the windmill for?
WK: For pump up water, you know brackish water?
MM: Yeah.
WK: Put 'em in the tank and from the tank to the trough water.
MM: To water the cattle?
WK: For the cattle, yeah. Cattle drinking water.
MM: Yeah. Whatever happened to those windmills?
WK: Well, it fall down, no more maintenance. Pau, they deteriorate. We had 'em on down there by the place they call Kanaele. Awalua had one. Awalua, Kanaele.
MM: And then so when Tūtū Papa moved up from Keōmuku . . .
WK: To the city.
MM: . . . to the city, was about 1953?
MM: So, before he moved up, was the windmill still working?
WK: Some was working yet. Then, I think, anyway, somebody gotta go down there, take care that thing, and maintenance, yeah, you know.
MM: All the time?
WK: Yeah. Well, Tūtū Papa and Jim Roberts go.
MM: Oh, Kimo?
WK: Kimo. Was taking care that.
MM: So after the ranch pau, they just leave everything?
WK: Yeah, that's right, just let 'em go. Left quite a lot, you know. During their time, you know, but the one was still working, then was still maintaining yet. Keōmuku.
MM: Did they use the windmills for drinking water too, to pump up?
WK: Well, the brackish water, Keōmuku, some of that--Keōmuku had one windmill, too. And then, some of the water, they drink brackish
water. We tried.

MM: Yeah. You have to be ma'a, I think.

WK: Yeah, if you get used to, then you don't get the runs, you know. If not, you get the runs or something, yeah?

MM: Yeah.

WK: But we like that brackish water there was, when you make coffee like that, tea. Good taste, you know.

(Laughter)

WK: Yeah, different taste. Funny, you know. Real tasty.

MM: Oh. (Chuckles)

WK: Yeah.

MM: And then, let's see. Did you folks, you know, after you pau work and everything, you folks used to go fishing, what, only throw net, or pole fishing, or . . .

WK: Throw net or some go ride boat, you know, skiff. They got a long spear, go spear turtle.

MM: Plenty turtle that time?

WK: Oh, yeah, inside the reef, you know. On the boat, one guy go and one guy spear. There about three of us, I think.

MM: So who teach you how to do all this kind?

WK: You go learn with da kine, Kimo Roberts them. Like Daddy [Ernest Richardson], he know, too, eh.

MM: So you learn from them?

WK: Yeah, we practice all. Everybody learn from them. Uncle Biggy [Junior Kaopuiki] them used to be down there. Them all fishermen too, eh.

MM: How about for throw net, did you make your own net?

WK: Yeah. After we learn how for throw, then we start making our own net.

MM: I see.

WK: Diving, we go diving. We used to use da kine, make your own goggle, eh, with this thing, this kind goggle.
MM: How did you used to make your goggles?
WK: Out of hau. The hau tree, the branches.
MM: Yeah. And you carve your own?
WK: Yeah.
MM: So what do you use for glass?
WK: Oh, da kine window pane.
MM: Oh, you cut your own glass?
WK: Cut your own glass. Put inside.
(Laughter)
WK: You need that. You gotta make 'em fit—until he fit your eyes, eh.
MM: So you just carved it with . . .
WK: Yeah, carve it.
MM: . . . the knife?
WK: Then you make some kind of staple, and you put the string in between so he stay up here. And you put the rubber band in the back here.
MM: Rubber band? (Chuckles)
WK: Yeah. (Chuckles)
MM: And how long last?
WK: Oh, last pretty good, you know. That's all depend how you take care your glasses. Because the hau tree, you gotta get 'em dry, eh, you know, dry wood.
MM: Where did you get the hau from?
WK: Over here.
MM: 'Cause I haven't seen hau on Lāna'i.
WK: Get plenty. You know below the gun range?
MM: Uh huh.
WK: The gun range this side?
MM: Uh huh.
WK: Get below there.

MM: But they call that place Kāka'ali, I guess.

WK: Kāka'ali. And they go further over, get one more big tree. And down here. You know where going down, past the new housing?

MM: Mm hmm.

WK: That gully?

MM: Lālākoa?

WK: Yeah.

MM: And down in that gully?

WK: You can see from the highway.

MM: Oh, I never noticed.

WK: Oh, that's leaves (chuckles) sticking out. Yeah, that's hau tree.

MM: Oh, on Kaua'i, there's so much hau tree along the river.

WK: River side.

MM: Yeah, you know. You see thick like that, so I never noticed on Lāna'i.

WK: You see any growing close to the beach area? None?

MM: Mostly kamani trees and--plenty kamani. Not too much hau trees on the beach side.

WK: Yeah, I know, mostly up in the . . .

MM: Just along the waterways.

WK: Yeah, the water, where da kine river, like that, yeah.

MM: Oh, okay. So what kind of fish did you folks catch down there?

WK: Oh, we go for manini, moj, or mullet, you know. Those days they get plenty, you know.

MM: Did you used to go certain areas for certain kind fish?

WK: Yeah, yeah. Mm hmm, mm hmm.

MM: Like which areas had . . .

WK: You know certain kind fish like, what kind fish taste better, you
know, on a certain area, certain place where we catch manini, then get some manini that over there taste better than the one on the opposite side, you know.

MM: Must be the limu?

WK: It's the--yeah, it's what they eat. And not now, no more too much that muddy area, you know when rain, big rain come down . . .

MM: Yeah, all the mud come.

WK: . . . all the mud come down, then the manini eat all that lepo limu, eh. Then don't taste too good. Like us, we eat the guts and all, eh. (Chuckles) And certain one, in certain place, they curl. You know when you cook 'em, the thing just come up like that, curl up, eh.

MM: The fish curls up?

WK: That's the one tough. Yeah. Tough. The skin is hard.

MM: What makes it tough?

WK: Oh, that's why, I don't know. From the background, I don't know. Where they stay, I think, habitat. And certain one, you can eat 'em big, almost one pound. Wouldn't curl. You can pūlehu that thing, you know.

MM: Which areas was the good area for manini?

WK: Right in front Keōmuku. (Chuckles)

MM: Keōmuku--in front the village?

WK: Keōmuku and Ka'a. Ka'a, yeah. In front the house and Ka'a.

MM: Oh, what were the other areas that was good for fishing?

WK: You come down, Waikapua'a, you know in front of Maunalei, this side the first point, the second point. All around there.

MM: And by the white rocks side, Mama said used to have plenty 'ōpae over there?

WK: 'Ōpae. You know right around that thing, inside there, used to be all that limu, eh. Plenty 'ōpae inside there, used to be.

MM: Still have?

WK: Maybe now get, but you gotta watch this, yeah, maybe get. Because get lot of brackish water come down, too, from the other side. The other side by that cove over there, they get, and then they come down on the rock.
MM: What you call white rock?

WK: Laehi. We used to call 'em Kalāhi, eh. That's how you call 'em anyway.

MM: And so the brackish water seeps up in that area next . . .

WK: Yeah, yeah. All around that area. And from all that green limu.

MM: The green, wait, is that limu 'ele'ele?

WK: Ah, no, no. It's something else.

MM: Different kind name?

WK: Yeah.

MM: Do you folks eat that kind limu?

WK: No, no.

MM: No. Only good for fish.

WK: Little bit white, white kind leaves, you know. The limu 'ele'ele, just like the hair, you know, yeah. But that thing grow right in front of where that water come out. Over there get. But funny, that thing, you supposed to get mud, too, you know. Supposed to get dirt from the mountain, come down, over that round stone, then the limu come out, you know. Even salt no more, brackish water, but the limu come out.

MM: Uncle Sol's [Sol Kaopuiki] place? Ka'a?

WK: Yeah, Ka'a. Keōmuku, right in front the house. Right now, I don't know, now days, cannot see 'em now. The area is all changing. Too much dirt came down, you know.

MM: The runoff.

WK: Runoff, and then filling up. You know, I think look like the land extending out now. Yeah.

MM: The reef different, too? The reef make almost.

WK: Yeah. The reef, coming more shallow. Way back, those days, we used to go down there, the water was kind of deep, way up, you know. Before the backfill come in. Was pretty deep. So get big kind fish, small kind. Way up on shore, eh.

MM: So was it easy to fish, I mean, had so much?

WK: Oh, yeah. You just go and they throw. Almost everyone take home for eat, you know, just for the house only and for down there.
That's all, you going come home up here, you just bring so much, that's all, you know.

MM: You get 'em on your first throw?

WK: Well, (chuckles) well, no, sometimes one, two, three.

(Laughter)

WK: Not fast throw. It's not that simple, you know.

MM: Well, I don't know. Look simple. (Chuckles)

WK: Yeah, look simple. Sometimes . . .

MM: I don't know. The only time I wen throw net, never open. (Laughs)

WK: Sometimes you get so darn anxious, you know, you go up too fast, and then you throw that thing, only come long way. (Chuckles)

MM: So how—you just learn by watching?

WK: Yeah, watch.

MM: I guess turtle used to be like special treat, huh?

WK: Oh, that delicacy, man.

MM: So how did you folks used to make the turtle?

WK: You make 'em stew, make hamburger, kālua, you know. Once I start learning how to do this and that, simple, eh.

MM: Yeah. Did you folks used to find turtle eggs, too, or just the turtle?

WK: No, I haven't so far in my life, yet.

MM: Found eggs.

WK: Never, never.

MM: Even down Polihua side?

WK: Yeah. But to me, you gotta go down the right time, I think, you know. You can see where the turtle going up, go back, you know, or something like that. But, no more signs. All the time I've been down there, I haven't seen any sign. Only one schoolteacher, I think over here, I don't know when—not too long ago, couple years back, I think. Two years, or three years back, she saw. She found eggs by Kanaele, you know. She came up, report, and then I never go down there, look, anyway. I think she reported that to Connally,
Peter Connally, I think.

MM: Yeah. As long as nobody bothers.

WK: Right. That's right, you know.

MM: Okay. So when you were a cowboy, how often do you folks--besides, you know, setting up your camp down there, did you folks go down to Keomoku on a regular basis?

WK: Yeah. I used to go down when I go take poi for Tūtū Man [Daniel Kaopuiki, Sr.] them down there every week. Every week, we take down for him, you know.

MM: This after you marry or before you marry?

WK: Before I marry.

MM: Yeah. Because the poi, I guess the boat didn't used to come into Kahalepalaaoa anymore.

WK: Yeah, pau. No, it wasn't--Tūtū Man boat come right inside the Keōmuku.

MM: But no supplies?

WK: No more. This time, before he used to go out, go get. But after the [pineapple] came, then they get the supplies all from up here.

MM: Lāna'i City.

WK: Take down, much easier. So the Tūtū Man don't have to run back and forth. And the boat was getting too old, anyway.

MM: So you take him his poi and . . .

WK: Poi, and then Daddy [Ernest Richardson] take down. We used to go by rotation, eh, you know.

MM: Everybody take turns.

WK: Sometime we go down there, you run down--like us, we don't have any four-wheel vehicle, eh. Go down, you run the wrong place, you stuck. (Laughs)

MM: How you get out?

WK: We gotta jack 'em up, you gotta put lumber. Jack 'em up. Sometimes it rains too, worse. We had lot of fun, though.

MM: That time, not very many people had cars yet.

WK: Oh, yeah. Those days, what--Uncle Biggy them used to get car down
there. The brother Alex used to get car. Had old little limousine, anyway, they call 'em. But for the ranch, take this and that down there, the ranch deliver everything. Trucks, eh? So Tutu Man them job wasn't that—you don't have to run Maui so. . . . What they do is they only take care coconut. You know that coconut grove, they planted all that, the ranch guys.

MM: I guess Uncle Sol said he . . .

WK: (Chuckles) Yeah.

MM: . . . when he was small, he had to go plant.

WK: Yeah.

MM: Did they just--did they use the coconuts for something or . . .

WK: No, just plant for eat. But the other coconut grove in front of that [Ka Lanakila O Ka Mālalama] Church, that's when the Vredenburg time they planted that.

MM: But just, just to have . . .

WK: Just to plant, yeah, coconut.

MM: Okay.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

MM: Another thing I wanted to ask you was, you know, when I was growing up, you were always the expert on how to kālua pig. How did you learn how to do that?

WK: Kālua pig? By looking at your daddy [Ernest Richardson]. (Laughs) From watching them, you know. And then we will help them, this and that. Then we try. Somebody tell, "We go try make." Then from there, you gotta learn your own, you know. You use your own technique, you know. Your timing. We used to watch Daddy one. You know, sometime, this one, look, sometime come out half cook, not cook enough, you know. You gotta look at the fire, you know. Study the—how the fire, you know. And now I know, see. I can make little bit more, more charcoal, eh, you know. The stronger the heat, better. That's how I learn that, and I make my own. Eh, come out better, you know.

MM: And so since you used to do it good all the time, they gave you the job?

WK: They gave me. (Laughs) Just like they hand you over, "You go do 'em," you know. (Chuckles)

MM: Since you the best one?
WK: (Chuckles) Yeah.

MM: So before you, who used to kalua pig?

WK: Before me?

MM: Mm hmm.

WK: Only Daddy.

MM: Uncle Ernest? Uh huh. And then since he never do 'em . . .

WK: Him. Yeah, only--between me and him, I think, up the ranch that time.

MM: And then he lost out to you?

WK: Yeah. (MM laughs.) And sometime he tell, "How you make your pig come like that," you know. We exchange, you know, how, how, this and that. I tell, no rush. When you kalua pig, no rush this job, you know, get excited too much, that you forget what to do. Sometime, you know the hāliʻi, they call 'em the mat--now days they don't have--cover the stone. And sometime you put too much or too little is not too good, you know.

MM: So the hāliʻi that you put on top the stone is all the banana . . .

WK: Stumps.

MM: . . . stumps.

WK: Yeah. That is for keep the heat down.

MM: What about the fire? I guess the most important thing is the fire, huh?

WK: The heat and then, if you going kalua maybe four or five hours like that, five hours or six hours, you gotta know just how much for put on top. Too much going take longer, you know. Then overnight kind, you can make 'em thick.

MM: The hāliʻi?

WK: Yeah, thick. Gonna be about fifteen, sixteen hours, eh, you know. Wouldn't burn.

MM: Yeah. Where did you folks get the rocks from?

WK: Oh, down here, Maunalei.

MM: Maunalei.

WK: Maunalei Stream bed.
MM: Have to be certain kind rocks?

WK: Yeah, da kine get pores, eh. That's the best kind. Anything else, no good, you know. Anything solid explode.

MM: So, and then when you make your fire, does it have to be certain way?

WK: How you make your wood. (Chuckles) Sometime you--that's all depends how you make your wood, or how you put the stone, you know. Sometime we make 'em something like a teepee, eh, you know. Put the stone right on it.

MM: And then the rocks have to heat up for so long or something?

WK: Yeah, until the charcoal go down, then it's--you know, I mean the wood all burn, and only coals, that's when the rock going down, yeah. But actually to me, eh, the rock is just like a grill. Right?

MM: Like the kind they have barbecue.

WK: Barbecue grill. You know the grill on top, the wire. To me, the rock act like as a grill. Whatever you put on top, you don't kill the coal too, you know. That's why when you put your hāli'i on top, the rock going hold 'em. And another . . .

MM: Because if you put the hāli'i right on top the charcoal, the fire going make?

WK: Everything going be soaked, eh. So I think to me, the rock he hold the heat stone, and same time act as a grill. And then, I think you use the rock for put in the pig, you know.

MM: So it's not so much the heat from the rock that cooks the pig.

WK: Nah.

MM: It's the heat from the charcoal underneath.

WK: The charcoal underneath. Well, it's all for overall kind, you know. But actually, some guys, they put the rock inside [the pig], they figure, if no more rock inside here, it's not going be cooked. That's why they put the rock inside.

MM: Cavity.

WK: Cavity, yeah.

MM: In between, under the legs and stuff.

WK: So we follow the same style, see. We do all that. But right now, now days, they do different now. They don't put rock [inside the
pig]. Just kālua like that, you know.

**MM:** They just throw 'em inside with the charcoal and the hāli'i?  
**WK:** I mean, you don't have to throw stone inside the pig.  
**MM:** Oh, just use stone underneath.  
**WK:** But why they put stone, you know, the taste. You get the flavor, you know, yeah. So you put the rock inside. You don't put any rock inside, you no more that flavor.  
**MM:** The kālua, the smoke.  
**WK:** Right, right, yeah. Get that little bit pāpa'a smell, you know.  
**MM:** So that's why when I was small like that, I used to watch you folks take the pig out, you know, that's why you can carry, hemo the stone with your hands? Because it's not hot?  
**WK:** (Chuckles) Yeah, it comes—it is pretty hot, yet, you know. He get that heat, but not too bad, you can bring 'em out. You gotta get the cold water then for them ...  
**WK:** (Tape inaudible) you learn what to do, what to do inside. Fun. Everybody else taking all my job. And good. Way back when Sonny [Clarence Richardson] them was going to school, every year take 'em graduation, eh. That's what Daddy do, the same thing. Yeah.  
**MM:** So you folks work with the FFA [Future Farmers of America].  
**WK:** Yeah. The schoolteacher going ask. We know already who going do that job. (Chuckles) But main thing the school boys go get all the firewood and stuff, you know.  
**MM:** I guess that's the hardest part.  
**WK:** Yeah, they bring everything. Just tell 'em what you like, and then they bring.  

(Taping stops, then resumes.)  
**WK:** It was a lot of fun, though, work with those kids. They put fish inside, they say, "Can kālua fish?" Oh, easy. You put inside da kine tin foil, you know, easy, only simple. Oh, so now they try now, every time when they make kālua, some boys go diving, eh, the school kids. Put 'em all in for kālua.  

(Taping stops, then resumes.)  
**WK:** That's why, they make that what—that banquet.
MM: Yeah.

WK: And they put that inside.

MM: The FFA banquets?

WK: Yeah. Fun, good fun.

MM: So after the ranch wen pau, did you move away from the ranch?

WK: The ranch close, in fact, what you call, I just quit, ranch. I quit the ranch in '48, 1948, I quit, eh. Went over to Honolulu. When I came back after that, I think '48, I came back, the ranch was still, they was trying to catch all the wild cattle, you know, that kind wild cattle. Daddy [Ernest Richardson] them was still working. Vredenburg was there yet, I think.

MM: Yeah.

WK: Then I wen go back work little bit while and they pau the ranch, that closed, pau. That for real, pau already. You know, that wild cattle, more for take care. So was '49, had this Western Builders came over, contract this whole . . .

MM: You work for them?

WK: Yeah.

MM: Were you still living up the ranch?

WK: Yeah, yeah, up the ranch. Fifty-one, we came down here [Lāna'i City]. Tutu Man was living down here.

MM: Oh, I see. In the house you have?

WK: Yeah, yeah. Fifty-one.

MM: Okay. So after you married, you went to live with Tutu Papa and Tutu Mama?

WK: Mm hmm. Yeah.

MM: Okay. When did you stop working for Western Builders?

WK: Fifty-two.

MM: And is that when you moved back to Kō'ele?

WK: Was still down here. Was down here yet.

MM: You were still with Tutu Mama?

WK: Mm hmm. Oh, yeah, then I went up. In '52 when . . .
(Tape inaudible.)

MM: Okay. (Chuckles)

WK: You have to make your own roof.

MM: So when—what kind of job was it?

WK: Fill up water. Da kine water, you know.

MM: For all the. . . .

WK: For the game birds. Mostly for birds, you know.

(Tape inaudible.)

WK: Just make only, trying to manage that thing, and try populate 'em more, eh. Trying to some more outside area. But I think that thing was only inside Maunalei that time.

MM: And then—so when did they bring the rest of the birds in?

WK: That one came in about in the '60s.

MM: Like the pheasant?

WK: No, the pheasant was here. Oh yeah, the Reeves pheasant came in that year, in '61. No, no in 1960.

MM: The ring-neck pheasant?

WK: Yeah. No, not the one with neck. The other one, the Reeves, the long, thin one.

MM: Oh, Reeves?

WK: Reeves, yeah. And then they brought in the chukar, came in that time. Then turkeys.

MM: In the '60s?

WK: Yeah.

MM: How come they brought the turkeys in? For game bird, to shoot?

WK: Game bird, yeah. Get all--these turkeys all come from Rio, that--they call 'em Rio Grande, anyway, I think from down there.

MM: Texas.

WK: Texas or some place, you know hot country, yeah. They call 'em the Rio Grande Turkey, (chuckles) these turkeys.
MM: So when did they start---I guess the deer was already here when you started.

WK: Yeah, yeah.

MM: Had plenty deer during that time?

WK: When I started? Oh, yeah, had pretty good. Joe Medeiros [Fish and Game biologist] used to tell me, he tell when he first came, come here take care this island, over here only had about 100-something deer. I was going tell him, you BS.

(Laughter)

WK: But during the ranch time, I think I shot over 100 deer. During the ranch days. And then he come tell me they only get about 50-something or 100-something deer. (Chuckles)

MM: Let's see, what else. Did they still have wild sheep?

WK: Sheep, we had. They had sheep.

MM: Still had?

WK: Yeah.

MM: And then . . .

WK: When I was in the game management?

MM: Yeah.

WK: Yeah.

MM: But when you first started. And still had goats?

WK: Goats was oodles. A lot of goats. Goats all over, was all up here. We had a couple of thousand over here at that time.

MM: And then when did they bring in the antelope?

WK: Antelope came in '60. . . . When I was still up that ranch [WK refers to his 1971 move to Lāna'i City from Kō'ele], yet, antelope came in.

MM: Late '60s?

WK: Yeah, something in late '60s.

MM: How come--who decided to bring the antelopes in?

WK: The biologist, game biologist.
MM: For the state?

WK: Yeah, yeah. But then they go—they get somebody go out, in field, round up in the Mainland, eh, what kind—they looking for birds for dry country, birds for wet area, you know, like animals. Same time, look for big game.

MM: So around the time you were working, it seems like the state was just trying to improve on the game program.

WK: Yeah, right, right, yeah. Improve. And then they brought in another kind chukar, they call them the Barbary chukar. We released that down in Kanepu'u, all died. Lot of kind game they tried to bring in. They tried to introduce gamble quail, the same thing. I think, had California quail, the kind they get on Moloka'i. In Maunalei, used to get, you know. Then that thing disappear.

MM: So you work mostly with the biologist, and not so much with the enforcement side.

WK: No.

MM: . . . enforcement side.

WK: No, no, no. Like enforcement, I just—they gave me da kine deputized, you know.

MM: So you—what were you mainly doing?

WK: My main field is, they call, game management assistant. In fact, I run the whole game facility over here, I take care all that.

MM: You make sure that the water is . . .

WK: Not only that, you had to build water units, you know. Put up this, put up that. Take census on birds, game, you know, deer, goats like that. Whatever you see, you gotta log 'em down. And every month, you gotta send 'em over, you know.

MM: To Maui.

WK: To Maui. Like Joe Medeiros is my supervisor, see.

MM: He's retired now?

WK: Yeah. He used to come over here every month, check me up, and when it's time for census on big game, he come over, only he and I go walk around. Hike. We used to hike from on top here, from down the bottom, walk up Lana'i Hale. Get another ridge and go back down again, just to count goats, eh, deer like that.

MM: So after the ranch closed, did you notice a lot of changes up in the mountain, too?
WK: Oh, yeah.

MM: What kind of changes?

WK: No, not changes up in the mountain. I mean, the post--where that fence down there, you know that fence.

MM: Hauola side, you mean.

WK: All that fence that keep that cattle out, you don't see any cattle. No more cattle go up in the forest, you know.

MM: But after the ranch closed, what happened?

WK: Was only goats getting over, but it wasn't too far up. It's all mostly below the fence line. Few come up. But I think they claim that erosion from the cattle, lack of cattle feed, or this and that, but I never see any. Maybe some areas had maybe damage, but came back. After, when the ranch closed, everything start growing back, eh.

MM: Do you think all the game animals make more damage than the cattle?

WK: They coming. (Laughs.) Right now, I see 'em, you know during the drought, yeah. Like they tell, goats do this and that, the deer do the same thing. Never come like this, like this '88 drought was terrible.

MM: Get all the deers going into the pineapple fields.

WK: Because they don't have any water down the bottom. And the feed, too. Because where the deer go, all the goats go down.

(Tape inaudible.)

WK: But before never had that kind problem. We had drought. But never any kind problem like this. Expensive, eh.

MM: So when did you retire?

WK: Hmm.

MM: I think your [retirement] certificate is right behind you.

(Laughter)

WK: Eighty-six.

MM: Eighty-six. Only two years ago? Okay. So, Uncle, how you feel about all the changes that are happening? (Chuckles)

WK: No feel too good, but no can help, eh, you know. You hate to see something like that go, but people say job, job, but I don't know.
MM: What's happening that really bothers you, or you think it's for the better or.

WK: I couldn't say anything for better or for worse or what. But what going happen after everything complete? You know. Whether this thing going be the same owner or the different owners, you know. You know what I mean?

MM: Is that, you know, one of the things that's upsetting is, will he [David Murdock] sell out?

WK: Sure. Who knows what going to be? It may come to that, who know? (Chuckles) That's why he's trying to build up this and that, yeah, you know. So, it's a come-on type that.

MM: So what you think about how things used to be, compared to now?

WK: Well...

MM: Did you like your life as a cowboy?

WK: Oh, yeah. We had good fun. That was the fun life. Even while I was working for the state, too. I enjoyed.

MM: You were your own boss, I think.

WK: Right, right. If you get letter, that no good. No letter is good news, you know.

(Laughter)

WK: If you get one letter, oh man, you going think what the heck he writing to me.

MM: (Chuckles) Oh, I guess hunting was always big on Lāna'i.

WK: Right.

MM: When you were growing up (tape inaudible) they always had big hunting parties.

WK: Yeah. Like Munro time, in fact even Vredenburg time, the hunting parties was only that kind like big gunners [VIP's] come in, eh. Go hunt birds like that, eh.

MM: And so with these new hotels, you think they can capture the same kind atmosphere?

WK: What kind hunting they can do. Yeah. (Chuckles)

MM: The hunting's not the same.

WK: I don't know. The way they going hunt now, just like they want to
eradicate everything.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MM: I think that's it, Uncle. Thank you very much.

WK: Good.

END OF INTERVIEW
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