

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: TITO MARCIEL, cowboy, ranch hand, soldier, and road crew worker.

Tito Marciel was born in 1911 at Kaupo, Maui. Both his parents were half-Hawaiian and Tito's ethnic background also includes Portuguese, French, and Chinese blood. In about 1926, the family moved to a ranch house in the Kaupo area where Tito has lived on and off since that time.

Tito attended Kaupo School until he transferred to Hana School which went through the ninth grade. He stayed at Hana during the school term.

After his formal education ended, he worked as a cowboy on his grandfather's ranch and stayed on in that capacity even after the place was sold to Dwight Baldwin in 1928. In 1934 he left the ranch and worked at various jobs. He joined the army in 1938 and was discharged shortly before World War II. He then worked on State road crews throughout the Islands and returned to Kaupo in 1950. Since that time, he has worked for Baldwin Ranch in Lahaina and on his own place.

Now a widower, Tito married a woman from Ulupalakua in 1950. They had no children.

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NOTES FROM A RECORDED INTERVIEW

with

Tito Marciel

April 26, 1977

Kaupo, Maui, Hawaii

BY: June Gutmanis

(Note: Other people present were Clair Smith, a student of Hawaiian culture, and Henry Hio, a local entertainer.)

Family

Tito Marciel was born in Kaupo, Maui in 1911 and is of Portuguese, Hawaiian, French and Chinese extraction. His mother, a Chinese-Hawaiian woman, was adopted by a Hawaiian lady because her Chinese father did not want a girl child.

Tito's paternal grandfather originally came from the Azores and had been a whaler for six years when he became icebound. A small whaler boat picked him up and brought him to Kuliouou on the island of Oahu in about 1840. There he worked with cattle and later he and Mr. Antone Piko went to Kahikinui, Maui to work together. He met and married a local Hawaiian chieftess, and in 1889, he purchased Kaupo Ranch.

Tito's parents bought land at Kaupo and built a house that still stands today. They moved into their new home about 1926 or 1927, and Tito was the first child born in that house.

Tito is the fifth child of 11 children. In addition to the six girls and five boys, his parents adopted another boy whose father was from the Mainland and whose mother was from Wailuku, Maui. Tito's married sister took the boy when he was three days old and he became the youngest child of the family.

Most of his brothers and sisters live on the Mainland now. Some went to school there, and some of his sisters married Mainland soldiers who were stationed at Kaupo during World War II. His brothers went stateside to look for jobs since all there was at home was ranch work.

Marriage

Tito met his wife in her hometown of Ulupalakua and recalls that the horse ride from Kaupo to Ulupalakua took about three to four hours. He married at the age of 39 and remained married for 20 years until his wife passed away. They had no children.

Religion

As far as Tito knows, his family have been Catholics from way back. Although there were two churches in the area (Catholic and Protestant), there were no resident priests and the spiritual needs of the people in Kaupo were served by priests who would come once a month on horseback from Hana. The Catholic priest and an altar boy would arrive on a Saturday night and stay in living quarters that were set up for this purpose. Tito does not recall the visiting priest ever being invited to his home, and says that the priest cooked his own meals.

On Sunday, the priest would hold Mass and hear confession at Saint Joseph's Church. Besides these monthly services, Tito said he did not remember being taught the catechism although he did have a First Communion.

In those days, it was common practice when someone died to leave the body alone for one or two days. Then the body was wrapped and put into a home-made coffin. For the Catholics, the priest would say Mass, after which the body would either be buried in the church ground or on the person's family land.

Tito's own family members are buried at Saint Anthony's in Wailuku. His mother died at Kula Sanitarium but is also buried at Saint Anthony's.

Ranch and Cattle

For a considerable number of years, Tito has worked on ranches, beginning with his grandfather's ranch. At the age of 12 or 13, he worked on weekends at the ranch when he was home from school. He recalls being wakened at 6:30 a.m. by an alarm clock, eating breakfast, and then dressing to go to work. His work included cattle tending, ranch chores, and pick and shovel work. As a cowboy it was part of his duty to know where the cattle was and to help run the cattle when changing pastures throughout the year. These cattle runs would involve from 800 to 900 head of cattle at a time, and all of Kaupo--even the non-ranch members of the community--would come out to help. They apparently performed this duty without pay. Working eight hours a day, it took about 15 to 20 men five days to move the cattle. The round-up crew also included a cook who prepared the meals which were cooked and eaten out in the open. The food included salted beef, poi, crackers and coffee. For the salted beef, the men slaughtered one or two cows, cut the beef up, salted the meat, and then soaked it in a barrel. They never dried the beef when salting. The cowboys would also make beef jerky.

For the big round-up when the cattle were taken to Piolu to be slaughtered, the men would first move the cattle to Ulupalakua to feed. They would travel at night in order to avoid the heat. After staying a night at Ulupalakua to rest, they would then go to Makawao, again feeding the cattle before taking them to a slaughterhouse owned by Dwight Baldwin. Then the men returned on horse through Haleakala crater, via Kaupo pass and the Halemau trail. This return journey took about six to seven hours. The trail, part of which still

exists today, wound in and out and was seldom used. Tito remembers that the big round-ups occurred as late as the 1930's.

Up until about 50 years ago, Inter-Island ships like the Claudine and Hawaii would land at Nuu to transport cattle outside of Maui. According to Tito, the cattle were driven from Kaupo to a place near the present Nuu county house and then loaded one by one. Each cow was led by a man on a horse into the water, loaded into a small rowboat, and then taken to the ship which lay about 400 yards from shore. A belt was passed around the cow's body and then hooked to a rope which was in turn attached to a winch driven by a small motor (donkey engine). When the winch turned, the cow was lifted up and put in the hold of the ship. Up to 150 heads of cattle were loaded this way.

In 1928, Dwight Baldwin bought Kaupo Ranch from Tito Marciel's grandfather. Accompanied by his wife, Mr. Baldwin would set out from his residence in Haiku to visit the ranch by means of boat and horse. After the boat was sold, they traveled by mule either through Haleakala crater or through Kipahulu. Someone from the ranch would go with extra horses to pick them up at the end of the road in Kukuiula.

Tito also worked in Lahaina at the Honolua Ranch for 11 years. The Ranch, owned by Baldwin Packers, combined cattle and pineapple raising. He worked there as the head cowboy, overseeing more than 1000 head of cattle. The cattle were slaughtered near Honolua Bay at what is now called Slaughterhouse Beach, and the hides were sent to the Mainland for processing.

The saddles that the cowboys used were hand-made by the riders themselves. It took about a month working on and off to make a saddle. The process involved making the pommel out of wood. One type of pommel was called the Hawaiian tree and originated in the Islands. The saddlemaker also had to cut the rawhide. Thin strips of goatskin were used to lace the leather instead of cowhide. The saddlemakers also developed their own individual styles which could be distinguished by such marks as saddle shape, use of a square pommel, or a high cantle.

Leather for the saddle was tanned and cured on the Mainland. The ranch itself never processed leather, and instead sent the hides of slaughtered cows to Alexander and Baldwin Company. The pieces would come back sliced in halves. A saddle took about half a hide.

A few people carved designs into their saddles. Mr. Marciel was one such person and used a stamp to decorate his saddle. He says he does not remember any terms for these designs.

Jobs

Tito left the ranch in 1934. Five years later, he entered the Army at his father's urging when he was 29 years old. During the time he was in the infantry, he was stationed at Schofield and remembers doing a lot of drilling.

He felt that the Army lifestyle was a hard one and didn't get along very well with military people. After he was discharged just prior to World War II, he returned to Maui.

Besides his cattle ranch jobs, Tito also worked for various contractors: Hawaiian Dredging, E.E. Black, and Akiona contractors. He also worked for U.S. Engineers and geological surveyors on Maui and the Big Island.

While he was still single, he worked under contract three times for E.E. Black. One of those times involved building a road from Kohala to Honoapu on the Big Island. For nearly a year he worked seven days a week as a rock crusher for the company. Most of the other crew members were from Kona and worked only five days a week, going home for the weekends. When working, the crew members used an old Japanese school building in Honoapu as living quarters. Tito does not remember any roadcrew parties.

Education

Tito attended Kaupo School, which went up to the sixth grade and recalls that many of the sixth graders were 16 or 17 years old. The school was at the site of the present Kaupo Elementary School, although the building where classes were held for about a 100 students, including the ranch manager's children, is no longer there.

Tito and one of his sisters were the only family members who went to Hana Intermediate School. Tito stayed in Hana during the school year with his sister and her family. He went back to the ranch in summer on horseback and with his clothes packed on the back of his saddle.

Because there was no high school in that area, Tito's formal education ended with the ninth grade.

Kaupo

When he was about 15 or 17 years old, Kaupo had over 100 residents. According to Tito, there were no haoles and only two Japanese and two Chinese families in the area. Services provided by such agencies as the Department of Health did not exist for Kaupo residents, most of whom were Hawaiian. While Kaupo Ranch raised horses for ranching purposes, the Hawaiian farmers raised donkeys to aid in doing the domestic chores.

Two stores provided the community with items like clothing. One was the old Kaupo Store owned by Nick Soon. The other was like a cooperative and was called the Hui Store. Someone would take people's orders, go to the store and request the items. When the goods arrived aboard a cattle boat from Honolulu, the people would pick them up and pay for them at the store. The goods came once a month when the boat put in at Mokulau landing, and all items were ordered by lot. Whatever did not fit was sent back to Honolulu.

Food

On Kaupo Ranch, breakfast usually consisted of coffee, crackers and "whatever else" was available other than meat. At lunch and dinner Tito was served rice, vegetables, and beef, pork, or goat.

The people on the ranch were also part-time farmers and grew cabbage, carrots, beans, and turnips. Sweet potato was one of the staple foods and was planted in a man-made mound of dirt.

Tito recalls that taro grew all over the place by streams or on mountain areas where rain was available. The taro was planted in a hole and then covered with another plant to keep it moist. Depending on the type of taro, it might take anywhere from a year to a year and a half to grow. Tito said that he did not use much taro as a child.

The pig and goat used for food on the ranch were hunted out in the mountains by either a single person or a group of friends with dogs and rifles. Horses were used only if the hunters planned to cover a great deal of distance to get to their quarry.

Although Tito did not do a lot of fishing, he recalled that the best fishing area was Kailiu or Outpost 10, a military establishment. The ocean was also a source of opihi which was picked only for special occasions.

Rice, crackers, and canned goods were ordered from Honolulu. These "imported" items also included the big Saloon Pilot crackers which were called calaboose crackers.

During Prohibition, many people made their own liquor out of koji rice mixed in sugar and hops. This concoction was fermented in three or four wooden barrels for about a week, and strained through cheesecloth prior to drinking. Tito claims that the brew was stronger than beer and more like bourbon. Another home-made alcoholic beverage was okolehao, made with oranges by a method similar to that of the koji rice drink. However, with okolehao, the liquid was distilled through copper tubes in private stills. Tito also heard of okolehao being made with ti root.

When he was a child at his family's Kaupo home, a catchment in the yard provided their water even in the summer. A catchment in the front yard still does so. According to Tito, the area of Hana to Kanae never had a water problem, although once past Nuu, the land is dry. Pipes connected to Maunawainui were installed in the Kaupo house in 1928 and were later connected to an area above Hanoloku falls which is about five or six miles from the family's Kaupo house where Tito lives today.

Medicine

There were no doctors or kahunas to tend to the medical needs of the people in the Kaupo area where Tito was growing up. However, the Hawaiians

there knew of certain herbs and practices to help cure illnesses. Tito recalls using popolo for colds and sore throats. The plant was wrapped in a ti leaf, cooked over charcoal, unwrapped and then ingested. This medication continued for three or four days.

Hawaiiana/Hawaiian language

Tito knows of two heiaus in the area. One of them is by Kaupo School, "about 300 yards away from the road," and it was not considered a place for children to hang around.

A major partying event was the luau held by the Hawaiian community for a one-year-old baby. People would pitch in to do the preparation for the party which would last sometimes for two or three days.

Tito's family did not practice hooponopono as far as he knows, and he himself has only recently heard about it.

Ranch hands spoke Hawaiian and Tito's parents spoke both Hawaiian and English at home. His father subscribed to a Hawaiian language newspaper which Tito's mother was unable to read. Tito says his father did not read aloud from the newspaper.

Tito also learned Hawaiian from his grandmother who lived with the family. She also talked to him about other Hawaiian customs, but this did not include information about Hawaiian plants, legends or stories about the ancient people. Neither does Tito recall hearing of other Hawaiian children on the ranch who knew about these sorts of things.

Tito still speaks Hawaiian, but says that now days there are very few people to speak it with.

Holidays and Recreation

During the Christmas holidays, the different families on the ranch held parties. Tito's own family had no Christmas tree, but they decorated their house with ferns. Festivities included a special Christmas day dinner and the singing of carols and Hawaiian songs. Apparently New Year's was not as big an event as Christmas. There were no firecrackers and people would not always stay up to see the new year in.

When he was a child, Tito used to play in the yard and one of the games he played was marbles. He also played football at Hana Intermediate School.

Tito does not recall visiting other places or families very much when he was a child. About once in six months, he would take a trip to Wailuku or Kahului, beginning on horseback from Kaupo to Kipahulu and then going into town by rented automobile. It cost about two to three dollars to rent a car for two days. The owner and driver was a Japanese man who carried his passengers down rough roads where no restaurant or service station stood. The driver was always sure to fill up his gas tank before he started the journey. It took about four hours to get from Kipahulu to Wailuku, and once there, Tito would sometimes attend the horse races. He also remembers that Dwight Baldwin

had race horses and polo horses that he kept in Haiku.

There were very few parties at Kaupo outside of the baby luaus. Events like wedding parties were usually held in Wailuku or Kahului.

Tito learned to play the ukulele and guitar on his own. Although no one in his family composed music, his two brothers played a variety of instruments, including steel guitar, saxophone, guitar, violin, and mandolin--all of which they also learned to play by ear. Both of his brothers currently live in California and have their own bands. They only began playing for dances after they moved to the Mainland.