

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW #460-3

with

Hisao Kimura (HK)

August 13, 1993

Waimea, Hawai`i

BY: Holly Yamada (HY)

HY: The following is a continuation of the Hisao Kimura interview, session three, tape one.

You were telling me that your parents decided to renounce your Japanese citizenship in the [19]20s and then you had to reestablish what your birth date was. You'd mentioned the first time I interviewed you. Why did they choose for you to become a U.S. citizen then?

HK: Why did we. . . .

HY: Yeah, why did they choose? Because you said you had dual citizenship. And at some point they wanted to make a choice. Do you know why?

HK: Why did my parents decide to. . . . Yes. My father particularly felt that it's not right to belong to two countries, in case of any, you know, because we found out from our community—member of our community went back to Japan and (he was) taken in the military over there. And he felt it was not right because (he was) born here. When (this man) went back to Japan (he was taken into) the military there. And he really thought it was not right for us to belong to—citizens of two country.

HY: Was he afraid that his sons might serve in the Japanese military or. . . .

HK: No, not really. I don't think it was that way. But I think it was mainly--I think what I feel today, when I look back, it was a matter of our welfare, you know. We've got to live here, we've got to work here, get married here and stay here. And in order to be in good standing with a country, be a citizen, it's much better to be. . . . In good standing with a country you belong in.

HY: Were there a lot of members of the community—Japanese community—that were doing that then?

HK: I wouldn't say a lot. I really don't know how many at that time did this, but I do know my

father was sort of criticized for doing this.

HY: Oh, he was?

HK: Among his fellow---the friends from Japan---the immigrants, you know. "Why did he do that?" It was questioned. But later, I found out, we felt really proud that my father did it. We were so happy. We didn't have nothing to worry.

HY: What about the---you said your brothers also went through this process of reestablishing their birth date. What about your sisters?

HK: Sisters, too. Yeah.

HY: Sisters, too?

HK: Yes. That's right. Mm hmm. At that time, of course, like anything else, you got to get identification so they took our pictures and so forth. Black and white pictures. Photographs, rather.

HY: Was that common to not establish the exact birth date that, you know, you mentioned that your brother lost six months.

HK: I think it is common. Yes. And I did question my parents: How did they determine my birthday? They said, well, it was very difficult when there was no report today in Japanese Consulate in Honolulu. No report there. None, of course, in our local [*territorial*] board of health or wherever they receive these records. None there. So they had to almost like compromise with the witnesses they had to acquire. And the witnesses say, "I think it was such-and-such day."

(Laughter)

HK: And so they just made a compromise of the date. That's the way I looked at it. (Laughs)

HY: They asked your neighbors?

HK: Yeah, close friends. Well, I went to school with my mother's birthday---my mother gave my [*actual*] birthday when I went to school. She knew what my age. So that birthday I carried right through my school. So I was sort of confused when people asked me, "What's your age?" Always, which age am I going to give? (Laughs) But legally now, I have to go by that, yeah?

HY: I want to go up to wartime again. One of the things I wanted to ask you about was the sports activity during the war. Did you participate in sports with the military guys that were here? I understand that was one of the more popular recreation . . .

HK: Yes. We had hardly any recreation aside from sports during the war when the marines were

here. Prior to the arrival of the marines here—prior to the opening of the war—I loved coaching. I used to coach baseball and basketball. No football out here. And when the war broke out, I still had a basketball team. So we did have some marines play in the team. They were college students, some of them. They were wonderful players. And I don't know how they got out from their duty, but they came out to the gym and practiced with the boys.

HY: Did you actually play games?

HK: I [*personally*] played baseball only. Basketball, no.

HY: But did you [*as a coach*] have teams that would actually play games?

HK: Yes. Yes. We had our local home league, so-called.

HY: What was it called? Did it have a name?

HK: Waimea Home League. Yeah. We had basketball home league. Junior and senior league, yeah? But juniors were very rare. You never find junior league and senior league [*both at the same time*], you know. And baseball, the same thing. You get senior league. And then gradually, after the war, we had a junior league organized.

HY: What age group are these players of senior league?

HK: Baseball?

HY: Any . . .

HK: Basketball was---I would say my team was mostly juniors from twelve to fifteen years, somewhere in that area, and they played with seniors because I got all the junior boys in my team. And the population was so small at that time you can't get two junior teams over here. So they used to play with the senior leagues, although they did have a chance to play with a Kohala High School boys. Had a home-and-home game with the Kohala High School reserves.

HY: So this league, how big was it? And you played teams all in this area?

HK: Uh, yeah. We had our own league here. Waimea. And then the CCC [*Civilian Conservation Corps*] boys, by the way, came in, too. And we had a home league. And after the home league is over, we selected an all-star team, so-called, and go around the island. We did that just once, though. We hired a bus and went around the island.

HY: Did that happen during wartime, too?

HK: That was right after the war.

HY: So, did the military guys that participated in these leagues, would they actually play games with

you folks? They were team members?

HK: They were in my team, yes. Just a handful, though. Not many players, but they were good. They were good players.

HY: Did people in the community come out and watch the games?

HK: Oh, yes. You see, we charged admission, of course (HY laughs). We charged admission and with that money we collected from [them], at the end of the season we select the all-star team. Then that money we acquired from the home league, we used it to go around the island. That's what we did.

HY: Oh, I see. And was this supported by Parker Ranch?

HK: Basketball, no. It was---baseball, yes. Parker Ranch was very supportive. Baseball was their main sport. In fact, if you're a boy, you know, (it is a natural thing to do). You got to play because everybody else is playing. You can't stay on the sideline to watch. So everyone—practically everyone—once in their lifetime, they may have. I'm sure they played baseball. Of course, we were able to see the major leaguers, professional baseball players, come out here. They played out here for the marines.

HY: Do you remember some of the teams that came?

HK: I think was [Joe] DiMaggio and Phil Rizzuto, shortstop. Some famous players were out here.

HY: And was that because the military were here that they came?

HK: Yes. More like for the USO [*United Service Organizations*], recreational thing. And they had boxing—boxing arena set up in the park.

HY: Did people from Waimea---were they involved in boxing?

HK: Some of our local boys went into it. Yeah, yeah.

HY: So that was one of the main recreational activities?

HK: Yes, that's about it as far as recreation during the war. Lot of drinking, though. Drinking was one of the recreation those days.

HY: Even with the rationing?

HK: Yes.

HY: Somehow you managed . . .

HK: Somehow we managed because, you know, unusual because each person has a ration ticket, and then we acquired those stubs even for our wives so we can get extra quart of whiskey or whatever we're going to buy (laughs). Everybody has some, and then we share sometime.

HY: I know the I. Oda Store served a central part of business activity in Waimea.

HK: Yes.

HY: How were other businesses impacted by the war? Did they also flourish during that time that you're aware of?

HK: Lot of business like . . .

HY: Because you had told me that Parker Ranch did well. Everybody seemed to be making money during this time. Was that true for the businesses?

HK: I'm sure it was because. . . . You mean the general grocery store?

HY: Yeah . . .

HK: Yes, grocery stores were. Unusually, they were doing well because of the marines used to get into it. Especially when they first arrived, they just went into the store and bought their. . . . They came with just one undershirt like, you know? No other clothes. Direct from the battlefield. And they went to the store and bought whole lot of things—personal things.

HY: Did they stay in business then after the war or were there . . .

HK: Yes. They continued to be in the grocery business. We had one major one. Formerly it was Parker Ranch Store. Then Hayashi—Ken Hayashi—took over the store. And that Hayashi Store is still here in Waimea. Still operating. That first name I know, Kenichi Hayashi. Ken Hayashi.

HY: Okay, then after you talked about your reforestation program, up through the seventies, yeah? You were involved in that? And . . .

HK: Reforestation program, yes. We continued on from 1951, somewhere around there. We'd done some extensive tree planting at our Parker Ranch Pu`u`opelu Nursery. And most of the trees were planted—(field planting) began in 1960 and on to, I would say, almost up to [19]70.

HY: At that point, did you retire then?

HK: I retired in 1978.

HY: Nineteen seventy-eight. What did you do after the reforestation . . .

HK: After the reforestation ended?

HY: Uh huh.

HK: Well, the tree nursery, so-called, Pu`u`opelu Nursery, became just a, more like an ornamental plant nursery—ornamental type. And the trees were rarely kept since 1970. Then gradually the ornamental plants were mainly planted for the purpose of landscaping the community. The community was Parker Ranch, of course, and Parker Ranch office area, shopping center areas, were all of the areas that we landscaped. And whatever trees we had leftover from the. . . . We had over 100,000 trees on hand. So what are we going to do with it, you know? So we used some of those trees for landscape within the parking area of the shopping center and elsewhere. And we gave to the---we shared quite a number of trees to the state tree nursery [*Forestry & Wildlife Division Tree Nursery*] which just began to, they just began to start. . . . The state nursery became---came into Waimea and established about 1960. . . . About '64. And that's a centralized state tree nursery, you know, for the State of Hawai`i. We have it in Waimea now. I gave a whole lot of trees to them because they needed some trees to ship out to the various islands, eh? Outside islands.

HY: And then did you retire in '78?

HK: I retired in November '78. My actual retirement should be on a birthday—January 1979. But I had some accumulated vacation so I took a. . . .

HY: And what have your activities been since you've retired?

HK: That was unusual because, well, I knew I was going to retire so I tried to think of what I'm going to do. And I knew I can't be loafing around so I got in politics. I didn't get in. Then . . .

HY: What did you run for?

HK: [*County of Hawai`i*] County council. County. Then thereafter---oh, Kawamata Farms [*Inc.*]. My wife was a part-time worker at Kawamata Farms and gradually she became a full time. And Kawamata rose farm was just beginning to get established. And Mr. [*Naoji*] Kawamata asked me, since my wife's down there, “You got to come down also and help out the farm.” So I was with the farm for about five years. Yeah. Rose farm.

HY: Was this as an employee?

HK: As an employee. Yes.

HY: So, you didn't really retire? You kept working?

HK: No. Not really. I didn't retire. Although the farm work was put [such that] anytime you need to [*work you may*]. It's not a compulsory eight-hour work. I just go down there. Whatever I can help I used to help, yeah?

HY: Okay. I wanted to ask you a little bit about what's happening with Parker Ranch now. Since Richard Smart has passed away [1992], what do you see for the future of Parker Ranch?

HK: Since Richard Smart passed away, it's a public record now that it's under the trusteeship. It's under trust. And the trustees are managing the ranch and proceeds of the income goes to five different organizations—charitable organizations. And the future of this ranch seems to be. . . . I'm sure it's in the will as far as the records show that—Richard Smart did mention several times when I was working—that it is my [Richard Smart's] mother's wish that I [Richard Smart] carry on this cattle ranch. People have accused him, he says, misquoted him in the newspaper that he going to sell. Rumors went around at that time. He said he will never sell. And that's his mother's wish. [Richard Smart's mother is Annie Thelma Parker Smart.]

The future of the ranch is like any other business, especially when you handle livestock, it fluctuates. Sometimes it goes up and down. We did have some bad years during that forty-six years I worked on the ranch. We had some bad years. And in that---it's the economic trend of the country. It goes down and sometimes, you know. In the 1960s, from beginning 1950, late fifties, into the sixties, cattle ranch was really, really struggling. And they had a hard time and . . .

HY: Do you think that was because of management problems or . . .

HK: I don't think it was a management problem. It was a matter of. . . . Well, partly it's a management's problem perhaps, but as far as the beef price is concerned we have no control in our State of Hawai`i. We go according to the cattle price in the Mainland. Whatever the cattle price there we add up another so-many percent over that to carry on our cattle price locally here. So it all depends on the national trend of cattle prices—goes up and down. And if it's good up there, we're going to make it. It's bad up there, we're going to get a bad year. And we did have bad years. But at the present time with the trustees, my biggest concern, though, cattle does not just by accident gain weight without caring for the feed. On the present situation, they disbanded or dissolved the agronomy department where I was heading—the agronomy department. I'm so disappointed, and I think many of the other ranchers can see it where they are not concerned about weight control [of the cattle]. Weeds are overtaking the land so rapidly and yet productivity of the land drops. Oh, percentage is way down now. And I don't know how they're determining how many pounds of beef they can get per acre on the land they got now. They can always estimate by saying that Parker Ranch is the largest ranch—single-owned ranch—in the nation. Over 200-and-some-odd-thousand acres. But acres doesn't mean---numbers doesn't mean much here if your land is not. . . . If it doesn't nurture your land, if it doesn't take care of your land, your production per acre will drop because you are actually producing your red meat out of your forage that you're feeding the animal. If your feed is not, you know, the nutritive value of your feed drops, lack of feed means lack of live animals, and the weight will drop also. So they are not concerned about weed. I've noticed today, when I go out and just look over the pastures, the pastures are overgrazed, abused. The more you overgraze the land, the weeds will rapidly take over the land. Weeds love that. Cattle doesn't touch the weeds. So if you heavily graze the land, you're not going get your good grasses left. The bad grasses will be remaining and they'll be. . . . You're giving them the free

hand to take over the land.

HY: Why do you think that's happening?

HK: Well, it's a matter of. . . . Why---to me, I feel that they are not trying to say, why improve the land? Because we can't improve the land because several factors come in the picture here: We cannot improve the land because lack of rainfall. We cannot improve the land because the highly aggressive grasses is taking over the land so rapidly. No matter what we plant it's going to be overtaken by the strong grass, so why spend all that time? It's a wasteful thing they think, see? But we do have an enemy in the pastures. Aggressive grass, we call it. That is really something that we have never expected. I knew it was going to happen. We call the grass Kikuyu grass, and it's very aggressive. Won't give any other grass a chance to grow. It would just overtake the land. Not only the grass. Even the other desirable bushes, shrubs. They are just dying. Yeah. Very aggressive. People don't realize how bad that grass is. This concerns Hawai`i climate—climatic condition of Hawai`i is very, very suitable for this grass. Just right. Because you go to Florida, it won't grow. I was in Florida. And they have a mini-experiment station in the grass field. I saw their strip of Kikuyu grass. They trying to grow but it won't behave like another grass. Fortunately, though, if Florida were taken over by Kikuyu, it'll be just Kikuyu grass. I can't see why Florida cannot grow, because it's so humid out there. Very humid. And yet we call another imported grass from Africa. It's pangola grass. Pangola. Yeah. This was---pangola grass came in, was introduced to the island after the Kikuyu grass. And they---we were told the pangola will be able to compete with the Kikuyu grass. Cannot. Simply cannot.

HY: Did they bring it in for that purpose? So it would compete with the Kikuyu grass?

HK: No, not exactly. It was a good forage cattle feed because it's high fiber. Kikuyu grass has no fiber. It's just like eating cucumber. Just water. High moisture. Pounds gained per day on the animal is very, very low. Yeah. Not even a half a pound maybe.

HY: Do you have any sense of how the community is reacting to this arrangement with the trusteeship?

HK: One of the biggest thing---I think everybody will agree with me among the retirees and people living other than retirees, you know. Not [*people who haven't*] been living in Waimea long enough. They can notice that Parker Ranch is like any other firm now. You know what I mean? They're strictly running a business. The reason why I say that is because Parker Ranch used to be a ranch that took care of the people. Like a big family. It's a family type of an atmosphere.

HY: Paternal.

HK: Yeah. And they really---whatever they do, it was a family thing. Today they've done away with that. Done away completely, so the quicker the old-timers leave the ranch, the quicker they're going to find the ranch like any other company—business company, business that they're running. They would not---they're not involved in a very large sense as a community-minded

operated business. They're altogether by themselves. Very business-like way because this all concerns efficiency of whatever profit they can make. Money is the key to the whole thing, but they forget there are people involved. We miss that. We miss that very much.

HY: Do they still provide housing for their employees?

HK: They do.

HY: So as far as the trusteeship, is that a . . . How do you feel about that? Do you think that was a good choice or . . .

HK: Well, the trustees feel--I think the trustees are doing whatever they can to run the ranch for profit. Like any other business they've got to make money, and their sole purpose is to make money. And other than that, I can't see what they are doing. They're doing their job, as far as, you know. But we miss the closeness. . . .

HY: And is that true for some of the current or younger employees?

HK: Oh, they're working there. That, I don't know because the new employees they are hiring today have never sensed what we went through. They never have seen the Parker Ranch we knew. They're working like any other job, acquired a job somewhere else. Same thing. They just go in. They don't know what transpired in the past. And the old-timers I spoke to, some of them they say they're just waiting to retire because they feel that big change.

HY: So is there just a percent of the profits that are going to these charitable organizations?

HK: Yes. Yeah. It's about, goes about, I think it was, four times sixteen is what?

HY: Sixty-four.

HK: Sixty-four, yeah? Anyway, medical center [*Lucy Henriques Medical Center*] has 16 percent, and another Hawai`i hospital [*North Hawai`i Hospital*] will have about 16 percent, and Parker School and HP [*Hawai`i Preparatory Academy*] will have 16 percent, I believe it was [*Hisao Kimura clarifies percentages below*]. And the other fifth one will be the remaining, what? Twelve percent? No. Sixty-four. . . .

HY: Thirty-six percent?

HK: Thirty-six? No. Well, it's over 16 percent. I'm sorry. I think it's over. Um, I could get a figure right there. This is interesting.

(Laughter)

HK: Wait, I have. . . . You may have---you have to stop that [tape recorder]. (*Hisao Kimura looks through papers.*)

Yup. There. (Pause) Yeah, the schools receive 16 percent. And there are two schools. Parker School and Hawai`i Preparatory School [*Academy*] will each receive 16 percent. The medical facilities, which is the present medical, Lucy Henriques Medical Center, will receive 24 percent, and the North Hawai`i Hospital that is coming up will receive the other 24 percent. Oh, wait a minute. Oh, yes, and the community foundation, they call it, Hawai`i Community Foundation will receive 20 percent. That's this. You see, according to these statements made by trustee, Warren [J.] Gunderson, the 100 percent of the net proceeds must be distributed. Must go out on the percentage basis. Yeah. Be very interesting to find out as time goes on.

They have a very good marketing system right now, which we thought was. . . . Never been taught before. We used to raise the cattle—market animal is what I'm talking about—in the feedlot in Honolulu, Hawai`i Meat Company, and which has dissolved now. But where do you ship your animals now? So instead of bringing in the feed from the Mainland to feed our market animals, all on grain now. You had to finish on grain, these market animals, to compete with Mainland beef coming in. The quality must be comparable to the Mainland beef. So you had to feed all by grain grown in the Mainland. And the cost of feed is so high in that sense. So today they are moving the animal to the feed in the Mainland. They're shipping the live animals to the feed where it is grown in the Mainland, and they're getting a much higher, I think higher percentage of net profit.

HY: And they've done that just since the Hawai`i Meat Company closed up?

HK: That's right. Yes.

HY: I see.

HK: Just before the Hawai`i Meat Company had to close up. They knew it was coming so they did that. They shipped the animals to Canada first on a trial basis. Canada takes about almost twelve days they said, you know, on the transportation from here to Canada. Then they had an outlet in the Mainland, also. Two ways.

HY: Last time I talked to you, you mentioned something about the. . . . This was during the dispute about the will of Richard Smart and how you had records of—a lot of A. W. Carter's records.

HK: Oh, yeah, yeah. A.W Carter's records, I accidentally found. Was in that filing cabinet that I acquired (from) the ranch. And when I got it they told me to pick it up in the warehouse. When I got it I can't open it. It's all locked, you know. So I called the business manager at the Parker Ranch office.

HY: This is about what year then?

HK: Shee, this was, I believe, this was late fifties. In the late. . . . Yeah.

HY: Okay.

HK: And I called the ranch business manager and he says, “Well, do like what we did. We lost the keys so we just went to our mechanic's shop and told one of the mechanics to come and pry 'em open. Just pry 'em open,” he says. “Lost the keys.”

So I did that. When I opened it, my gosh, all these daily dairy was there of Mr. A.W. Carter written by his secretary [*Lucille*] Brundage. Mrs. Brundage. And, by gosh, this is something. I read a portion of it. So many separate diaries there. What was most interesting thing I just read it, one of them was my father-in-law's [*John Kawananakoa Lindsey's*] story about how he brought the bull over the mountain from Hilo. An imported bull, you know. A.W. was a great one to bring in high-priced animal from the Mainland to improve his herd over here. The other one was my mother was stranded in Honolulu during the war and how my sister used to write letter to Mr. Carter, asking about my mother's condition and when she can come back because there was a martial law in Hawai'i. Nobody can move. More so the aliens cannot move, you know. They wouldn't allow it. So she was down with Mr. Carter's home, down Honolulu for quite a while. And that was in the diary. Yeah, it was in the diary. But I believe there were whole lot of records in there. So when Parker Ranch was a, had a. . . . Someone [*the Purdy family of Waimea*] filed a suit against Parker Ranch in acquiring the land, I felt that, gee, this record I have, the diary must help Parker Ranch—whole a lot of things that you seen there, valuable information must be in there to help the ranch, and nobody knows about it. And it gives me a guilty conscience to keep it. It was up in this attic in my house here, and it's no use there. So I went to Ralph Dobbins, our trustee at that time [*1978–1986*], and Ted Riecker [*Frederick Riecker*], the other trustee. I told them, “I have these records and I'm going to bring it to you folks.” And in a couple of years afterwards, Ted Riecker says, “Thank you very much. That was one of the most important material that we received.”

And I cannot really verify what happened to the other records. They must have had a lot of other records, too. Where did they go, you know? They must have dump them in a. . . . Okay, this is a very interesting story. I just heard it recently. Richard Smart's secretary, myself, we've been called by the Hawai'i Prep senior class teacher, Mr. [*Gordon*] Bryson. Bryson is a school

coach of Hawai`i Preparatory school [*Academy*]. His senior class is doing wonderful research work, and they asked Kiyomi, myself, even my brother, Yutaka, give some of the old stories about Waimea and Parker Ranch. They got a whole bunch of records in the classroom—Parker Ranch records. The story I hear is that they [*Parker Ranch*] were dumping these things—all these books and whatever—down in the dump pile, and when one of the Hawai`i Prep teachers saw that, he said, “Can't we have that? Must be some valuable things in there.”

So the ranch--I don't know who they spoke to. “Help yourself.”

So Bryson got quite a bit of number of books in there. So he tells me and Kiyomi, “Anytime you folks want any information, help yourself.”

I don't know what kind of information is in there. Some of them are just daily diary. But I do know that my records in the agronomy department. . . . I went back to the ranch office once and I can't find nothing. Where did it go? Where did they take it? I was surprised. It involves lot of work. Years of work have gone somewhere. I don't know where it went.

Going back to the condition of the ranch today is, you know, like anything else, we've got to be the one to take care of the land. Nobody else can do it. The stewardship of the land is so important for the future generation to come. And once you neglect, once you fall back to catch up to what it was before, it's going to be hard.

HK: What happened here is on the ranch, Parker Ranch had the most, I would say, number of varieties of wild fowls. Birds, all kinds of birds—pheasants and quails and, oh, wild turkeys and so forth. These things are diminishing now because of. . . . The stewardship of the land have been neglected. There's no feed for them. So what they're doing now, they're hiring people to raise those birds to release. So when the hunting season comes, you have birds to shoot at. (Laughs) How awkward it is. Our time, we don't have to raise. Birds will just--you got so much birds out there, you know.

HY: Did you hunt for food, then? Or mostly for sport?

HK: Well, mostly for sport and yet, you can't say 100 percent for sport. We used to save the meat. We used the meat and smoked it—mainly for smoking. And use the feathers for feather leis.

HY: When did the population of birds start diminishing?

HK: When they commercialized it. I don't know how. . . . This is one of the downfall: Which comes first, money or your sports? They commercialized the bird hunting to the extent where only the rich can hunt, that type of thing. So naturally, people love--those hunters who love hunting they come in to hunt during the season and they just practically wipe out the birds.

HY: About what year did they start commercializing?

HK: They just started recently. My retirement in 1978. . . . It may have started in the [19]80s.

Immediately after that, in the eighties, somewhere in the eighties. In a few years time, boy, hunting is hunting. That's real hunting. In other words, (HY laughs) you must hunt for it, you know (laughs). During our time, when I was working on the ranch (HK drops microphone).

HY: Okay.

HK: Yeah, when I (chuckles) was working on the ranch hunting was more like, really a recreation. Go out there and you can almost say how many birds I'm going to get today. So many birds.

HY: What kind of birds?

HK: The most challenging bird to hunt is pheasant. They're very, very---hunters, they like [to hunt pheasant] because they gave your hunting dog a bad time. They're tricky birds. And even to shoot is a very tricky bird—pheasants. And then they have a long flight. Their flight is beautiful. And we get a quail. Quail is not too much of a sport because their flight is so short. And you just raise your gun, it's gone already, like that, you know. And especially in the bushes, it's very dangerous bird to shoot because they don't fly high. And there's another bird that's imported, the partridge. There are several varieties of partridge. They have the erckel. They have the francolin. Francolin is a---they call a black francolin and a brown one. Two varieties, two species of francolins. Erckel is somewhat, yeah, it's a newly introduced bird. And turkeys are, my gosh. Unusually, turkeys are increasing, in spite of all the hunters, because turkeys feed on something different than the pheasants or other fowls. Their source of food is different from the pheasants. Turkeys can live on the foliage whereas the birds live on seeds mostly. So you don't have any seed producing grasses. Kikuyu have no seed, you know. Kikuyu grass has seed but it's hidden. Nobody can find it. It's hidden in the stem. There's no---the pollen comes out. But the seed is embedded in the stem. So birds or whatever, they cannot in there, get to the seed.

HY: Did you folks still---was there hunting going on during wartime or I assume . . .

HK: No, wartime not allowed, wasn't allowed. Oh, that. Oh, my gosh, that was a bird farm. Parker Ranch land was just a bird farm. Parker Ranch land, I think I mentioned before, where the marines must have come, some of them come from the midwestern states, from Kansas and Missouri, and all those beautiful pastures. Kentucky bluegrass is plentiful out there, and wild oats and fescue grasses—lots of in the middle western states. Parker Ranch had them all. Beautiful grass. During the early spring months, after the winter rain, you see the pastures are just like a grainfield. The wind blowing the seed head of the grass. It's waving with the wind. It's just like good grainfield. And the marines used to tell us, “You folks must have plowed this and planted.”

I said, “We didn't plow. Just broadcast the seed.”

They were just surprised that they can see these things, what they had back home. That's the type of grass we had. Now, all of these we called them the grain grass. The seeds are just like grain. The wild oats are similar to the oats—bran that we eat. It's only the wild grass, but the

seed is almost similar. And the fescue grass seeds, the same. Even the Kentucky bluegrass, the seeds are. . . . Aw, the birds love it. And they get really fat. Those grasses are gone. Practically gone. Very---oh yeah, in the early spring months, when the Kikuyu---right at this time, the pastures are just dried up. This is a very unusual year. The weather never been cooperating this year. Lack of rainfall. The Kikuyu grass are all brown, and right down to the grass, but they are not dead. Upon the first rainfall they come back. But upon the first rainfall, some of the original grass do survive. They come back because the seeds are still in the ground. They'll come back. But not for long because you release the cattle, those are the grass that the cattle will go for it, the first thing.

HY: So, in the early days, then, did---these grasses were plentiful---these other grasses, other than Kikuyu---and this would, the seeds would, attract the birds?

HK: Oh, yes, yes, yes.

HY: So was the military allowed to hunt these birds or . . .

HK: No. They didn't hunt either. Military people didn't hunt at all.

HY: So they just stopped then?

HK: Stopped then. Right. That's one of the reasons why I believe the birds increased a lot. We even---but prior to that, before even the war, before the marines moved in, we had a lot of birds. Lots of birds. And, of course, turkey have never been allowed to shoot on Parker Ranch land.

HY: Why is that?

HK: Parker Ranch used to ship those turkeys to Honolulu for market. I think you never seen this. The last shipment, I think was the last one shipped to Honolulu, some of the turkeys accidentally flew out of the cage. In town, I don't know what street is it. Came out in the newspaper.

HY: In Honolulu?

HK: Yeah. And the turkeys are running wild in Honolulu.

(Laughter)

HY: They don't do that [ship to Honolulu] anymore?

HK: No, not anymore. What they did was trap the turkey prior to Thanksgiving. That's the only time they ship, during the Thanksgiving. They trap those wild turkeys and feed [*them*] corn. Make them fat before they ship to Honolulu. That's the reason why they never allowed us. If you, as a Parker Ranch employee, if you ever shoot a turkey, that's just like committing a

crime. You were fired right on the spot. You're out of the ranch. (Laughs)

HY: Did they have the employees go out and catch the wild turkeys?

HK: Yes.

HY: So these were wild turkeys they would keep confined and then ripen for Thanksgiving.

HK: So until today, we say this must be the old Parker Ranch wild turkeys because we get two varieties of turkey out there now today. The other one the state brought in, some wild turkeys for hunting purpose.

HY: Then was there a big hunting activity then after the war?

HK: Yes, we had a statewide final they called the Final Field Trial Championship—field trial bird hunting—which is totally different from bird hunting on foot. You go on horseback because bird dogs are trained for field trial. They go by the miles, you know. And beautiful, the way they work. They go out, straight out to the field, and they start roaming out this way. And you, the dog owner, got to get on horseback and follow. And the judges all---we all get on the horseback and follow this dog. And the birds are not planted, mind you. It's out in the regular, you know, at random. You just select one pasture. There are birds in there. That's why they all used to come to Parker Ranch to get a field trial championship.

HY: Did that start after the war?

HK: Yeah. After the war.

HY: And continued . . .

HK: They continued for a while and then they stopped. I don't know what happened. Lack of interest or whatever.

HY: Is there anything else you'd like to add, looking back over the . . .

HK: Over the years? (Laughs)

HY: Yeah.

HK: Well, I tell you. I think anyone of the ranch employees [*would say*]—whoever worked long enough on the ranch—it's sad that we lost Richard Smart.

HY: Do you feel that way?

HK: Yeah. He had his up and downs and you feel sorry for him many times but, in spite of that, amazingly, he had a Hawaiian love in him. He carried on his mother's wish, and he took care

of the ranch employees and the community as a whole. And you can see when he passed away, the will states it all goes back to the community. And this Waimea community is, I think, the most fortunate community in the State of Hawai`i. Look at the two schools and hospital. We're all going to benefit by that. But looking back, all the good times we had and all the hard times—hard work, it was hard work—but I think we were treated fairly.

I'm proud to say that Parker Ranch never had a bargaining union move in, in spite of. . . . They tried to come into Parker Ranch. They were not successful with it, of course, because we were treated just as good as any other union member. They took care of us, although our wages were small. But they took care of our education, health benefits, and all that. Some of these things mean more than money—how they took care of you. Those are the things you'll miss most. I think that's---lot of times I think that money has some evils. Too much money-conscious people have different attitude of life.

HY: So, you think Richard Smart would not be happy about what is happening?

HK: Well, I think he knows he left the ranch in a good hands, I'm sure. The only thing is that, like I said, animals need something to eat. And if you don't provide a food, well, what are you going to get left? Acres and acres today, the land production of---the value of the land has dropped. In a sense, it's not the fault of the present managership, which is the trustees. It's not their fault because these grasses were introduced way before they came on the ranch. And we knew the danger of this grass. That's why I mentioned, I think, earlier I almost got fired because I argued too much. I argued and argued. I wasn't happy with that Kikuyu grass. And I knew what was going to happen. And it sure did. And today they even trying to plant some grain to the birds, to increase the population of the birds. I would plant those things for the cattle instead of birds. They want to increase the population of birds. They trying to plant these things. But cannot. The Kikuyu would choke it up. Because when you plant these seeds they have to water the field. When they water the---whatever field that's small and fenced in type of thing, so the cattle won't go in and eat it—it's for the birds only. But when you start watering, you had to water in order to get the seed germinated, what happens is the Kikuyu overtake 'em. You have a, really a, something to---it's just like a cancer. You can't solve the problem.

HY: Maybe I should ask you about the next generation of Parker Ranch employees of your time and their children. Do they---are there a lot of them that stay here and work or do they tend to leave?

HK: Ranching life is---very selective type of people work on the ranch. Some of our old-time Parker Ranch families, their children never stays on the ranch. They acquire jobs elsewhere because of the education. And once they acquire certain level of education, they wouldn't go back as a cowboy riding a horse. They wouldn't unless you were brought up on a horse throughout. It remains in you. But not many ranch family's children or boys will stay on the ranch. At one time it's almost 100 percent, more or less, your children all went out to work because better pay, more attractive out there than on the ranch.

HY: Do they hire women? No?

HK: Women in the office, mainly. Yeah, yeah. And, of course---oh, another area that Parker Ranch has extended their income is property—leasing out the property for business use. So they have rental units—a number of rental units today. And they have a special property manager to handle that. We call it non-cattle income. But I believe still cattle income is the greatest of all. Those---and then they have, right now they're working on the 2020 Plan they call it—big urbanized development coming up on the Parker Ranch land.

And they just started a week ago—not even a week ago—drilling for water. The development plan, the county planning commissioners have approved it upon condition—two condition—is that the developer, which is Parker Ranch, must find that water first. So they start digging well. And another one is a bypass road. They're going to have a bypass road in Waimea because our present road is not suitable for the traffic that we have. They have to get another bypass.

HY: You mean another one besides the Kawaihae Road?

HK: Yeah.

HY: Oh, I see.

HK: Yeah. It will be connecting to the Kawaihae Road out in the outskirts. But there is---well, several things to be ironed out because they're going through private-owned land and more so through the Hawaiian homesteaders' land. Some of them are very unhappy. They're trying to negotiate with them. I don't know how they can solve this problem. We must have a bypass. We don't have any escape road out of Waimea if anything should happen. So now the Waimea Main Street-design committee is working on that. Kind of interesting, though.

HY: Okay. Anything else?

HK: Anything else?

(Laughter)

HK: It is sad. Going back to before and today's situation on the ranch, it is sad. It's sad in a sense where all what we did in the past, work on the early years, on the ranch, was solely because. . . . We never see Richard Smart. He was away, New York or wherever he was. He was a young boy. He was only one year younger than I am. But all what we knew while working on the ranch was to benefit Richard Smart. And A. W. Carter made sure that we got to make this ranch, the success of the ranch going to benefit Richard Smart. And Richard Smart name was always constantly in our ranch employee's mind. And we used to have annually a big *lu`au* and the *lu`au* was something else, really something that. . . . It's hard to forget. That was wonderful thing, I think (chuckles). So today, when you think about it, those things, there's no object in front of you while you're working on the ranch. You're just working. I suppose these boys are just working because they need to make a living. But those days we were working because of somebody else—to benefit somebody else—and we were proud to be a

part of the, almost a family, to improve the ranch for Richard Smart. And we're happy that Richard Smart really left his will that way. Yeah. Wonderful. I think people were kind of surprised. And, of course, the two sons are trying to sue, according to this write-up. [*The sons have contested their father's will, and Gillard Smart brought a lawsuit against trustees Warren Gunderson, Richard Hendrick and Melvin Hewitt.*]

HY: This is Tony [*Anthony Smart*]?

HK: Yeah, Tony and Gill [*Gillard Smart*]. More so Gill. Tony is not that, he's more. . . . He's, well, he's well established already. Gill is having financial problems. The appreciation of--those days, the work was something. When we work we knew what we were, what do you call? We were more dedicated to our work. The dedication to our work was such that I don't think you can describe it. When you work for Parker Ranch you're working for some specific purpose. Today, they're working just for work, and if they can get by by loafing around, I think they would get by. But there's no value to the work anymore, I think. There's no reward. And I like to see that. . . . Like we say, once you retire from Parker Ranch, you're just like an animal been turned out in the pasture and forgotten. That's the feeling we got.

HY: That's how you felt?

HK: Yeah, that's the way I felt because Richard Smart is not there, too, but the old managers are not here, right? A.W. was something else. He was very strict but he had a very loving, kind heart. I don't think that will ever come back. That's it. I don't think so.

HY: Different era.

HK: Different. And those days, when you say you work for Parker Ranch, you feel proud, you know. I don't know today (laughs). Like, well, Gordon Lent was one of the late managers that came in. He was from Jack Rubel & Associate [*Rubel-Lent & Associates*] from Arizona as consulting firm, and he became. . . . And the consulting firm after three months compiling all the reports of Parker Ranch and how Parker Ranch can operate successfully, a book like that, that thick [*Hisao Kimura indicates about two inches*] they made, and then Richard Smart asked that consultant firm, "I need a manager on the ranch and I'm having difficult time. How about you folks take over the ranch?" And Gordon Lent personally told me, "You know, if I take that job, if we take that job we got to swallow every word that's in there. And we're still debating whether we should accept this offer or not." Took him quite a while. He finally accepted.

Anyway, Gordon Lent and I conducted a workshop for the American Cattlemen Association. Had a big convention in San Francisco. And after that they wanted to come and see Parker Ranch. And somehow they want Parker Ranch to do something so they can charge their trip over as a business expense. So we say, well, Gordon Lent asked, "Do you think we can handle a small workshop for them so they can come over?" Oh, a whole bunch of them came over. We had them by the Parker---we called 'em Barbara Hall, Parker School Hall [*currently called The Parker School, the building was originally named Barbara Hall*]. And we had Honoka`a Club manager come out. We didn't have Parker Ranch restaurant at that time. Honoka`a Club

manager came out and took care all the food—outdoor barbecue. All western-style type of barbecue. And we conducted a workshop, what we are doing on the ranch. And one lady from Texas came up to me and says, “What college did you go to?”

I said, “College of Parker Ranch.”

(Laughter)

HK: Then, I told her, “How did you folks ever find out about Parker Ranch? Why did you folks want to come over, insist that you folks want to come?”

Do you know what she said? “Every since I was a young girl, I was brought up on a ranch, you see? We heard about Parker Ranch. We heard about Parker Ranch years ago. And some day I might, you know, wish was to see Parker Ranch.”

So Parker Ranch was pretty well known everywhere. Then we started---Gordon Lent and I, we started that visitor center [*Parker Ranch Visitor Center*]. We still have it. But not as much as---it's not doing that well now. Visitor center goes with the tourist industry, you see? When tourist industry drops, well, our visitor center drops, too. Yeah.

Tough life. Ranch is a tough life. I've seen days when we didn't have a forty-hour week. No such thing as forty-hour week. And we would have to work six days a week. Then came down to five days a week and forty hours a week.

But the war days was quite interesting because of the restrictive type of living. One of the restriction was blackout. The houses were [*under*] blackout. You can't travel nighttime and all that. And I used to travel nighttime because my job called for it. So all of our Parker Ranch cars had the headlights were blacked out, and small little opening. You can see right in front of you. But once you get in the pasture, you know your way in and out, you see? No problem. On the highway it's kind of dangerous because military people. All had MPs all over the place. They'll stop you. Question you. . . .

HY: Okay.

HK: Okay.

HY: Thank you so much.

END OF INTERVIEW