

APPENDIX A INTERVIEWS

The following are summaries of interviews conducted with long term residents of Kukuihaele and Waimea who were familiar with the Mud Lane corridor. All interviews were conducted by Tanya M.D. Souza, and these summaries were prepared by her. Audio recordings of each informant's entire interview are on file at the Pacific Legacy office.

Subject Name: Ka`ai Batalona

Date of Interview: 10 October 2007

Kawika Ka`aiali`i "Ka`ai" Batalona was born in Waipi`o Valley on August 24, 1953. Mr. Batalona was raised in Waipi`o Valley, at Kukuihaele and on O`ahu. He returned to Hawai`i Island in 1968 and lived at various places around the island for a couple months at a time. Eventually, he moved to Waipi`o where he lived and worked for twenty-eight years. Today, Mr. Batalona lives in Kukuihaele where he has resided for the past seven years.

During the 1970s and 1980s Mr. Batalona traveled every other week along Mud Lane, either horseback riding, hiking or biking to Waimea or Mauna Kea. He believes he was the only one using the road at that time, because the sugar plantation had fenced off the road. The plantation would use Mud Lane to access the ditch system. "It isn't an ancient Hawaiian trail, it's just a public road, it's an old river bed turned into a road. In fact, right alongside Mud Lane, you can see an old ditch system that ran from upper Hāmākua into Hāmākua to harvest the cane. When they used the ditch to harvest the cane manually, they used to throw all the cane inside the ditch and let the ditch water take them to the mill in Haina." Mr. Batalona's uncle, Kelly Loo, who once worked for Hawaii Irrigation, Company, used Mud Lane frequently to work on the ditches for the sugar company. Mr. Batalona's family would use the road to travel up to Waimea on horseback. "In fact, my grandfather guys used to take Parker Ranch cattle, come down Mud Lane Road, go into Waipio, and chase them up the Z trail to Waimanu."

Mr. Batalona does not recall anyone else using the road besides the sugar company. He believes that sugar company employees were the last people to use the road. He is unsure how the sugar company would travel on the road, but it is possible the sugar company used wagons during the earlier period. During more recent times, when bulldozers started becoming available, the sugar company maintained Mud Lane and kept the road clear. This probably continued until the 1960s. Around that time the sugar company stopped traffic on Mud Lane road by blocking access along the road. The road was considered private and by then the State had taken over the irrigation systems of Upper Hāmākua.

During the time of the Great Mahele in the 1800s much of Waiko`eko`e was awarded through the Land Commission to Lunalilo. Before the sugar company, the owners of the property where Mr. Stephen Long's lot is today, the Akana Family, used the road. Mr. Akana was the first Hawaiian to grow sugar cane on the entire Hāmākua Coast for Theo Davis. Parker Ranch used or leased the homestead properties along Mud Lane for cattle, and used the Mud Lane road

frequently, even after the sugar company had abandoned the area. Parker Ranch only operated down to the *makai* edge of the homestead property line.

Mr. Batalona remembers his old Portuguese neighbors talking about their grandparents that lived at the Portuguese camp and used the Mud Lane road to go up to Waimea by horseback. During the early 1900s there were several plantation camps within the area. He has knowledge of one camp located next to the Portuguese oven within the forest, and another located below Mr. Long's property. According to Mr. Batalona, there were "hundreds of people" living within the vicinity as part of a Portuguese community. There were also thousands more people living in Kukuihaele, and some may have used the road during early plantation times.

During Mr. Batalona's time at Mud Lane, he remembers the road being all mud. Only recently were portions of Mud Lane paved with gravel. He describes the road as being nasty, and when it rained the road was much like a swamp. "That's why they call it Mud Lane". According to Mr. Batalona, Mud Lane was drivable through its entire length, mainly during the plantation era. "The plantation had filled in tons of rock. It's not set, it's just dumped, and they graded them, and filled in, and tractor them down. It's all fill in, because the Mud Lane it's like a river bed to get through." The trees within the project area, according to Mr. Batalona, are 30 or 35 years old. The vegetation included mostly guava and grass, similar to pasture. Mr. Batalona does not recall anyone living in the surrounding area in the years just after he returned to the island.

Subject Name: Jamie Dowsett
Date of Interview: 11 October 2007

James “Jamie” Alexander Dowsett was born on the island of O`ahu on December 20, 1924. Mr. Dowsett was raised on Oahu, and spent his vacations in either Waimea or on the island of Moloka`i. He came to work for Parker Ranch in Waimea in 1948, remaining until the Korean War in 1951. After the war, in 1952, Jaime returned to work for the Ranch. This time he brought his wife to live with him in Waimea. After 16 years, Mr. Dowsett left Parker Ranch to work on the Pu`uwa`awa`a Ranch, then later moved to O`ahu to work for Mr. Dillingham at Mokule`ia Ranch until his retirement in 1990. Mr. Dowsett returned to Waimea with his wife in January 1991 where he resides today.

During his employment as Section Manager at Parker Ranch, Mr. Dowsett would spend almost every day at Mud Lane, keeping watch for poachers and hunters that might come on the property. He would use the Mud Lane Road to check the pasture fencing, and would drive cattle down it. Parker Ranch leased much of the Baker estate and other portions of land above the sugar plantation, utilizing them for cattle pasture. The property located below the Baker estate on the west side of Mud Lane road was referred to by the Parker Ranch cowboys as Mahiki. On the east side of the road it was referred to as the Waikoloa Grass Fields. Mud Lane was once considered an important spot for Parker Ranch, and Mr. Dowsett was responsible for running this portion of the ranch, as well as other sections along the Hāmākua Coastline. Parker Ranch controlled the area surrounding Mud Lane from the Forest Reserve line up to Waimea, and the Hamakua Sugar Co., owned and controlled the property below the Forest Reserve line. In the mid-1960, toward the end of the sugar era, Jack Ramos took over the lease of the Forest Reserve from Hamakua Sugar.

According to Mr. Dowsett, before his time the Hawaiian people from Waipi`o Valley would use Mud Lane as an access to bring up taro, *poi* and *ōkolehao* (liquor) from the valley. Mud Lane was known as the fastest and shortest way to travel to Waimea. The people would travel by donkey or horse, because of the commodities that were being transported. Mr. Dowsett states that during that time there was not much of a road, but that it was a trail until the time of the plantation. This trail was also known for smuggling *ōkolehao*, since liquor was once considered illegal in Hawai`i. During his time spent at Mud Lane, Mr. Dowsett mainly remembers only Parker Ranch cowboys and resident John Kahai Kupuna using the road. The access through Mud Lane was no longer needed because people had cars. The road was rough and wet, which usually prevented any cars from traveling on the road. Once in a while, he would see the forest ranger from the forest reserve come from *makai* on horseback. John Kahai Kupuna owned a piece of property east of Mud Lane Road and would use an old ford truck to commute to and from Waimea on the upper portion of the road. Parker Ranch would generally travel by horseback, and would use a jeep during fencing operations.

Mr. Dowsett remembers the road as being very muddy and swampy. However, he recalls a portion of the road having a rock base, but does not remember it running all the way down to Kukuihaele. No maintenance or grading work was done on or alongside of the road. There was asphalt paving done by Leslie Richard for the plantation. This gravel road would lead from Kukuihaele up to where the sugar fields ended. Mud Lane was not drivable for its entire

length. Mr. Dowsett claims that Parker Ranch would stay within Parker Ranch property, and that Honoka`a Sugar kept within their property. The sugar company would run cattle in the Forest Reserve as a meat source for the plantation communities. There were no plantation camps in the surrounding area because it was too wet and cold. A structure within the ginger patch next to the Portuguese oven was present during Mr. Dowsett's time there, but he is unsure if it was occupied and by whom. The forest consisted of native trees like `ōhi`a. The trees that line the upper portion of Mud Lane were planted by the Bakers. The Bakers planted the trees around the majority of their estate boundary, and along the road delineating it. The vegetation along the road within the project area was grass and pasture land.

Subject Name: Kelly Loo

Date of Interview: 28 October 2007

Kelly Kalei Loo was born at Waipi`o, Hawaii on August 03, 1932. It was in Waipi`o Valley that Mr. Loo was raised by his grandparents and lived for thirty years. Today, Mr. Loo lives in Kukuihaele, where he has been for the forty five years. Mr. Loo worked for Hawaiian Irrigation Company for forty years, and later with Waipi`o Shuttle. Today he works part-time on his farm in Waipi`o.

During his forty years working for the Hawaiian Irrigation Company, Mr. Loo would travel Mud Lane to read the rain gauges once a week every Friday. Mud Lane was part of his route for checking his job sites within the area. While working on the Upper Hāmākua Ditch, he recalls having to use Mud Lane only on a rare basis, the majority of the work for the ditch was done up *mauka* in Waimea. Mr. Loo would primarily use the road only up to the Parker Ranch property. He would primarily travel by horseback and sometimes during more modern times he would use a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Before his time at Mud Lane, Mr. Loo believes there was once a Puerto Rican plantation camp located below the Lalakea Reservoir within the Forest Reserve. During the earlier plantation period the road was a dirt trail, and children from the Puerto Rican camp would use the trail to walk down to Kukuihaele for school. The plantation people were probably the only people using the trail during that time. They would travel by horseback, mule and wagons, until modern times, when four-wheel drive vehicles and cane trucks were used on the road. The sugar company cane trucks and other vehicles would mainly stay below the forest reserve area, and would not cross into Parker Ranch's property. The sugar company had macadamia nut farms and ran cattle within the forest near Lalakea Reservoir. The sugar company probably abandoned the area in the early 1980s. Once in a while he would see Parker Ranch cowboys fixing fences or riding around on horseback. Parker Ranch employees would always be seen on horseback during his earlier years spent on Mud Lane, then in the later years he would sometimes see them driving four-wheel drive vehicles.

In the earlier years, Mud Lane was a dirt track, but later the sugar company paved the road. Paving started with gravel, and later hot mix (a gravel and oil mixture) was used. Maintenance on the road was done by the sugar company. The road needed maintenance after heavy rains, especially when there was machinery traveling on it. Heavy equipment, including bulldozers, was used to maintain the road. The sugar company maintained Mud Lane Road only on their side of the forest line. Mr. Loo does not believe Parker Ranch ever maintained Mud Lane on their side of the forest line. It was possible to drive a vehicle through the entire length of Mud Lane, between Waimea and Kukuihaele. The vegetation within the Parker Ranch property along Mud Lane was mainly grass and pasture land. On the sugar company's property within the forest reserve there were "gum" trees, then below the forest the cane fields began.

Mr. Loo has no knowledge of any ancient trails or oral traditions regarding Mud Lane or the surrounding area. He recalls the Portuguese oven located alongside Mud Lane road, but remembers it as being abandoned.

Subject Name: Alex Peneveroff

Date of Interview: 10 October 2007

Alex Peneveroff was born in Hilo, Hawaii on December 22, 1935. He was raised both in Hilo and the Lake Land Subdivision in Waimea. He has lived his whole life in Lake Land, where his grandfather had property. Today, he lives in Lālāmilo as a business man where he has been for the past 20-25 years. Since, Mr. Peneveroff was a child he would ride all the way up and down Mud Lane on horseback at least once a week. He has also worked for Parker Ranch within the area surrounding Mud Lane for over 15 years.

Before Mr. Peneveroff's time the cowboys from Waimea would use Mud Lane to travel from Waimea to Waipi'o for social events. During his time spent at Mud Lane, he remembers mainly Parker Ranch and John Kahai Kupuna and his family using the road. The traffic was very light and he does not recall anyone else that used the road on a regular basis. Horseback was the most common mode of transportation, and rarely would anyone travel by foot in those days. Parker Ranch would use the road to check the fence line, most of the time on horseback. John Kahai Kupuna, a cattleman, owned property on the east side of the road. The property was not used as his residence, but only where he kept his cattle and a corral. He would use Mud Lane to travel back and forth from Waimea. Although during his time wagons were outdated, Mr. Peneveroff states that Kahai Kupuna did own and use a wagon, as well as an old truck with wooden spoke wheels and a crank start engine. Mr. Kahai Kupuna may have passed away in the 1960s, and his family today live in Waimea. Mr. Aoki, the caretaker for the property located *mauka* of the Māmalahoa Highway, lived above Kahai Kupuna near the water hole where the driving range at the golf course is today.

Mr. Peneveroff remembers the Mud Lane road being just dirt, although there may have been gravel located on a section of the road where there is a big hill near Mr. Kahai Kupuna's property. You could probably drive all the way down the road, because it was clear of vegetation. At the forest line, which was then sugar cane property, the road was usually gated with a lock that may have been put on by the plantation. The sugar company would not use the portion of the road that was above the forest reserve. The forest was like a buffer separating Parker Ranch and the sugar cane fields. The road rarely needed maintenance work done, and if so needed it only minimally. If there was any maintenance work required, it was probably done by the people using it, such as Kahai Kupuna or Parker Ranch. Mr. Peneveroff doubts that the road was maintained by Parker Ranch because the ranch focused mainly on ranch work, as opposed to clearing vegetation and grading the road. During his time, he has never seen a bulldozer on the Parker ranch portion of the road, but he is certain that the sugar company maintained the plantation portion of the road.

The vegetation and trees has always been the way it is now. There were large trees, ginger, eucalyptus trees and pasture along the side of the road. The large trees were there during his whole life spent at Mud Lane. Mr. Peneveroff does not recall any plantation camps or any activities that may have taken place within the surrounding area. He does remember a green and white house with a red roof on stilts located next to the Portuguese oven and thinks there might be a burial that could be associated with it.