

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Ruby Catherine Munro

*"Oh, it was a beautiful, lovely old ranch house. Just spread all over the place, you know. Just a beautiful old house. Had so many bedrooms. I used to roller skate on the front porch all the way around, right around to the kitchen. One of those old places that just went everywhere, you know. And I used to start in the front gate, and then I'd go down the (veranda), all around, and past the dining room, bouncing to the kitchen. It was a very long way. It was a very good run, though, very good run."*

Ruby Catherine Munro, youngest child of Lāna'i Ranch manager George Campbell Munro and Jean Tait Munro, was born June 4, 1903 on Moloka'i. When Ruby was four, they moved to New Zealand, George Munro's home country. The family arrived on Lāna'i in 1911 when George Munro accepted a position as ranch manager. They lived in the manager's home in Kō'e'e.

Ruby attended Pālāwai School and, briefly, Kō'e'e School before beginning the fifth grade in Honolulu. She returned to Lāna'i to spend all of her vacations. After graduation, Ruby worked in Honolulu for Pālāma Settlement and for the Department of Education's Vocational Division.

She resides in Honolulu with her niece, Ruth L. Munro.

Tape No. 16-25-1-89

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Ruby Catherine Munro (RCM)

January 20, 1989

Honolulu, O'ahu

BY: Mina Morita (MM) and Warren Nishimoto (WN)

[NOTE: Also present at the interview was Ruth Munro (RM), Ruby Munro's niece.]

MM: This is an interview with Ruby Munro at her home at Makiki, on Friday, January 20, 1989.

WN: Okay. You can start.

MM: Okay. Let's start with your full name.

RCM: My name is Ruby Catherine Munro. Ruby, R-U-B-Y. Catherine, C-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E. Munro, M-U-N-R-O.

MM: And where were you born?

RCM: I was born on Moloka'i.

MM: And your birth date?

RCM: June 4, 1903.

MM: And was this when your father was employed by Moloka'i Ranch?

RCM: Moloka'i Ranch, yes.

MM: What's your father's full name?

RCM: George Campbell [Munro].

MM: And your mother's name?

RCM: Jean Wright Tait [Munro].

MM: Okay. Her maiden name?

RCM: T-A-I-T, Tait.

MM: Where was your father born?

RCM: In New Zealand.

MM: And your mother?

RCM: My mother was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

MM: Do you know--and then, did they meet in New Zealand?

RCM: She went to New Zealand as a young girl.

MM: And they married in New Zealand?

RCM: He married her in New Zealand. And he brought her over to the Islands after that.

RM: She was very unhappy.

RCM: My mother was very unhappy, very unhappy.

MM: In New Zealand?

RM: She was lonely. She was a city girl living in the country.

RCM: Yes, she was a city girl.

WN: How old were you when you moved to Lāna'i?

RCM: I was just a little kid. When we went to Lāna'i [in 1911], I was nine years old. I stayed in New Zealand until I was nine years old. And then we came over here to Lāna'i.

MM: Directly from New Zealand?

RCM: Yeah, directly from New Zealand.

MM: You were there [New Zealand] for six years.

RCM: I was nine years old at that time. We were in New Zealand for six years, I guess. Something like that.

WN: Did you come together with your father and mother to Lāna'i?

RCM: That's right, mm hmm, mm hmm.

RM: The whole family.

RCM: The whole family came at one time. We've been all over so often, (chuckles) so many different places.

MM: Did you go to school on Lāna'i at nine years old?

RCM: Well, we did a little bit. My oldest sister [Jeannie Munro Towill] tutored us a little bit on Lāna'i. And then after that I went to school in Honolulu here.

MM: When you were going to school on Lāna'i, where was it located?

RCM: The schoolhouse was located in different places on Lāna'i.

MM: In the [Pālāwai] Basin?

RCM: In the basin I think it was. At the first part, it was in the basin, what we used to call the basin on Lāna'i.

MM: Pālāwai?

RCM: Pālāwai. You know a good deal about it. So we used to ride horseback going down to school. I had to ride behind my sister (chuckles) on horseback. I had a hard time keeping up with (her). She'd be going so fast, and I'd be so scared. (Chuckles) Scared in back of my sister's horse.

MM: Was that the only school?

RCM: That was the only one on Lāna'i. [There was a school in Keōmuku.] The [Kō'ele] School [moved] up mauka a little bit.

MM: Below the ranch area? [The seventh green of the present Cavendish Golf Course.]

RCM: Closer to the ranch, yes. And I went to school there for a little while, then I came down here [Honolulu] to school.

MM: When you were going to [school in] Pālāwai, who was the teacher at that time?

RCM: I'll tell you who was the teacher. Amelia [Gay] Dickson. You know who she is? She's Violet Gay's older sister. She was our teacher. And she was a very, very nice lady. And she started out, I guess, down in the basin, down in Pālāwai. And after that, we moved up closer to the ranch [manager's] house.

MM: When they had the school at the ranch, was it a newly-built building?

RCM: Well, they had two buildings. One was down the Pālāwai, and one was down at the ranch. And I've kind of forgotten about when they moved up to the ranch. [The Pālāwai School building was moved to Kō'ele.]

MM: About how old were you when it moved?

RM: You must have been around twelve, thirteen.

RCM: No.

RM: No, not that old?

RCM: No, I wasn't in the school very long.

RM: Were you ten, eleven?

RCM: Something like that.

RM: When you went to Punahou, how old were you? When you first went to Punahou?

RCM: I was in the fifth grade when I went to [Punahou] School.

WN: What kind of a teacher was Amelia Dickson?

RCM: She was very nice. She was a typical Hawaiian, you know. And she was principal of the school. And we got along very, very well. I didn't stay in the school very long, I don't think. I don't know how many years it was. But, she was principal for a while and then--who took her place? I don't know who took her place. Well, Jeannie was there for a little while.

WN: That's your sister?

RCM: My sister, yes. She was there for a little while.

WN: So your sister Jeannie also taught you at school?

RCM: Yeah, she taught for a little while. And I didn't really go to the school very long.

WN: Where did you live in Lāna'i?

RCM: In the ranch [manager's] house.

WN: In Kō'e'e?

RCM: Kō'e'e, yes.

MM: Can you describe the house?

RCM: The old house in Lāna'i? Oh, it was a beautiful, lovely old ranch house. Just spread all over the place, you know. Just a beautiful old house. Had so many bedrooms. I used to roller skate on the front porch all the way around, right around to the kitchen. One of those old places that just went everywhere, you know. And I used to start in the front gate, and then I'd go down the (veranda), all around, and past the dining room, bouncing to the kitchen. It was a very long way. It was a very good run, though, very good run.

And I used to play by myself a good deal. I had an older sister [Georgina Munro Meyer], a little older than I was, about two years older than I was. But she didn't seem to play with me. She didn't

play like I would play, you know, the same way. And so I used to go off on my own and do a lot of horsing around.

WN: Besides roller skating, what kind of things did you do?

RCM: Oh, I used to play jacks a lot. (Chuckles) All the things I could think up myself because we had very limited place for games and things like that, you know.

MM: Were you able to play with any other . . .

RCM: No.

MM: . . . kids in the neighborhood?

RCM: No, we weren't able to play at all. We didn't go to the playground at all very much. Till they came down here, then we played a little basketball. I was very interested in basketball, and that was very nice. And that's about all.

WN: Were you lonely at all?

RCM: No, I wasn't lonely, I used to play with my dolls and things. (Chuckles) I used to have dolls that was cut out of magazines, you know. Mother would get these dolls out of magazines. And I used to play a lot in the trees, you know, in the yard.

MM: Why don't you describe the yard for us. I know it was very big.

RCM: Yes, it was very large, and we had a . . .

RM: Wasn't it all dirt when you first got there?

RCM: Well, when I first got there, yes, it was full of geraniums and . . .

RM: Lepo.

RCM: Lepo, yes. (Chuckles) Geraniums and lepo. And then, Mother got working with the boy on it quite a long time, and it emerged into a very beautiful garden.

MM: Who did all the gardening?

RCM: Well, luckily, by that time on Lāna'i, we had help, you know. And we had a woman [Masuka Abe] in the kitchen. And this boy worked outside. He was the yard boy. Very, very nice.

MM: And what was his name?

RM: [Eizo] Abe.

RCM: Abe, oh, Abe (chuckles).

MM: Did he move especially to Lāna'i, or was he already there?

RCM: Oh, I think he was already there, I'm not sure. Father had brought in a lot of people for the ranch, you know. And I think he's one of those. I think probably she came with him, I guess. Very nice. [Eizo and Masuka Abe arrived in Kō'ele in 1921 from Lahaina. See interview with Fumiko Abe Watanabe.]

WN: Could you speak to them at all? Did they speak English?

RCM: Oh yes. Oh, yes. Uh huh.

MM: What other kinds of things were in the yard?

RCM: Well, we had a big vegetable garden, huge big vegetable garden. A lot of avocados, and all kinds of things. And there was a lot of lime trees and lemon trees. Strawberry guava, all kinds of stuff.

RM: Mulberry.

RCM: When we first went to Lāna'i, we were the only families--just two families. Gay family and the Munro family (chuckles) outside of the workers.

WN: Did you play with the Gay children at all?

RCM: Not very much. We stayed by ourselves and they stayed by themselves, more or less. But they're all very good friends.

MM: What kind of things did you and your family used to do, you know, for recreation?

RCM: Well, Mother was a great fisherman. She'd go fishing. Go down the coastline fishing a lot. And we didn't do very much else. Horseback riding, things like that.

WN: Did you go with your mother, fishing?

RCM: Oh yes, we went fishing. She'd be fishing on her own, more or less. We didn't fish with her, exactly. But we went down every time they'd go down. It was all just in one car, you know. And there was a whole bunch of us that (went) together.

We'd make a lot of clothes. We'd go to Punahou, buy our material, you know, for the summer months. Take all that stuff home, and make it up, so we would have the clothes for the year that way, you see. Mother would help us with the sewing machine and all.

MM: While you were living there, were there any other stores besides the ranch store?

RCM: Well, you see, the [Hawaiian] Pineapple Company had stores of their own. They have their stuff. And we would deal with . . .

RM: Didn't you buy stuff from town?

RCM: We didn't have any [stores] before the pineapple company came in.

WN: Was the fishing that your mother did, hook-and-line kind?

RCM: Hook-and-line, yes. Father was a great one to fix all the lines for her and get everything all ready. And he would go down spear fishing, he'd go spear fishing. And down on Lāna'i, they had a lot of these big, big fish along the shore. And they'd be in the ponds, and Father'd go spearing. And while he went spearing, Mother fished. And she had more patience than ten people put together, I think. She'd just stand on the side there and wait and try hooking a fish. But you know, not very many fish. But she enjoyed it very much. She and Father used to go quite a lot. And, of course, the kids would go, too, see.

WN: How would you go to the coastline from the ranch?

RCM: We'd go by horses very often. We'd go by car sometimes as the cars came in. At first we just went by horseback. Mother used to ride a--what was . . .

RM: Side saddle.

RCM: Side saddle, yes. She used to ride side saddle. Mother was a great rider even when she was very young. She used to . . .

RM: Steeplechase.

RCM: Steeplechase. They used to have steeplechase races, and things like that. And she was always one of the first ones always to be a winner in the races. And she got some very nice medals.

WN: Did this--this is competing on Lāna'i?

RM: On Kaua'i. Kaua'i is where they had horse racing.

MM: Did you have a lot of fish in your diet then, while you were growing up?

RCM: No. I didn't have much fish like that. We didn't really catch much fish, I guess. (Laughs)

MM: It was mostly for sport, huh?

RCM: Mostly sport, yes. We didn't catch much fish. We didn't used to eat much fish either. On Lāna'i, we ate more lamb than anything else. Lamb and mutton and stuff like that.

RM: Beef.

RCM: Beef, yes. Mostly lamb. Mostly lamb.



MM: Did your mother do all the cooking?

RCM: No. Well, by that time, we had girls in the kitchen, so that was very nice. But until then, Mother did all the cooking.

WN: I was reading in your father's book [i.e., George C. Munro's unpublished manuscript, entitled "Story of Lāna'i"] that he used to entertain quite a bit.

RCM: Oh, he did. When we first went to Lāna'i, they had the Lāna'i [Ranch] Company. And they used to bring a lot of men up to Lāna'i to fish.

RM: Hunt.

RCM: And hunt, yes. And they did a lot of that. They used to have hunting parties, big parties came up from Maui and Honolulu. And very often, they'd come in there, and the parties would go and stay in the cottage. And once in a while, to separate the snorers from the (chuckles) other people, they would be delegated to the main house, you know. They would have a place for them in the main house.

RM: Like Prince [Jonah] Kūhiō [Kalaniana'ole].

RCM: Yeah. Some of them had very, very poor--Prince Kūhiō. He was one of the party one time, and he was a snorer. So he (chuckles) used to be in the main house most of the time 'cause he used to snore a lot. So they delegated him to go to the main house.

RM: Assigned the cottage?

RCM: No, the cottage was for the . . .

RM: For the non-snorers?

RCM: . . . for the non-snorers, for all the people here, most of the people, you might say. (Chuckles)

MM: Did he come often or did he just make that one trip?

RCM: What's that?

MM: Prince Kūhiō? Did he come to Lāna'i often?

RCM: Well, once in a while. I don't know how often he went. I imagine more than once or twice. Just for the certain fishing parties or hunting parties that they had, you know.

WN: So where did these hunting parties eat? Eat dinner, for example?

RCM: At our house. Our house had a big dining-room table. And it was great, you know, having all those different people arrive at our

house. And Father would be the host. And really, it was a very nice life for us kids, because we met a lot of people, and it was very interesting.

WN: At these big dinners, were you there at the table, too?

RCM: Oh, yes. Always at the table, always at the table. The folks didn't isolate us in the kitchen or anything like that. Very fortunately, we just stayed with the family, and the host just joined the family, that's all. (Chuckles)

WN: Did the guests bring their children with them?

RCM: No they didn't. Well, the Baldwins did sometimes. They brought the boys. They had three boys, and they used to come over to Lāna'i and hunt. And quite often, just the boys themselves. And she would come, once in a while, Mrs. Baldwin from Maui. She'd come over once in a while. She could hunt very nicely. And she was a very nice lady.

WN: This is Mrs. Henry Baldwin?

RCM: Not Mrs. Henry, Mrs. Frank.

WN: Frank Baldwin.

RCM: Frank Baldwin. There's Frank Baldwin, and Henry was his brother. He used to come hunting too, sometimes. It was very nice, very nice life. Father had a very good life on Lāna'i.

WN: Did they eat breakfast and lunch and dinner?

RCM: Well, they didn't have lunch. They used to take their lunches out, and they'd go hunting. Very often Father would find out where they [i.e., hunting spots] were located, and he kept these hunting parties off on the trail.

RM: In Model-T cars.

RCM: (Chuckles) Yes, it was very good, it was very nice.

MM: Did you learn how to hunt also?

RCM: No, I never hunted. I didn't like the idea. (Chuckles) Well, they used to go there on their own, you know, with Father, and very often Henry. Do you know Henry?

RM: What Henry are you talking about?

RCM: Henry Gibson.

RM: Oh, Henry Gibson. He went?

RCM: He'd go with Father, once in a while. Although it had been mostly the Baldwins going on their own. And Father would show them where to go.

WN: Was there a fireplace in the ranch house?

RCM: Oh, yes. Uh huh. Beautiful big fireplace. Nice. Everything was lovely. To the kids in school, that was very sad.

(Chuckles)

RCM: Kids in school with no money.

WN: You mean, when you have to go away to school?

RCM: Yes, that's right.

WN: Was that happy or sad for you, to go away?

RCM: Well, let's see. . . .

RM: But you enjoyed school, didn't you?

RCM: I enjoyed school right down here [Punahou School], yes. I didn't go to school on Lāna'i very much, to tell you the truth. I had very little schooling on Lāna'i.

WN: But you came back to Lāna'i for summers.

RCM: Well, we came back to Lāna'i for summers, yes. Spent a lot of time on Lāna'i. We'd take people up there, you know, from [our] different classes. My sister [Georgina] was in the class ahead of me, and she would take somebody up there.

MM: How did you go back and forth?

RCM: Oh, we had a Lāna'i launch, they called it. They had several different boats that went over to Lahaina. We'd go from Lāna'i, by . . .

RM: You went by launch to Lahaina.

RCM: Yeah, went by launch to Lahaina. Then from Lahaina, we'd pick up the bigger boats, the inter-island boats from there down to here.

MM: Did you leave from Mānele or Keōmuku?

RCM: The launch very often left from Keōmuku. But most of the time was generally Mānele, on the other side.

WN: Did you come back for Christmases, too?

RCM: I came back every chance I had. I just loved Lāna'i. I just loved

Lāna'i. And I hate like the devil what they're doing to it right now.

WN: What was Christmas like on Lāna'i?

RCM: Christmas was very nice. We used to take people up there. Each one would take a gift for each member of the family, and we'd have lovely, lovely Christmases up there. When I was very young, we used to have stockings hanging up by the fireplace, and we would put an orange in there, or something like that, you know, we wouldn't have money to buy anything. So we put an orange in there, or something.

RM: Not like stockings today.

RCM: No. I should say not.

WN: I would imagine, though, an orange must have been a real treat.

RCM: Well, that's why it was there. It was a real treat.

MM: I guess apples, too, huh, apples and oranges.

RCM: Apples, too, quite often, but mostly oranges. We'd get a case of oranges. A whole case of it. We'd be eating oranges from day one. (Chuckles) It was very nice.

MM: When you lived in the ranch house, was there a church, or how did . . .

RCM: Yes, they had churches. Well, of course, they built the churches later, I guess. The Hawaiians had their churches, you know.

MM: How about when people got sick? What did you do . . .

RCM: My father was the "doctor" and he took care of everything. Once one of the Hawaiians was chasing all around the place, being kind of crazy. So Father had to walk behind him for quite a while until he'd gotten him calmed down, you know. He was all excited. I don't know what it was all about. But anyway, Father took care all the illnesses.

RM: And how about the fishhook?

RCM: Oh, that's Mother. Mother got the fishhook caught in her fingers. She got right across from Lana'i to Lahaina holding her finger like that. She had this fishhook caught in it, and she went from Lana'i over to Lahaina to the doctor. We didn't have any doctors, we didn't have anything over here on Lana'i. So Mother went across to Lahaina. And she was holding her arms out, this little finger that had the fishhook in it.

WN: So if it was serious and your father couldn't . . .

RCM: And he couldn't handle it . . .

WN: Then they went to . . .

RCM: Then, that's right, yes.

WN: Did you have to go to Lahaina for the doctor at all?

RCM: Me? No. I never had to go. I was too healthy.

(Laughter)

MM: Did he have like a medicine chest or something that . . .

RCM: Well, he kind of had what he had. (Chuckles)

MM: You do what you had to do.

RCM: And do what he had to do.

WN: How about childbirth? Did your father had to deliver babies too?

RM: I don't think he did.

RCM: I guess he didn't. I guess by that time . . .

RM: There was a midwife or whatever.

RCM: They had midwives that took care the things, yes. Most of the time.

WN: Did you help your father at all, planting some of the Norfolk pines on the island?

RCM: No, nothing like that. No, I didn't ever do anything like that.

WN: Did you help your father at all in doing any kind of ranch work?

RCM: No.

MM: Did you have chores to do?

RCM: Chores? Well, we used to always go through the house once a week, I guess. And my sisters and I would mix up the work. She'd take half the house, I'd take the other half.

RM: With hand mops.

RCM: Yes. (WN chuckles.) Very often. After that, then we got the help in the house and that helped a lot. (Chuckles)

WN: Such a big house.

RCM: So we went from having nothing (chuckles) to a little more.

RM: We used to have a wood stove.

RCM: Oh, yes. When we first got to Lāna'i, we used to have a wood stove in the kitchen. When we first went to Lana'i, there was very little, very little to do. Nothing to play with. And so, I used to have a hard time finding things to do and things to play with.

MM: When you first moved to Lāna'i, did you bring all of your furniture and stuff with you folks?

RCM: Yeah, I guess we did. What did we do? I've forgotten. Well, we'd take what we needed, I guess. All our furniture was very basic, you might say, what we needed. I don't really remember much about the furniture we had. I remember sleeping in certain parts of the house and all, but nothing that comes to me. (Chuckles)

WN: Did you have your own room in your house?

RCM: Well, Sister and I used to live together, and the folks had their room.

RM: There were five bedrooms and the nursery?

RCM: My older sisters were there. Some of them lived there for a little while. Then they went to Honolulu to live.

RM: Moved away.

RCM: They went to work.

WN: Did you have pets?

RCM: Did we have pets? We certainly did. We had all kinds of pets. We had cats and dogs and all kinds of . . .

RM: Owl?

RCM: We had the cutest little pet owl you ever saw.

WN: Owl?

RCM: An owl. Father found him, he had his wings hurt or something. And he was so cute, he was just so cute. And he used to cry for his food. And he'd come on the lanai, in the back of the kitchen, and he'd call for his food. He was a cute little thing. But I don't know what happened to him. I think something must have gotten him, I don't know what could have happened to him.

WN: Did he have a name?

RCM: I don't know whether he had a name or not. (Chuckles)

MM: What did you feed him, (chuckles) mice?

RCM: We fed him meat. He liked raw meat. I was trying to think of his name. He didn't have a name, did he?

RM: I don't know.

RCM: You weren't even there. (WN chuckles.)

RM: Did you have a pet lamb or pet pig?

RCM: Oh, I had a pet pig, cute pig. Dear little pig you ever saw. Adorable little pig. (Chuckles) He used to follow me all around the yard, all over the place. Followed me everywhere. Nibbled at my heels, you know. (Laughs) He was very cute, very nice. Of course, we had our horses, and we used to ride horseback a whole lot.

MM: Did you have your own horse, or did you just have to take whatever they had?

RCM: Well, I took what was left.

(Laughter)

RCM: My [oldest] sister had the nicest horse, of course. My next sister, I guess she didn't have any horse. I don't know. Well, there was always horses around. Jim [i.e., James T. Munro] used to ride a horse. I don't know whether it was his horse, or whose horse it was. Probably the ranch, I guess. But we had a very good life.

MM: You remember about what time the cars started coming in, or when . . .

RCM: The cars?

MM: Using cars more?

RCM: Oh, let's see. Before we used to ride in Fords most of the time.

RM: Before '23?

RCM: Fords? Yes.

RM: Just cars period, when the first car was over here.

RCM: When did they bring the first car? How would I know? (Chuckles)

WN: That's a rough question.

MM: You went horseback a lot, and then . . .

RCM: Yeah, we went horseback riding a lot. Yes. Before the cars came in. The cars came in after that. And. . . .

WN: According to your father's book, it was in 1914.

RCM: Nineteen fourteen?

WN: The ranch's first Model-T was . . .

RCM: Oh, well, that's good. I'm glad you have that, that's fine.

WN: So you were probably about eleven years old?

RCM: That's fine, yes. I guess so.

MM: It seems that they went from depending on horseback to cars.

RCM: Yeah, we had a lot of horseback. The ranch had a lot of horses, you see, and we used to ride horses. And then the cars came in after that.

RM: And when did you say, 1914?

WN: Mm hmm.

RCM: Yes, '14.

WN: But that was the ranch's first car, so it probably took a while after that for more cars to come in.

RCM: I think so. Yes, I think so.

RM: And roads.

RCM: And roads, yeah.

MM: Didn't have roads.

RCM: We didn't have roads either. We had one to Mānele and one to Keomuku. And then that's about all we had.

RM: Then how did they ship the pineapples before there were cars?

WN: I'm sure when Hawaiian Pine . . .

RCM: There were cars when it was Hawaiian Pine. I think probably Hawaiian Pine brought in a lot of stuff.

MM: This was around 1922, 1923.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: What do you remember about Kenneth Emory coming to Lāna'i?



RCM: Do I remember Kenneth Emory? He's still alive, isn't he?

WN: I think he is.

RCM: Is he still alive? Dear old thing. He'd come to Lāna'i [in 1921-1922] during my vacation. And it was just great having him over there. He was just graduating from college when he arrived on Lāna'i. And he was studying--he was very interested in everything about the Islands. He was interested in everything that was Hawaiian. And he stayed, I think, about three months, during my summer vacation. We had a great time. We used to go hunting and fishing, all sorts of things. He and my cousins used to go around together and had a great time.

MM: Did you help them with the surveys?

RCM: I wish I had more to do with him. But I didn't have very much to do with him really. We used to go places and do things, but we didn't do very much of any . . .

RM: You were still in high school, right?

RCM: Yeah, I was still in high school. I was just a kid really. Thought of myself a kid, too, you know. And I should have thought about him as being sort of a different type of man, you know. But anyway, he used to ride horseback with us, and do all kinds of things. He was very nice.

WN: Did he stay up at the ranch house?

RCM: Anybody [who] stayed up there, they stayed with us. (Chuckles)

MM: Did you ever spend time down at Keōmuku?

RCM: I knew Keōmuku very well. Hawaiians used to be down there, but we didn't do very much with them.

MM: Did you visit very often?

RCM: Not very often, no. We used to come and go. Kids used to come and go, and that's about all we did. You have some more questions, you said you have . . .

WN: I think that's all for me. Do you have any?

MM: Just the changes you saw when they started building Lāna'i City, how did it affect you? How did the ranch change when they started building Lāna'i City?

RCM: I didn't pay much attention to it.

(Laughter)

WN: I guess you were sort of away at school.

RCM: I was away, I was down here at school, I guess. But anyway, I don't remember very much. I used to be on my own, more or less, working away at different things just on my own, you know. I haven't had too much playmates and stuff like that.

MM: So most of the time it was just you and your sister, Georgina?

RCM: Yes, Georgina. She was my next sister. I had two other sisters, two older, and they were going to school down here [Phillips Commercial School]. And then I started working [at Palama Settlement]. I started there.

On Lāna'i, Father used to take us riding all the time in the Ford. And he used to take us out every time to the point out there on the island. He'd always come from the back roads so we'd go with him. Mother would go with him. We would all go pile in the car and then everybody who was staying with us at the house they'd (chuckles) pile in the car, too.

RM: You didn't go by road, you just went.

RCM: We just went. They just drove, yes.

WN: One more question--one or two more. You know there's a lot of changes going on Lāna'i now. What do you think about the changes?

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

RCM: We're very sorry that they didn't leave Lāna'i in its old state, you know. More the simple--more simple. Then Castle & Cooke came in, they should have had the--not so much modern stuff.

RM: Atmosphere.

RCM: . . . atmosphere, yes. And it's a shame that they didn't because they could have had just a beautiful little city. Awfully cute, but they've done too much new stuff, you know, it's a shame. We were just disappointed in that. But you could help me with that.

RM: I haven't seen it. I can't say.

MM: When was the last time you visited Lāna'i?

RCM: A long time ago.

RM: When they dedicated the [Munro] Trail [in 1955].

RCM: Yes, there was a trail up there that goes over the mountain.

MM: That was a while ago. (Chuckles)

RCM: Yes, it was a long time ago. And I went there for that, the dedicating of that trail.

MM: Did you take that jeep ride over the trail?

RCM: No, I have never taken a jeep ride over, but I went up there on horseback one time, a long time ago. It would have to be a long time ago. (Chuckles)

RM: Didn't you ride when they opened up the trail?

RCM: On horseback, yes, on horseback.

WN: Okay. Well, thank you very much.

RCM: I'm sorry.

WN: I think you did very good.

RCM: I'm sorry that I haven't done more for you.

END OF INTERVIEW

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