LOYAL TO THE LAND
Sonny Kaniho recounts—

The senior Mr. Martin Martinson was the cause of this trip because he wanted to know more about Mauna Kea. Since my dad married his daughter, Mary, Mr. Martinson asked my dad to give him a trip up there for a historical tour in 1934. Because of this trip, many people had the opportunity to go up to Mauna Kea. Before this, they didn’t travel up there very much. The photographer was Willie Kaniho, who was my father. There were ten men and their horses. All of the men were cowboys and all of them worked for Parker Ranch.

Coming down was the most dangerous, because of the frozen snow. It was very slippery. One cowboy, Frank Vierra, failed to follow instructions. They were all supposed to go slow, but he pulled the reins and spurred his horse. The horse, a Percheron gelding, started sliding downhill, slid on his side, and lost his rider. Both slid down the mountain and then slid across the valley. They were sliding so fast that they kept on going up the next slope, and then they sawed between the two hills until the momentum stopped. Everybody cracked up after that. No one else wanted to do that.

Those were the good times.
LOYAL TO THE LAND

The Legendary Parker Ranch, 1950–1970

Volume 2

The Senior Stewards

Dr. Billy Bergin

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