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## Chatting

with M. H. B.

● **SECOND BEST** to taking the trip ourselves is hearing first hand about someone else's visit to a glamorous far-off land. Mrs. Floria Newell, 9 Edith St. provides this vicarious travel thrill when she lent me a letter she had received from a friend telling about the trip taken to Hawaii. Mr. and Mrs. Mershon, who live in San Diego, California, used the letter as an unique Christmas message to their friends. Like to read about it? Here we go...

● **THE PAST YEAR** has been rather routine for the Mershons with the highlight being their Honolulu trip in June, celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. It was a wonderful experience beginning with a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu in 9 hours. Neil, Marie and Gail-Lynn Stock (whose home and hospitality we enjoyed during our stay), met us at the airport at 6 a.m. with leis, and extended to us a truly Hawaiian welcome. The early morning sunrise as we flew at 16,000 feet over a "snow field" of fluffy white clouds, and our first glimpse of the islands were marvelous and awe inspiring sights. Neil had taken leave from his duties with the Navy, and the four of us enjoyed the trips and sights together. The Stocks in the true spirit of Hawaiian hospitality acted as chauffeur and guide—what luxury—so we were afforded the most excellent opportunity to visit and enjoy the wonderful sights and experiences of the beautiful island of Oahu.

"The temperature there is delightful, being around 80 degrees, with soft sea breezes blowing most of the time. When the wind doesn't blow it gets a little hot and sultry, so they say. But it was wonderful all the time we were there. The color of the water surrounding these tropical islands is like nothing one has ever seen, so clear with such vivid coloring it does not seem real. Close to shore it is all the shades of bright aqua blue-green with teal blue running out on the reefs and white capped breakers about quarter-mile off shore. There the surf riders are always in sight, so many of them, one wonders if they ever come in to eat and sleep. The water temperature is 76 degrees, excellent for swimming, and we enjoyed the various beaches, going swimming as much as our sunburns would allow.

"We enjoyed eating at a number of lovely spots: the Waikiki Sands was unusual, with the food served "smorgas-bord" style and a choice of many Hawaiian and American dishes. They also had a very good floor show. At Don the Beachcomber's, the food and floor show were excellent. A huge woven fan waved slowly overhead in the thatched roof structure—an effective Hawaiian version of modern air-conditioning. The floor shows in general were of Hawaiian, Tahitian (similar to Hawaiian only with a very fast beat, and a fast wiggle. Oh! Oh!) and Marquesian dances. The Tahitian flaming sword dances are spectacular; done by men (who must be practically fireproofed) to a very fast beat of a drum. The Hawaiian instrumental and vocal music leaves you with the lovely memory of a lovely peaceful island. At Don the Beachcomber's, Red Skelton was at the table next to ours. He was right in his usual character. I suppose he is never different, enjoying himself and entertaining others. He came over and spoke to us, and as a climax, when his bill was presented to him—he waved his hand and said "Everybody out, I've just bought this place."

"We celebrated our anniversary with dinner at the Hawaiian Village, a quite exotic place with varied and unusual architecture. They have quite an extensive building program going on with varied modern and picturesque architecture. (You would have to see it to figure that one out.)

"An interesting trip over the 'Pali', a pass thru the mountains, gave us an idea how strong the wind can and does blow in the high mountains; sometimes blowing cars off the road and engine hoods off. Hawaiian legend has it that suicides attempted by jumping over the cliff have been prevented by the force of the wind blowing the person against the nearly sheer cliff with such force he could not fall to the depths below. A tunnel will soon be finished which will allow much safer travel over this road during the storms. We continued over the Pali and visited the north-easterly side of the island, seeing many beautiful homes in an atmosphere of relaxed, peaceful living. We stopped to see the "blow-hole", where the ocean water drives into fissures in the lava formation, building up pressures and finally erupting thru an opening in the top like a geyser.

"We went on a very interesting trip at the courtesy of the Navy and for Navy people and their friends, on a very clean and neat sight-seeing boat for a tour of Pearl Harbor. The action of

harbour, taking pictures as permitted of the Arizona and the Utah, and viewed the various Navy installations. Saw the largest crane in the world (and I believe it).

"Pineapples are one of the main products of the islands. We visited the fields of precisely planted rows in the most vivid brick red soil and saw the harvesting operations in progress. At one of the loading platforms in the field, a foreman gave us five of the hugest juiciest pineapples. They were delicious, and we ate until they came out our ears. Then we visited the Dole factory. In the main lobby there are three faucets, two of them run chilled pineapple juice. You may drink all you wish, and the third faucet furnishes cold water for a chaser. The machine which peels, slices and cores the pineapples, all in one operation is called the Gineca after the engineer who invented it. It is the key to the industry. It increased production from one or two pineapples a minute, to ten. Pineapples are very perishable, and the speed with which they are handled and transported on endless belts through the machines is amazing. Mostly native women workers operate the many sorting machines where the rings are sliced, sorted and canned. Every piece of pineapple one eats has to be put into the can by hand. Then to the cookers, the labeling and boxing. The factory covers 58 acres, with hundreds of workers in "white caps" and uniforms.

"The trip around the island was most interesting. We packed a lunch and set out early. We saw rice paddies, cane and pineapple fields and banana groves. The west side of the island is lovely, but somewhat more native and primitive. The water seems bluer, and the beaches more rocky and rough. The native children swim like ducks, and many people were fishing out on the reefs or hunting among the rocks for octopus, a native delicacy. We returned by the north and east side of the island thru pretty villages with names such as Wahiawa, Kakaia, Hanalei, Kapaemahu, and Kailua. Went in swimming at Kailua beach, the most marvelous place to swim. It is a public beach with beautifully clear green tinged water over fine white coral sand. We enjoyed a beautiful sunset and returned over the Pali, down Nuuanu road through tropical forests with beautiful fern sand vines that form canopies over the road.

"We took many short trips in and around the city, visiting Foster Gardens with beautiful ferns, gigantic trees and beautiful flowers; the National Cemetery in the Punch Bowl, an extinct crater overlooking the city; to Trippler Hospital—a gigantic institution for the benefit of service personnel and their families; and the University of Hawaii with some very modern new buildings in a beautiful setting.

"We viewed Honolulu Harbor from Aloha Tower, saw the big warehouses for storing and loading sugar and other products; the cargo ships were entering and loading at the docks. We attended a docking of the Lurline, luxury liner with the welcoming dances, presenting of leis to the guests, and afterward took a guided tour of the ship. We spent some very enjoyable hours in the shops and studios, and in a factory where trays, dishes, tables and other articles were carved from native wood such as Koa and Monkey Pod. We completed some of our Christmas shopping and searched for some pictures for our home. We have one lovely handpainted picture of palms and the water in the sunset, which we plan to mount in a lighted shadow box for our living room.

"Then before we knew it, it was time to leave for home. We hated to leave the loveliness and grand experiences behind, but the time comes; so again at an early hour in the morning, the Stocks took us to the airport. They and Terry Walczak (another friend who came down to see us off), gave us beautiful leis and bid us good-bye. Then we boarded the huge silver ship and as she turned her nose up and out to sea over Diamond Head we bid aloha and farewell through departing tears (we will have to admit). Legend has it that if you throw your leis in the water as you go by Diamond Head, and it returns to shore, then you will return some day. We did that in spirit as we saw Diamond Head drift out of sight."

## Kathy Ankersmit Weds in Calgary

Mrs. Lykle DeVries of R. R. 5, Georgetown travelled to Calgary, Alberta, for the marriage of her cousin, Catharina Margareta Ankersmit to Erik A. Poulson, of that city. Catharina's parents are Mr. and Mrs. A. Ankersmit, of Nymegen, Holland, and Erik is the son of Mrs. C. Poulson and the late Mr. Poulson of Luenborg-Fynen, Denmark. The bride and groom are both employed at the T. K. O. Roofing Products, Calgary, Alberta.

The ceremony was performed in Grace Presbyterian in Calgary on Saturday, February the sixteenth by Dr. Frank Morley. Dr. Graham was at the organ. It was a double ring ceremony. A friend of the bride, Gordon Scott gave her in marriage. She was gown in white lace over satin fashioned with long sleeves and a high neckline with a small train. Her fingertip veil fell from a pearl tiara and her wedding bouquet was of red roses.

Maria Reardon, Calgary, was the maid of honour gown in a champagne coloured gown of net over taffeta. Her flowers were pink carnations. Neil Sterling, a friend of the groom was the groomsmen. After the ceremony at reception was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Irwin, 2408 11th Avenue S., W. Calgary. Mrs. DeVries received for her cousin in blue lace gown with pink accessories, her flowers were of pink roses.

Mrs. A. B. Irwin received for the groom dressed in navy blue crepe with pink rose corsage. For travelling the bride wore a brown tweed suit with brown accessories, her corsage was of pink roses. On their return, Mr. and Mrs. Poulson will live at 1607 15th Avenue, S. W. Calgary.

The bride's parents in Holland were unable to attend but they shared the wedding having sent the bride her gown from Holland and at the reception a tape recording was played which had messages from her father, mother, sister, brother-in-law and the family dog.

Miss Margery Mackenzie, Georgetown, was another guest from a distance. There were twenty-five guests at the reception.

The bride was honoured with two showers prior to her marriage, one from her fellow employees at the TKO Roofing Products and one from the Canadian Bank of Commerce staff, Georgetown, where she had been employed prior to leaving for Calgary.

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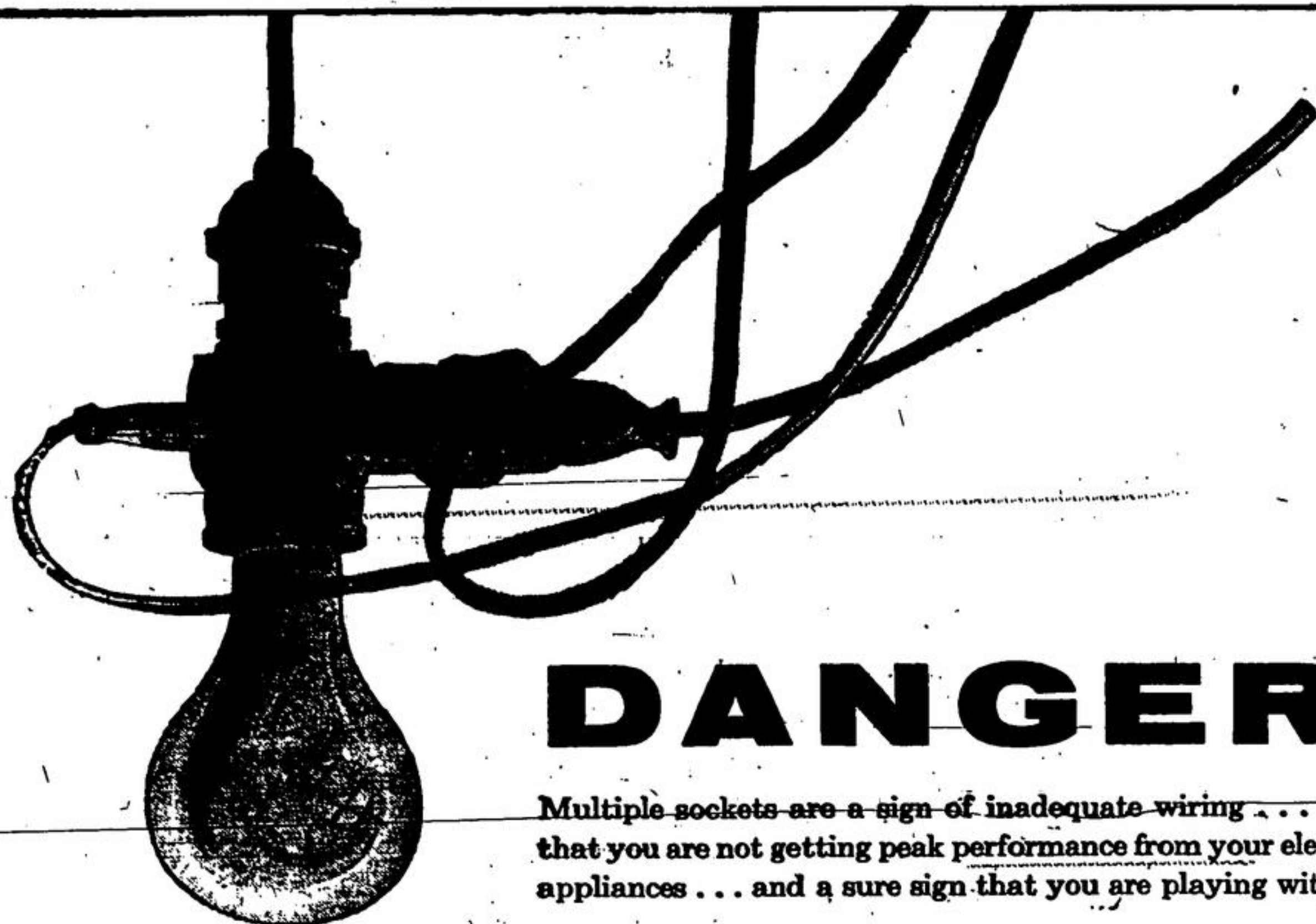
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