

Interesting Letters Give Hawaii Visit Impressions

Kona Palm Resort Hotel, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, March 25th, 1960.

Dear Friends: The sun fooled me this morning. It is now ten minutes to seven and he should have caught the reading lamp by my bedside in a "house of light" like the Sultan's Turban twenty minutes ago. He's just getting up now, looks as if I might have trouble with him today. I haven't much patience with sleepy heads.

Last, 20 golden minutes, each set with 60 diamond seconds, no reward is offered, they are lost forever. So the best thing I can do now is to write a little faster and give all you kind people a "Malikini" impression of false Jous Hawaii. "Malikini" is what the natives call us tourists. So, where shall I begin? At the beginning, see you.

OK, The George Swills, who are occupying our place while we are away, called for us in a good time, and took us and our baggage over to Waikiki. Everything was lovely, especially the 1953 champagne. Everybody on the plane had about four glasses each. Arrived in Vancouver same night and went directly to the Vancouver Hotel where we stayed until Saturday morning. We had two full days in Vancouver. The weather there was lovely, glass given and the flowers blooming.

Got on the plane at 10:45 Saturday morning for the long haul over the Pacific — 2600 miles of it. Free champagne, bye and Scotch this time. The stewardesses serve drinks about once an hour to anyone who wants one, which was everybody.

Saw nothing but clouds and sky and arrived at the international airport at Honolulu (Crossroads of the World) at 6:45 pm. Vancouver time 4:45 Hawaiian time and were met by a smart Olds '56 with a uniformed chauffeur. This had been kindly arranged by the John R. Barber Travel Agency. We felt like VIP's. All that was lacking was the red carpet. (You slipped up on that, John.)

The drive to the hotel was quite pleasant, as the chauffeur was also a guide and pointed out places of interest as we went along. So, we arrived at our hotel, and here comes the first impression of a "Malikini" of Hawaii. It was noise, noise, and more noise. The place is jumping, buildings being pushed up all over the place, hotels, apartment hotels, co-op apartments, two storey, apartment hotels, but no factories.

But I should have told you that we are at Waikiki Beach, a suburb of Honolulu. The beach is strictly for tourists and pleasure seekers who are "John working". And tourists, every hotel is filled up to overflowing for two months ahead. There are apartments in smaller units to be found if you have time to look around, but not many of them.

The main street, six lanes, runs between our hotel and the beach and the noise from it is worse than the building because the building noise stops at 8 p.m., but the street noises go on until about 4 a.m. We took it for a week, then started looking around, trying the smaller places. Most of the people just smiled and said they were sorry. But we finally found a little apartment and very nice, too, one block from the main street. We were there a week, when a big sign made its appearance just a little bit up the street on the north opposite side — "A 40-unit

hotel garden than just around where we are, it must be the Garden of Eden. Honolulu is the capital of Hawaii, the largest city and the chief port. It is said that almost all the tourists and freight, going and coming, pass through Honolulu. 700,000 travellers sighted at Honolulu airport last year. Almost every plane or ship crossing the Pacific calls at Honolulu.

Population of the islands a year ago was estimated at 645,000. This includes 50,000 in military establishments. The population, excluding the military, is classified as follows: 32% Japanese, 30% Caucasian, 20% Hawaiian, 11% Filipino, 0% Chinese and 4% other races. Industrially, sugar is the biggest crop. Last year, \$150 million worth of raw sugar was produced by 22 plantations distributed over four islands.

Pineapples are the second industry. It takes 18 months to produce a crop. Over \$100 million dollars worth were exported last year. Tourists are the third big money maker. It hasn't been estimated how many millions of dollars tourists leave in the islands, but as I said above 700,000 travellers sighted at the airport last year. This does not include the military, who are always coming and going. There are also thousands of tourists who come by boat, about 1000 a week. I would say Two Matson Luxury Liners a week carrying around 5000-6000 per ship.

The fourth industry is coffee. It is grown usually 1000-2000 feet above ocean level and mostly on small individual plots, 5 to 10 acres. It is considered a very fine brand of coffee and is used on the main land for blending with lower grade coffee to bring the standard up. The coffee here is known as Kona coffee.

Statistics are dry fare for the writer as well as the reader, so I will now try to describe the hours and cruise we have taken. Pearl Harbor terminal was by far the most interesting, so I enclose a copy of the lecture the captain gave us as we viewed the wreckage, or what is left of it. You may consider it of sufficient interest to publish parts of it.

The captain was quite a joker. A car called for us the morning of the cruise and had another customer to pick up. The other customer happened to be a Canadian girl from Edmonton. The cruise ship is required to pick up a naval officer at Pearl Harbor and have a list of his non-American passengers, so over the loudspeaker he asked all who were not American citizens to hold up their hands. Only three hands went up, Helena's mine, and the little girl from Edmonton. He announced that he might have to throw us overboard, but he would throw life belts after us.

All cameras were confiscated for the time we would be close enough to take pictures. I was disappointed because I was hoping to get some pictures. Parts of the hulls of the battleships Utah and Arizona are still above water. Over 1000 men went down with the Arizona, including the Commanding Officer. They didn't even try to get the bodies out as they were all burned to cinders. The explosions of armour-piercing Jap bombs which detonated the forward powder magazine made sure that all hands met instant death and were burned up.

Another morning, shortly after we arrived, we got a call at our hotel from Mackenzie's Personalized Tours to the effect that the Barber Travel Agency had arranged a tour of Honolulu and the surrounding country for us. We settled for next morning. Next morning, a smart chauffeur drove up in a Cadillac and picked us up. He had to call at another hotel for another couple, but they weren't around so we had the car to ourselves. The chief points of interest were the Iolani Palace (the only royal palace in U.S.A.); we went all through it. The Punchbowl Crater — an extinct volcano (hasn't erupted for 5000 years), has been all landscaped and is now the site of The Pacific War Memorial National Cemetery. Over 200,000 soldiers are buried there, we were told. Among them is Earl K. Pyle, the famous war correspondent. He is buried between two unknown soldiers.

But what impressed me the most was the grass but where it is, Stevenson lived and did a lot of his writing. They was not a bed in the hut, so I suppose he slept on grass mats on the floor. I would like to know where he is buried. I must go into the library when I get home. I'm sure that our help librarian will be able to tell me without even looking up one of his books. The only other tour we have taken was on this island (Hawaii) with another couple, to the Volcano country. Thousands of acres of land are covered with lava. It ran down the mountain sides and into the ocean. Long stretches of it are smooth and would have made a dandy highway if it had flowed in the right direction. At other places it is broken up into boulders of all sizes. The shore line is mostly lava boulders, black sand. We didn't see the latest volcano, but it wasn't in action any way, but we saw several craters where the steam is still coming out of the ground. But at the Volcano House, where we had lunch with about 500 others, we were shown a most realistic picture in colour of an erupting volcano. It was put on by the U.S.A. army and it is free. You would think that the red hot lava was going to roll right over you. Well, it is now 12 o'clock noon, still Sunday. We have been out sunning ourselves for a while, but the sun is really too hot to lie in. One has to keep turning over every three or four minutes — might as well be on a spit. You could fry an egg on the stone around the pool. We have got to the point where we could enjoy a nice snowfall, maybe a foot or so. We have mongooses running around outside. They are death on rats. They were imported to clean out the rats and they made a thorough job of it. Maybe I will bring one home to Georgetown. Hope to see all our friends about April 12th.

Aloha, Syd Orr.

Early Golf Birds Take Practice Shots

Several people enjoyed themselves at the Hornby Community Park on Sunday, by taking advantage of the Spring weather to practice up on their golf shots. Birthday greetings to Roy Lyne on April 6th.

Lyne Hill celebrated her birthday on Saturday with a party attended by eight of her girl friends. Her father showed cartoon films for them. Games were played and a birthday lunch enjoyed by all. Lyne was 12 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Foster and family of Scarborough moved into their new home on the eighth June. It was formerly the Douglas farm.

George and Bill Brady and Alfred Braden brought their fish home last weekend that were on Lake Simcoe. The fellows that were up in Northern Ontario catching fish last weekend brought home three fish. They had difficulty in getting a hole cut through the three feet of ice and it was below zero one night.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lathmer of Toronto visited with Mr. and Mrs. Les Sampson on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Thompson visited with Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Drew Brook and family at Maple on Sunday.

Mrs. George Learmont returned to her home on Sunday from St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, where she underwent an operation. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Stan Waters on the birth of their daughter on Monday, March 30th.

A report from Ottawa concerning the cottage inn for good things to eat.

THE Cottage Inn For Good Things to Eat All Through The Day! Breakfast - Coffee Break Lunch - Dinner - or the Evening Snack. Do Come in and Let Us Main St. S. - TR. 7-9004 Serve You

NEW MANAGER AT ACTON ROXY

Murray Harrison, a newcomer to Acton, has accepted the part-time position as manager of the Roxy theatre there. He has already commenced his night-time and Saturday job in his new capacity.

Mr. Harrison, who hails from Brampton, moved to Acton the first part of the year and during the daytime occupies himself as customs officer there. Bill Leslie, the former manager of the old Georgetown Roxy and a former resident here, who is succeeded by Mr. Harrison, has moved to Trenton.

The Junior Choir from Percy Merry School won first in the music festival held at the Sniders school on Monday.

CONCRETE GRAVEL BUILDING SAND ROAD GRAVEL FILL and TOP SOIL SYONE WORK TOM HAINES Glen Williams - TR. 7-3302

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