

H A W A I I H I S T O R I C A L R E V I E W

VOL. I, NO. 3

APRIL, 1963

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IOLANI PALACE: FROM KINGDOM TO STATEHOOD

by

Lloyd Stone

Iolani Palace is the only true royal palace under the American flag; a true palace in that, while other monarchies ruled areas which later evolved into the present United States, only Hawaii was a kingdom, a nation in its own right until it, too, became a part of America.

A history of Iolani is a history of Hawaii since the noble pile of masonry was built. From within its walls a king, a queen, a revolutionary hierarchy, a republic, a territory, and, finally, a state of the U. S. have issued their commands.

At midnight on October 30, 1865, an event occurred which heralded the beginning of today's Iolani. The old one-story palace, similarly named, stood on the site of the present one, and in the deep of night from a vault within the grounds the removal of eighteen royal dead began. Then a procession of black-swathed drays, mourners, towering kahili, kukui-nut torches accompanied King Kamehameha V and his father Kekuanaoa and scores of high chiefs, all bareheaded and afoot, as they wound their grieving way to the new royal mausoleum in Nuuanu.

Five years later, on September 25, 1871, the same king directed his minister of the interior to instruct the Hawaiian consul in Sydney, Australia, that "...it is the intention of this government to build a Royal Palace here...we have no architect...architects in northern countries would not appreciate our climate...but in Sydney, where the summer climate is very similar to ours, an architect might more likely be found to design an appropriate building..."¹

The palace was built, but never used as such. It became known as the "government building", and in succeeding years gained its present name - the judiciary building. The very different building that Honoluluans call Iolani Palace today is of later vintage. This paper recalls many of the colorful events that make up its history.

June 3, 1874: Aboard the Mohango there arrived a fiercely-whiskered little German bandmaster, Henri Berger, whom Kamehameha had asked a brother ruler, the Emperor of Prussia, to forward him. The little koppelmeister would direct the Royal Hawaiian Band for more than four decades at palace functions.²

April 10, 1877: Princess Liliuokalani was proclaimed Heir Apparent.

June 29, 1876: Architect T. J. Baker arrived from San Francisco. Almost three years elapsed, during which he designed and supervised the construction of other buildings, before his plans for the palace received any attention.³

1878: On her way back from visiting friends at Maunawili, Princess Liliuokalani hummed into existence the most famous song of

parting the world has ever known, ALOHA OE.

March 2, 1879: Baker received a letter from Minister of the Interior Samuel G. Wilder saying: "His Majesty King Kalakaua commands me to ask you to lay before this department your plans for a new Palace. If you will be good enough to call tomorrow before 12 M I shall be pleased to see you."⁴

August, 1879: Baker was appointed "architect and chief artificer" of the proposed palace, and work began on it.

November 14, 1879: Celso Moreno, Italian adventurer who within the next few months would exert tremendous influence over the king (especially in the matter of his coronation), arrived from Hong Kong.

November 19, 1879: Trouble broke out between Architect Baker and Minister Wilder, who wrote to the former: "I beg to call to your attention the fact that it is proper that you should file in this office duplicate or the original plans for the new palace...I need at once a list of flooring, lumber, etc..."⁵

Baker replied: "I did not understand that you were to take my place as architect."⁶

December 10, 1879: Palace contractor Thomas complained: "I have laid the foundation out according to two different foundation plans, both being furnished by Baker, and yet the basement is not in conformity with either of his plans..."⁷

To further requests of the minister, Baker insisted: "The Cabinet can not make me yield such plans of the building as I need retain."⁸

December 14, 1879: The minister wrote Baker: "You have insulted His Majesty and the Cabinet...Where are the plans?"⁹

December 16, 1879: Architect Baker replied: "My plans can be seen and examined at all times during business hours at my rooms."¹⁰

December 31, 1879: The forty-fifth birthday of King Kalakaua's Queen, Kapiolani, was the occasion for laying the palace cornerstone. This was done by the Masonic order, of which the king was a 33rd degree Mason in the Scottish Rite and a Knight Templar in the York. The principal address was by Minister of Foreign Affairs J. M. Kapena, whose wife was the daughter of historian David Malo, and who therefore felt the import of Hawaii's history. Kapena warned: "It will require all the skill, the watchful care, the patience, the caution, and the industry that can be bestowed in the future in order to secure the well-being of the people and the prosperity of the government."

January 17, 1880: Baker was dismissed as architect and given an additional \$1,000 to conclude his services. The Superintendent of Public Works took over.¹¹

Spring, 1880: In its spring session the legislature, under the influence of Celso Moreno, passed two bills that would have great bearing on Iolani Palace history. One was a bill providing for the education of promising Hawaiian youths abroad; the other appropriated \$10,000 for a proper coronation of the new Kalakaua dynasty. Liliuokalani, the king's sister, justified the bill thus: "The direct line of the Kamehamehas having become extinct, it has been succeeded by our Keawe-a-Heulu line....It is necessary to confirm the new family

by a celebration of unusual impressiveness. It is wise and patriotic to spend money to awaken in the people a national pride."

August 14, 1880: King Kalakaua prorogued the legislature, dismissed his cabinet, and appointed Celso Caesar Moreno as premier.

August 20, 1880: The king was pressured by an increasingly influential business group into retracting Moreno's appointment.

August 30, 1880: Moreno prepared to leave for Italy, escorting three Hawaiian youths who were to further their education abroad. Among them was Robert Wilcox, a significant figure in later Hawaiian palace history.

1880: Among the first Bell telephones installed in the Islands was one connecting the palace with the king's boathouse.

January 20, 1881: To the boom of government cannon on Punchbowl, the music of Berger's Royal Hawaiian Band playing "Home, Sweet Home", and salutes of ships in Honolulu Harbor, Kalakaua departed for a tour of the world, the first ruler in history to do so while on the throne. He would return with assurances of: immigrant workers for sugar plantations, furnishings for his palace, cannon from Austria, and two jeweled crowns from England for his coronation.

October 29, 1881: King Kalakaua returned to a magnificent reception: triumphal arches, torches blazing at noonday (a symbol belonging solely to his family), and extravagant adulation of every description. He anxiously checked on the progress of his new palace.

January 27, 1882: A Masonic banquet celebrated completion of the palace. Its architecture was described as "in the ornate style known as 'American composite'...120 by 140 feet on the ground plan and towering 80 feet into the air." Everyone agreed that it was "the finest and most imposing building in the Islands, an honor and an ornament to our capital city, and a fitting abode for royalty." It cost \$343,595.00, according to Sanford Dole.

November 4, 1882: The palace was equipped for lighting by gas.

February 12, 1883: The coronation of King Kalakaua and Queen Kapiolani, nine years after their ascension to the throne, took place in a pavilion built at the foot of the King Street stairs (today it is a bandstand at the King and Richards Street corner of the palace grounds). The King's two sisters, also two of the Queen's, marched in the procession. The ritual was a combination of old and new, there being five insignia of ancient supreme chieftancy and five symbols of contemporary royalty. These latter included the crowns, carried by Kapiolani's nephews, Princes David Kawanakoa and Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, and eighteen orders conferred on Kalakaua by foreign powers over the years. As under the dome of Notre Dame Cathedral Napoleon had taken the crown into his own hands and placed it upon his head, so did Kalakaua in a Hawaiian pavilion crown himself that day. There was no Hawaiian of higher blood rank present to do it for him.

December 16, 1883: The king proudly inspected samples of the newly minted coins, embossed with his own likeness, that were delivered to the palace for the first time.

April 18, 1886: The household guards and King Kalakaua himself helped fight a great fire in Chinatown. Sixty acres of tenements and stores were destroyed. Six to eight thousand were left homeless.

November 16, 1886: The jubilee anniversary of Kalakaua's birthday was celebrated. A reception began at six o'clock in the morning. All day long loyal subjects and loyal friends - as well as political favor-seekers - filed by Their Majesties in the throne room, each visitor depositing his hookupu - gift - at the king's feet.

February 2, 1887: Princess Likelike, sister of Kalakaua and Liliuokalani, lay in state in the throne room. Her death left motherless the little Princess Kaiulani.

April 12, 1887: Queen Kapiolani and Princess Liliuokalani departed for Queen Victoria's jubilee celebration, bearing Hawaii's gifts and aloha.

June 30, 1887: All shops closed on the occasion of a mass meeting called by foreign businessmen, self-styled "The Reformers", to protest the king's use of his veto powers to oppose interests they favored. Twenty of the party were bound by oath that any five should "execute him (Kalakaua) for the public good."¹² One, in fact - Volney Ashford, head of the Reformers' armed trainees (the Hawaiian League) - cornered the king in Iolani Palace during the afternoon's meeting and at gun point extorted \$5,000 from him.¹³ Kalakaua forestalled any further violence by sending a spokesman to the meeting to yield to whatever demands were made upon him. The surprised Reformers quickly drafted a new constitution - referred to as the Bayonet Constitution - which the king signed. Thereafter he was a mere figurehead.

November 3, 1887: At the opening of the legislature Kalakaua reported that the 1875 Treaty of Reciprocity with the United States had been extended for seven years; in addition, the U. S. secured the right to use Pearl River as a coaling and repair base for American warships. The U. S. never made use of this right until after Annexation.

December 28, 1888: A mule-drawn tramway began running on King Street in front of the palace.

January 24, 1889: Writer Robert Louis Stevenson, aboard his yacht Casco, arrived in Hawaii. Kalakaua and he became fast friends, spending much time together in the Bungalow, built on the palace grounds for the king to occupy while the palace itself was under construction. Here they pored over a collection of The Myths and Legends of Hawaii.

June 27, 1890: For millinery reasons ladies at the palace - or in all Honolulu for that matter - were intrigued by Dr. Trousseau's new ostrich farm, stocked by importing three birds from California.

November 25, 1890: King Kalakaua left his palace to board the USS Charleston; he was bound for San Francisco in search of health. But he died in that city on January 20, 1891.

January 29, 1891: Liliuokalani was proclaimed queen.

February 15, 1891: King Kalakaua lay in state in the throne room.

February 25, 1891: The cabinet resigned at the queen's request. From this time forward she had only trouble in trying to re-assume the royal powers her brother had yielded.

August 27, 1891: John Owen Dominis, the queen's consort, lay in state in the throne room. He had been ill for a long time.

January 14, 1893: Queen Liliuokalani attempted to abrogate the hated Bayonet Constitution of 1887 and proclaim a new one, but her cabinet would not sign the latter, although they had led her to believe they would. She appeared on the palace balcony and told the crowd of Hawaiians gathered because of the rumored change to go home quietly, and (later) that through methods provided in the existing constitution a new one would be promulgated. Meanwhile a Committee of Safety (Reformers of 1887) declared a state of emergency, claiming that "riot and bloodshed were imminent."

Within the next three days events moved quickly: the Committee declared a provisional government to uphold the constitution against which the queen had rebelled; by doing this, they argued, the monarchy had abrogated itself. The American minister recognized the new government promptly and, by request, landed 300 U. S. marines and bluejackets "to protect American property and lives." His action thwarted any armed protection of the monarchy. At sundown on January 17 the queen capitulated, protesting to the United States government "...that I yield to the superior force of the United States of America, whose Minister Plenipotentiary, John L. Stevens, has caused the United States Troops to be landed at Honolulu, and declared he will support the Provisional Government."

February 1, 1893: Across the street from the palace the American flag was hoisted over the government building.

March 17, 1893: Several rare and valuable kahili - royal standards - were stolen from the throne room during the night.

April 1, 1893: Commissioner Blount, sent by President Cleveland to investigate the extent of American participation in the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani, ordered the lowering of the American flag flying from the government building. He said it had been raised prematurely. Hawaiians on hand for the ceremony were asked by an Englishman why they did not cheer when the Stars and Stripes came down. Though overjoyed at the reinstatement of his own flag, one replied, "After all, it is their flag, and we do not want to make them feel bad."¹⁴

April 2, 1893: Ryan, a derelict seaman temporarily conscripted into the citizens' guard of the provisional government, was on duty in the palace basement. From a locked container he stole what he later testified was a paste crown with artificial jewels. In reality it was Kalakaua's crown, from which Ryan tore the diamonds, rubies, and semi-precious stones. He then threw the golden taro leaves and their circlet onto the latrine roof, where they were later discovered. The jewels he gambled away or sold to a hack driver. With his two accomplices, Richard Stone and William Wagner, he was committed to Oahu Prison, where he had spent two months in 1887 for another offense. Ryan and Stone soon escaped and signed on ships leaving the islands. After exhaustive search, some of the smaller diamonds were recovered by a sheriff in remote Arkansas. The legislature ordered the royal crown restored in 1930.

June 2, 1893: The Executive and Advisory Councils passed the following resolution: "The offices of the Executive Council shall be in Iolani Palace, which shall hereafter be the seat of government and

shall be known as the Executive Building."

June 3, 1893: Troops moved into the basement of the executive building while the minister of the interior made himself at home in the dining room. Minister of Foreign Affairs and President Sanford Ballard Dole occupied the former king's bedchamber and library. The attorney-general's office was in the ex-queen's bedchamber. The former throne room was to be used for council meetings, public receptions, audiences, etc.

July 4, 1894: Since the United States rejected the possibility of annexation for the time being, formation of the new Republic of Hawaii was announced from the executive building balcony. Sanford B. Dole was president.

January 6, 1895: A group of citizen guards quartered in Kala-kaua's old bungalow on the executive building grounds rushed to Diamond Head to quell a rumored royalist uprising under the leadership of Robert Wilcox. One government man and two royalists were killed before the rebellion was squelched within a few days.¹⁵

January 16, 1895: Ex-Queen Liliuokalani was arrested for misprision of treason and imprisoned in the upstairs waikiki-makai corner room of the palace. She had one companion.

January 17-February 20, 1895: A military court of the Republic of Hawaii tried the ex-queen and 190 others accused of treason against the republic. It met in the former palace throne room. Liliuokalani was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and a fine of \$5,000. Others were fined, imprisoned, or exiled, and three were sentenced to death. These latter sentences were never executed, however.

January 24, 1895: Liliuokalani signed a formal abdication and an oath of allegiance to the Republic of Hawaii.

September, 1895: The ex-queen was released from her palace prison, but was still held in protective custody at Washington Place. Her fine was never collected.

October 26, 1896: A council of state held in the throne room voted a full pardon for the ex-queen.

July 7, 1898: Because of desperate need for Pearl River as a coaling station to support the Philippine campaign of the Spanish-American War, President McKinley signed a Congressional joint resolution annexing Hawaii.

July 13, 1898: Since no cable yet connected Hawaii and the U. S., the islands had to wait until this date for the Pacific Mail SS Coptic to bring annexation news from San Francisco.

June, 1898: Even before news of annexation arrived, Honolulu had entertained the "boys in blue". At one time on the executive building grounds residents provided for the military and naval forces of two fleets by giving them a huge week-long picnic, seating from 1,000 to 1,500 guests a day. Honolulu families volunteered huge quantities of eatables, and a steam boiler erected on the grounds made coffee.

August 12, 1898: The annexation ceremony took place at Iolani Palace. Henri Berger led the band. At the day's end he wrote in his Journal with characteristic brevity: "The day is done. Flag is raised. We are all Americans. Pau Hawaii."

October 7, 1899: Across the street from the palace, ice water

first became available - in the opera house.

October 9, 1899: The Honorable H. R. Baldwin tried out the islands' first automobile, going down King Street past the palace at fourteen miles per hour.

June 14, 1900: Governor Sanford B. Dole was inaugurated on a specially-constructed platform on the Diamond Head side of the palace. The platform was used for dancing at the inaugural ball that night.

Fall election, 1902: Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole who, as Queen Kapiolani's nephew, had carried one of the crowns at Kalakaua's coronation, and had also been convicted along with Liliuokalani for treason against the republic, was elected Hawaii's second delegate to Congress.

January 1, 1903: The Commercial Pacific Cable Company's connection was completed at Waikiki. That night from the palace Hawaii's Secretary Cooper talked to President Theodore Roosevelt and received the latter's congratulations.

November 23, 1903: Governor George R. Carter was inaugurated in the throne room.

May 12, 1907: A party of U. S. Congressmen, inspecting Hawaii's qualifications for statehood, toured the palace.

August 15, 1907: Governor Walter F. Frear was inaugurated in the throne room.

June 21, 1908: David Kawanakoa, the other princely bearer of Kalakaua's crowns, lay in state in the throne room.

June, 1911: John Philip Sousa's band, on world tour, stopped in Hawaii and gave a concert on the executive building grounds.

December 14, 1911: Governor Frear and other officials deserted executive building offices to attend opening ceremonies at Pearl Harbor.

December 31, 1913: Governor Lucius E. Pinkham arrived at the palace on the last night of the year after a parade from the ship that returned him to Hawaii from Washington, D. C., where he had taken his oath of office.

August 2, 1914: A ceremony honored Captain Henri Berger for his more than forty years' service as conductor of the Royal Hawaiian Band. His last official duty occurred in June, 1915, at the interment of Charles Reed Bishop's ashes in the Kamehameha tomb at the Royal Mausoleum.

August 7, 1914: On this day, three days after England declared war on Germany, the first of a dozen German ships sought refuge in Honolulu Harbor. Until America's entry into the war almost four years later, Governor Pinkham conducted from his executive building offices intermittent and sometimes frantic cable exchanges with Washington concerning the disposition of the vessels.

April 5, 1917: By this time all enemy ships in or leaving island harbors were either damaged or destroyed. From this date they were repaired and converted into American craft, if possible.

April 6, 1917: The throne room was turned over to the Red Cross for making clothing, bandages, etc. "The gilded throne, from which Kalakaua ruled in state, was moved out. The bright crimson carpets were taken up, so that the floor might be scrubbed daily. The pictures of the kings and queens of Hawaii were shrouded with white cheesecloth and even the glittering chandeliers were covered." Long

white tables were placed for maximum work efficiency in both the throne room and on the outside lanai - porches.

September 14, 1917: The Red Cross flag, a gift to the Honolulu chapter from Liliuokalani, was raised above the capitol (executive building) - the first time that such a flag had been displayed on any building in Hawaii, excepting the military hospital.

November 1, 1917: To select men for military service in World War I, Governor Pinkham drew the first draft numbers in the senate chamber of the capitol.

November 11, 1917: On this opening day of Hawaii's mobilization camp, named for the aged Liliuokalani, the former queen of the islands passed away. Not only did the recruits encamp to flags at half mast; the entire Territory was in mourning. Later Liliuokalani lay in state in her one-time throne room.

June 22, 1918: Governor Charles J. McCarthy was inaugurated in the throne room.

September, 1918-July, 1921: From Red Cross quarters in the throne room went people and supplies for the relief of diseased and starving thousands of Central Europeans, refugees huddled along Siberia's Pacific shores. Hawaii's contributions were outstanding because of its nearness and its aloha spirit.

April 13, 1920: The Prince of Wales arrived. He paid an official visit to Governor McCarthy at the capitol.

July, 1921: Governor Wallace Rider Farrington was inaugurated on the capitol steps.

January 14, 1922: Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, Hawaii's delegate to Congress for nearly two decades, and the last of Hawaiian royalty to bear a title sealed with the seal of the vanished kingdom, lay in state in the throne room.

June 11, 1926: Sanford Ballard Dole - son of missionary parents, lawyer, revolutionist, head of the provisional government, president of the Republic of Hawaii, first governor of the Territory of Hawaii, and presiding judge of the federal district court - lay in state in the throne room.

August 10, 1926: The crown prince and princess of Sweden arrived. They paid an official visit to Governor Farrington at the capitol.

1930: The sum of \$150,000 was appropriated to renovate the capitol. Workers replacing timbers discovered a giant cache of bees and honey. Reconstruction was completed in December. Steel girders, rafters, and uprights replaced wooden ones. A brick wall was laid around the banyan tree in the palace yard. The site of Hawaii's first royal mausoleum, also located in the yard, was cleared and fenced.

July 5, 1929: Governor Lawrence M. Judd was inaugurated on a platform erected in front of the capitol steps.

July 24, 1934: President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the former palace and gave a speech in which he echoed a desire voiced by Curtis P. Iaukea, once King Kalakaua's chamberlain, that the throne room be restored and opened to the public because of its great historic value.

March 1, 1934: Governor Joseph B. Poindexter was inaugurated in

the executive chambers (formerly Kalakaua's bedroom) with only a few intimate friends present.

March 21, 1935: The legislature passed a resolution rechristening the executive building Iolani Palace.

October, 1936-April, 1937: The islands' first large waterfront strike isolated Hawaii. The legislature, meeting in the palace, was powerless to interfere.

November 12, 1938: Restoration of the throne room was completed.

December 7, 1941: The first Japanese bombs fell in the attack on Pearl Harbor. The time: 7:45 a.m. At 9:30 a projectile landed near Governor Poindexter's driveway at Washington Place, and its fragments killed a passerby across the street. The governor hurried to his office in the palace; a second shell burst in the corner of the palace grounds.¹⁶ By 11:15 a.m. Poindexter was proclaiming a state of emergency over the radio. Before noon General Walter Short, commanding the Army's Hawaiian Department, discussed with the governor the advisability of martial law. A call was put through from Iolani Palace to the White House, and President Roosevelt agreed with Short on the need for martial law. At 4:25 p.m. Governor Poindexter proclaimed the suspension of civilian authority.¹⁷ The military was in command. During the day 57 persons were killed on Oahu, 50 hospitalized, 230 less seriously injured, and private property worth \$500,000 was destroyed; these were civilian losses only, of course.

Office of Civil Defense headquarters were established in the senate chamber of the palace (this room had once been the royal dining room). The throne room was filled with cots for nap-catching during the prevailing forty-eight-hour tours of duty. The palace basement became a Red Cross canteen. Hangings blacked out all windows. Barbed wire girdled the palace gates. Within a few months all rugs, paintings, chandeliers, etc., had been removed and stored for safekeeping.

March 28, 1942: Hawaii's quota of draftees was almost doubled as 2,645 men were inducted and given an aloha ceremony at Iolani Palace before one of the largest crowds assembled in Honolulu in years.

August 24, 1942: Governor Ingram M. Stainback was inaugurated at Washington Place, the palace being occupied by the military.

1943-1949: Housing was critically short in supply, and as many as eighteen people lived in a single room, using it in shifts. Even as late as 1948 an evicted family, unable to find quarters, camped on Iolani Palace grounds for several days among the temporary buildings squatting there.

March 10, 1943: "Restoration Day" ceremonies were held in the throne room to celebrate the return of civil law and authority - with minor exceptions.

July, 1944: Blackout curtains were removed from palace windows as blackout regulations were lifted.

August 12, 1945: A wild but premature celebration of VJ Day was set off by announcement from the mainland. Prohibited red fire-crackers littered King Street in front of the palace. An official air raid siren blast triggered a repeat performance two days later.

September 3, 1945: Honolulu's VJ Day parade and ceremony took place at the palace.

August 9, 1946: A formal reception at the palace honored members of the 442nd and the 100th Battalions. These units, made up of Americans of Japanese ancestry, were the most decorated of World War II.

May 8, 1951: Governor Oren E. Long was inaugurated on a large platform erected at the foot of the palace steps.

February 28, 1953: Governor Samuel Wilder King, the first governor of Hawaiian blood, was inaugurated on a similar platform. It was the first such occasion since Kalakaua's coronation in 1883 on which heavy rain fell. The rain stopped, however, during the actual ceremony. Old Hawaiians nodded at the blessing thus accorded one of their race.

July 31, 1953: A new building for Hawaii's archives was completed on the palace grounds.

June 26, 1954: The state funeral of Joseph R. Farrington, the islands' delegate to Congress, was held in the throne room.

October 24, 1956: The first of several Aloha Week pageants depicting the history of Iolani Palace was produced against the King Street facade.

September 2, 1957: Governor William F. Quinn was inaugurated; he proved to be Hawaii's last appointed chief executive.

March 12, 1959: From Washington, D. C., Governor Quinn telephoned to Iolani Palace that the Hawaii statehood bill had passed Congress. At last Hawaii was a part of the U. S. in the fullest sense - an equal of her forty-nine sister states.

NOTES

1. Letter, September 25, 1871, Interior Department File, "Iolani Palace", Archives of Hawaii. Cited hereafter as IDF.

2. Except as otherwise indicated, all information was obtained at the Archives of Hawaii by a column-by-column scanning of the Pacific Commercial Advertiser (later the Honolulu Advertiser), beginning in 1872. Items mentioned appeared in the newspaper on the first publication date following the occurrence of the events.

3. Letter, June 29, 1876, IDF.

4. Letter, March 2, 1879, IDF.

5. Letter, November 19, 1879, IDF.

6. Letter, IDF.

7. Letter, December 10, 1879, IDF.

8. Letter, IDF.

9. Letter, December 14, 1879, IDF.

10. Letter, December 16, 1879, IDF.

11. Letter, January 17, 1880, IDF.

12. A. J. Palmer, Jr., Memories of Hawaii (Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1894), p. 72.

13. L. A. Thurston, Memoirs of the Hawaiian Revolution (Honolulu: Advertiser Publishing Company, 1936), pp. 158-161.

14. A. J. Palmer, op. cit., pp. 127-128.

15. B. L. Marx, Recollections of the Republic of Hawaii (Honolulu

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Ltd., 1935), pp. 9-11; Joaquin Miller in San Francisco Examiner, January 19, 1895, p.2.

16. Gwenfread Allen, Hawaii's War Years, 1941-1945 (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1950), p. 2.

17. Walter Lord, Day of Infamy (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1957), pp. 171, 191.

18. G. Allen, op. cit., p. 332.

TROUBLE ON THE WATERFRONT

by

Richard A. Greer

Shortly before nine o'clock on the morning of Thursday, November 10, 1853, knots of weatherbeaten men hurried along the streets and alleys of Honolulu's waterfront. They were masters of whalers and merchantmen riding out in the harbor. Their destination: the new court house on Queen Street. Their purpose: to set pay scales for sailors and dock workers.¹

Inside the court house Captain Israel West took the chair, and the discussion began. The skippers hammered out a resolution:

Whereas, in the opinion of the ship masters at this port a uniform price to be paid for wages of laborers by ship masters in this harbor, and of lays and wages from this port, would be of equal advantage to laborers, owners, and ship-masters...

Therefore, merchants and shipmasters should establish: (1) a standard wage of \$1.50 found, and \$2.25 for those keeping themselves, for a day's labor of ten hours; (2) a standard rate of \$12.00 a month for sailors shipping for monthly wages, either on a short season's cruising or on a return home passage; (3) a limit of \$25.00 for any and all advances to seamen, and; (4) a rule that shipmasters not pay crews for discharging vessels in Honolulu.²

This was the captains' answer to seamen and Hawaiian laborers, who were pressing for more pay. On the night of Saturday the twelfth the seamen held their meeting. The result was that on Monday morning they were "...early in commotion about the wharves..." - striking.³

The strikers boarded one or two vessels where men continued to work and drove them from their jobs. In the afternoon more than 1,000 sailors paraded the streets with fife and drum. Many native laborers joined them, but by Wednesday most of these had agreed to work for the \$1.50 offered. Some of the seamen tried to stop them, but they could not get solid backing from their shipmates.⁴ This doomed the strike. Honolulu police were able to protect the workers.⁵

Most of the strikers held out, and seemed likely to do so until they had spent all their money - a short process, in the U. S. Commissioner's view. He predicted that "...the grog shops and the

native women will soon empty their pockets."⁶ And such, apparently, proved to be the case.

But the strike may not have been fruitless. At the end of the month sailors' wages in merchant vessels were \$25.00 monthly, and laborers' hire ran from \$2.00 to \$3.00 a day.⁷ Gains came hard in the Honolulu of 1853, however. The great smallpox epidemic stagnated retail business.⁸ Sailors were in plentiful supply.⁹ And organized labor was a thing of the future.

NOTES

1. Polynesian, November 12, 1853.

2. Ibid.

3. Luther Severance, U. S. Commissioner in Hawaii, to William L. Marcy, U. S. Secretary of State, Number 97, November 17, 1853, Despatches from U. S. Ministers in Hawaii, 1843-1900, Vol. 4 (August 30, 1849-December 27, 1853), National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration (Washington, D. C.: 1955), microfilm.

4. Several thousand sailors were in town at the time. The Polynesian of October 29 reported 106 ships in the harbor - 85 whalers, 13 merchantmen, 2 men-of-war, and 6 coasters.

5. Severance to Marcy, Number 97, November 17, 1853.

6. Ibid.

7. Polynesian, November 26, 1853.

8. Polynesian, July 9, 1853.

9. Polynesian, December 17, 1853.

THE DEADLY DON

by

Richard A. Greer

It is a long run - some 5,000 miles - from Valparaiso to Papeete. In the late spring of 1841 the American bark Don Quixote, 260 tons burthen, plowed its way along this path. Captain John Paty was bound for Honolulu via Tahiti, on the home passage of a round trip to Chile.¹ A few days out of Valparaiso it came - the sudden high fever and nausea, the blinding headache and the back pains, the dreaded rash, and finally, on the ninth day, the pustules that can turn a man into a mass of putrefaction.² Eight Hawaiians made up half of the Don's crew. Six of them caught the pestilence; before Tahiti was raised they were dead.³ Two lucky Hawaiians, already immunized, escaped the fatal virus.⁴

On June 12 the Don Quixote made port. Paty warned off the pilot, who reported the sickness on board. Governor Paraita of Tahiti conferred with his advisers among the foreign residents. All agreed the vessel should stand off.⁵ What happened next is in dispute. Paty, reporting twelve years after the event, said that the Don Quixote lay under quarantine for fifteen days, that she stayed

only three days after quarantine was lifted, that she employed a few Tahitians on board while in Papeete, and that about three days after she left, one of the employed men fell ill.⁶

Samuel R. Blackler was the U. S. consul at the Society Islands. At the time he was locked in bitter controversy with the Tahitian authorities.⁷ The Tahitians, trying to oust Blackler, told this story: When the sickness became known, Paraita urged that the Don Quixote stop at Matavai, a few miles east of Papeete. Within less than a week Blackler declared the bark safe and demanded she be brought to Papeete, to discharge and copper. Paraita refused, but the Don entered port. The consul then insisted that cargo be landed. Again Paraita refused. On June 17 Blackler handed the governor a paper threatening a penalty of \$40,511. Paraita, though still withholding consent, relaxed vigilance. On June 19 those aboard the vessel came ashore near Blackler's house and discharged and sold goods. Soon after the bark sailed a white man died of the pestilence, and two Tahitians soon shared his fate. By August the disease was devouring the island. Blackler, knowing the horror carried in the Don Quixote, was a deliberate killer.⁸

Paraita's letter charged many other sins to Blackler's account. The consul attacked it as an "accumulation of falsehoods", without making direct reference to the epidemic.⁹

Just how long was the quarantine? The evidence is inconclusive. Blackler did issue the Don Quixote a bill of health, but as usual did not record the date of the fee.¹⁰ Was the consul guilty of mass murder? We know only that he survived the accusation.¹¹ This fact, however, is certain: In June of 1841 Honolulu's deadly Don brought smallpox to Tahiti.

NOTES

1. Polynesian, August 6, 1853.

2. Ibid.; Kurt Wiener, Skin Manifestations of Internal Disorders (St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1947), pp. 114-116.

3. Paty in his 1853 report to the Polynesian said he believed one recovered, but the consular return lists only two foreign crewmen (Despatch, S. R. Blackler, U. S. Consul, to John Forsyth, U. S. Secretary of State, July 3, 1841, enclosing "Consular Return of Vessels Arriving and Departing Tahiti from January 1 to June 30, 1841," Despatches from U. S. Consuls in Tahiti, 1836-1906, Vol. 2 (July 2, 1841-December 31, 1850), National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration (Washington, D. C.: 1954), microfilm. Cited hereafter as Despatches, with appropriate volume.

4. Polynesian, August 6, 1853.

5. Paraita to the President of America, August 18, 1841. Despatches, Vol. 2. Governor Paraita acted as regent during the absence of Queen Pomare IV, who was visiting the island of Eimeo.

6. Polynesian, August 6, 1853.

7. Long-standing friction existed. In January, 1841, the Tahitians requested Blackler's recall, charging flagrant disregard of the laws of the land (Buareia to the President of America, January

20, 1841. Despatches, Vol. 1). Blackler countered with a long recital of outrages, enclosing numerous depositions (S. R. Blackler to French Forrest, Commanding the U. S. Corvette St. Louis, March 1, 1841. Despatches, Vol. 1). Then, on May 31, Tahitian soldiers attacked Blackler at his consulate as he tried to free two sailors from arrest and give them asylum (Blackler to U. S. Secretary of State, No. 32, June 5, 1841, and enclosed depositions. Despatches, Vol. 1). This question of the consul's right to remove Americans from Tahitian jurisdiction was a chronic hot issue.

8. This account is compiled from two letters: Paraita to the President of America, already cited, and Paraita to the Captain of the American Ship of War, undated (Despatches, Vol. 2). The captain addressed was J. H. Aulick, commanding the U. S. S. Yorktown. He was in Papeete during July and August, 1841.

9. Blackler to Daniel Webster, U. S. Secretary of State, No. 47, September 26, 1842 (Despatches, Vol. 2). Blackler said the letter to Aulick was the work of J. A. Moerenhout, former U. S. and current French consul at Tahiti, who prepared it for Paraita's signature. An affidavit supported this statement (Samuel Wilson, July 30, 1841. Despatches, Vol. 2).

10. S. R. Blackler, "Consular Statement of Fees Received at the Island of Tahiti from January 1 to June 30, 1841," enclosed in despatch of July 3, 1841. (Despatches, Vol. 2).

11. Blackler died at his post in September, 1844 (George R. Chapman, Acting U. S. Consul, to U. S. Secretary of State, September 15, 1844 (Despatches, Vol. 2). Paty, who was a business partner of his brother in Honolulu in the 1840's, became one of the islands' best-known foreign residents, and a highly-respected one. In his account of the smallpox he said that by the time the Don Quixote, reached Honolulu it was clean, and that the ship never transmitted another case of the disease (Polynesian, August 6, 1853).

THE FIRST HOLOKU

by

Barbara Lyons

When the brig Thaddeus anchored in Kawaihae Bay with the pioneer company of missionaries to Hawaii, the premier, Kalanimoku, known also as Billy Pitt, was rowed out to greet the newcomers in his copied double canoe. He represented the young king, Liholiho, who was at Kailua, thirty miles to the south.

Kalanimoku was accompanied by three chiefesses: his consort, Likelike, and two dowager queens, Kalakua and Namahana, both of whom were widows of Kamehameha I. With these alii came the many attendants who formed their suite. It was the last day of March, 1820.

Members of the missionary group were: the Reverends Hiram Bingham and Asa Thurston and their wives; Daniel Chamberlain, a

farmer, his wife and five children; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Holman; Elisha Loomis, printer, and Mrs. Loomis; Samuel Ruggles and Samuel Whitney, teachers, and their wives. On board also were three Hawaiian helpers from the Cornwall School in Connecticut: Thomas Hopu, William Kanui, and John Honolii; and George, the son of King Kaumuali'i of Kauai.

Thomas Hopu, who went ashore first to tell of the missionaries' coming, had urged that the chiefs be fully dressed. For their visit to the ship, the chiefesses were attired in pa'u with underslips of cotton, and the dowagers each had also a sort of over-dress, Kalakua's of striped calico and Namahana's of black velvet. The usual pa'u was a four-yard length of tapa, three or four feet wide, which was wrapped several times around the waist. It was generally made of five thicknesses of tapa, but in the case of these chiefesses, it was ten.

The premier himself wore a white dimity jacket over a black silk vest, yellow nankeen pantaloons, white cotton stockings, shoes, a plaid cravat, and a top hat.

An entry in Lucia Holman's diary reads:¹

Krimakoo was well dressed in the English style; his wife was dressed in Chinese silk and tapper, one of the Queens in striped calico, and the other in black velvet trimmed around the bottom with an elegant gilt ribband, and each in elegant wreath of yellow feathers curiously wrought around their heads, and all barefoot. Their gowns were made in the old continental style, with a long tight waist.

It was warm, and the chiefesses soon took off their over-dresses. Namahana had one of her attendants unwrap her pa'u so that she could also remove her underslip. Lucy Thurston wrote afterward that, as the queen waited to have the tapa wound about her again, "...she looked as self-possessed and easy as though sitting in the shades of Eden."²

Kalanimoku joined the mission group for the noon meal, but the chiefesses preferred the poi and raw fish brought to them by their attendants. What interested them in particular during this visit was the dress of the missionary women, and when it was over they returned thoughtfully to Kawaihae. "The instinct for new fashions seems to be implanted in the breast of womankind."³

The following day was Easter Sunday, and the ship remained at anchor, but on the Monday was ready to sail down the coast of Hawaii for a meeting with the king. Although his premier had received the company with friendliness, permission for them to stay must, of course, be obtained from Liholiho. Kalanimoku had agreed to sail on the Thaddeus, to explain the new arrivals to the young monarch, and he and his retinue boarded the vessel in the morning. Kalakua had with her a bolt of white cambric.

When the mission ladies realized what this signified, they were given pause to consider the problem of dressing a Hawaiian queen. Their own styles with the short waists, belts, narrow skirts, and long, tight sleeves, would be neither becoming nor comfortable to

the Polynesian figure. The chiefesses sat or lay about the deck, sometimes trying a little patchwork, while the missionary women studied them, designed and sewed.

By the time the Thaddeus hove to off Kailua on April 4, a new fashion had been invented. A full, straight skirt had been attached to a yoke, with sleeves resembling the close ones of the day. But the new style, loose and flowing, was better suited to the Island climate than the dresses worn by the mission ladies.

Kalakua made a dramatic approach to Kailua, wearing the first holoku. With it she wore an embroidered lace cap and neckerchief from America.

Crowds had gathered to see the strange ship and to watch the canoes coming in toward shore. "Men, women and children, from the highest to the lowest rank, including the king and his mother, were amusing themselves...swimming, floating on surfboards, sailing in canoes, sitting, lounging...dancing." As Kalakua stepped ashore in her new dress, she was "...received by hundreds with a shout."⁴

During the days following, while missionaries negotiated with Liholiho and then with his regent, Kaahumanu, the deck of the Thaddeus might have been taken for a sewing school. Other chiefesses wanted dresses, too. The mission ladies were kept busy fitting and sewing, and teaching the Hawaiians the art of needle and thimble - a rewarding service to them, as they saw the women becoming clothed. A large quantity of material was available, for the chiefs had received chests of silks, brocades and chintzes from traders in payment for sandalwood.

Tapa is not a durable material and cannot be washed, and for this reason as well as for the novelty, the new garments were very welcome. The holoku became the accepted dress, and only the old-fashioned continued to wear the pa'u.

There are two versions of how the holoku became named. One is that the Hawaiian women cried, "Holo!" and "Ku!", meaning, "We can run in it - we can stand!"⁵ The more likely explanation is that, in teaching them to sew, the missionary women said, "Holo," meaning "Go", and "Ku," meaning "Stop".⁶

NOTES

1. Quoted in F. J. Halford, Nine Doctors and God (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1954), p. 33.
2. Albertine Loomis, Grapes of Canaan (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1951), p. 29.
3. F. H. Wills, "The Story of the Holoku", Mid-Pacific Magazine, V, No. 5 (May, 1913), p. 465.
4. Loomis, op. cit., p. 31.
5. "Development of the Holoku", Paradise of the Pacific, May, 1950, p. 12
6. Mary K. Pukui and S. H. Elbert, Hawaiian-English Dictionary (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1957), pp. 72, 154.

THE HAWAII AND THE PACIFIC SECTION AT THE LIBRARY OF HAWAII

by

Clare Murdoch

This section of the Library of Hawaii began as a Hawaiian study alcove in 1927, though special attention had been given to Hawaiian material long before that. In 1930, a room off the Reference Room was devoted to circulating and reference Hawaiiana. In October, 1941, the collection was moved to a room in the mauka-ewa corner of the main floor, and Pacific island material was added. As of July 1, 1962, the collection consisted of 4,965 reference books, 8,646 circulating books, 27,011 pamphlets and clippings, 253 maps, and about 70 current periodicals.

The section is a complete miniature library within a library. Unlike some regional, special collections which are mainly historical, we answer questions about and provide material on sociology, business and industry, laws, folklore, sports, languages, anthropology, natural history, agriculture, cookery, literature, history, and so on. The purposes of the Hawaiian part of the collection can be divided into three categories: First, to maintain as complete a collection as possible of everything written about Hawaii; second, to maintain a collection that will provide answers to any questions about Hawaii; third, to maintain a circulating collection which will meet the needs and desires of patrons. No attempt has been made to collect all the books about the Pacific, and that part of the collection is a general reading and reference collection. The area covered is Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia. We do not include Arctic or Antarctic, Malaya, Japan, the Ryukyus, Formosa, or small islands just off the Asian and American continents.

Several indexes are maintained by this section. One is a subject index to legends in books, particular attention being paid to place and personal names. An author-subject index to local magazines is maintained; it is similar to the Readers' Guide but is on cards. Twenty-two magazines are being or have been indexed, and several more will be added. We index magazines as they are issued and are working backwards on the old ones, such as Paradise of the Pacific and The Friend. Carbon copies of our work slips are made for the holdings of the county libraries and are mailed to them, and the original slip is sent to Sinclair Library at the University of Hawaii when we have finished typing from it. A third index is a subject index to the Honolulu Advertiser and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. This was started in June, 1950. A separate index covers the period 1929 through May, 1950, but this was made by various people without much supervision and is not very systematic. The reason that June, 1950, was selected as the beginning date for the new index is simple: That is when we got a new catalog case in which to house it. Our work slips, when we have finished with them, are sent to Hawaii

County Library. If we could discover a cheap and simple means of reproducing them, we would send copies to the other county libraries. Another of our card files is a listing of officers of clubs and institutions. Most of these names we get from newspapers, and we either type or clip and paste them on cards.

Every week-day afternoon about three o'clock the section becomes a crowded school library. This use continues, with some slack periods, until closing time. There is no doubt that the collection takes a great deal of physical punishment, and it makes the librarian sick to find a page ripped out of a bound 1874 set of The Friend and realize it is probably missing because of a school assignment. It is hoped that a new state historical library with the Phillips Collection as a nucleus can be developed. This would assume the historical, preservative, and research functions of the section. The section could then develop its role of general reading and reference collection, with emphasis on current material. It could develop a program for aiding students in cooperation with school libraries, and it could expand its Pacific collection so as to aid such people as businessmen looking for opportunities in the South Pacific, the vacation visitor to Tahiti or New Zealand, and the prospective emigrant to Australia.

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HAWAII HISTORICAL REVIEW

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Published quarterly by the editor at the Kamehameha School for Boys, Kapalama Heights, Honolulu, Hawaii. Months of issue are October, January, April, and July. Price of single copies, as available: 25 cents. Telephone: 814111 (Honolulu).

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