

STUART M. BALL JR.

## The Piko Club: Hiking O'ahu in the 1930s

"PEHEA KOU PIKO?" yelled the hike leaders. How's your belly button? "Maika'i no!" shouted those in the rear. Fine! That humorous Hawaiian greeting was frequently heard along the mountain trails of O'ahu during the early 1930s. The voices belonged to the members and guests of the Piko Club, founded by two hiking enthusiasts, *kama'āina* (native-born) Charles S. Judd and *malihini* (newcomer) Briant H. Wells. Territorial Forester Judd was a talented, dedicated public servant with a passion for trees. Major General Wells was an exuberant, hard charging soldier much like Teddy Roosevelt. What brought the two men together to form a hiking club and determine much of O'ahu's trail network during 1931 to 1937?

Born in 1881, Charles Sheldon Judd was the son of Albert F. Judd, attorney and judge, and Agnes H. Boyd of Honolulu, and the grandson of Gerrit P. Judd, medical missionary, and Laura F. Judd. After graduating from Punahou School, he attended Yale University, receiving a BA degree in 1905 and a Master of Forestry degree in 1907. Judd began his career with the United States Forest Service in the northwest region. In 1910, he was promoted to assistant district forester based in Portland, Oregon. Judd returned to Hawai'i to become Superintendent of Forestry in 1915.

For the next 15 years, Superintendent (later Territorial Forester) Judd (fig. 1) managed and expanded the forest reserve system, consisting of *mauka* (inland) land set aside to protect the water supply

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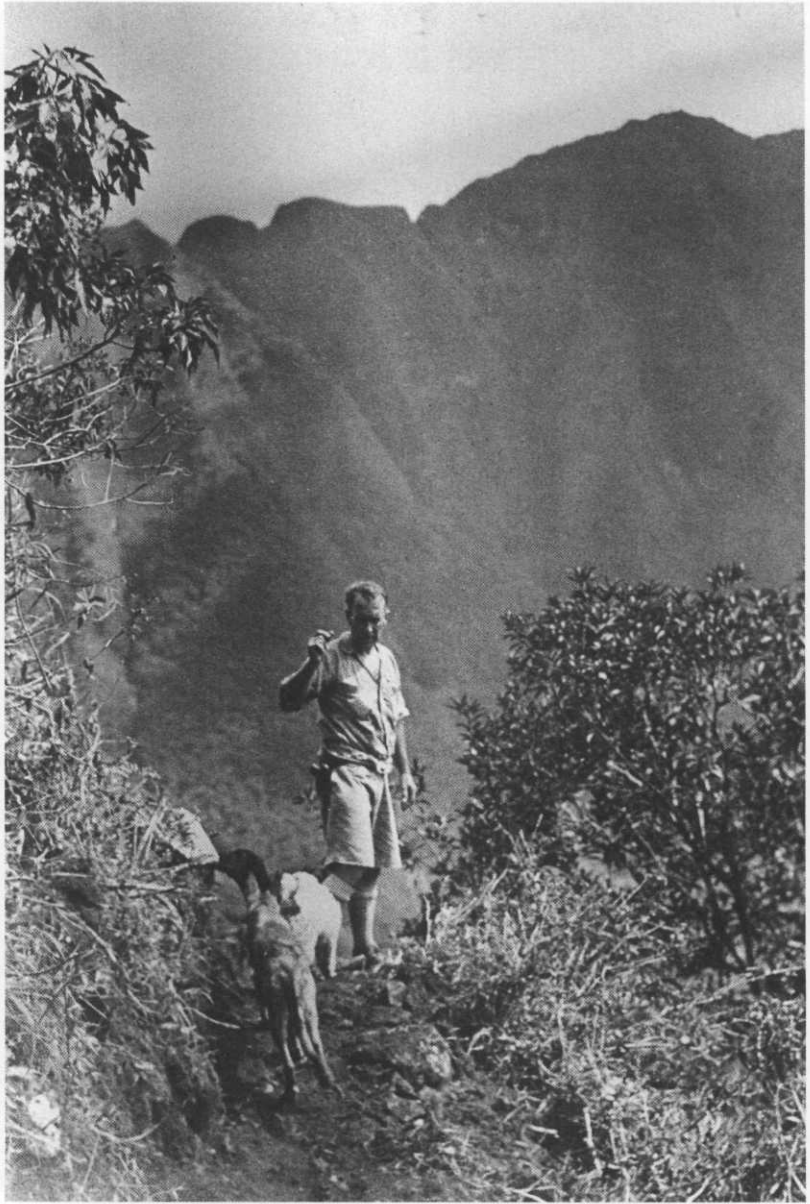


FIG. 1. Along the Piko Trail, May 5, 1932. Charles Judd with Panache and friends. (U.S. Army Museum of Hawai'i)

for the populace and the sugar plantations. Cattle from nearby ranches were the foremost threat to the forest watershed. Judd's rangers and work crews built and maintained boundary fences, and then planted trees in the areas denuded by cutting and grazing. With cattle largely out of the O'ahu reserves by 1930, Judd turned his attention to the wild pigs inside. He wrote, "It is felt that the solution to the pig problem on O'ahu may be attained through the construction of trails and consequently opening up of the mountain country to voluntary hunters."<sup>1</sup> His Division of Forestry began to build trails and cabins in the reserves for use by its personnel and pig hunters.

In 1930, Major General Briant Harris Wells was nearing the end of a long, illustrious career in the army. Born in 1871, he was the youngest son of Daniel H. Wells and Martha G. Harris of Salt Lake City. After graduating from West Point in 1894, Wells served in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine insurrection, the Pancho Villa campaign near the Mexican border, and the First World War. In 1919, Colonel Wells was transferred to the War Plans section of the War Department. As a brigadier general in 1923, he commanded the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. By 1928, Major General Wells was deputy chief of staff, the second highest position in the army. After a short stint commanding the First Infantry Division at Fort Hamilton, New York, he arrived in Hawai'i in October 1930.

As the new commander of the Hawaiian Division at Schofield Barracks (October 24, 1930–September 15, 1931), Wells (fig. 2) was largely responsible for the land defense of O'ahu. The current defense plan viewed the two mountain ranges on the island as formidable barriers to an invading force. In the most likely scenario, the Japanese, code named "Orange," would land along the north shore and then push inland between the two ranges toward Schofield Barracks and Pearl Harbor. After seeing the terrain, Wells believed that the mountains were less of a barrier than previously envisioned. He decided, therefore, to explore the various routes over and along the Ko'olau and Wai'anae ranges on foot.<sup>2</sup>

1931

The two men first met at Schofield Barracks on January 19, 1931, to discuss tree removal and planting for the post. Wells agreed to pro-

vide soldiers to help reopen several forestry trails. Judd agreed to show some of the mountain routes to the General and his staff.<sup>3</sup> In subsequent meetings, usually on foot or on horseback, the two men developed a close working relationship and became good friends.

On February 17, Forester Judd led Major Charles W. Thomas Jr., Captain Raymond G. Sherman, and seven other army officers on a reconnaissance hike above Punalu'u Valley. The group climbed the old Castle Trail, bushwhacked to and along the Ko'olau summit, and then descended a spur ridge back into Punalu'u Valley.<sup>4</sup> During that grueling loop, the men first discussed forming a hiking club with members drawn from the army and the Division of Forestry. After finishing the hike well after dark, the group enjoyed a swim in the ocean and continued the discussion over a late dinner at Cooper Ranch Inn in Hau'ula.<sup>5</sup>

General Wells heartily approved of the new hiking club and agreed to become its first president. He and Judd chose *piko* (summit) for



FIG. 2. By the Piko pines. Briant Wells, Louise Judd, Charles Judd. (Courtesy Col. Thomas J. Wells)

the club's name and motto because the group would emphasize hikes traversing the Ko'olau and Wai'anae ranges. A facetious Hawaiian greeting using another meaning of *piko* became the club's yell. *Pehea kou piko?* How's your belly button?<sup>6</sup>

On March 1, Judd, Wells, his wife Mary, and Major Thomas further discussed the club while riding along Kaukonahua Gulch Trail, recently built by the army.<sup>7</sup> After that outing, Judd designed the membership certificate and wrote the Piko Club song.<sup>8</sup> Set to an old tune called *Ahi Wela* (love hot as fire), the lyrics featured the club yell as a chorus.<sup>9</sup> The membership certificate showed an army hiker, a small white dog, an apple pie, and the club tree, *kōpiko*, of course (fig. 3). Apple pie was Judd's favorite dessert, and the dog his constant trail companion.<sup>10</sup>

On March 12, Judd introduced Wells to Hau'ula hiking and hospitality. The two men, accompanied by nine other army officers, climbed the ridge behind Cooper Ranch Inn toward the Ko'olau summit. At a saddle, informally known as the pig wire, the group turned down Castle Trail, crossed Kaluanui Stream, and descended into Punalu'u Valley. After that nine-hour hike, the men stopped at Coopers for a relaxing swim and dinner.<sup>11</sup>

On April 25, 1931, the Piko Club organization banquet took place at Hale'iwa Beach Club. Invited for an evening of dining and dancing were 20 charter members and their wives. The informal meeting after dinner included remarks by each of the three initial club officers, President Wells, Chief Guide Judd, and Chief Scout Thomas. The members discussed and approved the articles of organization, and Wells presented each Piko with his membership certificate and a bandanna. Livening the program were several rounds of the club's yell and song led by the chief guide and Captain Sherman. The latter received an apple pie for his slip-sliding descent into Punalu'u Valley on the club's founding hike.<sup>12</sup>

Written somewhat tongue-in-cheek, the articles of organization established the Piko Club as "an association of men who enjoyed hiking and the exploration of the out-of-the-way places on Oahu."<sup>13</sup> The purpose of the club was to encourage friendships among its members and to acquaint them with the mountain trails. Membership requirements included crossing the Ko'olau and/or Wai'anae ranges three times on foot.

The 20 original members were largely drawn from the army and the Division of Forestry. Over half were army officers stationed at Schofield Barracks or Fort Shafter. Forestry members were Judd, O'ahu Assistant Forester Glen W. Russ, and Rangers Max F. Landgraf and Robert R. L. McGuire. The club extended charter membership to other key civilians, notably George R. Ewart III, Bishop Estate forester, and Lawrence M. Judd, Territory of Hawai'i governor and now Piko Club honorary president.<sup>14</sup> The group would have few problems crossing private or government land to reach the mountains.

The club members had started hiking together before the organization banquet. Judd and/or Wells usually led mid-week reconnaissance trips to investigate established trails and obscure routes across the mountains. Groups of officers traversed the Wai'anae Range at Maunakapu, Pōhākea Pass, and Keawa'ula. In the Ko'olau Range, members hiked the old Poamoho, Pūpūkea-Kahuku, and Schofield-Waikāne Trails, and the new Mālaekahana Trail.<sup>15</sup> The men frequently took rifles and dogs to hunt pigs along the way. After each hike, General Wells penciled in the route on a map in his office.

In *Excelsior!* Piko poet Captain Arnold W. Shutter captures the spirit of those reconnaissance hikes.

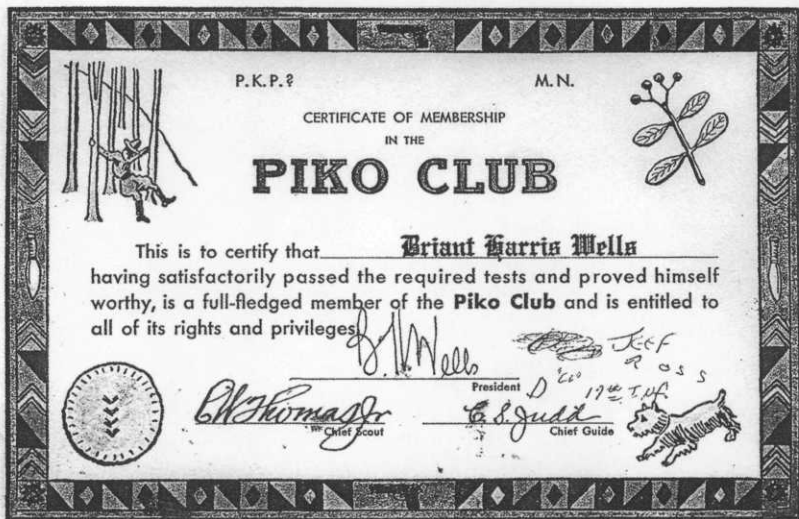


FIG. 3. Piko Club membership certificate. (U.S. Army Museum of Hawai'i)

. . . The algeroba tore his shirt,  
 The thick lantan done him dirt,  
 The cactus stung, as cactus will.  
 The rain clouds washed him off a hill.  
 KU' PIKO!

Until at last he said: "Hell's Bells!  
 I must report to Gen'ral Wells  
 Each mountain and each trail I've clumb,  
 And thus some day, I may become  
 A PIKO!"<sup>16</sup>

The Piko Club scheduled its first Sunday outing on July 26. Guided by member Major Russell A. Osmun, 20 hikers climbed Ka'ala, the highest peak on O'ahu at 4,025 feet, from the Schofield side. Along were Judd, Wells, Thomas, and several guests, including Judd's daughter Emma.<sup>17</sup> One month later Judd suggested that women be admitted to the club, but the proposal failed at a special meeting on September 5.<sup>18</sup>

Although often challenging, the club's Sunday hikes emphasized fun and camaraderie, rather than reconnaissance. The relaxed, informal atmosphere attracted large groups, including prospective members, women, and children. On the trail, the leaders would periodically yell "*Pehea kou piko?*" The rear guard would respond with a rousing "*Maika'i no!*" After lunch or during coffee and smoke breaks, the group would sometimes sing the Piko Club song.<sup>19</sup>

Judd always hiked in shorts and smeared his legs with Vaseline to ward off scratchy lantana shrubs and *uluhe* ferns. Accompanying him was his small but stalwart dog Panache, or Pan for short, who had to be carried over difficult trail sections. Wells often wore riding britches, leggings, a blue jumper, and a canary yellow silk kerchief with a *kukui* nut fastener. Both men sometimes carried machetes for spot trail clearing; others brought cane knives or bolos with both saw and knife blades.<sup>20</sup>

1932

With Forester Judd as chief guide, several of the Sunday outings naturally featured tree planting. On January 17, 1932, 21 Pikos and guests climbed Kupehau-Ka'aikukai Trail above the Kunia cane fields.

Just short of the summit the group stopped at a forestry cabin for lunch and coffee. There, Mary Wells and two others each planted a pine tree. The hikers then crossed the crest near Maunakapu and descended into Nānākuli Valley to the car shuttles.<sup>21</sup>

On March 23, Judd, Wai‘anae Ranger Ralph E. Turner Jr. and Foreman Ernest Landgraf hiked into Mākua Valley to select a location for a new forestry trail. Two days of surveying determined the exact route up the cliffs at the back of the valley.<sup>22</sup> On April 28–29, Ranger Max Landgraf, Foreman Ernest Landgraf, and a six-man Puerto Rican crew cleared the trail all the way to the Wai‘anae crest.<sup>23</sup>

Judd introduced the Piko Club to the new Piko Trail on May 5. Twenty-five members and guests easily scaled the Mākua cliffs to the summit ridge. They rested briefly at a six-bunk forestry cabin, newly built just below the crest near Pahole spring. The group then descended the Mokulē‘ia side on a contour trail to the waiting cars.<sup>24</sup>

While the Piko Trail was building, the club began planning its first annual meeting to be held at Cooper Ranch Inn. Long a favorite of Judd’s, Coopers was a small resort hotel fronting Hau‘ula Homestead Road. The two-story colonial house had a dining room overlooking the ocean and five rooms for overnight guests. On the 10-acre grounds were several cottages, a hibiscus garden with 3,000 varieties, and avocado and mango orchards.<sup>25</sup> Judd communicated several times with the co-owner, Lucy V. Cooper, to make sure the event would be perfect.<sup>26</sup>

On May 8, 45 members and guests arrived at the inn for a noon Sunday dinner and the annual meeting. The Coopers had decorated the long dining table in red, the club’s color, and with sprigs of *‘ōhi‘a lehua*. After dessert (coconut pie, a house specialty), General Wells called the meeting to order to elect officers and discuss other business. The members promptly re-elected Wells as president and Judd as chief guide. Captain Sherman replaced Major Thomas as chief scout.<sup>27</sup>

On Sunday, October 30, 33 members and guests climbed Piko Trail for a tree planting to honor General and Mrs. Wells. At the trail end on the Wai‘anae crest, the two each planted a Norfolk Island (Cook) pine. Among those attending (fig. 4) were Judd, his wife Louise, his two children, and Lieutenant Thomas J. Wells, the general’s son and aide.<sup>28</sup>



The next day Judd wrote to Wells thanking him and his wife for planting the twin pines. "In time they should grow to great height and become conspicuous landmarks in that wild country. They will always be to us a pleasant reminder of two personalities whom we have come to love."<sup>29</sup>

As a result of the friendship between Judd and Wells, the cooperation between forestry and the army continued unabated during 1932. Judd led several reconnaissance hikes, including one on Poamoho Trail to select a site for a new pig hunter cabin.<sup>30</sup> On August 1, Judd searched and found Captain George S. Pierce and two others who had become disoriented on a Ko'olau traverse starting up Pe'ahināi'a Trail.<sup>31</sup> In November 1932, Wells had army bombers drop tin siding and redwood beams to build a Forestry cabin at the head of Kaipapa'u Stream. The army assistance saved the field crews many hours packing the material up Castle Trail.<sup>32</sup>



FIG. 4. At the Dillingham Ranch after planting the twin pines, October 30, 1932. Sitting far right, Mary Wells; on her left, Louise Judd; left center on one knee, Charles Judd; standing sixth from right, Briant Wells; on his right, Thomas Wells. (Photo by Signal Corps U.S. Army, Courtesy Col. Thomas J. Wells)

1933

On Sunday January 8, 1933, 50 club members and guests traversed from Mākaha to Wai‘anae valleys on an old Hawaiian trail known as Kūmaipō. From the Wai‘anae side, 25 others hiked up a ditchmen’s trail past the hydroelectric power station. The two groups rendezvoused at Kūmaipō cabin for a steak lunch and a club meeting. After coffee, President Wells called the roll, and each member present stood and answered “piko!” The members then elected Captain Pierce as chief scout to replace Sherman, who was leaving for a new assignment in Connecticut.<sup>33</sup>

During the meeting, the club officially welcomed a number of new Pikos who had completed the required three-summit hikes. New family members were Wells’ son Thomas, and Judd’s older brother Albert and son Charles S. Jr. Also admitted were two prominent civilians, Frederick D. Lowrey, vice president of Lewers and Cooke, Ltd., and chairman of the Honolulu Police Commission, and Royal A. Vitousek, speaker of the Territorial House of Representatives. The club even accepted two coast guard officers, Commander John S. Baylis and Ensign Ralph R. Curry of the cutter *Itasca*. A 1933 roster lists 64 members, including 40 army officers and 24 civilians.<sup>34</sup>

At 10 a.m. on Sunday April 9, 75 members and guests gathered at the Cooper Ranch Inn for a short hike and the second annual meeting. The hike featured Punaiki Loop (now Papali-Ma‘akua Ridge), recently constructed by Forestry behind the inn. In Papali Gulch, the group stopped for lunch beneath an ‘ōhi‘a ‘ai (mountain apple) grove. There they elected Judd president, Lowrey chief guide, and retained Pierce as chief scout. After the hike the group met at the Cooper bathhouse for a swim in the ocean.<sup>35</sup>

On May 7, Forester Judd planned to introduce the club to Kaunala Trail, which his crews had recently built. Several days earlier he had placed painted wooden labels identifying 23 native trees along the trail. That Sunday, 60 hikers took Pūpūkea-Kahuku Trail past Pu‘u Moa, descended Kaunala Ridge, and then returned on the new trail. Some of the Pikos undoubtedly received a botany lesson and quiz from Judd, who loved to share his knowledge of native trees. At Paumalū Stream, the group enjoyed steaks and chops cooked over an ‘iliahī (sandlewood) fire. During the meal, a keg of beer dropped

unannounced from a *kukui* tree to everyone's delight. The well-watered group named the lunch spot Camp Wells in honor of the "Grand Piko."<sup>36</sup>

Later that month, Judd received devastating news at work. Because of poor economic conditions, the Territorial Legislature reduced forestry appropriations by 75 percent. For the coming biennial period beginning July 1, 1933, the division would receive only \$65,800, compared with \$260,165 for the previous two years. Judd let go 74 of his 87 employees on July 1. Gone were all of the field crews, most of the nursery workers, and 13 out of 18 rangers. On O'ahu, only Rangers McGuire and Landgraf survived the cut. Judd spent two days writing letters of recommendation for the dismissed men.<sup>37</sup>

To continue forestry operations, Piko members Governor Judd, Forester Judd, and General Wells worked together over the next six months to obtain Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) funds for Hawai'i.<sup>38</sup> Proposed by President Roosevelt, ECW was a New Deal program to put unemployed men back to work in national forests and parks on the mainland. By stressing the military and forestry benefits of ECW, the three Pikos convinced Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, that Hawai'i as a territory was eligible for those funds. In October, as part of the application process, Judd and Wells jointly developed a list of 10 proposed trail construction projects on O'ahu.<sup>39</sup> On December 21, Governor Judd received a radiogram from Ickes approving an initial ECW allotment of \$299,885 for Hawai'i.<sup>40</sup>

During the half-year scramble for ECW money, the Piko Club conducted several notable outings. On June 25, a fine Sunday, the members hiked Mālaekahana Trail, constructed by Forestry in 1931. At the small cabin near the summit, the Pikos presented General Wells with an old *'umeke* (calabash) made of milo. Judd had purchased the bowl from Coconut Hut on King St. for \$28. Each Piko contributed 50 cents for the gift. After the hike, the group went for a swim in the ocean off Lā'ie.<sup>41</sup>

For November 19, the club scheduled the old Castle Trail, built in 1906. On a warm Sunday, 47 hikers climbed the switchbacks to Kaluanui Stream. Most then headed downstream to the top of the second waterfall above Kaliuwa'a (Sacred) Falls. A few continued up the trail to the pig wire and then bushwhacked to Kaipapa'u cabin near the Ko'olau summit.<sup>42</sup>

1934

ECW projects on O'ahu got off to a slow start because of insufficient trucks to transport the workers to the job sites. There was, of course, no shortage of young, unemployed men willing to build trail and plant trees. The workers hired became members of a manpower pool known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). By early May 1934, crews were building Poamoho, Kawailoa, Ko'olau Summit, and Waiawa (now Kipapa) Trails. The pace during startup was so hectic that Judd and the other forestry Pikos had little time for the club. For most of 1934, the military members ran an abbreviated schedule, emphasizing hikes away from the construction areas, such as Kawailoa (now Kawainui) Gulch and Lanipō.<sup>43</sup>

Judd, however, did give the club permission for an ambitious Ko'olau cross-country hike for the third annual meeting. On Sunday, May 27, a small group bushwhacked from the unfinished Kawailoa Trail to the recently started Summit Trail and then descended Kaula Trail. At the meeting, perhaps at Mālaekahana cabin, the members elected General Wells president, his son Tom chief scout, and local attorney, Clifton H. Tracy, chief guide. The group also amended the articles of organization to allow women to join the club. Several months later, Judd's wife Louise and daughter Emma became the first female Pikos.<sup>44</sup>

On September 30, Major General Briant H. Wells stepped down as commander of the Hawaiian Department and retired from the army. He decided to stay in Hawai'i and became secretary and treasurer of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association.<sup>45</sup> The "Grand Piko" remained active as club president but attended few hikes. With Wells retired, the club lost its strong army connection.

1935

The Piko Club began scheduling the newly built CCC trails in 1935. Judd led 53 members and guests up the unfinished Hālawā Trail on Sunday, February 24. The group walked 4.5 miles over the improved route and then pushed several hundred yards farther along the ridge.<sup>46</sup>

On Sunday, March 24, the club hiked the recently completed

Kipapa Trail. Thirty-six members and guests covered the 6.5-mile “sidewalk” route in just over two hours. At the top, the group had lunch outside a new CCC shelter with a redwood water tank and a lean-to kitchen. The Pikos named the rustic shelter Uncle Tom’s cabin, probably after Ranger Tom McGuire or Lieutenant Tom Wells.<sup>47</sup>

On May 5, the club held its fourth annual meeting at Ka’aikukai forestry cabin above Nānākuli Valley. To get there, 50 members and guests climbed the Wai’anae crest past the Pu’u Manawahua surveying station and the peaks of Pālehua and Maunakapu to the head of Ka’aikukai Gulch. At the cabin, the first order of business was lunch—broiled tenderloin steaks wrapped in bacon and popped into buttered hamburger rolls.

After coffee, the group shouted the Piko Club yell and sang the club song with a new fourth verse composed by Judd.

Stout they are because their leader  
Is a strong and mighty hiker  
Over peaks, thru thorny dells  
Boldly leads our General Wells<sup>48</sup>

(One observer commented that maybe Judd should stick to trees.) After the singing, Tom Wells read a nostalgic poem written by Piko poet Schutter, who was now stationed in Washington, D.C. Judd then unveiled the design of a metal Piko Club emblem to be attached to a watch fob.

Finally, the elections got underway with General Wells presiding. At a crucial point in the voting, Judd and his son set off a smoke bomb to create a diversion and insure that Wells would remain president. Their ploy was successful, as the members reelected Wells and Chief Guide Tracy, and installed Captain Joseph B. Sweet as chief scout. “After the usual amount of bickering, accusations, threats, and insults, the meeting broke up, all a shambles,” joked the observer.<sup>49</sup>

On Sunday, July 14, the club completed a magnificent Ko’olau summit traverse on three new CCC trails. Thirty Pikos took Poamoho Trail to the top, where they bushwacked north briefly to the current end of the Summit Trail. After strolling along the wide-open path, the group descended the rebuilt Castle Trail. Halfway down, Chief Scout Sweet served coffee at the CCC camp near Kaluanui Stream.<sup>50</sup>

On Sunday, September 1, the Piko Club explored the northern Ko'olau crest. After meeting at Paumalū Station, the group climbed Kaunala Ridge to Pu'u Moa and then headed south on Pūpūkea-Kahuku and Ko'olau Summit Trails. Past Mālaekahana cabin, the Pikos descended the new Wailele (now Lā'ie) Trail and stopped for a swim at a pool in Kahawainui Gulch.<sup>51</sup>

On Sunday, November 3, Judd led the club on another Ko'olau summit traverse. Fifty-three members and guests climbed Poamoho Trail past the muddy CCC camp used by the summit crew. At the top, the group headed south along a spectacular windward section of the Summit Trail below Pu'u Pauao. The Pikos then descended Waikāne Trail past the ditchman's house to their waiting cars.<sup>52</sup>

On Sunday, December 15, 41 members and guests crossed the Wai'anae range above Mākua Valley. The group climbed Piko Trail past the twin pines planted in 1932 by General and Mrs. Wells. The Pikos had lunch and coffee at a small stream along the new Makaleha (now Mokolēi'a) Trail. Judd later complained about the weak coffee on the hike. He suggested measuring the water before putting the coffee grounds in the container. His recipe called for one-half pound of coffee for each gallon of water.<sup>53</sup>

On December 19, Judd inspected Kipapa Trail with Lieutenant Colonel (later General) George S. Patton Jr., the new intelligence officer of the Hawaiian Department and a prospective Piko. Around noon the two and several others reached Uncle Tom's cabin, perched on the Ko'olau summit. The view from the cabin was spectacular on that clear, cool winter day. They then hiked north along the summit ridge, passing Foreman Ernest Landgraf's CCC crew working south. The group followed the newly built path to Waikāne junction and then descended the army trail. The men completed the 12-mile walk in six hours. Judd later remarked, "The hike seemed to have given them all the exercise they desired."<sup>54</sup>

### 1936–1937

On February 16, 1936, the club sampled the new CCC Honouliuli Contour Trail in the Wai'anae range. At 9 a.m., 58 members and guests met on Kunia Road near Waiāhole Ditch. The group climbed to the summit of Palikea and then turned south along the crest. After

lunch at Ka'aikukai cabin, the Pikos descended to the contour trail and followed it to the car shuttles waiting in the pineapple fields below Pu'u Kaua.<sup>55</sup>

On Sunday, March 3, the Piko Club held its fifth annual meeting at Camp Wells near Paumalū Stream on Kaunala Trail. The members elected Judd president, Ranger McGuire chief guide, and Captain Leroy C. Wilson chief scout. After lunch, Judd presented a program entitled "The Real Origin of the Piko Club." The short skit involved a chance meeting *mauka* between a *haole* (white) missionary couple and a Hawaiian bird catcher couple. Mostly in Hawaiian, the dialogue played on the various meanings of the word *piko*. Afterward, Judd, who spoke fluent Hawaiian, explained the skit to the more confused members of the audience.<sup>56</sup>

On March 13, the club hiked the last section of the Ko'olau Summit Trail to be completed. The group climbed Kipapa Trail to Uncle Tom's cabin and then headed north on the freshly dug path. Just past Pu'u Ka'amakua the group descended Waikāne Trail to their cars parked near the ditchman's house. The Pikos had now hiked most of the Summit Trail in sections.<sup>57</sup>

In June, Patton and his wife Beatrice, now good friends of the Judds, became members of the Piko Club. They were a welcome addition as army membership had dwindled over the past several years because of transfers back to the mainland and insufficient replacements. Chief Scout Wilson expressed concern over that trend to President Judd in a letter of August 28. The club roster dated September 14 shows 64 civilians and only six army officers, including Wilson and Patton.<sup>58</sup>

In early September, Judd, McGuire, and Wilson began planning an ambitious one-day summit hike. The route would follow Pūpūkea-Kahuku Trail, the recently completed Summit Trail, and Kipapa Trail, a distance slightly longer than a marathon. The plan called for a 5:00 a.m. rendezvous at Waimea Station and a 5:30 start at Pūpūkea Forest Reserve gate above the orchards of the Hawaiian Avocado Company. The hikers would reach Uncle Tom's cabin at 6:00 p.m. just before sunset. There, a second party coming up Kipapa Trail would provide the marathoners with supper and coffee. Both groups would then descend by moonlight and be home by midnight. In an emergency, homing pigeons carried by the hikers would deliver a

message to Schofield Barracks to summon cars to Kawailoa, Lā'ie, Castle, Poamoho, or Waikāne trailheads. In the hike flyer, Captain Wilson warns, "This hike is 28 miles and is not intended for infants. . . . It is mainly a question of feet. Shoes and socks must be perfect. Hobnails are indispensable."<sup>59</sup>

The Piko marathon took place on Sunday, September 27, 1936, and was a rousing success. Four women were included among the 10 army officers, seven enlisted men, and 16 civilians, who went the distance without injury. Most of the army personnel were well down Kīpapa Trail by 5:30 p.m. and reached the cars before dark. Judd later recounted his experience that day.

I went up the Waiawa [Kīpapa] Trail in the late afternoon and came out with the cowtailers. At the last stream crossing near the zigzags where there is water, Capt. Wilson, Tom [McGuire], some wahines [women], and several men and I had a little party in the dark, and I invented the PIKO cocktail on the spot, and 6 cupfuls were passed around among the crowd which made the walk down by moonlight very pleasant.<sup>60</sup>

The marathon was the last hurrah for the Piko Club. Forester Judd and General Wells had originally formed the club to encourage Army and Forestry members to get together socially. With its now overwhelming civilian membership, the organization had strayed far from its original purpose. The prospects for attracting new army members were not promising. Unlike General Wells, subsequent army commanders were not enthusiastic about hiking and thus did not actively support the club. President Judd discussed the situation with Wells, McGuire, Wilson, and Patton. Based on their advice, Judd disbanded the Piko Club in late March 1937, just short of its sixth anniversary. He recommended that the civilian members reorganize the club, but they never did.<sup>61</sup>

Like the club, the Piko Trail is long gone, but the twin pines marking its end stand today. To see them, take Mokulē'ia Trail through Peacock Flat campground. At the small shelter, turn right and climb briefly to the Wai'anae crest. Turn right again on Mākua Rim Trail and walk five minutes to the pines. Very likely you will have the spot to yourself, so go ahead and yell "*Pehea kou piko?*" I have tried that several times, but the only answer came from the wind soughing through the Piko pines.



## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Charles S. Judd, "Division of Forestry Report, Report of the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry for Fiscal Year July 1, 1929 to June 30, 1930," *The Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist* XXVII (2) 66.
- <sup>2</sup> Brian McAllister Linn, *Guardians of Empire* (Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 1997) 173, 196; Colonel (ret) Thomas J. Wells, personal interview. February 14, 2000.
- <sup>3</sup> Charles S. Judd, *Daily Journal* 1931, January 19, 1931. AH.
- <sup>4</sup> Judd, *Journal*, February 17, 1931.
- <sup>5</sup> Charles S. Judd, Notes for Piko Club history, February 17, 1931. Judd manuscript, AH M-77 Box 1-14.
- <sup>6</sup> Wells, interview, February 14, 2000.
- <sup>7</sup> Judd, *Journal*, March 1, 1931.
- <sup>8</sup> Judd, Notes, March 1, 1931.
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