

Gracious Hosts

From the moment the reception committee found me on board the S.S. Matsonia on September 10 until the moment the United Air Lines' Mainliner took off on October 6 the members of the One Puka Puka treated me royally. Nor was my family forgotten-- in addition to the gifts there were the ~~flowers~~ and leis sent directly to my wife. We shall never forget your Hawaiian hospitality.

Someone has asked me what was the most striking thing about the visit to Hawaii. Without hesitation my answer is: the mingling of the various races everywhere in the Territory. It was a treat to preach in a Japanese Christian Church, to hear Hawaiians sing in their own language, to eat Chinese food, to see Filipinos planting piennapples so expertly. Elsewhere we talk about such a desirable situation; in the Islands you are so used to it that you scarcely notice it.

Next to this, I believe I would list as the second distinctive feature of the trip the enjoyment of so much beauty without any dangers. Just after I arrived home I read in the newspaper that one of high school boys was bitten by a snake ~~while lying~~ /while lying in the grass whatching a football game. In your fair land you can see tropical beauty without end and without fear of reptiles or beasts or insects.

So far as I am concerned the most important feature of the vacation was meeting old friends and the families of old friends. The parents of our KIA comrades opened their homes and hearts to me ~~With an~~ ~~inexpressible~~ kindness; I knew that they considered me one of their own, and that is the highest respect any person can show another. I was sorry that I could not speak directly to these folks in their own tongue, and that I could not spend more time in each house.

The tour was very well arranged, and ~~these~~ who planned the itinerary deserve praise. I discovered that I saw a lot of things that many of the men of the 100th have never seen--in spite of the 17 months indoctrination you men gave me I found there were some very worthfhile features you forgot to tell me about. Someday I would like to take a trip on horseback throug the Waipio Valley or hike into the sec ion of Kauai.