

Warm Springs and Hawaiian cultures share similarities

by Marsha Shewczyk

Discover Hawaii! What does that mean to 22 Simnasho students and adults who worked hard to take such a trip. After achieving the goal, spending a week on the island of Oahu and returning, just what has been learned?

Discovering is "finding out" and "learning about." The Simnasho 4-H "Discovery" Club's trip to Hawaii enabled the group to actually do some discovering. They were able to see Hawaii as it really is and to learn a little about the Hawaiian culture. They learned, too, that traveling takes much planning and is as valuable as you make it.

The 13 students and 9 adults making the journey to the Hawaiian islands were exposed to many situations demanding effort at times. They learned to relax, too, in an unfamiliar setting, surrounded by an unfamiliar culture. The individuals in the Simnasho group saw many new things and many new ways to relate on interpersonal levels both within the traveling group and between themselves and the people of Hawaii.

Besides merely seeing Hawaii on the tourist level the Simnasho group were both able to leave a part of themselves and their culture as well as take a little Hawaiian culture back with them. Through their performances the students showed the people of Hawaii some of their own native American culture. They demonstrated the dances of Warm Springs along with a special song and sign language performance. The students with valuable assistance from accompanying adults performed at the Ilikai Hotel in Honolulu, at two elementary schools and at Brigham Young University.

All who saw the performances were very interested in learning about the students and their home. At one elementary school the Simnasho students were able to pair up with

Hawaiian student, going with that student to his classroom. Many questions were asked each student concerning Warm Springs and the way in which people lived there.

At the same time the Simnasho students were able to see many parallels between the native American culture and the native Hawaiian culture. Until recently native Hawaiians repressed their culture. The last generation were not given Hawaiian names. Now, however, there is an interest in reviving the native culture. Children once again receive names and the Hawaiian language is taught in some schools. The native Hawaiian wants to stay on his own land because "This is my land," one Hawaiian elder stated.

Simnasho school teacher Rich Little feels the children have become "much more aware of the similarities and differences in a healthy way, a more accepting way, "as a result of the trip.

Many misconceptions about an unfamiliar culture exist until a person can actually see the people and their culture in operation. Even a week's exposure to this new culture changed any stereotyped ideas people had about Hawaii and its people.

One Simnasho student thought for sure that Hawaiian people lived in tepees until she arrived there to see typical wood frame houses. By the end of the trip the students learned that these people are much like those people back at home. The students were saying, "They're so nice to us."

Despite appealing advertisements both students and adults learned that Hawaii is not just the land of sunshine and surfers. The weather was not ideal all the time and the land was occupied by many people, both those who lived on the island and tourists. One child commented, "It's just like a 'big city.'" Hawaii's number one industry is tourism and many of the people who live



CULTURAL SIMILARITIES—The Hawaiian people like the Warm Springs people are striving to preserve the basic elements of their culture. This site on the island of Oahu was once used in Hawaiian cultural activities. Work is being done to restore it.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

on Oahu are there to accommodate the many visiting tourists.

Highlights of the trip included swimming in the warm, aqua-marine waters of Hawaii and a visit to the Polynesian Culture Center sponsored by Brigham Young University. At the Polynesian Culture Center the Simnasho group toured the various representative villages of the south sea islands learning dances of each distinct culture and games familiar to the islands' people. At each representative village visitors were able to see how the native cultures of each island group lived.

To culminate the visit to the Culture Center an evening performance of many native dances was presented. The pageantry of bright colors and rhythmic dances was definitely a grand finale for the day's activities.

The Sea Life Park was a part of the visit to Oahu. Tropical

sea life was viewed along with performances by penguins and Dolphins.

The Hawaiian Council of Indian Nations on Oahu sponsored a pot luck dinner the last night of the group's stay. The affinity between native Americans in Hawaii, visiting native Americans and native Hawaiians was felt at this get-together.

The council was also responsible for arranging an exhibition by Simnasho students at a Hawaiian reservation school. Lorena Bill and Hazel Suppah enjoyed a visit with local senior citizens also arranged by the workers at the council.

The children of the Simnasho elementary school "represented both Warm Springs and Oregon well," related teacher Rich Little. The experience is something the children will never forget. "They will be relating back to

these things. They will be relating to the differences and the similarities. That will affect them in a positive way," Little expressed.

Along with the experience of seeing and experiencing a new culture Little says, "Some of the relationships with each other (within the group) will be stronger. Some will be life-long."

The students who made the trip include: Joseph Rudy, Joshua Currey, Jay Burger, Anthony Allen, Lillie Meanus, Corey Thomas, Starla Green, Casey Green, Spencer Poitra, Sharold Thomas, Rena Suppah, John Ross and Ramona Meanus.

Adults accompanying the students include: Lucinda Green, Hazel Suppah, Lorena Bill, Nancy Tailfeathers, Dale Spencer, Marsha Shewczyk, Charles Tailfeathers and Rich Little.

Toe Ness

There was this guy who had been drinking, went into a bar and sat down next to this young attractive young girl. He ordered a drink and finished half of it, he turned to the girl and said, "Would you like a kiss?" She looked at the guy and slapped him off the stool. He got up shook his head sat down finished his drink. He again turns to the girl and muttered, "I guess that means holding hands is out of the question?" YIKES

SS SS SS

There was this mother who was trying to get her little son to eat all of his vegetables. She said that he would grow up and be a big strong man. The little boy said to his mother, "Instead of eating all my vegetables to become big and strong...couldn't I just hire a body guard?" YIKES

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CONFUCIUS SAY: "Difficult to finish with woman with whom was easy to begin!"

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After a lengthy deliberation the lawyer told his client, "Your wife agrees with the conditions of the divorce providing she gets custody of all the money!" YIKES

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Middle age is when you are more interested in seeing how long the car will last instead of how fast it will go. YIKES!!!

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Powwow at CWU

The Native American Student Association of Central Washington University is inviting any alumni to attend their powwow which will be held on May 21, 1982 at the SUB Ballroom in Ellensburg,

Washington. The powwow will begin at 7 p.m. Also invited are any other Indian people who may be interested in attending the university someday.

Cash prizes will be given to men and women contestants

in the Traditional and Fancy Dance categories. The public is invited.

For more information contact the Association president, Mike Hyde, at (509) 865-5250.

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