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DESCRIPTION OF HONOLULU BUSINESS
(By A. D. Moe)
Honolulu, Feb. 1, 1925.

The retail business of Honolulu is in the hands of the Japanese and Chinese. While several large department stores and general merchandise stores are run by Americans or White Europeans, the bulk of the small stores of all classes of business belong to the Orientals. A few native Hawaiian names can be seen on the signs of stores or shops, but if investigated it probably would reveal that there was Japanese or Chinese blood in the family. Japanese largely predominate.

It is one of the interesting occupations of the tourists to go shopping in the many curio stores, filled mostly with Oriental goods. About the only souvenirs of Hawaii are ukuleles and novelties of the koi wood, coconuts and grass skirts of the Hula girls. I have not seen on display any art-craft work of the natives. In the Bishop museum are many articles made by the natives of former generations, before the coming of the white man, such as were done by the American Indians, but the natives today do not appear to have any industry peculiar to themselves, such as the making of baskets, needlework, etc.

Apart from one or two main streets all the business streets of Honolulu might be termed the Oriental quarter. There are almost countless small shops, operated as a rule by proprietors who live back of the front room used for display and sale of goods. Many of them are an exact duplicate of shops we saw some years ago in their native countries. There are more Oriental shops in Honolulu than in San Francisco's Chinatown, although not as large stores as a few in the latter city. Prices are generally lower than on the coast. Competition is keen and business is done on a small margin of profit as a rule, making it especially hard for the white merchants. The Orientals have invaded every line of business. Barber shops are operated mostly by Japanese women, some of the shops having a man barber or two. Very often babies are playing around the shop or being tended by a girl while the mother scrubs the face of a customer.

Many of the Japanese women continue to wear the native dress, but the majority, and the children almost without exception, wear the same style of dress as the white folk. Children as a rule go barefooted, and many laborers among the adults also. The elderly Chinese women almost invariably dress in native costume, wearing the blouse and trousers. The pig-tail queue among the old men has entirely disappeared.

Some of the Orientals still retain their Buddhist religion and have a few temples. Chinese funerals are often seen where the entire family of survivors march behind the hearse single file, wailing and weeping, while on the coffin of the deceased are dishes of food to keep the spirit of the departed from hunger while he is waiting for the heavenly guide. While the Japanese retain more strongly their ties with the old country and as a rule send their savings to Japan, the Chinese more quickly adapt themselves to their adopted country and often invest their earnings here. They intermarry with the native Hawaiians and the progeny, as a rule, is a more energetic race than the pure native.

The large markets along the water front are interesting places. In them are displayed all native products as well as those shipped from the mainland. One can get fresh papayas, the meat of which looks and tastes very much like our canteloupe, but are of different shape and appearance. They will weigh from one to five or six pounds. Pineapples are on display everywhere. Green peas, string beans, in fact, all garden vegetables are to be had here the year round, except that most of the head lettuce is shipped in from California. Ripe strawberries are on the market also.

The fish markets contain a great variety of sea food and it is an interesting sight in the morning when the fish boats bring in their catches. Quite a sensation was caused here yesterday when a large apupu was brought in. It weighed 275 pounds and is considered a sacred fish by the Chinese. It was the first one brought in in three years. A shrewd Chinese bought it for \$90 and then auctioned it off. It was afterwards sold in small slices for \$1.50 a pound. Handbills were printed in Chinese and distributed, so the prize catch was soon disposed of. The fish is famous for its oiliness and is eaten only by the Chinese.

Flower shops contain wonderful displays of tropical flowers, most of which we never saw before. But one needs only to look into any yard to see flowering shrubs, trees and plants, most of them strange to us, or fairly recognized as a monster size of some dwarf variety carefully guarded in a hothouse in the States. We have seen but little bamboo growing here. Nor have we seen any citrus trees except the avocado, or alligator pear.

While white ducks or palm beach suits are quite common here among the men, yet the ordinary light weight woolen goods, similar to those worn in the States in summer, are worn by the majority of the Chinese men. Straw hats are generally worn, yet many prefer the felt hats. Very few go bareheaded, as has become quite a fad at home, as it is not only uncomfortable but a little risky to stand with the head exposed to the hot rays of the noonday tropical sun. Most of the traffic cops on busy corners sit under a large umbrella on a revolving stool and direct traffic by turning a large sign with the words "stop" and "go."

There are 15,000 automobiles registered here. Besides one sees quite a few foreign licenses on cars from the States. There is very little fast driving and no congestion of traffic. No one is in a hurry here, as one learns soon to take it easy and the climate does not promote much surplus energy. Gasoline sells at 18 1/2 cents at present, being only 1 1/2 cents above the San Francisco price, with no state or territory tax. About \$90 are added to the San Francisco price of cars. Most of the garages are just open sheds, both private and public. There is little danger of cars being stolen, as there would be no place to conceal them long without discovery, and it would be next to impossible to get them out of the country on a boat.

February 5.

After spending a few days at a hotel in the business district we secured a cottage at Waikiki beach and are enjoying a real summer outing at the seashore. The principle diversion at the beach is surf bathing, and it is the finest beach for bathing I ever saw. The water is always warm, varying from 73 to 76 degrees the year round. Here is where the surf board riding is a novel sport, and where the condition of the coral reefs make it possible. The tide varies from a little over one foot to less than two feet, usually about 1 1/2 feet, so there is little perceptible difference between high and low tide. A fringe of coral reefs line the beach at this point about a quarter of a mile from shore, and between the shore line and the reef the depth of the water is mostly four to five feet. The breakers form at the coral reefs, and are dissipated before they strike the shore. The bathers take the boards out beyond the line of breakers and then stand up and ride in on them, coming with considerable speed, and it is an expert who can ride clear through without getting dumped off. Outrigger canoes also ride through the breakers. A half dozen will go in them and they usually come through all right unless a large wave fills the canoe with water. It is great sport, and quite a sight to watch both surf board and outrigger canoe parties riding the breakers.

Since we have been here the sea has been calm, and the breaker line the water is almost as calm as a lake. The beach line is very narrow, sea walls being built at low water mark along most of the beach, with short strips of sand beach in places. On account of the slight difference between high and low tide there is very little difference in the shore line between the tides. Bathers pay no attention to the tides, the crowds being before breakfast, before luncheon and before dinner, the largest crowds being seen about 4 p. m. Even moonlight bathing parties are very common. One can see bathers going back and forth to the beach in bathing suits almost any hour of the day all over this beach district, from babies to old men and women.

And do we do as the natives do? I am getting some good wear out of the new bathing suit presented me at Christmas time, and the missus in a very striking red suit and me in the darker one start out from the cottage every day for a dip in the surf. Haven't tried the surf boards yet, but on getting dressed.

Our cottage is situated in a garden of cocconut palms, flowering hibiscus, argemone trees and a hundred varieties of plants and flowers we have never seen before and have not learned the names of. It is always cool enough to be comfortable here and we need a blanket over us at night. There are no chimneys, heating stoves or fireplaces in the houses. Cooking is done by electricity, and gas is also used in some parts of the city, while oil is used in the hotel ranges.

The sun rises now at 6.30, and shortly before that time there is a great clattering of the Mynah birds, which are about the size of a robin, although dark, almost black, in color, with a bright yellow spot around each eye. They are to be seen on the lawns all over the city, hopping along with a half hitch and a trot. At night they roost in droves in the thick branches of some large tree, with a chattering that fills the air. In the morning they herald the new day with the same tune, and we usually arise, often going to the beach for a plunge. On the way back I sometimes climb a cocconut tree and pick one of the big husks. We either have to watch for them to fall or go up after them, as there are no monkeys here to get them for us.

There are no windows in the front of our cottage, just screens, even the front door having a screen for a panel. Mosquitos and flies are so few as to be negligible. There are no snakes on the island and no poisonous insects of any kind. It is necessary to keep food in an icebox to keep it fresh or from spoiling. We are having our fill of ripe pineapples, strawberries, green corn, beans, papayas, cucumbers, etc., all raised on the island. Most of the butter comes in from California and New Zealand. The apples on the market are mostly Watsonville Growers, but saw several boxes of Hood River Arkansas Blacks with Kelly Bros. label on them. One box with that label was filled with Watsonville New-Zealand. Also saw a few boxes of New Zealand apples and a few pears from Lake county, California.

Waikiki Beach is about 1 1/2 miles long from the Fort Ruger reservation to the Elks club house near Diamond Head. Between the main thoroughfare, or what a cartline extends clear across the city, and the beach it is about two blocks wide most of the distance, narrowing down in one place until the beach comes to the road. The Moana hotel, with 1000 rooms, is located on the road and extends to the beach. This hotel is the finest on the islands. Several other excellent hotels are also near by. A few pretentious homes are also located in this section, but it is mostly given up to small bungalows and cottages for tourists. Land here is selling at \$1 to \$2 a square foot. Across the road a new section is being laid out which was formerly planted to rice and taro, the latter used in making poi, the native dish. A canal is being dug 250 feet wide, filling in the low lands with coral rock, which will be covered with soil and laid out in lots.

The Waikiki beach section was formerly the royal cocconut groves, which are being largely cut down to make building sites, but many of which are still standing, some of them rearing their slender stems high in the sky. It would sure take a monkey to climb one of them to get a cocconut. Near the Moana hotel is a grass house still standing which was built and used by the natives, but now used as a private garage. This is next door to the apartment on Cleg-horn Drive occupied by Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hart, old friends of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Davidson, who spent a summer in Hood River several years ago.

Apple Tree for Hot Climate
H. C. Helms, of Lexington, Tex., has produced apple trees that bear apples in climates hitherto ungenial for apple tree growing. He has given Texas, Cuba, the Isles of Pines and lands of the Caribbean Sea apple trees laden with fruit, which have been unknown in these southern countries. In beauty of coloring and deliciousness of taste this new apple is said to be unequalled. Thirty-five years ago Mr. Helms began experimenting, but met with considerable discouragement, his neighbors believing that apple trees wouldn't bear apples so far south of the apple tree dead line. Now his efforts are rewarded. The United States Department of Agriculture says he has succeeded in intro-

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ducing apple bearing trees where such trees were unknown before he began his work in experimentation. His achievement is said to be a triumph over the normal law of nature.

School Girls Take Hike
Sixteen girls of the Hood River high school Saturday, accompanied by Victor C. Follenius, supervisor of rec-

reation in the city schools, hiked from the Underwood school to the top of Underwood mountain, where an ideal view of the Hood River valley was obtained. The party of students was taken in automobiles across the new interstate bridge by Leslie Butler and C. A. Bell. The girls were instructed in woodcraft and studied the early wildflowers.

Next Saturday Mr. Follenius will pilot a group of Boy Scouts to the top of Burdola mountain, eminence that rises to the northeast of White Salmon.

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