

HAWAII (Continued)

house was \$16,000.

One of the unique things about buying a house in Hawaii is that very little land is available in fee simple. In most cases you buy only the house and lease the land on a long-term basis.

I'd been writing Jean lengthy letters telling how things were going for me in Hawaii. When her orchestra contract was up, she bundled Chris on an airplane and joined me.

Luckily for her, the first flutist with the Honolulu Symphony had just left Hawaii and Jean got the job. It's only part time, but she also inherited a part-time teaching job in the music department of Honolulu's top private prep school, Punahou. Even so, she earned less than half her \$4,000-plus annual income in Buffalo.

No two ways about it, we were strapped financially for the first six months; but gradually, the advantages of our new home began to be felt in

pleasant little surprises neither of us had anticipated.

I remember how Jean used to come home fuming from the supermarket in Buffalo. "I've never seen such inconsiderate clerks," she'd say. "Half the time, when you ask for something they just stand there talking to one another."

One day I realized I'd never heard her make the same complaint in Hawaii. So I asked her why.

"Now that you mention it," she said, "I guess I haven't run into a discourteous clerk here. They seem to like to help you all they can."

I had noticed the same attitude among drivers in Honolulu. In Buffalo, if another driver turns out in front of your car, you screech to a stop within inches of his fender, then lean on your horn. In Honolulu, you stop politely and let him turn. He'll give you a wave of thanks and drive away. Hardly anybody blows his horn in Hawaii.



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