

One thing I still can't get used to, though, is the 45-mile top speed limit enforced on the Island.

WE SOON LEARNED how to dress for Hawaii. I wear a white shirt and tie to work with slacks, but no coat. My winter suit and my topcoat have never been unpacked.

Jean was reluctant to try on a Hawaiian muumuu, sort of a jazzed-up mother Hubbard. Now she wears hardly anything else around the house. As for Chris, he hasn't had a pair of shoes on, except for going to church, in three months nor had a cold for the past six. His standard costume is a T shirt and shorts.

We soon discovered that while prices are high on most things, you save on others. Our house requires no heating, car insurance is half what I paid before, and we spend less on clothes.

Nobody in our family has ever shown much inclination toward gardening. But the lush growth in our yard stirred some latent instinct deep within us.

Jean went right out and acquired some orchid plants, hung them up in the carport, watered them for a month, then forgot them when the symphony season opened. One day as I was backing out on my way to work, I noticed the plants had sprouted an incredibly beautiful spray of delicate orchids.

My big experiment outdoors was with coconut trees. I found some nuts and decided to let them sprout for planting. A neighbor said it would take two years for them to sprout. The first shoots appeared in a few months. I have now planted eight coconut trees and feel like Johnny Appleseed.

In addition to orchids and coconut trees, we have an enormous bougainvillea bush that covers the front of the carport with red blossoms year-round, pandanus trees sheltering the front of the house, and a forest of banyan and hau trees for Chris to climb in and swing on in back. For the first few months after we moved in, we made breakfast out of the delicious papayas I picked in the back yard.

There's one disadvantage in living where things grow so easily: mowing the lawn is a year-round chore. Last Christmas I gave myself a power mower, our first big buy since the cars.

These are two economy-sized Fiat 600s. We need two cars because our pace, in spite of the easygoing climate, is faster than it was in Buffalo. In Honolulu I work an eight-hour day. I worked seven hours before. I was only two miles from the office in Buffalo. It now takes me half an hour to drive to work over a four-lane highway. And Jean is constantly on the go, driving to school or to a concert or rehearsal.



Hawaii's sports and scenery are famed, but it has cultural facilities, too.

As a result, we've never been aware of an intellectual stagnation that some people warned us about. Frankly, I'm no intellect, anyway. That's more in Jean's line. But she tells me that, as far as music is concerned, Honolulu is more cosmopolitan than Buffalo.

As for myself, I think Honolulu's two daily newspapers, morning and evening, compare favorably with those we read in Buffalo. The same holds for Honolulu's eight radio stations and three TV channels. The only difference is that TV shows are mailed to Hawaii on film for delayed showing.

Things are looking up for us now. After several salary increases, I now earn more than \$5,000 a year. Recently, I topped all other salesmen in a com-

pany-wide sales contest in competition with our men on the West Coast. That indicates how much Hawaii is booming.

More and more new businesses are springing up, and the pace is expected to increase now that we've become a state. A new oil refinery and a projected industrial electronics laboratory for work on missile contracts will open jobs for technicians.

In my own field, the economic climate is excellent. Within five years I'm sure I'll be making a better salary than if I'd stayed in Buffalo.

Our house is up for sale now because the long drive over the mountain pass is too much for our heavy schedule. One of our first considerations in this house hunt is to settle in an area that is closer to my job and near a good public school. As in Buffalo, apparently some of the public schools are better than others. As far as we know, their standards equal the mainland's.

Right now, both Jean and I are so delighted with Hawaii that you couldn't drag us away. True, we had to take a cut in our standard of living while I worked into a new job; but that will soon change. Then we'll be living better than we could have dreamed of in Buffalo. Why, we have a beautiful beach just a few blocks away, which we're perfectly welcome to use any time.

Our friends in Buffalo are green with envy. Even before we left they said, "I wish I had the courage to do what you're doing." Several couples were supposed to follow us after we got settled. They never did. But if they had, they would have found that moving to Hawaii is worth every ounce of effort and every cent of the cost.

After initial hard times, Tom now looks forward to sharing in Hawaiian boom.



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