

Grandmother and the 50th State QUESTIONS

An invitation was extended to my grandmother by friends who had just been appointed as foreign missionaries to a church in Honolulu to visit this land of paradise. With a dream in her heart she promised to join them for a vacation. One year later, this dream became a reality. From reports and slides I received this information.

She left by plane from Spartanburg, South Carolina, at four o'clock one afternoon in June 1959, and arrived in Honolulu at approximately the same time the following day. Arriving at the International Airport in Honolulu, she noticed at once the strong "trade winds." A Hula girl gave her leis and posed with her for pictures to introduce my grandmother to the feeling of the island. Her hosts met her at the airport, and they were off to begin the sightseeing.

Each day was scheduled so that Grandmother would not miss anything important on the island of Oahu. First, there was a trip to see a big steamer, stopped overnight on its way to the Orient. Since sugar cane is their largest crop, a tour of cane fields and a sugar mill was next on the agenda. The raw sugar is shipped to California and then refined. Pineapples are the second money crop; therefore she drove through the fields and observed the Dole canning factory where fruit is canned to be shipped throughout the world. Special reservations were made in advance for her to take a several-hour tour through Pearl Harbor. A guide related the familiar story of the Japanese attack. Pictures were allowed only of the sunken battleships—UTAH and ARIZONA. She found that there are many military installations on the island of Oahu.

My grandmother learned that the windward side of Oahu is one of the most picturesque areas of

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the world. A mountain range divides the island, and there are only two highways through the mountains. One contains a tunnel which is closed after the people come to work in the mornings and opened again after work hours when they return home. Thousands who live in towns go to work in Honolulu.

The people of the islands are a mixed group. One man boasted to my grandmother that he had the blood of several races. These mixtures have resulted because the early developers of the islands imported laborers from the Oriental nations, and they have intermarried. Churches of every sort can be seen in a trip over the city. These laborers brought their religions with them; also, by this time, the early missionaries had left their preaching and become "developers" too, so there was no one to change their religions. Besides the Protestant groups, there are Mormons, Buddhists, Shintoists, Catholics and many others. My grandmother said that there exists the greatest group of colors and religions to be found anywhere, and this group lives in perfect harmony.

She recalled a plane trip over to the "Big Island" as Hawaii is called, as one of the most wonderful days she spent on her vacation. This island is known as the Island of Orchids and Volcanoes. A trip through the Hawaii National Park led her through the volcano area. It showed the lava flows from several previous eruptions — even to the closing of highways and cutting off of towns.

The facts concerning the Kiluea Crater interested her very much. The Kiluea Crater is three thousand feet across and fifteen hundred feet deep. Until this day there are smoking steam pits all over the volcanic area. Much of the area is barren because lava has covered the soil. Some experiments are being made in the coffee section by drilling holes in the lava rock and planting the coffee in the rock.

Adjoining the Kiluea Crater,

Banana S

My speciality was banana. Yep, I prided myself on the making of such monstrous concocted delights. It had been quite a while since I had an order for such a treat, and when the request came, two, I hastily set about to fill it in all its glory. The best I had ever made, the ice cream was scooped in generous portions, and the top of pineapple, chocolate, and were subordinated underneath the mound of whipped cream, and the bright cherry on top. I served my masterpiece, and quiringly I watched the ladies as they began to converge on the rich castle I had just built. The couple prepared to leave, and I commented most approvingly about the serving. "Only the man as he chuckled, 'I got the bananas.'"



LINDA SIMMONS



which erupted in November, there is a "rain forest" which is such a contrast to the barren volcanic area. Tree fuschias grow to a height of 100 feet. Orchids are used for making leis, and often some of the three-way leis may take a sand small orchids.

Everywhere my grandmother went, she saw fruits and Avacados, bananas, papayas, mangos grew in most of the. She said that the flowers from the poinciana tree are small vanda orchid.

My grandmother never forgot recalling the wonders of the 50th state. Someday in the future I hope that she will have a return visit to beautiful Hawaii — and that she will take me with her.

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