

Kauai Historical Society Newsletter, June 2020



Kaikilani Vos by Hubert Vos

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

So many changes are happening in the way that we live as a result of the pandemic and we are not out of it yet. To everyone, be safe, be prudent, and stay healthy while this crisis is sorted out. The preservation of life all around us is paramount.

Social distancing motivates us to find creative ways of communicating virtually. It pushes our boundaries to shorten the learning curve and makes it necessary for us to be proactive. As a historical society so much of our work involves physical contact with paper, so now instead, large-scale digitization projects are in order.

Virtual partnerships with Hawaii State Archives, Bishop Museum, U. H. Manoa, Hawaiian Historical Society, etc., will ensure that access to information across the board is remotely accessible. Fortunately, in 2019 we upgraded our photo scanning software and purchased a portable map scanner. We are poised with proper equipment (thanks to all of you) for the foreseeable future. Are you in the mood to volunteer?

The 106th Anniversary of the Society came and went in May without notice. Happy Birthday Kauai Historical Society. No beautiful soiree filled the night. No good food to celebrate. No companionship to inspire one another, yet a sense of reaching another milestone was felt. Mark your calendars for May 2021 and we'll catch-up then.

With aloha, KHS Board of Directors

CARES Act SBA PPP Loan & HCH Grant

In May we received approval of a Small Business Administration, Payroll Protection Plan loan in the second round of the program. It is being administered by First Hawaiian Bank-Lihue Branch.

We are also fortunate to have been awarded a CARES Act, operations grant through National Endowment for the Humanities being administered by Hawaii Council for the Humanities.

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KHS Volunteer Appreciation



Photo: D. Akaji. R. Wichman addressing our volunteers



Photo: R. Wichman. Jim Powell & Ramona Kincaid

Nawiliwili Yacht Club was the location of our Volunteer Appreciation gathering thanks to Jim Saylor who hosted us in November 2019. It was a beautiful evening with dinner prepared by board members. Volunteers, spouses, and family members enjoyed a fabulous steak and shrimp dinner.

After a brief board meeting, our president thanked volunteers for their commitment to the preservation of Kauai's history and noted some of the accomplishments over the past year because of them.

We are so fortunate to have skilled individuals with a love of history who are willing to donate their time and energy into making Kauai Historical Society successful in its mission and goals.



Photo: D. Akaji. Linda Moriarty & Jim Saylor



Photo: R. Wichman. Sunset from Nawiliwili Yacht Club

THE TRUE STORY OF KALUAIKOOLAU

AS TOLD BY HIS WIFE, PIILANI

*Translated from the Hawaiian Language by
Frances N. Frazier*



Social Media Outreach

Our social media postings have attracted quite a following and its reach impressive since we began sharing stories from our archive. If you have not visited our Facebook or Instagram page, we encourage you to do so.

At the end of March, we began posting *The True Story of Kaluaikoolau as Told by His Wife Piilani* written in the Hawaiian language and translated into English by Frances Frazier. Kauai Historical Society published this story and the book contains both Hawaiian and English language versions. By the time the posting of this story ended, which was over a span of two months, its reach numbered over 21,000.

Next came the story told by Eric A. Knudsen from the Society's Kauai Papers collection called "A Trip Around Kauai" taken in 1895 by the Knudsen boys: Augustus, Eric, and Arthur along with Ned Damon and his friend Twombly; Francis Gay; the Judd brothers Albert, James, and Alan. Along with two ranch cowboys they traveled on horseback from Kekupua (Makaweli area) on the West to Nualolo on the Napali coast. Corresponding photos of locations were selected from our photo database of over 16,000 digitized images.



Jim Case Oral History

While researching steamer ships traveling between Nawiliwili and Honolulu in the early 1900s, Russell (Rusty) Case contacted the Society in early 2019. During a conversation with Rusty, the youngest of five siblings of Suzanne (Suzi) and James (Jim) Case, he offered us an opportunity to visit and interview his dad, Jim Case. As our attention has been turning toward recording oral histories of current and former Kauai residents, we considered it to be an opportune moment and made the arrangements to visit.

In January 2020, the Cases graciously hosted Delia Akaji and Ramona Kincaid at their home on Tantalus Drive where Jim enjoyed reminiscing and reliving his life on Kauai, his naval career, and his professional career as an attorney spanning 63 years, from which he retired at age 92.

Jim was born at home in what he calls Steam Plow Alley on Grove Farm plantation. There was little need for questions as Jim freely shared what was most memorable to him as a child attending Lihue Grammar School and playing with friends in the Lihue area. His father Aderial Hebard "Hib" Case, initially hired as a chemist for Grove Farm, eventually assumed all the administrative duties for Grove Farm Plantation under Gaylord Wilcox in the early 1930s.

The two-hour interview is being transcribed and edited to create a finished product. This oral history interview is the beginning of our journey into the oral history arena. Jim Case virtually celebrated his 100th birthday in April 2020 with family members.

Photo: D. Akaji. Jim Case



A Muumuu Brunch Soirée

Shannon Hiramoto



Photo: Blenda Montoro Miller



Photo: D. Akaji. Shannon & Maureen Hiramoto

The muumuu in all its glory was on display at Kilohana Plantation's Mahiko Lounge lanai for Muumuu Brunch Soirée held by Shannon Hiramoto's company *machine-machine* in partnership with Kauai Historical Society. Together we hosted fifty plus beautiful ladies, all elegantly dressed in their finest muumuu.

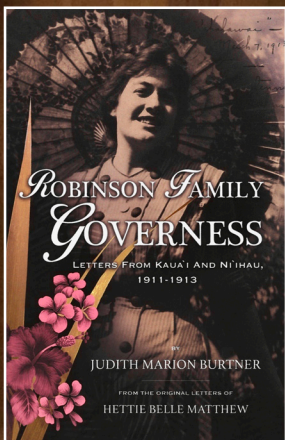
With the help of Shannon's Aunt Rae Hiramoto of Kilohana, the brunch buffet and venue were the perfect setting for this event. The sheltered open lanai overlooking an expansive green lawn with a huge monkey-pod tree, provided a garden-party atmosphere.

A silent auction of donated muumuu began the day's activities with proceeds going to Kauai Historical Society. Shannon has been a major supporter of the Society. Her annual vintage Muumuu Month sales in January 2020 and 2019 sales of vintage muumuu throughout the year, added to the silent auction proceeds, totaled \$4,578 to the Society.

Professional photographer Blenda Montoro Miller captured stunning individual and group shots. Barbara Green of *Definitely Baba* was the special guest speaker sharing her journey into the world of design. Barbara is a gifted designer and seamstress. Ivory, of the *Lei Collective* provided beautiful flowers and foliage for the ladies to create their very own wristlet or head lei. Thanks to the many prize drawing donors, fabulous items were given away at the close of this special day.

LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING

Judith Marion Burtner



An intimate gathering was held for Judith Marion Burtner's book signing and lecture on the publication of *Robinson Family Governess – Letters from Kauai and Niihau, 1911-1913*.

Buried in a chest for many years, original letters written by her grandmother Hattie Belle Matthew were given to Judith by her mother. The ambiance perfect and setting ideal at Ha Coffee Bar on the evening of December 4th for this soft-spoken author who produced a

compilation of beautifully written letters.

Glimpses of life on the Robinson's Kalapawai and Waiawa residences, horse rides into Olokele canyon, trips to Kokee and Niihau transports the reader to a far-away time and place. Hattie became an integral part of the Robinson family for a time and as a young, single woman, experienced life to the fullest.

Photo: D. Akaji, KHS Archives

From KHS History Files



Photo: Senda, 1913. Lihue Store. KHS Archives



Photo: Senda, 1913. Lihue Store. KHS Archives



Photo: Senda, 1913. Mr. Teramoto and Mr. Yoshimoto manning the Japanese Department of Lihue Store. KHS Archives

"All Kauai is proud of the Lihue Store. It is probably the largest and finest mercantile establishment in the islands outside of Honolulu, and has few equals in many respects even in the capital city. It is the one absolutely complete department store in Hawaii--a store in which anything can be found. Each of the departments has its own manager, its own telephone service, its own cash register, books, etc.: in fact, is equipped along the lines of such establishments in great cities.

The main departments are dry goods, groceries, hardware, lumber, Japanese goods, gents' furnishings, household and office furniture, drugs, tobacco, and cigars, and a meat market, with an extensive refrigerating plant attached.

The main department heads are: E. De Lacey, dry goods: Robert Fountain, groceries: John Raposa, hardware: Y. Yoshimoto, Japanese goods. W. H. Gote is head book-keeper, and E. Mahn first assistant.

The manager over all, and the man credited with building up the vast business enjoyed by Lihue Store today is Mr. Herman Rohrig..."

The Garden Island Newspaper, Dec. 22, 1914

"Designed by Honolulu architects Ripley and Davis for Lihue Plantation in 1913, Lihue Store was a three story, 25,330 sq ft. reinforced concrete building worthy to be touted as "Kauai's Emporium." In 1964, Lihue Store was demolished to make way for the second phase of a new shopping center. F. W. Woolworth Co. store was built on the old Lihue Store location. As of 2017, the space is occupied by County of Kauai offices."

KHS Archives



Kapeka Chandler



Backyard Music Vol. 1

Fond memories of times gone by are captured on our Backyard Music DVDs. Hawaiian music drifting through the night air or weekend afternoons at family gatherings, were once familiar occurrences across the island.

In the coming months we will be highlighting Kauai musicians who have made an impact on our island's music scene and will feature them on social media, YouTube, and at www.kauaihistoricalsociety.org.

We encourage you to listen in and enjoy the music of Kapeka Chandler, Samson Mauhiiki, and "Big" John Kauo from Backyard Music I. Although many of these island Treasures are no longer with us, their music lives on in Backyard Music I recorded in 2007.

Photography by Kay Koike. KHS Archives



Samson Mauhiiki

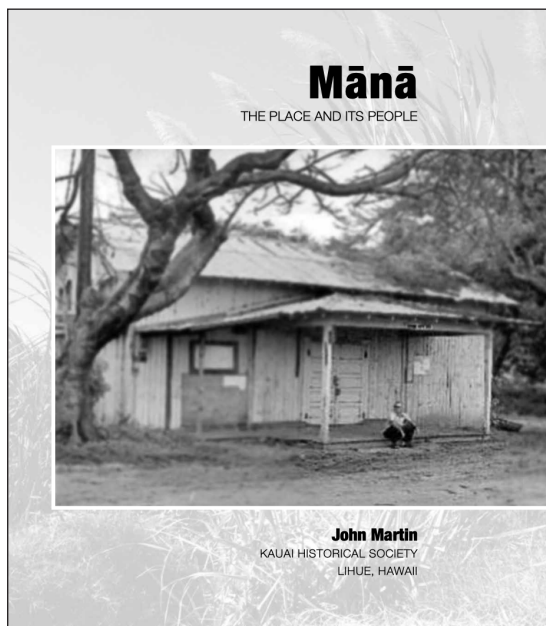


Kapeka, Samson & Big John Kauo

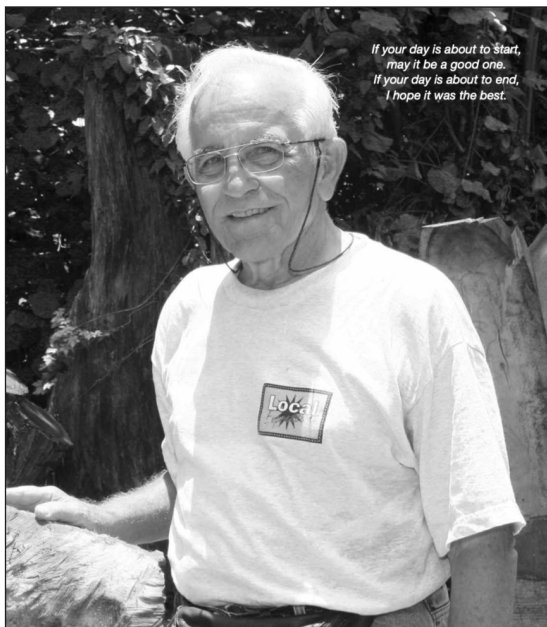
Mānā THE PLACE AND ITS PEOPLE

BY

JOHN MARTIN



The book cover



John Martin, author

Mahalo to the family of John Martin for gifting Kauai Historical Society with a manuscript, *Mānā, the Place and Its People*. In it the reader is given a personal and thoughtful glimpse into the life of the author, John Martin and the multi-ethnic culture in which he lived. Like all other plantation camps on Kauai island of that time, the diverse plantation community found a way to harmoniously live and play together while the sugar companies provided the residents with everything needed, from schools to stores.

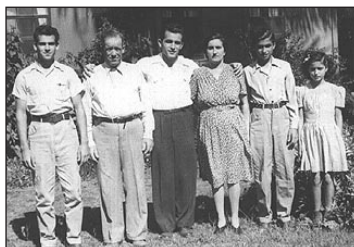
When John Martin was four years old, Kekaha Sugar Company promoted his father to water luna (irrigation supervisor) and moved the family to Mānā Camp on Kauai's west-side. Mānā Camp, surrounded by canefields, had the mountains and ridges of Kokee towering above it on one side and the expansive sand beaches spread-out on the other.

In this manuscript we have been given the privilege of traveling through time with John Martin beginning in 1929, through his personal accounts and photos of friends, many of whom you may recognize.

The volunteer book designer is Dino Gay, member of the renown Gay family from Kauai's west-side's Gay and Robinson plantation. The story now is visually strong and quite beautiful. (Easy things for people to remember.)

Mānā, the Place and Its People will be added to our archive and also be available for purchase on our website and retail outlets around the island. We'll be sure to let you know of future plans to share this book in community gatherings.

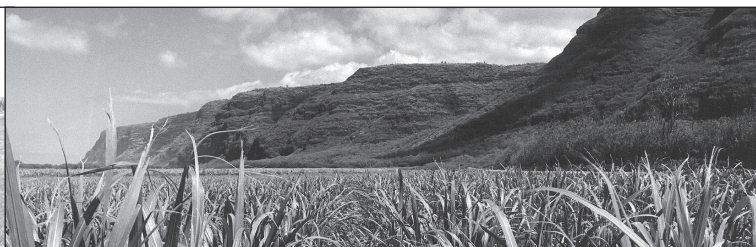
For those of you who have a story to share, we look forward to an interview with you. To those who have contributed by way of labor and or financial support toward publishing John Martin's manuscript into book form, a sincere mahalo nui loa.



The Martin family



George Kanekuni & Hiroshi Tomomitsu



The Mānā plains and ridges