

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Sadao Hikida, 72, retired Moana Hotel bellhop and federal employee

"Waikiki, as I recall in my childhood days, was a place of beauty and tranquility. There was no concrete jungle to obstruct one's view, nor the hustling harassment or traffic congestion. The people were more at leisure and friendlier. The air was clean and fresh and one could smell the sweet fragrance of the flowers when the breezes blew."

Sadao Hikida, Japanese, fifth of seven children, was born in September, 1914, in Waikiki, O'ahu. His father, Torajiro Hikida, an issei from Okayama-ken, was a caretaker/handyman at 'Ainahau and a night watchman for the Moana Hotel. His mother, Natsu Nakamura Hikida, an issei from Hiroshima-ken, was a homemaker and midwife.

From 1914 to 1953, with the exception of time spent as a member of Hawai'i's 100th Battalion during World War II, Sadao Hikida lived in the Moana Hotel employees' cottages area. He attended Waikiki Elementary, Washington Intermediate, and McKinley High School, graduating in 1934.

As a youth, he worked as a yardboy for a Sumitomo Bank vice president. He later worked as a Royal Hawaiian Hotel elevator operator and Moana Hotel bellhop. He retired in 1974 as a federal employee at the Naval Supply Center.

Married to the former Grace Fukushima, the Hikidas have four children. He is active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

by

Sadao Hikida

December 18, 1986

Kalihi, O'ahu

I, Sadao Hikida, was born on September 10, 1914 in Waikīkī, Ka'iulani Avenue vicinity formerly known as 'Āinahau. It is the present site of the Princess Ka'iulani Hotel, shops and part of Kūhiō Avenue.

My parents are Torajiro Hikida and Natsu Nakamura. Both were born in Japan and migrated to Hawai'i. My dad was born in Okayama, Japan on November 13, 1869 and came to Hawai'i about 1895 or before. He was the second child of a family of three children, two boys and a girl. He was a big man about six feet, one inch to two inches, and weighed around 230 to 245 pounds.

He worked for Governor Archibald Scott Cleghorn whose wife was Princess Miriam Likelike, sister of King Kalākaua and Queen Lili'uokalani. Their daughter was Princess Ka'iulani. His job was as a caretaker, coachman, and handyman. On the Cleghorn Estate, 'Āinahau, were many exotic plants, flowers, fruit and nut trees, and peacocks. I also remember the large banyan tree in 'Āinahau where Robert Louis Stevenson was said to have written his poems.

My father also did carpentry work at the Waikīkī Beach residence of Prince Kūhiō. Located on Kalākaua Avenue and Kūhiō Beach, the grounds were fenced in by an iron fence and gates similar to the fence that surrounds the present 'Iolani Palace grounds. Also on the premises facing the ocean along the sea wall were three or four stationary cannon placements with ammunition (round iron balls). Along the wall also was a wooden pier that extended about 250-300 yards out into the ocean with a gazebo built at the end of the pier. Sometimes I used to tag along with my dad and I spent many enjoyable hours fishing from the pier.

He also did carpentry at the Ward Estate also known as the "Old Plantation." On the estate were many coconut trees, plants, flowers, fruit trees, fish ponds and a heiau building. It is now the present site of the Neal Blaisdell Center. He also did carpentry work at the Outrigger Canoe Club repairing canoes. After he retired from carpentry he worked for the Matson Navigation Company as a night watchman (security guard) at the Moana Hotel.

My dad was a firm disciplinarian, yet kind and generous. He used to take me to the baseball games at the old Mō'ili'ili Stadium ballpark whenever we had a visiting college team from Japan--the Waseda, Meiji, Keiō and other teams--playing against our local teams, the Asahi, Hawaiians,

Braves, Chinese and Filipino teams. At Christmas time he used to decorate the tree by hanging envelopes with money in them for each of his children. He died on January 8, 1931 at the age of sixty-two.

My mother, Natsu Nakamura, was born in Hiroshima, Japan on May 10, 1878. She came to Hawai'i in October of 1899. She came from a family of nine children, six girls and three boys. She was the seventh child. She was small in stature, about four feet, eleven inches, but was a strong-willed and hardworking woman. I used to watch her doing the laundry all by hand using the scrubbing board and brush. She boiled and pounded the heavier, soiled coveralls and sheets, and wrung them with her hands. Her main occupation was as a housewife. She also worked as a babysitter and at times acted as midwife to her friends and relatives. She raised a family of seven children, five boys and two girls. She died on March 7, 1956 at the age of seventy-seven.

I am the fifth child of seven children, four brothers and two sisters. My two elder brothers Sam and James were adopted by one of my mother's sister's family. We lived in a rather large rambling home with a large yard off Ka'iulani Avenue on the 'Ewa side of 'Āpuakēhau Stream. Across the stream on the Diamond Head side between Koa Avenue, Ka'iulani Avenue and Prince Edward Street where the entrance to our home was, was the residence of the Fullard-Leos.

The 'Āpuakēhau Stream flowed pass our back and front yards and emptied into the ocean between the Moana Hotel and Outrigger Canoe Club. The banks of the river were lined with hau groves and palm trees. The river was abundant with shrimp and fishes such as mullet, 'a'awa, āholehole, pāpio, manini and 'o'opu. I spent many happy, relaxing hours fishing from the banks of the river or from the bridge which spanned the river. There also was a pond by our home which was connected to the 'Āpuakēhau Stream. It was filled with shrimps and small fishes. And it was where we raised our ducks.

We hardly went to the grocery store or market. We had peddlers who came daily in their wagon selling vegetables, meat, fish, and pastries. We had our milk and ice delivered to our doorstep. Grocery orders were taken on a charge account and delivered by the Ibaraki Store. There also was a candy man who came about twice a month selling ame (candy) with a tray strapped around his neck, and he'd chip away the amount we wanted. The manapua man with a long pole on his shoulder with his wares dangling on both ends of his pole also came to the neighborhood.

Since we had a large yard we planted our own vegetables and raised ducks, chickens and rabbits. Also we had five large mango trees, papaya, sour sop, pomegranate tree and a kukui nut tree. Our neighbors were very close. Miller, Takenaka, Azuma, Morimoto, Tachiyama, Fukumoto, and a Hawaiian family. After the Morimotos moved, the Kaji and Yamada children moved in. The cooking facilities and bathhouse were out in another building that the Takenaka and Azuma family shared with us. All of the cooking was done on a homemade stove, and the bathtub, furo, made of wood. The fuel was all kiawe wood since we had an abundance of those trees growing. We used to saw and split them. We had our own dining

room attached to our home with dirt flooring and a kerosene stove.

Prior to 1920 and construction of the hotel employees bungalows and cottages for single men and married couple families and the dredging of the Ala Wai Canal, our neighbors across the fence were a number of Chinese farmers. They raised bananas, vegetables, wheat and rice. I used to watch the husking of the fibers of the wheat and rice upon a raised concrete platform with a large, round, flat, disklike concrete wheel with the horses harnessed to a pole pulled round and round.

I recall in my childhood days and also as a teenager, although we didn't have any modern conveniences and entertainments of today's youth, we had many wholesome activities. A few I would like to mention: swimming, surfing, fishing, canoeing, going on picnics, hiking, kite flying, marbles, tops, peewee, go-carts, etc. Most of the playthings such as tops, peewee, kites, go-carts, surfboards and pop guns, we made or built ourselves. Going to a movie was a luxury.

Many of the roads were unimproved (dirt). No sidewalks, street lights or sewer systems. Many of the families couldn't afford the luxury of a car, therefore we traveled on foot. Sometimes on bicycle if we owned one. Modern conveniences, such as television, washing machine, refrigerator, electric iron, and range, were unheard of. Washing was done by hand using scrubbing board and brush, pounding or boiling. Cooking was done on a homemade stove, usually using kiawe wood for fuel by cutting and splitting the wood. Ironing was done by using charcoal for heat. We used ice blocks for the ice box.

The prices of commodities such as food and clothing were reasonable. We could buy candy from a penny to a dime. A bag of peanuts cost five cents, so was a cone of ice cream, ice shave, and soda. Hot dogs cost about a dime. Bags of rice about \$2.50. Clothing was affordable--coveralls anywhere from \$1.50 to \$2.50, not more than \$5.00. The income for most families (wage earners) was (substandard) small. Therefore many of the families raised their own vegetables, chicken, ducks, pigs, or went fishing. Most of the children's clothing were sewn by their mothers or older sisters.

Waikīkī is known the world over as the crossroads of the Pacific (a melting pot). It is a tourist attraction where people from many parts of the world assemble together for relaxation, swimming, surfing, and entertainment. Waikīkī means "spouting or spurting water" and it was the residence of many ali'i (Hawaiian royalty).

Waikīkī, as I recall in my childhood days, was a place of beauty and tranquility. There was no concrete jungle (high rises) to obstruct one's view, nor the hustling harassment or traffic congestion. The people were more at leisure and friendlier. The air was clean and fresh and one could smell the sweet fragrance of the flowers when the breezes blew. One could see the sun rise in the morning and enjoy the beautiful sunset at evening tide. We could see the beautiful rainbow over Mānoa Valley and the ocean.

The beaches were uncluttered and the silvery white sands glittered in the warm early morning sun. Fishes and crabs were plentiful in the ocean even along the shoreline. There were also edible seaweeds. During the moili'i season one could see thousands of them and with every wave that washes toward shore, many times they were stranded on the beach and we could pick them up.

One could view Diamond Head rising majestically from near and afar (no obstruction). We could also enjoy the beautiful panoramic view of the shore line from the bend of Kalākaua Avenue near Kapi'olani Park all the way to Fort DeRussy. At low tide sandbars appeared, also coral reefs. And one could walk or wade out ankle-deep without getting our clothes wet.

There also were two piers which protruded from shore about 250-300 feet-- one the Queen Lili'uokalani, or Kūhiō Pier, and the other, the Moana Pier. I spent many happy hours fishing from both of these piers, and used to dive for coins from the Moana Pier as the visitors tossed coins into the ocean from the pier.

The street, though narrow, was clean. Cars (autos) were few, electric trolley cars rambled from town through Kalākaua Avenue to the end of Kapi'olani Park for five cents a ride (no pollution).

Waikīkī as I remember was a productive agricultural and aquacultural area, with numerous banana patches, watercress patches, fish ponds, duck ponds, rice paddies, lotus (hasu) patches, taro patches, vegetable gardens and chicken farms, operated mainly by farmers of Chinese ancestry. As I recall, the farms began at the intersection of King and Kalākaua Avenues, McCully, Mō'ili'ili, along Kalākaua Avenue, Ala Moana, Kālia, Waikīkī and Kapahulu. Water buffalo was used mainly in the rice paddies.

Prior to the dredging of the Ala Wai Canal, these farms were fed by the numerous streams flowing from the Ko'olau mountains, and also from the Mānoa and Pālolo Streams. Whenever there was a heavy rainstorm, these streams would overflow and the flood waters flooded the whole Waikīkī area. Debris, vegetables, fishes, ducks, chickens, etc., would be floating pass our home. Some places would be from knee to waist high with water. When the flow of flood water subsided I would venture out into the water to retrieve the vegetables and other things trapped in the hau branches. Since drainage was poor the water remained for days and became stagnant. Along Lili'uokalani Avenue the flooded street was filled with little eel-like fishes (dojō) swimming in the street and curbsings.

Kalākaua Avenue was the main thoroughfare going to Waikīkī where most of the activity took place. The street was lined with many coconut trees, date palms, and shower trees. Waikīkī wasn't as congested as today. There weren't any tall apartments or hotels except the Moana Hotel and later the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. The area was open with quite a few empty lots, family homes, few shops, and single or two-story apartments.

Many of the historical landmarks, buildings and residences (homes) have been demolished due to progress, greed or lack of foresight. There are

three interesting landmarks which I thought they should not have destroyed. 1) The unique date palm that grew on the Royal Hawaiian grounds 'Ewa side of the hotel driveway on Kalākaua Avenue. I called it the "two-headed date tree." It had a single trunk that grew about five feet, then it divided into two trunks. 2) The beach palace of Prince Kūhiō on Kūhiō Beach. A historical landmark, now the present site of Kūhiō bathhouse and a surfboard rental stand. 3) The phoenix fountain at Kapi'olani Park. It was demolished during the war year 1942.

Other landmarks: Aloha Park (also known as Waikīkī Amusement Park at 'Ena Road and next to Fort DeRussy), Lau Yee Chai (Kūhiō and Kalākaua), Gumps (Lewers and Kalākaua), Seaside Hotel (now the Royal Hawaiian Hotel), Seaside #2 (site of Don the Beachcomber and International Market Place), Niumalu Hotel (present site of Hawaiian Village), Outrigger Canoe Club, Hui Nalu Beach Boys Club, Waikīkī Tavern, (Waikīkī Grammar School), Territorial Fairgrounds (present site of Ala Wai Golf Club). Residences: Wilder (near present site of Halekūlani), Lewis Gray, Peacock (present site of Moana and Hyatt Regency Hotel), Hustace, Alex Cleghorn, Steiner (present site of Captain's Galley and Diamond Head Ocean Lanai, formerly the Surfrider #1).

The dredging of the Ala Wai Canal started about 1920 and was completed around 1926. The canal is about two and a half miles long, ending at Makee Road. It is about 150 feet wide and about 10 to 20 feet deep. This solved the flooding problem of Waikīkī. The dredged material of mud and coral was used to fill up hundreds of acres of pond fields and marshland in Waikīkī, Mō'ili'ili, McCully, Kapahulu and Kapi'olani Park. They also filled up the 'Āpuakēhau, the Kukaunahi and other small streams. While the 'Āpuakēhau Stream was being filled, thousands of mullet and other fishes and shrimps were being smothered by the land fill. I had a ball catching buckets and buckets of fishes with my bare hands or with a scoop net in knee-deep muddy water.

After the completion of the Ala Wai Canal, where the present Ala Wai Golf Course is now used to be the Territorial Fairgrounds. The fair was held yearly with many quonset hut-type buildings on the grounds displaying homegrown products, farm products, animals and birds. Also commercial displays. They also had many of the carnival-type rides, shows, and games. On the grounds was also a stadium where they held rodeos, horse and cow roping, and races. Every Saturday night they set off beautiful and colorful fireworks. I used to run or walk about one and a half miles from my home along the unlit and unpaved canal road to an empty lot across the fairgrounds, grown with coconut trees, date palms and shrubbery, and retrieve these beautiful parachutes. There were two entrances, one on Kapahulu Avenue and the other at the end of 'Ōhūa Avenue crossing the canal by a wooden bridge to get to the fairgrounds.

Heading east on Kalākaua Avenue passing Kūhiō Beach along the stone wall toward Kapi'olani Park, between 'Ōhūa, Paoakalani, Lemon, Cartwright, Kāneloa, Hamohamo, Kūhiō, Makee and Kapahulu Avenues is where the bulk of the ethnic (non-White) group lived. From 'Ōhūa Avenue to Paoakalani Avenue this one block facing Kalākaua Avenue is where all the shops and stores were located. I would like to list the shop owners commencing from

the entrance of the St. Augustine Church on Kalākaua Avenue: Yamamoto Dressmaker, Sano Service Station, Yoshimura Cleaners, Okasako Store (later Aoki Store), Harakawa Cleaners, Ibaraki Store, Terada Barber Shop, Fujika Unique Hawaiian Food Restaurant, the Kukaunahi Stream, a Chinese laundry, Yasumatsu Cleaners, and Aoki Store, corner of Paoakalani Street (later the Ibaraki Store). All these shops and stores have been demolished, and the block is the present site of the Hawaiian Regent Hotel. Across Paoakalani Avenue on Kalākaua Avenue, the Lemon Holts had their home, later the Mossman Hawaiian Village, next to Holts, the "Sonny" Cunha residence. These also have been demolished and is the present site of Holiday Inn.

I would like to relate an interesting sight that I witnessed when they rebuilt 'Ōhūa Avenue. While digging up the road they unearthed hundreds and hundreds of human skeletons. I was told that this is where Kamehameha I landed his army in Waikīkī and had a great battle with O'ahu warriors. Another interesting story told to me by my dad was about the phosphorous light (ball of fire) that shoots up from the riverbed of the Kukaunahi Stream into the night sky on certain nights and falls back into the river. He also told me that he witnessed hundreds of these fireballs shooting up into the night skies at Kapi'olani Park.

There are too many of the ethnic group who lived in Waikīkī to name besides the ones already mentioned, so I'll name a few: Tokioka, Nadamoto, Takashige, Sasaki, Kuramoto, Kawasaki, Fujimoto, Komori, Okada, Okubo, Murakami, Morisato, Matsuzawa, Yamamura, Nakamura, Asuka, Ozaki, Watanabe, Yoichisako, Tada, Akana, Kaneloa, Ewaliko, Bishaw, DeFries, Manu, Padeken, Ornellas, Wongham, Kaeo, Lau, Parker, Joy, Richards, DeRego, Amalu, Carter, Karratti, Rasmussen, Hoke, Stevenson, Purdy, Ahakuelo, and Harbottle.

Schooling

I attended the Waikīkī Elementary School, grades one to six, which was about forty-five minutes' to an hour's walk from our home. The school was located in Waikīkī between Hamohamo Road (now Kūhiō Avenue) and Kāneloa Road, with boundaries on the 'Ewa side by Paoakalani Road, on the Diamond Head side by Makee and Kapahu'ū Avenue near Kapi'olani Park. The school has been demolished due to the extension and widening of Kūhiō Road which took part of the school grounds. It is now the present site of Jefferson Elementary School and apartment buildings. The principal of Waikīkī Elementary School at that time was Mrs. Mabel King. Some of the teachers I recall were Mrs. Loo, Mrs. Lam, Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Rodenhurst.

The unforgettable memories of the school include: 1) The beautiful flower garden that we students participated in digging, weeding, planting, fertilizing and watering. We won many prizes in beautification contests and it was the pride and joy of the principal. 2) The flag raising ceremony where all the classes gathered around the flagpole every school morning with our hand salute and pledge of allegiance to the flag and country and sang the national anthem as the flag unfurled and rose to the top of the pole.

After graduating from elementary school, I attended Washington Intermediate School, seventh to ninth grades. The school was located on South King Street near McCully. The principal was Robert Spencer. While attending Washington, I participated and played on the school football team in the backfield. There were five teams in our school schedule of games. Lili'uokalani, Kalākaua, Kawanānakoā, Central Intermediate and Washington. We won the runner-up trophy and I was happy to be selected on the second team all-stars. A few of the teachers: Ms. Johnson, Ms. Abe, Mr. Kewalo, Mr. Lovell.

After graduating from junior high, I attended McKinley High School, also on King Street next to the Ward Estate. The estate, also known as the "Old Plantation," is the present site of the Neal Blaisdell Center. The principal was Miles E. Cary. I graduated in 1934. Some of the teachers I remember are Mr. Hlubokey, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Davis, Miss Vogel, Miss Johnson, Ms. Strickler, Mr. O'Neal, Sgt. Weisberg, and Mrs. Evans.

Moana Hotel

The Moana Hotel, as told to me, was built about 1900-1901 on part of the property belonging to the Peacock family, whose home was moved across the street, (corner of Kalākaua and Ka'iulani Avenue) the present site of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This large beautiful home was later used as the living quarters for the hotel employees. The original entrance to the hotel used to face the ocean with the driveway built around the banyan court. The wings to the hotel were added in about 1915. Also the pier.

The Moana Hotel, as I recall in my childhood years, was the only large hotel in Waikīkī. The entrance faced the mountain on Kalākaua Avenue and the carport was held up by four large columns of either Greek, French or Italian architecture. The lobby and lanai also had colonade architecture and a beautiful large crystal chandelier hung from the ceiling in the center of the lobby. In the back facing the ocean was a large banyan tree and other shrubbery. A wooden pier built on a concrete foundation extended about 300 yards out into the ocean with an alcove built at the end of the pier. The dining room was also in the back up to the shore line, one end facing the banyan court and Diamond Head, the ocean and the 'Ewa side facing the Outrigger Canoe Club and the original Seaside Hotel.

Next to the hotel on the Diamond Head side was the Hustace villa, Alex Cleghorn and Judge Steiner residences, Waikīkī Tavern and Inn. On the 'Ewa side along the beach was a long row of benches with rows of hau trees which served as an arbor where visitors and local residents could sit and enjoy the various beach activities. In back of the benches was a grove of pine trees and coconut palms and a camera shop. Next, between the shop and Outrigger Canoe Club was the 'Āpuakēhau Stream. The Seaside Hotel (original) was next to the Outrigger Canoe Club which was demolished in 1925 for the present Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Beneath the dining room on the beach end were a few shops, the Moana Bathhouse, and the Hui Nalu Beach Boys Club and snack shop.

Across the street (Kalākaua Avenue) in front of Moana Hotel, on the

present site of the shops and Princess Ka'iulani Hotel, was the first grammar school in Waikīkī (white cottage), a small graveyard and a church. In the back of the graveyard facing Ka'iulani Avenue and Koa Avenue was the hotel employees' quarters for singles and married families. These buildings were demolished about 1921 and the graves were dug up and the bones reinterred to make way for a new complex called the Moana Apartment Complex.

Heading 'Ewa about 100 yards was the second site of the Seaside Hotel cottages managed by Walter Short and son Walter, Jr. Built in the beautiful coconut grove setting with a tennis court and a large banyan tree, the hotel was incorporated with the Moana Hotel in the 1940s and called the Moana Seaside Cottage Annex. The hotel was torn down in the '50s and was the site of Don the Beachcomber and the present site of the International Market Place. The large banyan tree is the only memory of the Seaside Hotel left.

The Moana Hotel in those early years, 1920-30s, was self-supporting; they had their own facilities. They had their own power plant to supply hot water, steam and cold drinking water from their own well, electric plant and shop, paint shop, ice plant, carpenter shop, machine shop, upholstery shed, disposal yard, drying room, garden (flower and vegetable), fish pond, garage, plumbing shop, and living quarters for the single and married employees of the Moana, Seaside, and Royal Hawaiian Hotels. The employees became our next-door neighbors, formerly where our Chinese neighbor farmers lived. There were six families that lived there and we became close friends: the Chow, Maeda, Fukuda, Kimura, Kuboi, and Yamamoto. These bungalows and cottages were demolished about 1952 to make way for extending and widening Kūhiō Avenue. The only memory of this area is the large banyan tree which is in back of the shops on Kūhiō Avenue and Kānekapōlei Street (mountain side). The Moana Apartment Complex was demolished in the early 1950s making way for the present Princess Ka'iulani Hotel which was built in 1954 and opened in 1955.

I first started to work at the hotel in 1930 as a summer worker at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. I started as an elevator operator. My immediate supervisor was Thomas Ishii (bell captain). The manager of the hotel then was Mr. Bignalia and Jack Fishback. From 1931-34 while still a student in high school I worked full-time at the Moana Hotel on the midnight shift for three years as an elevator operator, bellhop and relief telephone switchboard operator. After graduating from high school, I continued working full-time day shift until 1939 when I transferred to the engineering department as a boiler fireman until November of 1941 when I was inducted into the military (army). In 1945 after my separation from the army in October I again returned to Moana Hotel and worked in the bell department until I retired in 1952.

Before I retired I participated in a number of recreational activities. Softball was the main attraction. We had a large field and a grandstand for the spectators to sit and enjoy the game. There were four teams that participated: the Moana bellhops and bar boys combined, the Royal Hawaiian bellhops and bar boys, the engineering department, and the waiters and room boys. The games were very competitive and trophies were presented to the

championship team by the hotel management. The hotel also sponsored a team to play in the Business Men Softball League. Besides softball, we played volleyball, basketball, touch football and bowling. There also was a pool room and a boxing ring. Also sipa sipa, a Filipino game formed in a circle using a reed ball that was passed on from one player to another by using only the foot. Surfing and swimming were other individual recreation.

During my years of service the Moana has undergone many renovations. All the columns of either Greek or Italian designs which upheld the carport, lobby and lanai were dismantled for plain modern design. Also the balustrade that lined the porch, lanai and stairway, the beautiful lace-like design forming an arch from the ceiling and the beautiful crystal chandelier that hung in the center of the lobby were all dismantled. The fifth floor center hallway used primarily as a storage room was converted into several guest rooms. In the lobby were several shops: Hollister Drug Store, Kimura Florist, Gumps, McInerny, a ukulele and curio shop, a barber and beauty shop.

I worked under four different managers Guy Davenport, Lyle Guslander, Watson, and Telford. Our supervisor and bell captain were Arthur Yamamoto and Richard Matsunaga. Working at the hotel gave me a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk to people from various parts of the world and from all walks of life. I had the opportunity to meet presidents, dignitaries, great sports figures in football, golf, basketball and baseball, entertainers (magicians, movie actors and actresses, poets and band leaders).

One of the most terrifying experiences I have witnessed while working at the Moana Hotel was the tidal wave on April 1, 1946. It was Sunday morning about 6:00 a.m. when I looked out toward the beach and saw the water receding quite rapidly toward the horizon with the reef all protruding and no water. Not realizing it was the sign of a tidal wave since I hadn't witnessed a tidal wave before, I jumped over the wall and ran into the ocean looking for fishes that may have been caught in the crevices. I was about fifty to seventy-five yards out when I looked out toward the horizon. To my amazement I saw the wave like it was boiling, and getting bigger and bigger, and heading back toward shore. I ran as fast as I could, jumping over puddles and cracks and just barely made it to shore and over the wall when the first wave hit land. I ran into the hotel and told people I met that a tidal wave occurred, but they didn't believe me since it was April Fools' Day. I took the elevator to the sixth floor and watched the tidal wave come in. It seems that the seventh wave was the largest. There was hardly any major damage from the Royal Hawaiian Hotel to Kūhiō Beach. Only the waves washed up to Kalākaua Avenue, only the loose surfboards and canoes were washed out to the sea. The brunt of the damages caused by the waves was beyond Hanauma Bay and Sandy Beach.

Kapi'olani Park

The Kapi'olani Park and zoo, as I recall in my childhood days, had many little islands, with tiny bridges to cross over, that were planted with palm trees, hibiscus, crotons and willows. There also were picnic areas and many lily ponds, some with goldfishes and ducks swimming in

them. When the lilies were in bloom it was a beautiful sight to see various hues matching the colorful colors of the goldfishes. The area covering Pākī Road, Monsarrat and Kapahulu Avenues was mostly marshland with bulrushes and other swamp grass inhabited by mosquito fishes and shrimp. The roads were mostly dirt roads lined with many date palms. I used to climb those date trees, trim the thorns and pick the delicious fruit to eat.

The present site of the parking lot and part of the zoo facing Kapahulu Avenue used to be a stream, flowing with bulrushes and fishes, that flowed into the ocean under a bridge built over Kalākaua Avenue. On the corner of Kalākaua Avenue and Kapahulu Avenue was a trolley car stop and shelter. In the early 1920s the park's ponds, streams and marshlands were filled with the dredging material of coral and mud from the Ala Wai Canal. The park also had a sports arena where they had polo matches, horse racing, buggy and cart and auto racing. They also had a large flat open area near where the phoenix water fountain used to stand, where the military used to set up a tent city for summer camp. The phoenix was a gift from the local Japanese community to the larger community. It was dismantled during the World War II years about 1942.

I would like to mention three wonderful and unforgettable memories. 1) Daisy the elephant, we used to ride on her back with the caretaker walking her around in a wide circle. 2) The blimp (balloon airship) which hovered over the tree tops anchored by a long rope to the ground. 3) The chimpanzee who was set free to roam although tied to a tree by a long chain. Other activities I recall are the tennis tournaments, family outings, school and club outings, hanamatsuri, etc.

The Waikīkī Shell was built around 1953. It was built in the pine grove where the Royal Hawaiian Band gave weekly concerts on Sunday, and I used to attend the concerts sometimes to hear the beautiful voice of Lena Machado and others. Fronting the bandstand were three lily ponds with colorful goldfishes. A drinking fountain stood in the center of the three ponds. It was constructed with rocks with a bowl-shaped planter on top of the fountain which stood six feet to eight feet tall.

Heading east toward Diamond Head on Kalākaua Avenue through the pine tree grove just past the present beach park was the original aquarium. The aquarium was built of stone with vines climbing up the wall of the building. It was torn down and became the residence of Chris Holmes. The present site of the aquarium used to be the public bathhouse. Across from the present aquarium on Kalākaua Avenue was the second trolley car stop and shelter.

Next to the aquarium is the natatorium built around 1927. It was dedicated to the soldiers of World War I. This is where many swimming events were held and the best swimmers and divers representing Hawai'i, the United States, Australia, Japan, Canada, Germany, France, and others, participated. Some of the swimming greats I recall seeing are Johnny Weissmuller, Buster Crabbe, Kalilis, Arne Borg, Keo Nakama, Hal Hirose, Smith, Kahanamoku, Tsuruta, Eleanor Holm, Maehata, Pang and Furusho.

Next to the natatorium was Sans Souci where they had the Kodak Hula Shows performed by the Royal Hawaiian Girls Glee Club under the direction of Louise Akeo. Further down the street was the Elks Club. Across the street at the end of the trolley car line was a little hand-drawn cart owned by Mr. Matsuzawa, who sold shaved ice, candies, pop corn, and peanuts. Mr. Matsuzawa was a small man, but he used to push that cart every day from his home on 'Ōhū Avenue to the end of the trolley car line under a huge kiawe tree. About 75-100 yards away was the phoenix water fountain.

The zoo in the early 1920s wasn't as large as the present one. It did not have many animals, birds, or reptiles, and did not attract the attendance it does today.

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