

Waialua News

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STRIKE WOULD MEAN HUGE LOSS



Department of public instruction officials shown as they met to plan tests to be given Waialua high school students interested in taking vocational training courses on Waialua Plantation. A joint plan recently announced by the plantation and the department will enable a selected list of Waialua high school junior and seniors to take the courses. Left to right, Warren Gibson, vocational supervisor of agricultural education; T. Horii, Waialua vocational agriculture instructor; Riley Ewing, assistant superintendent of agricultural education, and W. H. Coulter, superintendent of vocational guidance, DPI vocational division.

This Is What Ernie Pyle Wrote About Waialua Nine Years Ago!

(Ernie Pyle—"the common man's reporter"—who reached the pinnacle of fame as the most widely read correspondent of World War II, visited Waialua in 1937. The following are excerpts from his column which appeared in hundreds of mainland newspapers reporting conditions he found on the plantation—conditions which the management has steadily maintained and improved.)

By ERNIE PYLE

"Every person who works on the plantation, from highest to lowest, lives in a company house, rent free. Some of the houses are as old as the plantation, which is 38 years. Some are modern as tomorrow, and the paint is not yet dry on them.

"I've seen the best and the worst, and I've yet to see anything that comes even in yelling distance of the dismal company houses in West Virginia and around Pittsburgh.

"It seems to me that the standard of living of these Orientals doing the 'muscle work' of the sugar cane fields is not only sky-high compared to what they had in the Orient, but is far above that of our own white workmen in the East's industrial centers.

(Editor's Note—The management of Waialua Agricultural Co. would not itself use the term "oriental" in this way. Mr. Pyle referred—without malice—to newcomers from the Orient, not necessarily to American citizens of oriental ancestry.)

"Every house has enough ground around it for a vegetable garden, for chickens, and for trees and myriads of flowers. The workers get electricity at a low rate . . . get free hospital treatment for anything from a cut finger to having a baby.

"The workmen are taken to work and back without cost. Company buses pick up the kids in the outlying 'camps' every day, and bring them to Waialua to school.

"There are three schools on the plantation, including a high school. They are comparable to the Honolulu schools, and anybody will tell you the Honolulu schools are among the finest in America.

"The workers can trade at the company stores, but they don't have to. There is a little settlement of 'free men' at the edge of

town with stores and barber shops and lunchrooms . . . and the people can trade there if they wish.

"The plantation executives say that there is none of the 'company store bondage' here that we read about in the South. Last year the Waialua stores did \$400,000 worth of business and made a profit of \$5,000, which isn't much for that volume.

"Those are the fundamental needs furnished by the plantation—housing, medical service, schools. But the plantation has an 'industrial service' division, run by a staff of more than a dozen people who sit up nights thinking of other things to do for the workers. . . .

"The plantation has built playgrounds, clubs, community halls, gymnasiums, athletic fields without number for the workers. And they aren't phonies either. Any small city would be proud of them.

"Every one of the outlying camps has a playground. Transportation is furnished whenever there's any big 'doins' at Waialua.

"The plantation last year contributed \$40,000 to the churches on the plantation. There are 300 musicians among the workers and a 50 piece band. There is every kind of athletic sport imaginable. There is a movie in each of the two main towns. There are two branches of the Library of Hawaii. Hundreds of the workers have autos. There is a monthly managers' dinner. The plantation prides itself on a custom whereby any workman may walk into the manager's office and shoot off his mouth."

Estimates Show Employees Would Lose \$5000 Per Day in Wages

With talk of a strike in the Hawaiian sugar industry dominating plantation news during the past few weeks, statisticians have sharpened their pencils and estimated how Waialua workers would be affected by such a walkout.

Should a strike tie up operations of Waialua Plantation it would cost Waialua's employees in loss of wages alone:

More than \$5,000 every working day, or

More than \$30,000 every week, or

More than \$120,000 every month.

In further estimating the effects of a strike on a territory-wide basis it was found that workers throughout the Hawaiian sugar industry would lose in two months on strike more than they can earn back in 14 months of steady work at the wage level offered by the industry.

Aside from the disruptions in workers' homes—disruptions inevitably caused from lack of steady income which would have lasting effects—a strike would prevent Hawaii from increasing its sugar production as requested by the United States government.

Observers point out that sugar is the only food still rationed on the mainland and the federal government has appealed to Hawaii's sugar industry to increase production. The industry has made a valiant effort to do so—but a sugar strike lasting only 10 days will wipe out Hawaii's entire 1946 gain in sugar production.

Two Babies Arrive Aug. 4

Two babies arrived at the Waialua Plantation Hospital August 4.

A son, Dominador, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Buenaventura Balmoja. A daughter, Elizabeth Lenora, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Juan Agustin.



Mr. Shaw

GARDENING TIPS

(Waialua Plantation, through its Irrigation Superintendent and Agriculturalist Harry R. Shaw, offers another gardening tip designed to be helpful to householders doing their own yardwork.)

By avoiding wasteful methods of irrigation you will help your budget and conserve the island's water supply.

The "thumb-over-hose" technique used by many amateur gardeners is the most inefficient method of irrigating. A thorough soaking of the soil to the depth of the plant roots will permit longer periods between irrigations. The equivalent of a two inch rain once a week is sufficient for most lawns and gardens. Rainfall less than this amount should be supplemented by irrigation. A two inch irrigation requires 125 gallons of water for every 100 square feet of lawn or garden. A sprinkler is

To Our Employees . . . And To The Public

At the time this is published we do not know that an industry-wide sugar strike will be called September 1. The representatives of Waialua Agricultural Co., Ltd., are still hopeful and are still attempting to gain in good faith with the leaders of the union.

If a strike is called the loss resulting from a strike would be enormous for both the company and the public.

Most of our employees have been with us years. Many have seniority dating back 20, 30, 40, 50 years. Some have been with us 50 years. The management has made an agreement over certain issues with the union representatives of these employees, but it is humanly impossible to have a serious quarrel or to hold animosity toward such long standing.

The management definitely will not take any action against any of its employees. Regardless of a strike being called, facilities for the health, recreation and comfort of employees will continue to be maintained as far as possible.

The management of Waialua Agricultural Company wishes to assure its employees and the general public that regardless of the outcome of the present dispute, it will not hold a feeling of animosity toward our employees and neighbors.

LATE NEWS FLASH!

New York City, Aug. 30. (Special)—The 1946 annual report of Waialua Agricultural Company has won national recognition for its modern character and excellence of content and design. It is the only sugar plantation to be so honored.

Waialua's report, winner of the "Highest Merit Award," has now qualified for judging in the "Best-of-Industry" contest in competition with the reports of three large mainland sugar refiners.

The "Highest Merit" certificate has been sent to the outstanding Hawaiian plantation by the national business publication which sponsors the annual contest among all American business organizations.



Alice M. Provost

Appointment of Miss Provost as agent of Community Association announced by Gordon.

Miss Provost will devote time to community association becoming time director. Her duties include child welfare, community recreation, among the aged, and announcements.

As a former teacher, Miss Provost is well acquainted with the Central Michigan. Pleasant.

FAIR WORK GIVEN PICNIC

Eight hundred workers of Waialua Plantation successfully staged their early this month a beach picnic.

The picnic was sponsored by the Waialua Athletic Association and the Waialua Community Association, co-sponsors of athletic and recreational refreshments and for Sunday outing.

Figures Illustrate How Costly Strike Would Be to Territory

What a sugar strike would mean to industry and the mass of sugar workers is underlined in these statistics:
Daily payroll, \$125,000; total 1945 payroll, \$37,500,000.

Employees on 33 plantations, as of August 1, 28,500, of whom the CIO claims to have organized 25,000.
1945 sugar production, 821,000 tons; estimated 1946 tonnage, 850,000.
1945 area planted, 216,000 acres.

Thirty one mills grind an average of from 3,000 to 4,000 tons daily.
Estimated 1946 increase of about 30,000 tons would be wiped out in less than 10 days.

Big Island Union Locals Gird For Tie-Up, Perfect Strike Strategy

HILO, Hawaii, Aug. 31. (By Radiophone)—The Big Island ILWU central strike strategy committee reported today that their units and locals are ready for the expected sugar strike which seemed a certainty at midnight tonight.

The delegates challenged a report Thursday to the effect that four of the plantations on this island were not making advance preparations for a strike. This is not a usual company practice, a union spokesman said in reference to the "long weekend shutdown."

Each of the four ILWU units reported their committees, such as finance, relief, transportation, police, publicity, women's corps and organizing, are all set up.

Delegates representing the local

from Olaa Sugar Co. had already ceased harvesting. The delegation of Olaa also said that the mill had made preparations to close down.

Notice was served that the Kukuihaele terminals will be worked during the strike and that all sugar now stored in the warehouse will be shipped out by the regular stevedores who are plantation employees, working part time whenever ships come into port.

No sugar stored in the mill warehouses, however, will be worked, it was stated.

It was agreed that all animals such as mules and livestock owned by the plantation will be fed during the strike. Men working these jobs will be classified as utility workers.

Sugar Negotiators Still 'Wide Apart'

(Additional Story on Page 2)

With a sugar strike only two days away, industry and union negotiators went into session again at 10:30 this morning.

The parties are admittedly "wide apart" on all points in dispute. The question now is whether the negotiators can resolve the differences before the strike deadline at 12:01 a. m. Sunday.

Neither party has mentioned the possibility of delaying the strike date.

Spokesmen for the two sides described the two meetings Wednesday as "not progressive."

Unless some agreement can be reached before midnight Saturday, the ILWU may call 25,000 sugar workers off their jobs, tying up Hawaii's major industry and causing the loss of millions of dollars in wages and plantation revenues.

Industry spokesman Dwight C. Steele charged Wednesday that the union has raised issues designed to "confuse and retard the progress of negotiations."

Louis Goldblatt, secretary-treasurer of the ILWU and union negotiator, accused the industry of planning to force a strike upon the sugar workers.

At the meeting Wednesday afternoon, negotiators discussed administration of a perquisite fund, employee coverage and temporary transfers without reaching agreement.

The union asked joint administration of a perquisite fund which it claims has been set aside for new houses and repairs.

Mr. Steele replied that the union is asking for administration of a "mythical fund," there being no such money pool in existence.

The industry spokesman said that the union for the first time brought up the question of union representation for lunas. He said that the question could not be disposed of before the strike deadline, and made his charge that the issue was interjected to confuse and retard negotiations.

An industry proposal to revise wage structures to raise labor grades progressively was rejected by the union.

Mr. Goldblatt, in a statement issued after the second meeting of the day, said that not a single counter proposal had been made by the employers.

Big Island Plantations On 'Work As Usual' Basis, Ignore Strike

HILO, Hawaii, Aug. 29. (By Radiophone)—So far as Hawaii island sugar plantation officials know, there will be no strike this weekend and subsequently, they made plain today, they are taking no preparatory action.

Four plantation managers took this stand today when questioned about reports that field and mill operations were tapering off for a shutdown Sunday, the day set by the ILWU for a territory wide strike in the sugar industry.

"Even if there should be a strike we wouldn't know about it until Tuesday because of the long weekend," said Andrew T. Spalding, general manager of Hilo Sugar Co., referring to the Labor Day holiday.

Mr. Spalding said that while his company has been notified that a strike is contemplated, it still is not definite.

"Work at Hilo Sugar Co. is proceeding normally," he reported.

Manager W. C. Jennings of Hakalau Sugar Plantation Co. said work on his plantation is proceeding along normal schedules but that all harvested cane is being cleared from the fields and processed.

He explained this was in preparation for "the long weekend because Monday is a holiday."

Henry H. Padgett, manager of Waiakae Mill Co., said there will be no slowup at his mill but that harvest operations will cease in view of the two day holiday.

But even the normal two day holiday on the plantations may force the closing of Hawaiian Cane Products Co., Ltd., according to Manager William F. Goldsmith, because it will shut off the company's supply of bagasse, the residue from the cane used in the manufacture of Canec.

"Canec will be forced to close down for lack of bagasse probably Tuesday," he said in a statement for publication.

In Kohala, J. Scott B. Pratt, manager of the Kohala Sugar Co., was emphatic in his statement that no preparations were being undertaken for a strike. He said work will be "carried on as usual" through Saturday.

Sugar Industry On Maui Closes Down For Strike

By A. A. SMYSER
Star-Bulletin Staff Writer
WAILUKU, Maui, Aug. 31 (By Radiophone)—The giant sugar industry fell asleep here today and virtually no activity will be under way when the strike zero hour comes at midnight.

The establishment of union picket posts—promised promptly at midnight—will be about the only sign that a strike is under way until Tuesday when the men would normally go back to work after the Labor Day holiday.

Union plans call for keeping the island's 4,000 strikers busy six hours a day in picket duty or on fishing parties to help stretch the union "war chest" and the scanty savings of the workers.

All signs point to a peaceful start for the strike and union and management both assert they are doing their utmost to keep the situation clear of "incident".

The union pickets will be "watchmen", Joseph A. Kaholokula, business agent of the Maui local, explained after a strategy meeting Friday night.

Below the level of foremen, the only sugar employees working will be those engaged at the hospitals, dairies, power plants, gasoline stations and plantation stores.

These employees have been asked to surrender their pay checks to the union and, according to union headquarters, have agreed to do so. The union leaders will receive no pay during the strike unless it is part pay earned from duties with industries not on strike.

Plantation work today consisted principally of cleaning up and even this was scheduled to be complete by 5 p. m. at all four Maui plantations.