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OLD DAYS IN HAWAII

A Honolulu Fete of Fifteen Years Ago.

KALAKAUA'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

Scenes and Incidents of the Closing Years of the Late King's Life.

Following is an account taken from a Honolulu publication of 1886 of the celebration of the fiftieth birthday of King Kalakaua:

November 16, 1886, being the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of His Majesty King Kalakaua, it was observed with unusual honors. The Legislature appropriated \$15,000 to defray the cost of a public celebration. The management of this fund was entrusted to a committee, of which His Excellency Mr. Gibson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Premier, was chairman. Hon. John A. Cummins was marshal.

The festivities were to extend over a fortnight, but rainy weather for several days seriously interfered with the outdoor sports. The original program, however, was as closely adhered to as possible. The celebration really began on the evening of Monday, November 15th, by the illumination of the summit of Punch-bowl looking seaward, with huge bonfires, the firing of bombs and a display of rockets.

During the evening of the 15th the officers of the Nihoa Society presented His Majesty, at the Palace, with a handsome calabash and an address, and at a later hour Mr. P. P. Hastings, acting Charge d'Affaires for the United States of America, was presented to the King by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and tendered to His Majesty the congratulations of the President upon the auspicious occasion, for which mark of friendship on the part of the ruler of the Great Republic the King expressed his high appreciation. His Excellency Mr. Gibson also congratulated the King upon attaining his fiftieth year, and presented a pair of polished elephant tusks, elegantly mounted. Each tusk weighed 51 1-2 pounds, and bore the following inscription on a silver tablet suspended between the horns. One side of the tablet reads: "His Majesty King Kalakaua, born November 16, 1836, ascended the throne of Hawaii February 23, 1874. In commemoration of the fiftieth birthday of His Majesty."

On the reverse side is the text: "The Horns of the Righteous Shall be Exalted." A salute of twenty-one guns was fired at midnight from the shore battery. During the festivities the congratulations of Her Majesty the Queen of England were conveyed to the King through the Hawaiian Consul General at London, in the absence of the Charge d'Affaires.

RECEPTION AT IOLANI PALACE.

As early as 6 o'clock a. m., the police force, headed by the Marshal of the Kingdom and Deputy Marshal, marched to the Palace and presented a congratulatory address to the King, also a handsome book on a velvet cushion containing a bank order for \$570, as hookupu (voluntary tribute to the all or high chief) by the police.

At 9:45 the King received his Cabinet Ministers, the Judges of the Supreme Court, Governors of the several Islands, Nobles, members of the Privy Council of State, and members of the House of Representatives in the Throne Room. The Royal Hawaiian Band was in attendance, and a company of the King's Own Volunteers did duty as a guard of honor. The steps from the Palace grounds to the entrance hall had been carpeted. On the lower step, at either side, stood a Hawaiian bearing a lighted torch. The front and side facades of the Palace were draped in bunting. From the turrets were exhibited His Majesty's private insignia, the Royal standard and the National ensign. The Throne Room, where the reception took place, had undergone special preparation. On the dais were two handsome chairs for Their Majesties the King and Queen, separated by a table over which was thrown a beautiful feather cloak. Behind this was a pulley, or tabu stick, and on either side were three kahili bearers. The crowns and regalia were displayed on a velvet cushion. On the right of the dais were seats for the members of the Royal Family, and on the left for His Majesty's Ministers and the Justices of the Supreme Court. Seats had also been arranged for the members of the Privy Council. The scene in the Throne Room throughout the day was a brilliant one.

PRESENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL SOCIETIES.

At 10:30 a. m. a very picturesque procession of native ladies proceeded from the Washington Place residence of Her Royal Highness Princess Liliuokalani, by Beretania and Richard streets to the Palace, to do homage to the King. It consisted of the Nihoa Society, H. R. H. Princess Liliuokalani, president; Educational Society, Division 1, H. R. H. Princess Likelike; Hookeouono Society, H. R. H. Princess Kalulani; Educational Society, Division 2, H. R. H. Princess Poomaikalani. Each division was preceded by a beautiful silk banner and kahili bearers. The Princesses rode in carriages, preceded or accompanied by attendants carrying the insignia of their rank. The members were very elegantly attired, and each one carried a calabash as a hookupu to His Majesty.

RECEPTION OF THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS.

At 11:30 the Diplomatic and Consular representatives were received as follows: H. B. M.'s Commissioner, Major J. H. Wodehouse; the French Commissioner, Monsieur Henri Feer and Madame Feer; the Portuguese Commissioner, Senhor A. de Souza Canavarro; the Japanese Consul and Diplomatic Agent, Mr. Taro Ando and Mrs. Ando; Mr. F. A. Schaefer, Consul for Italy; Mr. T. R. Walker, Acting British Vice Consul; Mr. H. F. Glade, Consul for Germany; Mr. Frank P. Hastings, United States Vice Consul General; Mr. John H. Paty, Consul for the Netherlands and Belgium; Mr. R. W. Laine, Vice Consul for Spain and Consul for Mexico; Mr. H. R. Macfarlane, Consul for Denmark; Mr. C. Aleo, Commercial Agent for China; Mr. Goo Kim, Assistant Commercial Agent for China; Mr. C. L. Wight, United States Consul

Agent at Mahukona; Viscount Torle and Mr. T. Fujita, of the Japanese Legation. RECEPTION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, ETC.

At 12 o'clock the heads of the several bureaus of the Government Departments and the officers of the same attended to present their respects to His Majesty. The officers of the Customs Department presented the King a splendid cane of kaawila wood, with a gold-mounted head bearing the Hawaiian coat-of-arms and motto, "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka Aina i ka Pono." (In righteousness shall the nation be established.) Landscape views in and around Honolulu are engraved on inscription: "Presented to His Majesty inscription: 'Presented to His Majesty Kalakaua I. on his fiftieth birthday by the members of the Bureau of Customs.'" Then follow the names. It was the work of Mr. A. Wenner, jeweler, of Honolulu, and would do credit to any establishment in the world. The secretary of the Board of Health, Hon. F. L. Hayselden, presented an address from the physicians and officers of that department, together with a solid silver box on a velvet cushion containing \$1,000. The text bore the following inscription on its lid: "This box, containing \$1,000 in gold coin, is presented to His Majesty King Kalakaua on his jubilee birthday, November 16, 1886, by the officers and physicians of the Board of Health. Fred. H. Hayselden, secretary." On the side of the box was inscribed the names of the donors.

At 1 o'clock the various societies, religious, educational and other organizations arrived in the following order: Honolulu Lahui Society, Her Majesty the Queen; Honolulu Lahui Kaumakapili Congregation, Honolulu Lahui Malle Kamalu, Fishermen's Society, children and teachers of various schools, Honolulu Fire Department, Huiwai Okahi Association, Pookaa's Association, The native Hawaiian pupils of the Royal School, some 320 in number, attracted considerable attention when they arrived headed by the Reformatory School Band. They were all neatly dressed in white with red facings, their new uniforms. Their military bearing was admirable as they marched eight abreast. The appearance of some of these societies was picturesque and imposing. One of them was led by nineteen little children, neatly dressed, followed by over 100 native women, costumed in white, each one waving a kahili, the rear being brought up by boys and men. Another society was preceded by twenty-four kahills of various colors, each of the women and girls comprising it bearing a gift, or hookupu, in their right hand. The girls of St. Andrew's Priory School and the boys of Iolani College marched in regular order into the grounds and presented a very pretty sight, as did also the Pohukiana Girls' School, the Hawaii Fire Engine Company, preceded by the Reformatory School Band, and the Fishermen's or "Seven Kings" Society. This society exhibited emblems symbolical of the reigning dynasty, and attracted much attention.

At 3 o'clock p. m. the public were received and for one hour there was a continuous stream of people pouring in to tender their congratulations to His Majesty. Many of our leading citizens were among those who attended. The Hawaiians as they passed the King deposited their hookupu of coin in a large calabash conveniently placed for that purpose.

The military companies came last. The King's Own led, and their commander, Captain Clark, delivered a suitable address and presented two handsome calabashes. The King's Guard followed, and in addition to a savings bank book containing their hookupu, presented a handsome gold-mounted cane and an address. The other volunteer military companies also did homage.

His Majesty also received many presents in gold and silver coin, also cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, poi, taro, etc. The principal gifts are described in a separate article.

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION AND ILLUMINATION.

After dark the Palace and its approaches were brilliantly illuminated by electric lights. The Bell Tower and the various engine houses of the Fire Department were also illuminated. The firemen's parade and torchlight procession was the main feature of the night. The Royal Hawaiian Military Band headed the procession. Mr. Chas. E. Wilson, Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, read a loyal and patriotic address to the King, to which His Majesty, a former member of the Department, made an appreciative response. There was a fine display of fireworks after the procession.

REGATTA AND HISTORICAL PROCESSION.

The regatta, on the 17th, was successful despite the unfavorable weather. The Royal Hawaiian Band and the Reformatory School Band were posted at favorable points on the waterfront for discoursing music. There were sixteen events, including yacht race, whaleboat, gig and canoe races, also a swimming match. The King takes great personal interest in aquatic sports, and the regatta, therefore, was a special feature of the birthday festivities.

On the 19th there was a historical procession through the principal streets, illustrative of Hawaiian life and customs fifty years ago and those of today. It was at once suggestive and unique. The procession filed past the King, members of the Royal Family, Cabinet Ministers, and other high officials, who occupied seats at the head of the Palace steps in front of the grand entrance. The members of the newly instituted Hawaiian secret society—the Nahu Society—in their regalia, occupied places on the balcony around the Royal party.

GRAND LUAU.

On the 23d a grand luau, or feast, was given by the King to a distinguished party, comprising foreign and native guests. A luau, or detached hall, had been erected in the Palace grounds, capable of seating 500. It was 250 feet long by 35 feet wide, and elaborately decorated. The main front of the Palace, facing the luau, was draped with flags of all nations and all sizes, the doorway fronting the Palace being curtained, right and left, with the Hawaiian flag and the Royal standard. The luau was entered by several doorways. At the main entrance, facing the luau, was a small vestibule formed of a large Hawaiian flag flanked by ohia trees, palm leaves and ferns. The passages leading to the head of the table were curtained, on the right, with the British, and on the left, with the United States flags. The roof and walls of the luau were elegantly draped and festooned with flags, it leaves and made. The pillars supporting the roof and corners of the luau were decorated with shields showing the coats of arms of every nation. The Royal table was handsomely laid with trenchers of silver and gold, chinaware, silver knives and forks, cut glass in blue, green, cherry and other rich colors. The table was margined with a stately row of colored calabashes of native woods of most elegant make and finish. Massive silver candelabra were placed at regular intervals. The whole of the tableware was laid in a beautiful expanse of leaves and flowers. The services of the Royal School boys had been secured as waiters. With their handsome uniform, they made a fine appearance as they ran



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trooping about the place. Young Hawaiian women, waving kahills above the heads of the guests, seated native fashion, were distributed at intervals around the tables, which were covered with viands, native and foreign, and kept the air delightfully cool. Fully 1,500 guests were feasted during the afternoon at the luau. After the feast the luau was cleared out, and the public were entertained by a hula, or native dance, in the presence of the King and other members of the Royal family.

JUBILEE BIRTHDAY BALL.

The birthday ball, which had been postponed from the 19th of November on account of the weather, came off with great eclat in the luau before described, on the night of the 25th. The King and Her Royal Highness, Princess Liliuokalani, Her Apparent, received the invited guests in the grand hall of Iolani Palace. The Palace was brilliantly illuminated. The decorations inside the luau were profuse and appropriate. It was lighted by electricity. The scene was very brilliant, the company in the ball room being numerous and gay. The ball was opened with the Royal Hawaiian Lancers, the set composed as follows: His Majesty the King and H. R. H. Princess Liliuokalani, H. R. H. Princess Likelike and H. H. Prince Kawanaokoa, His Excellency Mr. Gibson and Mrs. L. Aholo, His Excellency Mr. Aholo and Mrs. Antone Rosa, Hon. A. S. Cleghorn and Mrs. Wodehouse, His Excellency Mr. Rosa and Mrs. C. P. Iaukea, Mr. Taro Ando and Miss Stella Keomallani, Major S. Parker and Mrs. Taro Ando.

Dancing was kept up with spirit till near 3 o'clock the following morning. Supper and light refreshments were served during the night. This was the most successful ball ever given in Honolulu, and gave the greatest measure of satisfaction to those who were present.

SPORTS, COMPETITIVE DRILL AND HISTORICAL TABLEAU.

On the 26th, Makiki Recreation Ground was occupied with the sports arranged for by the Birthday Celebration Committee. The competition in the athletic games was keen, and evidenced considerable skill.

On the 27th, a competitive military drill was held at Palace Square, before His Majesty the King and members of his staff. The prize, a silk flag, was awarded to the Honolulu Volunteer Rifle Company, composed of haoles (whites), commanded by Captain V. V. Ashford. The drill of all the competing companies was good, and the soldierly bearing of the men, Hawaiian and foreign, a subject of favorable comment.

The birthday entertainments ended, so far as the public were concerned, by a presentation of historical tableaux on the stage of the Hawaiian Opera House, on the evening of November 27th. The King and Royal Family, Cabinet Ministers, officers of the Royal Household, foreign representatives, Consuls and prominent residents of Honolulu were present. Admission was by special invitation, and the House was full. The musical accompaniment, especially the Hawaiian Choir, was a marked and pleasing feature of the entertainment. The solos and choruses were exquisitely rendered.

The tableaux comprised four scenes. The first represented a group of fishermen engaged in fishing with a net, and one of the two men whose duty it was to drive the fish into the net being intentionally drawn in along with the fish and drowned. This is said to illustrate an ancient method of securing a human victim for sacrifice. This scene was well put on the stage, and terminated effectively. The second represented Kamehameha I, consulting one of his "wise men" as to whether it was proper for the King to become affianced to a young child or not. Two old men—one of them the man to be consulted—were seated on the floor of the stage, playing a game resembling checkers, when Kamehameha marched in with his soldiers, an attendant carrying on his shoulders the child concerning whom the inquiry was to be made. The

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