

Hawaiian

The year 1930 loomed as a poor one for the construction industry. Early reports indicated that housing starts would be down by more than 40%, and that commercial construction could be even worse. The remodeling market looked most promising, and many builders were turning their attentions in that direction.

In February, the new Honolulu Advertiser Building was dedicated with "proper Ceremony". Described as Mediterranean Renaissance in its style, the building had been designed by architect _____ to provide the lighting and ventilation requirements of a 24-hour industrial building in Hawaii. Its contractor had been _____. (others...like stonework?) As it does today, the structure housed a newspaper, a printing plant, and a radio station.

Hawaii's first major dam disaster occurred at 4:00 p.m. on March 25, 1930, when the Alexander dam at McBryde Sugar Company on Kauai, which was under construction, collapsed without warning, killing 6 employees. The damage was placed at \$80,000. *The dam* ~~was~~ was to have been 125 feet high, *and would have* stored 810 million gallons of water. Over \$210,000 had *its* been spent on ~~the~~ construction.

In July of 1930, one of Oahu's most scenic drives, Kokekole Pass

road was opened. For more than 50 years it had been ~~little more~~ ^{only} ~~than~~ a dangerous trail connecting Schofield Barracks with Waianae. The new road was constructed entirely by the 8th Field Artillery Corps as a military highway.

In November ~~of 1910~~ the heirs of J.M. Dowsett made a gift of their Punahou Avenue home and grounds to the Shriners, for use as a hospital for crippled children.

Mutual Telephone Company ~~had~~ embarked on a campaign to place ^{of} all its wires underground. The amount of underground cable already in use was 33,262 miles, while "aerial" installations measured 26,677 miles.

A new police station was under construction for Honolulu, and a major building program was ~~underway~~ ^{planned for} at Kamehameha Schools. The new branch of Bishop Bank was being built at Hilo.

Newspapers reported that a "putting passion" had struck Honolulu, noting that in one month 10 miniature golf courses had been opened. The courses were known as "Tom Thumb, Midget, Pee Wee, Pony, Dinky, Mina-Ture", and other diminutive terms. Some people even put them on their roof tops.

The depression of 1931 did not leave Hawaii totally unscathed, but the islands in general were bypassed by the economic disaster which swept the rest of the nation. While general commerce had shown a decline of \$4,083,000 between 1929 and 1930, bank deposits for 1931 indicated a gain of \$3,630,868 for the year, nearly three times that of the previous year. This gain was mostly in savings accounts, a measure of the favorable condition of the blue collar worker, and mute testimony to his disinterest in stock market investments.

In 1931, the City and County of Honolulu inherited the Hillebrand Gardens in Nuuanu, from Mary E. Foster, for the purposes of converting them to a permanent botanical exhibit. She also bequeathed \$10,000 to put the grounds and residence in order.

Construction continued to decline, though at a less rapid pace, and builders were looking for hopeful signs. Among the more notable building projects in progress were the Halekulani Hotel at Waikiki, the Williams Mortuary, and the nurses' quarters at Queens Hospital. The Baldwin Bank at Kahului, Maui was lauded for its "friendly feeling and absence of business aspect, its pleasant surroundings, and beautiful architectural design."

In 1932 Hawaiian Cane Products Company, Ltd., began the manufacture of a new fiberboard products, utilizing the bagasse waste from several of Hilo's sugar plantations. The factory and equipment represented a capital outlay of \$1,850,000.

In May of 1933 construction of the Lualualei Ammunition Depot was completed at a cost of \$2,030,000. The complex comprised about 7,900 acres, and was designed to be as self-contained as possible. It included cold storage facilities, dispensaries and residential facilities. *(more)*

Much of America's government activity was centered on programs, to help speed recovery from the great depression, and to insititute safeguards which would prevent a reoccurence. Many bank failures had been brought about by the tremendous number of real estate foreclosures, prompting the Federal Government to initiate the National Housing Act, providing long term amortized home loans at fair interest rates. Through an agency to be known as the Federal Housing Administration, the Act would also control "shabby" building practices, and eliminate the common practice of second and third mortgages by loaning up to 80% of appraised value. An F.H.A.

office was opened in Honolulu, headed by Territorial Director J. Stowell Wright. It was reported that the new agency would be particularly beneficial in the financing of homes which "cost less than \$5,000."

On October 22, 1936 a Pan American China Clipper landed ~~in~~ ^{at Pearl City} ~~Honolulu~~, bringing the first paying passengers, (7), ever to fly from California. The Martin M-130 flying boat took 17 hours to get to Honolulu. Air fare was _____.

Hawaii recognized her need to keep pace with the growth of global aviation and was developing John Rogers, (now Honolulu International) airport on Oahu, as well as fields at ^{Hilo and} ~~at~~ Upolu Point on the Big Island, ^{and} ~~at~~ Hoolehua on Molokai, ~~and at~~ ~~Maui~~.

Seventy-five workers from the WPA were employed at the John Rogers airport, 30 at Upolu point, 100 at Hilo. At Maalaea airport. on Maui, a survey determined that the field had insufficient natural drainage, and a new site was selected 7 miles Northwest of Lahaina.

Working on a contract to develop a more reliable supply of water for Schofield Barracks, contractor E.E. Black bored successfully into an "inexhaustible source". The project called for the digging of a

vertically inclined tunnel similar to the type first developed by the Pioneer Mill Company on Maui. Major Jorgen Jorgensen was the Inspector In Charge.

Between May 1933 and December, 1936, President Roosevelt's "New Deal" recovery plan brought more than 9 million dollars to the Islands. The Works Progress Administration and its two predecessors, the Civil Works Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration were of ^{f (inestimable?)} unestimable value in minimizing the impact of mass unemployment, and in sustaining the Island economy.

On the mainland, 2.5 million men and women were taken from the relief rolls, ^{to be} and employed on 90,000 WPA projects.

In Hawaii, ~~the~~ WPA workers labored on roads, bridges, port facility improvements, and flood control programs. One of the largest ^{of the latter} ~~flood control programs~~ was the Manoa-Palolo project, which began on February 9, 1935. A total of 5,200 lineal feet of riprap wall were constructed to an average height of 13 feet. _____ stream, which had a previous width of 10 to 20 feet was widened to a new uniform width of 40 feet.

In late 1936

disagreement between ship owners and ship workers resulted in

Hawaii's first shipping strike. In short order a number of projects were halted for want of building supplies. In spite of the strike however, Hawaii was headed for a banner year in construction, with private building estimated at nearly \$5,000,000.

Contractors Walker and Olund were building a new boathouse on the Ala Wai which featured a sweeping "Hawaiian Roof", the structure having been designed by architect Harry Bent.

While the term "planned unit development" would have been totally foreign to architect Ray Morris, that is precisely the sort of design he pioneered in laying out ten two bedroom rental units for his client, Fred D. Bolte. Located on Davenport Street in Makiki, the project provided "each house with its own garage and yard", with "ample light and ventilation for every house". L. Inouye was the general contractor.

On Maui, the decision to relocate the airport close to Lahaina was abandoned, and a new site was found lying closer to the old facilities at Maalaea.

Work began on "Shangrila", a new home at Diamond Head for Doris Duke Cromwell.

In January 1937, under the leadership of Walter Dillingham, local businessmen met at the Chamber of Commerce to consider ways of terminating the continuing, (and by now, crippling) maritime strike. Ensuing negotiations were successful, and on February 5th the 700 maritime workers involved returned to work. The Waikiki Business and Improvement Association held its initial meetings, and in June of the same year, the employees of many hotels, restaurants, and bars were unionized.

In October of 1937, a delegation of Congressmen arrived from Washington, D.C. to hold the first of many Statehood hearings.

In early 1938, Hawaii Housing Authority director Charles Pietsch requested a grant of \$400,000 from the Federal Housing Authority, pledging matching funds of \$600,000. A severe earthquake was felt on all islands, and a short time later Honolulu Mayor Fred Wright asked the City Planning Commission to allow only earthquake-proof buildings to be erected in the metropolitan area.

In March the Board of Agriculture, the Forestry Department and the WPA began planting nearly 55,000 trees on Oahu. St. Louis Heights, Tantalus, and Makiki-Roundtop were planted with Mulberry, Rose-apple, Mountain Apple, and Pear trees. Other species planted

3p?

were: Persimmon, ^aBredfruit, Orange, Olive, Coconut, Avacado,
Mango, Papaya, Ban^aana, and assorted decorative trees. The average
wage for ~~the WPA~~ workers on these projects was 31¢ an hour.

Tax Assessor Samuel M. Fuller appraised the real estate of
Honolulu, (from the mountains to the sea and from KokoHead to
Moanalua) at \$164,092,585.

Hawaiian Contracting Company offered the low bid of \$281,164
to build a new Kamehameha Boys School in upper Kalihi. Architect was
C.W. Dickey.

The University of Hawaii, under the presidency of Dr. David
L. Crawford, instituted a ten-year building plan for 17 structures
slated to cost an estimated \$2,000,000.

In September the Bank of Hawaii became one of the first
of Honolulu's major businesses to install a complete air conditioning
system.

On March 8, 1939 ground was broken for the Board of Water Supply
Building at Beretania and Alapai Streets.in Honolulu. Architect
was _____, and the contract for \$ _____ was awarded
to _____.

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The Population in Honolulu for 1939 was estimated to be 147,000, reflecting a 72% increase in 18 years. Most of the population increase was attributed to immigration from the Mainland U.S.A. Insufficient housing was a grave social concern, with many of the underprivileged living amidst rats and with minimal sanitary facilities. A survey revealed that in Honolulu's slums alone a total of 3,326 persons lived in 741 tenement rooms.

To help eliminate this problem, the Hawaii Housing Authority entered into a loan contract with the United States Housing Authority for Project TH-1-1. Officially known as Kamehameha Homes, it was a low-cost housing project which was to be built at an estimated cost of \$1,012,000.

There would be 221 units located on property acquired from the Bishop Estate for \$142,981. The architects were Dickey, Rothwell and Stiehl.

On August 8, 1939, James W. Glover was awarded the construction contract for \$712,800. The landscaping contract went to one J. E. Wist for \$12,995. The construction adviser from the United States Housing Authority was

Howard V. Luther, and William Cuthill was the HHA Inspector.

Jack Young, vice president of Young Brothers Limited, left for the mainland to purchase a \$100,000 steel barge which would be used to transport fuel oil and supplies to Palmyra. It would also be "tried" as a pineapple carrier.

Two more
Another segment of the slum clearance program ^{*was*} ~~was~~ announced.
The first
to be known as the Mayor Wright Homes Project, ~~it~~ was funded at \$1,841,000, with an additional \$84,000 requested. Architects were Dickey, Rothwell, Stiehl and Wood.

announced
Also ~~announced~~ was the TH-1-2 project, known unofficially as the "Hawaiian Village." To build it, the HHA entered into another loan contract with USHA for \$513,000. One Hundred and Twenty-two family units would be constructed on land previously owned by the John Ii Estate. More than 345 applications from Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians were received, and the Hawaiian Civic Club helped plan the site. David K. Trask was head of the housing committee, and Morris, Kelley, Ossipoff and Furer were the architects. Lyman Perry Fisk prepared several site plans and submitted them free of charge to the HHA.

From Washington came plans for tremendous expansion of U.S. Military forces in the Pacific, with Hawaii designated as America's "last line of defense" in the event that worsening relations with Japan might result in war. Massive building and facilities expansion projects were planned, and the Navy entered into a contract with a consortium known as Contractors, Pacific Naval Air Bases. Its participants were Hawaiian Dredging Company of Honolulu and the Turner Construction Company and the Raymond Concrete Pile Company, both of New York.