

24 Feb ~ Sunday, Outrigger, Bishop Museum.

Diamond Head stares down at us as we breakfast on the beach lani. Naughty pigeons scuttle around our feet. The breakfast buffet, included in the tour package, costs \$28, so we feel obligated to eat more than necessary.

I have learnt that the only way to get brown toast out of a conveyor machine is to run it through twice.

The made to order omelet is good.

At 8:20am we assemble to listen to Ted. At age sixty, still referred to as a Beach Boy. He talks about the outrigger canoe we will be riding in. It seats six oarsmen (us) and requires two crew, one sort of the captain steers. The other bails and shouts commands to us. It used to be that anyone could set up an operation, but now the Coastguard regulates and requires certification. Strangely enough the outrigger canoe is considered so stable that life jackets are not required.

Ted is concerned; the wind is blowing from the sea, on shore, creating 2-4ft surf, higher than usual for Waikiki Beach.

We sign a waiver. I don't know what I waived. Then learn how to paddle.

The first outrigger is slid down the sandy beach. The hardy "crew" climbs in and they launch. I film until their boat disappears from sight, obscured by an intervening wave. The outrigger turns parallel to the breaking waves and slows. The Captain is waiting for just the right wave. They turn and are propelled inshore at high speed. The outrigger is a giant surfboard.

Now it is our turn. I am selected as number one, that is up front, and have to set the pace. We launch. Instructions are shouted. A huge wave rears in front of me. The bow ducks under. Water streams over my head. I'm drenched and almost knocked out of the boat.

"Go, go...pull, pull... change sides... stop."

We are waiting for the big one. We turn, and once more come shouted instructions. The outrigger is surfing. We come flying inshore, past a guy on a surfboard with waterproof camera, taking pictures.

The stern is edged up the beach, so my back is to the shore. "Legs over the right side." So I turn and flop into waist deep water. "We did not say get out." Might as well help push the outrigger up the beach. One of our team asks, "Are you looking for a job?" That was fun!



505. Outrigger.



Wet sea gulls.

"Since we are soaked, let's sit on the beach to dry out like sea birds."

The beach is packed. There are few empty chairs, but after collecting a couple of towels from the pool, we find two. The ocean is cool but comfortable to swim in. The sea floor has one drop off but remains shallow. I am surprised, being so shallow, at the height of the surf. More drying. The clouds are darkening to our right. "Reckon Honolulu is getting rain." Soon it is our turn. The beach is filled with people scurrying for cover.



508. Waikiki Beach in the rain.



50. Big Cat.

"Time to clean up, and go for lunch."

I rinse the salt out of our T-shirts, which never do dry.

"No, the pictures from the outrigger are not ready yet."

Just up the road from the hotel is the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center. A new, three-floor mall, built around open-air courtyards filled with tropical trees and shrubs. The shops are mostly up-market like Nordstrom. Senior Frog, on the top floor, suits our plebian tastes for lunch while we peer out at the tops of palm trees. Must have gone to catch my Mahi Mahi.

There are no billboards, they were banned in 1927.



78. Main shopping street, Waikiki.



76. Shopping mall.



74. Flowers outside the Sheraton Tower.

Back at the hotel, the Royal Hawaiian Band prepares to perform in the Monarch Room. The show was supposed to be outside, but the clouds threaten more rain. The room is full. There must be 700 people in the audience. We stand outside at the back under an awning. The staff brings more chairs. We are fortunate too get one each. Despite our location the acoustics are excellent. The program mixes a variety of compositions by Hawaiian composers with light classical music. King Kamehameha III established the band in 1836. It is the second oldest in the US.

We stand for the National Anthem then the Hawaiian Anthem. A TV cameraman scurries around the audience.

We listen to a song in praise of the Pink Palace, and one of Mozart's horn concertos. Besides the twenty or so band members, the program features several solo singers and an interpretive hula dancer.

We expect a rush for the elevators, but there is none. The audience must have been from other hotels.

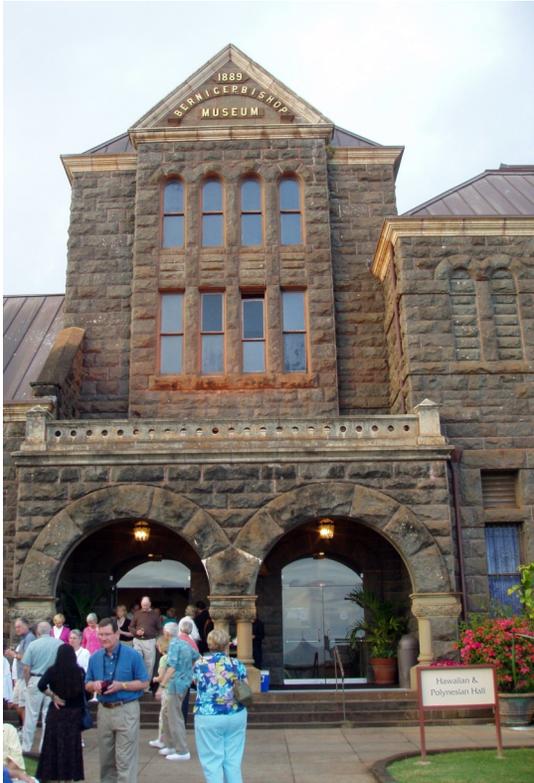
Because of the weather, the outrigger guys have packed up and gone home. How are we going to get our pictures?



515. Royal Hawaiian Band performs in the Monarch Room

In the 1700's a strong class structure existed among the Hawaiians. Surfing was reserved for the (stronger) upper class.

Off to the Bishop Museum where, we are greeted by a traditional chant, then "Uncle" welcomes us with beer or wine. Never been in a museum, which allowed alcohol to be carried. Uncle must be 70 something, part Hawai-



86. Bishop Museum 1889.

ian (there are no full blooded native Hawaiians), bronzed, with long white hair. He is our narrator.

Charles Bishop and his wife Princess Bernice Pauahi Pahi Bishop had no children, but wanted to create a legacy for the Hawaiian nation, so established two schools, one for boys, one for girls in 1884.

87. The New Wing.



After her death, Bishop built the museum in her memory on the grounds of the schools. It houses her collection of cultural artifacts. In an adjacent modern building we enjoy a slide show presentation documenting the island's history from the time of King Kamehameha I to the early 1900's when the monarchy was overthrown.



84. Staircase leading from the entrance of the original museum.



85. This room presents the history of the Kamehameha dynasty.

Crossing the grounds to an open hut, Nohealani, a dance instructor, teaches us the names of the various percussion instruments used to accompany hula.

Puilis are split bamboo tubes, tapped together, or struck on the shoulders. Uli Ulis are rattles, the top part feathers, the bottom coconut shells. Ili Iliis are rocks which resemble castanets, held two in each hand and tapped together. Ipu, a single gourd drum. Ipu heke, a two ended gourd drum with distinct tones.

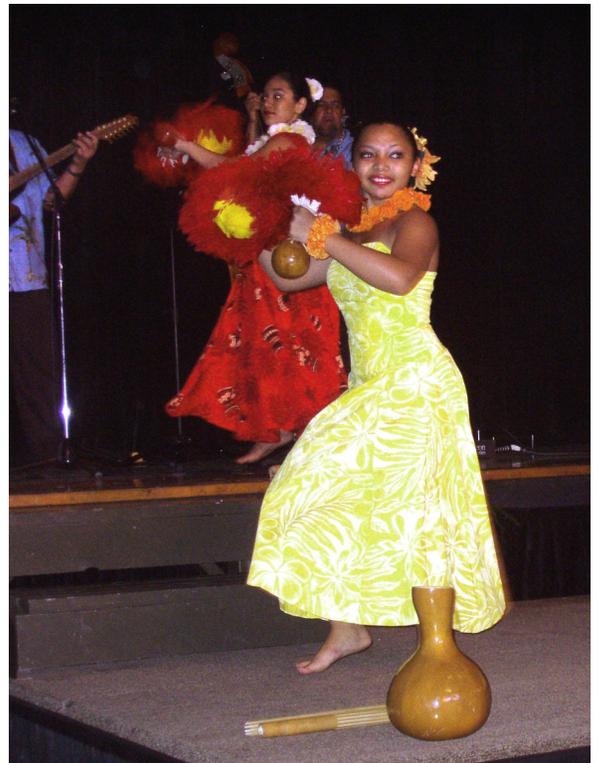
Hula, known as talking book, originally danced by men, is used to pass (folk) stories and history along the generations.

Now for the dinner show. Our tutor, tells us the story, then sings (chants) while three charming young ladies and a young man act out each theme. Later we learn the young man, 16, is her son. The young ladies are 15, but dressed in slim long dresses, look much older.

Meanwhile, sitting at tables for six, we enjoy salad, chicken, desert and lots of wine.



93.



95.



88.