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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

July 18, 1986

Dir. John Popenoe
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Miami, Florida 33156

Dear John:

Isa & I, so far from the Mainland, are pretty much preoccupied with the Hawaiian Archipelago. Hence letters between Hawaii & Florida are terribly rare. I guess the last was to your Fairchild Garden member Mr. Zuckerman.

Getting elderly - only 87 - I am curious to know what happened to the proposed book about the Anne Archbold Scientific Expedition. John Archbold, whom I hardly know, informed me decades ago that a Prof Austin Moore was preparing to write such a book for pay. His address in the '70s was 1023 Marigold Ave., East Lansing, Mich. Should one be available, please mail me a copy with bill.

Funny, I happened to talk on the 'phone about the Cheng Ho to a friend and distant neighbor only yesterday! He gave me the sad news that Austin Moore had died. If his ms., was gracefully refused publication, I should think his widow would keep it or a copy in her home. Should you not preserve such a copy in honor of Moore's memory at the Garden Library? Perhaps you could borrow and xerox it for your archives.

I am prompted to write you now because a Mr. John W. White, 3835 Sierra Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii contacted us at our Mokuleia Beach home to write an article about us two. This is to appear in "East West Magazine" in a month or two. He now is flirting with the idea of writing an article about the Cheng Ho, and has already some information. Since the vessel sank many years ago, I told him I doubted anyone would be interested. But he does not quite believe me. Anyway, if anything is in print Mr. White should know about it. I of course would be curious to read the nonexistent (?) book myself. I have the idea none exists as otherwise such men as Moore or Archbold would have mailed me a copy.

Due to advancing age, Isa & I feel it wise to get our houses in order before we write more plant descriptions. So we are disposing of duplicate herbarium specimens, good & shopworn books and trying to sell our old Honolulu home next to the University Campus. We have been renting out the main house - remember, J.F. Clay had been my tenant - and using the guest cottage to stay overnight in Honolulu after a late lecture or dinner party. We have a long footage of bot. correspondence on our private library shelves. Originals go to N.Y. Bot. Garden & Hunt Library. They are mainly botanical, of course about the Islands, and hardly of interest to a Floridian.

Isa (we were married in 1953) was a staff member of the Berlin Bot. Garden & Museum when it was destroyed during the holocaust of World War II. If such a Berlin institution can go up in smoke - they had even some plants I had collected in Bermuda during the summer of 1921 - one in New York could likewise in WW III, IV, etc., etc. So with this fear in mind we are offering xeroxes of our correspondence, good, bad & indifferent at 10 cents per printed page. It applies mainly to the Islands and really does not apply to Florida. But I am not sure

about a mess of Cheng Ho material. The bulk seems mostly nautical and so I have simply landed through it. I guess boat owners might be interested. Should you want such xeroxes perhaps a Cheng Ho-Fairchild room, you can have the lot at that price. *for*

I assume you are thriving; for my age I am rather well. But anything can happen as it did to the "one-horse shay". I have a sneaky feeling our vegetarian hunting in the fresh air has a lot to do with it.

Aloha,

Otto J.

68-617 Crozier Drive
Wailua, Oahu, Hawaii
96791 U. S. A.

May 15, 1986

Dear Miss Powell:

Mrs. D., & I have not forgotten about your specialty/ Here are a few references we unearthed up to a month or so ago and, thinking we would soon get more, neglected to mail you due to all kinds of chiefly nonbotanical activities. In fact, during the past few months I have lived not only at Mokulaia Beach and Volcano; but actually for about a week in Wahiawa where I was treated for an infected foot via antibiotics.

Remember, I have been collecting correspondence about Haw. plants & people dealing with them directly & indirectly. These holographs are unequally divided between the archives of the NY Bot. Garden AND the Hunt Institute of Documentation, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213.

to sell I am ready a set of all such old correspondence starting around 1920 in the form of xerox copies "good, bad & indifferent" at ten cents per page of text. Early material, since my position loss due to Gregory & Crawford, is certainly NOT flattering and probably not wanted locally by people who detract from Admirable Directors and Presidents by white-washing the scoundrels & weaklings among the lot.

ing Anyway, regards "words" according to my files, the following dated letters somehow deal with them. Whether you want to use them or not to give some personal interest to otherwise perhaps too dry bot. discussions, should you not keep this note among some ss sheet? Some botanists yet unborn may like to read them (I have a separate card for Argemuthia). If you don't cite pertinent ones, your followers generations hence MAY unearth them to claim that some one Centuries before would agree or disagree with you. As these letters are in public libraries, I should imagine they are free to discuss. Whether librarians would sell excess xeroxes, I don't know. Should we unearth any about ss, we would of course expect no pay. We want pay for 10-15 feet of letters in folders taking up our personal library shelf.

you Here is the incomplete list. We are not up to date, thus far not having added letters written by EP of Honolulu: 12/21/55, 11/25/59, 9/4/61, 10/10/62, 9/19/68, 8/14/68, 12/16/68, 4/6/43, 12/6/ illegible 743 or 35, 11/15/67, 72/66 12/30/69, 1/6/69, 2/14/71, 2/13/28, 4/19/32, 3/15/72, 7/22/35, 4/25/72, 2/13/28, 9/28/28, 6/15/72, 10/3/73, 4/3/73, 1/18/74, 4/23/59, 7/13/59, 11/25/59, 12/10/59, 6/15/72, 5/6/69, 10/15/69, 1/6/69, 3/9/64, 7/16/63, 3/15/72, 5/20/72, 8/5/73, 11/6/73, 10/20/59, 2/13/74, 10/6/68, 3/27/73, 10/30/73, 10/28/67, 4/24/74, 12/8/73, 5/14/72, 9/4/68, 8/28/74, 11/1/74, 12/25/74, 2/12/75, 3/3/75, 4/16/72, 6/16/75, 11/16/74, 11/21/74, 7/10/74, 1/2/75, 3/30/75, 3/29/75, 4/5/75, 5/31/75, 6/14/75, 6/16/75, 10/1/75, 4/7/77, 9/20/76, 9/25/76, 8/26/30, 10/12/27, 10/27/27, 6/1/27, 6/3/27, 2/1/28, 2/21/28, 8/29/30, 6/27/32, 10/1/32, 9/12/32, 7/26/30, 12/1/76, 11/1/76, 1/10/76, 11/20/78, 1/19/79, 3/20/79, 4/18/70, 12/11/71, 11/26/71, 10/13/79, 5/9/79, 6/28/79, 6/29/79, 4/30/79, 5/31/79, 5/17/80, -1-/80, 6/30/78, 7/22/78, 3/25/80, 6/24/80, 6/16/80, 5/27/80, 9/28/82, 3/6/82, 12/24/82, 1/8/83, 12/-/82, 11/13/82, 11/23/82, 7/30/82, 2/-/79, 11/23/82, 2/6/82 of course some more but not yet listed because of lack of time.

I just looked at the X Arumtia card: We have mentioned ^{ed} ~~in~~ 3 publications and in letters 4/6/43, 2/15/76

Do you really imagine one can write an interesting paper on Arg., without reading the letters of previous workers who most probably saw & collected taxa now shrunken in habits areas and in many cases extinct? I doubt it. I was so disappointed in the recent monographs hunting up isolated sheets and failing to quote the labels in his monograph. Dates also were missing. I want to know especially when the last of some taxon was collected as proof that it at least escaped extermination until that year. Can't you use that monograph to discover the institution where the sheets are located and pay the curators to mail you xeroxes you then can study and can transcribe the labels for all to read? The curators in most cases would welcome herbarium specimens in payment.

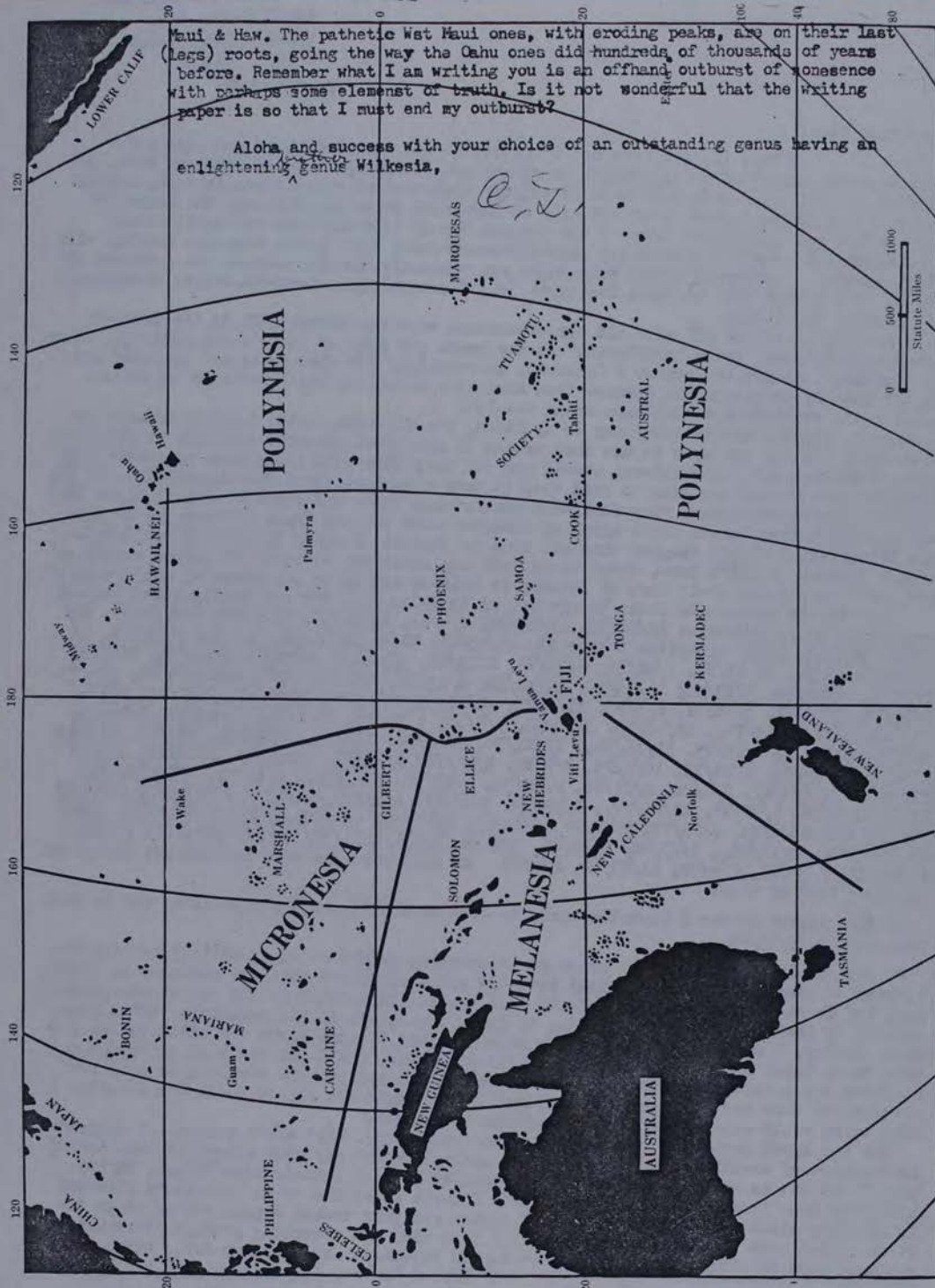
You can spend several lifetimes perfecting your study. What about pollen AND microscopic features of seedlings (ontogeny recaps, phylogeny) which may show ancestral relationships etc. I bet the ss started to become such beauties on high islands like Nihoa, Midway, Laysan when these bubbled up from Pele's Hotspot under the ocean near where Glenwood is now. They slithered perhaps at about 4 inches per year toward Japan; and as these islands eroded away thanks to wind & rain all taxa died out excepting perhaps disseminated eastward on by birds. They did not develop on Haleakala and the high Haw., mts., but ~~had to have been on Nihoa or Kauai or Lanai or Pearl and all the other islands when they were higher with suitable soil and water to grow. Of course continued their development geologically~~

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Hawaii & Haw. The pathetic West Maui ones, with eroding peaks, are on their last (legs) roots, going the way the Oahu ones did hundreds of thousands of years before. Remember what I am writing you is an offhand outburst of nonsense with perhaps some element of truth. Is it not wonderful that the writing paper is so that I must end my outburst?

Aloha and success with your choice of an outstanding genus having an enlightening genus Wilkesia,

C. L.



NOTICE

One of us two Degeners, having lived through two World Wars and become convinced that present Man is the most destructive of Primates, has diligently collected endemic Natural History Treasures mainly in the Hawaiian Islands. One has done so since 1922 and both since 1953. The original collection, with unicates, is deposited at the New York Botanical Garden, with major duplicate sets at the University of Massachusetts, B.P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Missouri Botanical Garden and University of Michigan. Smaller sets have been sent to 100 and more institutions listed by name and address in Holmgren et al., "Index Herbariorum I". The number of labeled specimens (including Arthropoda) may exceed 300,000. Many of such taxa, usually abundant in the field or jungle even after collecting, are by now extinct or nearly so. Some single plants, the last specimen of some taxon, have furnished acceptable museum material by the method of frequent visits to the plant and gleaning fallen leaves, flowers and fruits from the ground beneath. We are proud that our superior peers yet unborn will be grateful at least for preserved specimens to admire and study with improved training and laboratory equipment. They will be astounded how Man has after the '50s especially altered so many regions considered by us a Paradise of the Pacific by overpopulation, introduction by accident and design of vigorous alien animals and plants, lumbering and wood chipping, and bulldozing nigh into a Hell on Earth.

Our almost maniacal fear engendered by noting the destruction of scientific institutions throughout the World harboring unicates has prompted our scattering our harvest of such International Treasures by exchange, gift and sale. Many of the Degener collections preserved in institutions have been studied by experts since 1922. These have often also expressed their opinions regarding institutions and fellow workers involved. Some of such correspondence with the Degeners has been preserved in their personal library in the Hawaiian Islands. A single set has been divided unequally between the New York Botanical Garden near the Island of Manhattan and the Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh. Fearing the loss of thoughts expressed in such historical material by a possible holocaust caused by some minority of vicious Homo saps., we here offer copies of such correspondence of the above dealing chiefly with the Hawaiian Islands in batches of 100 xeroxed pages for \$10 USA, postage & tax prepaid. The pages offered we ourselves consider good, bad and indifferent. Others may think otherwise. One botanical librarian was overjoyed receiving what we considered a worthless picture postcard. The librarian, however, thereby discovered on which day a certain collector had botanized in a certain region in China by noting facts from the postal's cancelation. Many of the xeroxes deal with the plants distributed and/or Degeners' articles and books.

For scientists yet unborn we hope to distribute widely the usually wise opinions of individuals long deceased. If such written records are destroyed by modern vandalism in New York, Rio de Janeiro, Montreal, Kew, Stockholm, Moscow, Kiev, Calcutta, Peking, Tokyo, Cairns and Sydney etc., to which we have been mailing herbarium specimens and some old correspondence, copies may perchance survive longer in Amherst, Caracas, Ottawa, Dublin, Oslo, Leningrad, Warsaw, Singapore, Sapporo, Hobart and even Honolulu near Pearl Harbor!

Customers are advised by the seller, A Senior Citizen of 87, to rush their orders as this offer may be modified or withdrawn at any time.

5/11/86

Specimen
2/13/61

Feb. 13, 1961

Dr. Otto Degener
Waialua, Oahu,
Hawaii, USA.

*Thank you for the Kodak volume.
I shall read it back soon.*

Dear Dr. Degener,

Sincere thanks for a long letter of Feb. 1. I have ever enjoyed hearing from you and I have benefited very much from what you have told me, but, as you will understand, this last letter put me into a state of depression. Not that I have been unaware of the destruction going on, for I had occasion to follow it right there from 1922 to 1948, but I had expected that statehood would bring Hawaii under the rules as regards nature conservation practised on the mainland. I wonder if the International Bureau in Brussels knows what is going on. Are you willing to send them a report, founded on proved facts? It would cause worldwide attention. Nothing like this catastrophe has taken place, I believe, since the 100 (or perhaps only 90) % endemic flora of St. Helena was wiped out. Juan Fernandez is going the same way and not in order to make use of the land, but through wanton mismanagement, which may be worse. However, there is no sensible reason for the work now going on in Hawaii. As it is now, I can only approve of whole scale collection, so that the extinct flora will remain represented in official herbaria. Our attitude has been to be careful because we shunned to contribute to the extermination of rare species. I shall give one example. One of the very rare species of Dendroseris on Masatierra had not been collected since it was discovered. It may have been rare then, over 100 years ago. We rediscovered it in 1916 - two specimens, probably in the original locality. I collected a few leaves and pieces of the inflorescence. It has been hunted for all along the mountain range without result. In 1954 I returned to the spot and found that nothing was left of the natural vegetation. The Dendroseris was gone for ever. If I had been able to foresee what was going to happen, it would have been wise not to spare anything at all. My limit in Juan Fernandez in 1916/17 was 15 sheets. Having to collect all plant groups, I could not manage more. You know the method we use in press-

ing plants. It is very time-absorbing, but also gives beautiful results. You have sent me numerous sheets of each Wikstroemia form, in cases as many as 30 or 40. This is all right, and sometimes important in order to know the variation in leaf size and shape. With your permission I keep ¹/₂ sheet of two for our National Herbarium, but it goes without saying that the bulk must be returned to you. You cannot expect that I would be able to distribute it to 30 or 40 different herbaria. It cannot be difficult for you to make an agreement with the Bishop Museum to take care of this.

It is customary, and necessary, to cite all the collections, where a species is represented, with collector's name and number. This is always done. I have seen many sheets of yours in various herbaria, B.M., New York, and so forth. I must indicate this. Specimens obtained directly from you are designated "Herb. Degener". Now you tell me that you have no permanent herbarium. What shall I do? I expect that sample specimens of all will be deposited in the Bishop Museum. Is that right? Where do the other duplicates go? To which herbaria will you instruct Bishop Museum to distribute material? It is important that I shall know, because I want to make my memoir, on which I have spent years, as complete as possible. I have to put an end to this, too much material of yours of other genera must be taken care of, and I am getting old now. How much time do you think that I have spent on the 2500 detail drawings of Wikstroemia? I have to do everything myself, for I cannot afford to engage a competent artist, even if I could find one here in Göteborg, what I doubt.

I did not say that you had mixed up any Kaul numbers. You had found two trees from which samples were taken. It happened that the lot included two forms, that is, there was a slight difference in leaf shape, and I wondered if they corresponded to the two trees. There was no question of distinguishing two taxonomic forms. And it is not uncommon that leaf shape varies a great deal on the same plant. Dr. Sherff would have a wonderful chance to create varieties.

To answer a question: no, my collections are not only in Stockholm. The bulk from 1922, 26 and 38 is in Göteborg, Stockholm and Upsala, some also in the Bishop Museum and, of 1938, also in Auckland, N.Z. The 1948 collection in Stockholm, Uppsala and Helsingfors. Hillebrand did not practise conservation. He knew nothing of how to collect. Much was scraps. Fortunately Berlin distributed a set to Kew. His Flora is, of course, a wonderful piece of work for his time, because he made his descriptions from living material.

Best ever

Compliments to Mrs Degener!

Carl Skottsberg



053683

-1-1/23

NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
1701 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009

Dr. Otto Degener
68-617 Crozier Drive
Waialua Oahu, Hawaii 96791

Dear Dr. Degener:

You have a vital, personal stake in the survival of our National Parks and the wildlife they shelter.

How vital? Consider this, please. The first and finest park system in the world, created by and for the people of the United States, might not long survive this century without the concern and action of good people like you -- residents of Hawaii and others who care for all that is best in America.

Of course, you may believe that once an area becomes a National Park, it's protected forever. I wouldn't blame you. That's the way it should be.

But the park system has been, is, and will continue to be threatened by uncaring, mercenary profiteers and by special-interest users who make enjoyment of the parks difficult for the Degener's and for most Americans:

- *The National Rifle Association has filed a new suit against the Park Service that would effectively open all but 17 park units to hunting and trapping.

- *After more than 4 years of battle, the Administration still drags its feet on clean air, even though Great Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah National Parks are being heavily damaged by acid rain.

- *More mining and petroleum exploration proposals threaten Denali, Glacier, Canyonlands, Glen Canyon and Saguaro, some of the most popular parks.

- *Off-road vehicles (ORVs) continue to seriously damage beaches at Assateague, Cape Lookout, Fire Island and Cape Cod, and interfere with other users.

- *Budget cuts continue to cause staff reductions, early closings, inability to buy key property near the parks, and prevent vital maintenance.

Dr. Degener, these are your parks, and mine. Only as you and I and other caring Americans look out for them will they survive. I invite you to join NPCA as a member ... and strengthen the one organization totally committed to protecting the national parks from these dangers.

NPCA is a non-government, citizen funded organization of people like yourself who appreciate and enjoy our wonderful national parks. For 66 years, since 1919, NPCA has worked tirelessly for the parks ... in the Congress, before the courts, with citizen groups, and with the National Park Service itself. In the last two years, with strong, growing member support, we have:

- . won a suit against EPA that forces states to monitor visibility in all Class I parks and wilderness areas ... to help assure cleaner air and clearer views of scenic wonders.
- . defeated a bill to open 12 million Alaskan park acres to sport hunting.
- . convinced Congress to increase, at least threefold, the Administration's recommendation for park and acquisition funding from non-income tax sources.
- . established the National Park Action Project, which is reaching out to create an interested, helpful citizen leadership group for every park unit.

NPCA has created a national reputation for fair, effective leadership. But we haven't done it alone. When you join NPCA, you strengthen a constituency for the parks whose voice is heard and respected in Washington and in every state capital.

That's vital, for the National Parks will only exist for the future if Americans care about them today. And NPCA will speak for your interests as a member and part owner of the parks. We'll keep you informed about park issues and needs, critical legislative developments, and dangers to the parks in NPCA's bi-monthly magazine, NATIONAL PARKS. And you'll also find colorful, exciting articles on the parks themselves.

Membership in the National Parks and Conservation Association -- just \$18 a year -- gives you a unique opportunity to express your views as a park owner ... and give practical support to the parks' integrity and welfare.

Please don't wait. The parks can't. Join NPCA today to preserve a very special part of your life, and the promise of the parks for future generations.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Pritchard
President

PCP/prs

P.S. As a special bonus for joining NPCA now, you'll receive a personal copy of "Guide and Map to National Parks of the United States," a pocket-size, full color at-a-glance guide to facilities and activities at all National Park locations -- more than 300 listings.

STAR BULLETIN JAN 11th 1986
Bishop Museum's Difficulties

This past October I had the delightful experience of attending the Bishop Museum's open house festivities. Even the occasional rain did nothing to dampen the pleasurable, homelike, cooperative courtesy of the staff. As a retired old-timer in the field of museum administration, and a continuing researcher in anthropology and geography in Polynesia, I left the festival with almost a sense of envy. In that institution, the people of Hawaii have for many years been the beneficiaries of a wise board of trustees. Through the years the trustees built up a staff of recognized authorities in a wide range of specialties in Pacific natural history.

Even more importantly, in their wisdom in choosing directors, such as the great Sir Peter Buck and Alexander Spoehr, they succeeded in welding the staff into a close-knit family of loyal and productive individuals. This is a rarity in the general museum field, and the people of Hawaii can justly point with pride to the earlier decision-making body which made it happen. Well they might, for I recall the day I first entered the field of museum education, through research and exhibits, as the Bishop Museum had always been held up to me as the great Pacific research center.

All the above pleasant thoughts were rudely shattered another day when my mail arrived. Instead of jolly Christmas cards, there were clippings, one dating back to July, which told me the unbelievable news that 13 staff members, some of whom of long standing, had been summarily fired in a manner more befitting a hard-core profit-making corporation than a highly respected educational institution. The news releases stated that the action was required because of financial debt. Financial problems have been common to numerous nonprofit research and educational institutions, but I cannot recall one

that so brutally crucified its staff for an indebtedness which ultimately has to have resulted from previous poor decisions by the policy-making body of the organization, that is, the board of trustees and its chosen administrators.

Can it possibly be that after so many years of well-earned prestigious greatness, the people of Hawaii, and your fine newspaper, as a prominent voice of those people, will stand aside while a loyal and dedicated staff is split asunder to cover what has to be the result of poor management by a small group at the top of the administrative ladder?

Is that great center of Pacific research, the Bishop Museum, to be lost to all of us, as well as the people of Hawaii, by becoming just another exhibit museum among hundred of others in the United States?

Surely the famed aloha spirit of the people and business community can raise sufficient funds to re-hire the fired staff and, perhaps in the process, offer a course in museum and personnel management to its board and top administrators.

Or has the sound and spirit of aloha been drowned out by the clinking of coins in the cash registers of Hawaii?

Edwin N. Ferdon Jr.
Associate Director and
Ethnologist Emeritus
Arizona State Museum
University of Arizona