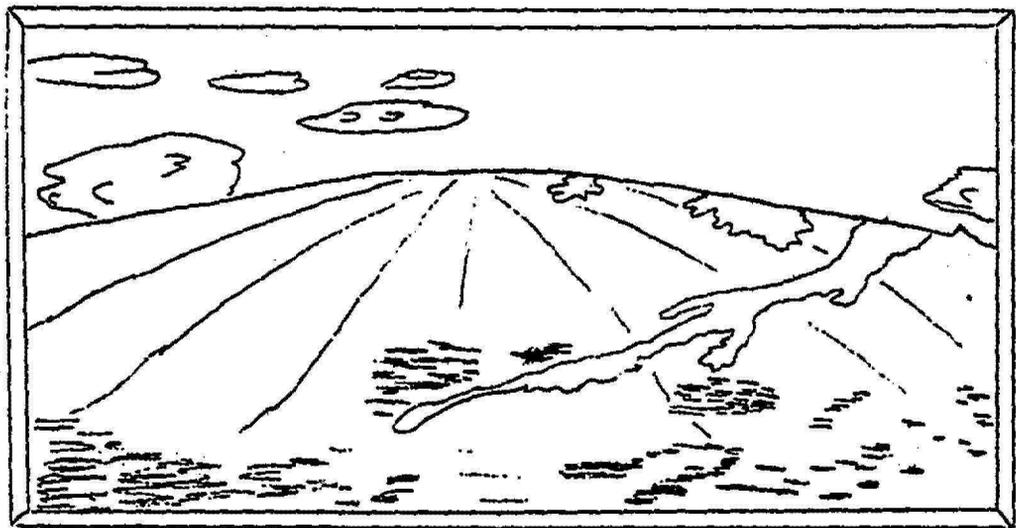


NATURE NOTES

HAWAII NATIONAL PARK



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Mauna Loa from Uwekahuna

JUNE 1931

Vol. I.

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UNITED STATES
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HAWAII NATIONAL PARK
NATURE NOTES

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E. P. Leavitt, Superintendent John E. Doerr, Jr., Park Naturalist

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Aloha

This being the first edition of Hawaii National Park's Nature Notes, it is a pleasure to greet you in a truly Hawaiian manner-

Aloha - the happiest word in the Hawaiian Language - conveys to you our greetings with kind wishes -- it bids you welcome and expresses our hope that you will find us creating and stimulating a desire to experience the things that only Nature and Hawaii can give you -

FOREWARD

HAWAII NATURE NOTES

The Hawaii Nature Notes, the official publication of the Educational Department of the Hawaii National Park, makes its initial appearance with this issue. It will appear each month hereafter. Its purpose is to supply authoritative information on the natural history and scientific features of the Park. The articles are not copyrighted and it is intended that they will be freely used by the press, schools, nature study clubs, and all interested in the out-of-doors.

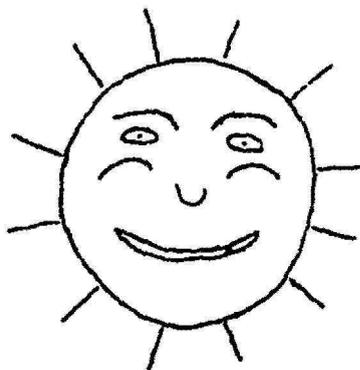
The plans for the educational activities of the park began to take definite shape on May 23 last, with the appointment of Mr. John E. Doerr, Jr., of Fargo, North Dakota, as Park Naturalist. Mr. Doerr, as head of the Educational Department of the park, is especially well qualified for his new duties. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1924 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, majoring in geology, and received his Master's degree from the same institution in 1926. During the summers 1921 - 1930 he was field geologist for the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. For four years prior to taking up his new duties with the National Park Service, Mr. Doerr was head of the Department of Geology in the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo. His experience in teaching not only in the class room, but also in the field as the leader of groups and organizations engaged in geological field work and study of natural history, particularly fits him for his new position as Park Naturalist.

Hawaii National Park was created to conserve the most representative area of volcanic interest in the United States. Its craters, active, dormant, and extinct, are among the most important in the entire world, and are probably the only volcanoes which can be visited with reasonable safety. The park is also noted for its luxuriant tropical vegetation, which forms a striking contrast to the volcanic craters and barren lava flows.

This publication is issued not only to provide authentic information, but to stimulate interest in the park and its features, as well as to help the visitor understand and enjoy more thoroughly his trip to this region.

by E. P. Leavitt
Superintendent, Hawaii National Park

BOY'S WEEK



During the week June 16 - 23 the U.S. Navy Recreation Camp, in Hawaii National Park, had as their guests thirty-five boys from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and vicinity. The boys were accompanied by Commander W.N. Thomas, Chaplain Corp, U.S.N.; Chaplain F.C. Rideout, U.S.A.; A.O. Amundson, Sec. Army and Navy Y.M.C.A.; E.R. Nichols and K.C. Mikkelson, U.S.N.; and W. Rundel, U.S.M.C.

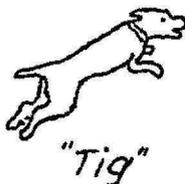
The park staff had the pleasure of helping to make the week's outing enjoyable by arranging special talks on natural history, and conducting trips to the Chain-of-Craters, Bird Park, Maunaiki Crater, and Halemaumau.

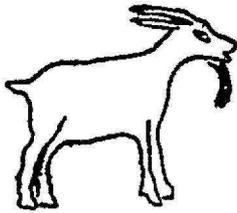
Trips were also made to the black sands at Kalapana and Brown's Ranch.

The boys showed a keen interest in the natural phenomena and an excellent spirit in all their activities. Many a laugh was had over sun-burned noses, blistered heels, arranged volcanic eruptions which dropped rocks on the metal roof of the barracks, the photographic attempts of some of the group, the evening campfire's "Wangdoodle" which reported each day's amusing events, as well as over the numerous things that can only be said and done by thirty-five boys.

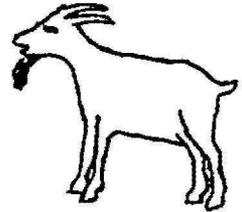
Hawaii National Park is proud to have had this group in the park and extends to them a hearty invitation to return. We hope that others will follow your lead and avail themselves of the opportunity to enjoy the wonders of Hawaii National Park.

by the Park Naturalist





WILD GOATS



Among our childish beliefs there was one to which we clung tenaciously until quite recently. It was our firm conviction that wild goats could climb anything. The highest, most inaccessible peaks of the Swiss Alps have frequently been depicted as a favorite playground of goats. We shall concede that goats gambol from peak to peak in the mountains but in Hawaii National Park's volcanic craters, nature has built a barrier which restricts the gambols of the most courageous goats.

On the Chain-of-Craters road in the park there is one very interesting crater called "Alealea" which means "Bright". This crater is about 450 feet deep, 1800 feet long and 1450 feet wide; for the first 100 feet its sides are almost straight down.

About twelve years ago a few wild goats were happily domiciled - to all appearances - within the crater. These goats have since shown a regrettable lack of ambition to climb out into the wide, wide world. No Billy among them seems to have enough get up to come out, no Nanny, no Kid. It may be that what they see of the outside world peering down at them from the rim above leaves them with a feeling of contentment with their lowly lot. Perhaps a few whiffs of burning gasoline drifting down to their sequestered nooks makes for discouragement of their own comparatively puny efforts, who can tell.

They seem to thrive on the ample vegetation which grows on the benches and lower slopes within the crater. Frequent rains supply enough moisture for their modest needs. Unlike their relatives in other parts of the park, they are safe from attacks by dogs. Their only fear is the yells of wild taxi drivers who disturb their serene tranquillity to make them more easily discernible to the tourists.

Perhaps they could get out if they wanted to gambol from crater to crater.

by Ranger K. Williams



JUNE'S EVENING SKIES

One of the many things the traveler from the north anticipates seeing during his Hawaiian tours is the Southern Cross, the most celebrated of southern constellations.

Low in the sky during the early evening hours, Crux, as the cross is known to the astronomers, can be seen distinctly. Alpha and Beta Centauri, of the constellation Centaurus, the two brightest stars in the southern sky, are the pointers to the cross.

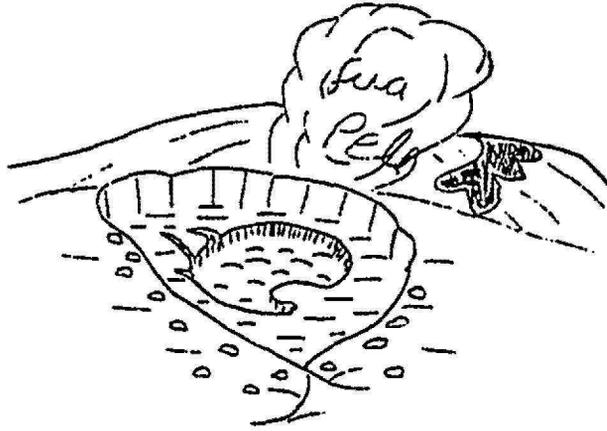
Standing on the north rim of Kilauea's crater, in front of the Volcano House, many visitors to the park experience seeing for the first time the Southern Cross. What thoughts does the first view of the cross create? Perhaps it brings to mind Mark Twain's impressions on seeing the cross for the first time as recorded in "Following the Equator"; perhaps to some it means direction, to others it may be a symbol of southern latitudes, of the romance of the South Seas. Looking through the telescope the visitor sees Alpha Crucis at the foot of the cross, the brightest star in the constellation, as a double star; Gamma Crucis, an orange-colored star, is at the top of the cross. Beta Crucis is at the eastern end of the short arm, Delta Crucis at the western end. The visitor from the north looks to the northern sky and finds the familiar constellation the Big Dipper and perhaps realizes that for the first time he is in a latitude where both of the guiding constellations can be observed.

During the late twilight of June's evenings, Jupiter hangs in the western sky above the top of Mauna Loa's thirteen thousand feet. The telescope brings out four of Jupiter's satellites. Above Jupiter is Mars, casting its red reflected light. The later evening hours brings Saturn with its rings into the low eastern sky.

As one stands on the slopes of active volcano Kilauea and looks up at the myriads of twinkling stars and the steady glow of the light reflected from the planets, one wonders if there is any relationship between the volcanic craters on the earth and the heavenly bodies. Directing the telescope on the Moon, many visitors express surprise at seeing the Moon's surface pitted with what may be volcanic craters.

Perhaps - who knows - maybe the Moon too has its volcanic craters.

by the
Park Naturalist



MYTHOLOGY OF THE VOLCANOES

According to the traditions preserved in chants (Mele) Kilauea has been burning since the island of Hawaii emerged from night. It was not until after the Kaiakahinalii or flood of the Sandwich Islands that the region of the volcanoes was inhabited. Shortly after the deluge, the Volcano Family came from Tahiti, (Kahiki as it is known to the Hawaiians) an island far to the south.

This family of five brothers and nine sisters found Kilauea Volcano to their liking and since have used it as their principal home. It is thought that they also have many other dwellings in different parts of the island, some in other craters, and not a few on the tops of snow covered mountains.

The names of the five brothers indicate their particular interests in life.

Kamohoalii, the king of vapor or steam, frequented Uwekahuna Bluff. To-day his image may be seen on this bluff, or pali, overlooking the Crater of Kilauea. Uwekahuna is known to some as Pali Kapu a Kamohoalii, the forbidden cliff of the king of vapor.

Kapohaikahiola, the vulgar one, is known as a deformed hunchback. Keuaakepo, is the rain of night; Kanehekili, also a hunchback, is the God of thunder; and Keoahikamakana, the fifth brother, is the fire-thirsting child of war.

The names of the nine sisters also indicate their particular activities.

Pele, "Madam Pele", as she is frequently called to-day, is the fire Goddess of Volcanoes. She is the most celebrated member of the Volcano Family. Halemaumau, meaning "The House of Ferns", is her dwelling place although she is often encountered in other parts of the island.

Makolewawahiwaa is the fire-eyed canoe breaker; Hiiakawawahilani is the heavenly cloud holder; Hiiakakaalawamaka is the quick-glancing cloud holder. Hiiakahoikepoli O Pele is the cloud holder kissing the bosom of Pele. Her home is among the Chain

of Craters. Hiiakakapuenaena is the cloud lifter of red hot mountains; Hiiakakalei Ia is the wreath-encircled cloud holder; and Hiiakaopio, the youngest of the nine sisters, is the young cloud holder.

As you may judge from the meanings of their names, this large family is not a particularly peaceful one. They wander about in a state of unrest. Sometimes their arrival in a district is foretold by priests, or is announced by tremblings of the earth. At times their presence is made known by an illuminating fire in their crater homes, or by flashes of lightning and roaring thunder.

The whole island pays tribute to the Volcano Family, supports their heiau (temples) and kahu (honored servants). Whenever the chief and people fail to make proper offerings, incur their wrath by insult, or break the kapu (sacred restrictions) of the family domain, Kilauea fills with molten lava. At times this molten wrath takes subterranean passages leading from Kilauea to the more distant crater dwellings, there to engulf the offending parties with all the horrors of smoke clouds, thunder, lightning, and molten lava.

(To be continued in the July Nature Notes)

by Ranger E. Brumaghim
and the Park Naturalist

BLACKBERRIES

One of the many surprises that greets the guests along the roads and trails are the blackberry bushes loaded with large, shiny, black berries. They are so tempting that even the least courageous will risk a scratch or two and perhaps stained lips to partake of a few of these delicious gifts of nature. Even the rangers and naturalist have been found making a study of the cool sweet taste of these palatable berries.

The common blackberry was introduced into the Hawaiian Islands from North America in 1394. In places in the Kilauea section of the park the blackberry is becoming so wide spread as to be considered a pest.

by the Park Naturalist

Pau