

Marian

## REPORT ON FIRST PACIFIC CONFERENCE IN HAWAII

We arrived in Hilo Friday afternoon and spent Friday night at the Hilo Lagoon Hotel. The next morning we drove to the Makapala Retreat Center at the north end of the Island of Hawaii. It was a beautiful drive going from the tropical vegetation growing at sea level up through the sugar cane fields to the trees and pasture lands of the Parker Ranch at an elevation of 3,500 feet above sea level.

The Makapala Retreat Center is sponsored by various denominations in the area and had good but modest facilities for the conference. In the neighborhood of 90 people attended. In addition to Tom, Carolyn, Irene and I, quite a few people from the mainland were there. Among them were Fran Huntington, Phil & Cindy Calabrese, Bob Slagle, Dick & Cheryl Prince, Chick & Ellen Montgomery, Lorrie Shipiro, Phil Eversole, Jay Newberg, Gene Bowlds, Gary VanHorn, Bill Martin, and others.

Enclosed is a copy of the three day program. In general the presentations and discussions were good. The atmosphere was relaxed and the "Hawaiian" time schedule was followed. Jim Kimmel got into his marijuana "defense" again but the situation passed without much trauma. Tom, Carolyn, and Irene made good presentations and my remarks and the discussion which followed were well received.

Monday evening we stayed at the home of Peter and Marian Lindemann. Tuesday afternoon and evening we were with David & Irma Saunders and that evening there was a large study group meeting at David's home. The discussion and fellowship was good but it was accompanied by periodic marijuana smoking by some of those present.

Wednesday David Saunders drove us back to Hilo where we took a plane to Honolulu where Sue Smith and Eva Sepp met us. Wednesday and Thursday evenings we stayed at the Moana Hotel. Wednesday we had dinner with Geri Vincent, Christine Evans, and Bob Slagle. Thursday morning Sue Smith took us to visit LeRuth Tyou and in the evening we had dinner with Sue & Bob Smith, Eve Sepp, Rev. & Mrs. Ford Cauffman (a UCC minister Eva introduced to The URANTIA Book). Friday and Saturday nights we stayed at the home of Sue & Bob Smith. Saturday afternoon and evening we attended a pot luck get-together at the home of Rich Reigh on the east side of the island. A group of thirty or more people were present. After a delicious meal all of the headquarters people spoke and a discussion period followed. We were very well received and those assembled seemed to be interested in helping the Brotherhood and Foundation where ever possible and were most appreciative of our visit. Rich's group also use marijuana and some of them were stoned. Rich gave me a copy of a book which he has published composed of messages which he has received from "our Father & other personalities." The book is entitled God's Light, Spiritual Reality. Sunday Eva Sepp took us to the home of Richard & Connie Holmberg on the north side of the island where we stayed overnight and Connie took us to the airport Monday afternoon.

All of the people we met in Hawaii seem to be warm, loving people dedicated to the study of The URANTIA Book. Nevertheless, I see a potential problem in the future. Many of them use marijuana, believe it should be legalized, and think it aids spiritual meditation. Rich Reigh is actively engaged in lobbying to get marijuana legalized. Most of the people living on small farms in the Captain Cook area are also regular users of marijuana. I would suggest that the charter committee include a specific requirement of groups applying for a charter



indicating that they agree to abide by the laws of the country in which they reside. Maybe they should even consider a specific statement concerning the use of marijuana and other illegal drugs.

Probably the most wise, balanced, and effective leader on the Island of Hawaii is David Saunders. I had a long talk with him and he shared with me his pilgrimage in the use of mind expanding drugs. He recognizes that at best they are temporary means and not ends. He can speak to and influence these people because he has been through the drug scene. Dennis Shields who used to be Jim Kimmel's right hand man is now working with David. Jim was recently asked to leave Oahu and is presently living in the Captain Cook area. David said that they are slowly making headway in steering Jim from some of ~~Jim's~~ radical activities. Marian and Peter Lindemann are developing leaders of considerable potential who are not a part of the Captain Cook development and may become the most important leaders on this island in the years to come.

On the Island of Oahu, and in all of the islands, Sue Smith is probably, at present, our best leader. She has outstanding talents in social relationships and service. Her total effectiveness may be somewhat limited because her husband, Bob, is not a student of The URANTIA Book, although he seems to have no objection to her activities. In a few years it is quite possible that Richard Holmberg will be the most able and effective leader on the Hawaiian Islands. His wife, Connie, is equally dedicated and together they may become the natural leaders of the area.

Meredith J. Sprunger  
10/6/78

First Pacific Conference for Students of THE URANTIA BOOK  
Schedule of Events

Saturday, September 23, 1978

Registration	12:00 - 1:15 pm	
Welcome Address	1:30 - 2:00 pm	J. Personius & M. Lindemann
The Fabric of Experience	2:00 - 2:45 pm	P. Lindemann
Universal Love	3:00 - 3:30 pm	F. Huntington
Search for Material Reality	3:30 - 4:30 pm	A. G. Johnson
Get acquainted hour	4:30 - 5:30 pm	
Dinner	5:30 - 6:15 pm	
Sun Set prayer on lawn	6:30 - 7:15 pm	
Slide Shows	7:30 - 8:30 pm	
Music and Social Time	8:30 - 10:00 pm	

Sunday, September 24, 1978

Breakfast	8:00 - 8:45 am	
Group Worship Service	8:45 - 9:15 am	(outside, weather permitting)
Dr. Meredith Sprunger	9:30 - 10:30 am	
Thomas Kendall	10:30 - 11:15 am	
Lunch	12:00 - 1:00 pm	
Space and Transcendental Realities	1:00 - 2:00 pm	P. Calabrese
Dr. Dick Prince	2:00 - 3:00 pm	
Music and Social Time	3:00 - 5:00 pm	
Dinner	5:00 - 6:00 pm	
Reality Workshop	6:00 - 9:00 pm	R. Slagle
Dance and Music	9:00 -	

Monday, September 25, 1978

Group Worship	7:00 - 8:00 am	
Breakfast	8:00 - 8:30 am	
Personality Reality	8:45 - 9:15 am	J. Kimmel
Poetry Reading	9:15 - 10:00 am	D. Saunders
Music	10:00 - 10:30 am	M. Quincey
Charles Montgomery	10:30 - 11:00 am	
Farewell Address	11:30 - 11:45 am	
Lunch	12:00 - 12:30 am	
Check out and Departure	1:00 - 2:00 pm	

The Makapala Retreat Grounds and Staff have tried to provide us with their finest services and facilities, please respect all rules and regulations concerning occupancy of this Park. We are obligated by contract to insure that no alcoholic beverages or other drugs will be brought or used on the grounds of the Makapala Camp. Thank you for your co-operation.