

In the fall of 1969 Ruth and I discovered HAWAII. It changed our lives forever. We went for a month with our California friends, John and Ardenelle Van Vliet. We saw all 4 islands and came home with a determination to go again soon. So we did - going every other year for a while, then every year for longer periods, best of all 3 months at a time.

With 19 trips to Hawaii between 1969 and 1992, it is hard to remember dates or even years when certain events occurred. I'll just write some special things that come to mind - it doesn't matter which year.

Ruth and I had lunch one day at FISHERMANS WHARF and then walked along the shoreline of KAWALO BASIN where many cruise boats are tied up. One of them caught our eye, the "Hands-on" cruise that would take passengers on a ride to see the whales. We arranged to go out on it the next day. It was a large ketch named SOUTHERN CROSS.

At the appointed hour, only 5 passengers showed up (It could have easily carried 25). The owner and crew of one got us under way with two young men passengers hoisting the sails. We powered out to sea and then, in the peaceful quiet without engine, headed dead East to Diamond Head. Passed Honolulu and Waikiki along the way. We saw no whales that day so we came about (notice the nautical language) and headed for Kawalo Basin, at least 10 miles away. The Captain, and owner, of the ship asked me if I would like to "take her back to Kawalo" and of course I said "yes" and took the wheel all the way back. What a thrill for me to steer this beautiful boat. Me, the owner and Captain of a sloop only 14 feet long.

At a later date we looked for that boat again hoping for another ride, but she was gone, We never saw her again.

One day Ruth and I decided to drive the 17 miles along the North Shore of Oahu. This drive would take us past Turtle Bay Resort, the PIPELINE, and Wiamea Bay. This beautiful coastline also leads us to Haleiwa where we could get the best ice cream in the island of Oahu. "Chocolate Sin" was our favorite flavor. We took this ride often.

Ruth and I have hiked to SACRED FALLS twice. First with Shaun and the two Orton boys, secondly together. It is a not too strenuous walk along a stream bed that begins at a parking lot beside Kam Highway at Funaluu. The day Shauna and the boys went, Shauna promised to buy a hamburger to the one who swam the pool at the falls first. Both boys dove in the icy water and the race was declared a tie. Shauna paid. The boys left us on the way back and went down the stream bed leaping from one boulder to another in their sandals.