



---

## Happy Birthday P.C.C.

---

There are many 'old timers' with us here at the Center. People who were here when the Center opened in October of 1963. Some of them were students at the time who worked their way through school, married, and raised families. Others were community members and full-time workers. All came to participate in the most exciting phenomena to reach the islands.

Mahana Pulota, of the Tahitian village, remembers when the Center first opened and says "at that time we hated to take our day off from work because we were afraid we might miss out on something exciting." She recalls that they were young and had so much fun since people from all over the world were coming to see them dance that "everybody would come to work on their day off and work without pay."

Mahana will always remember that week the Center opened for two reasons. First, she was engaged that very week to her husband and second there was a tidal wave warning for Laie. She said that she and her fiancé were in Honolulu at the time and rushed back to Laie only to find that everyone had been evacuated to the University (some things never change).

She recalls how much smaller and closer the villages were to each other and also the close family feeling that the workers shared.

When asked if she saw Elvis Presley when he filmed "Paradise Hawaiian Style" here at the Center she replied "Yes, but I was very pregnant at the time so although I had my picture taken with him I couldn't be in the movie."

Mahana did get her name in a movie that was filmed here at the Center. It's entitled "Johnny Lingo" and is familiar to almost everyone in the church. She said that President Wilkinson was in charge of BYU-Provo at the time and knew her and her husband. He liked her name and when the producers needed one for the movie they asked her husband if they could use hers. She didn't

know until she was invited to the premier and said "I felt honored."

Api Meleki Turaga also had his picture taken with Elvis and he was in the movie singing and dancing in his Fijian costume. He said that helicopters would land in the Tongan village and Elvis would change in the Queens summer house for different movie scenes. He described him as a very friendly, soft hearted man.

Meleki has been here for 22 years and can remember seeing many famous people at the Center. Jacqueline Kennedy was one who he said came in with two body guards but "no one knew her." He said to her "You look familiar. Are you Mrs. Kennedy?" She said "You're the only one here who recognized me." The news spread fast throughout the Center but she left before anyone else could see her.

Meleki recalls how bare the Center was in those days. He spoke of how the property ended at the Fijian village and it was pasture for cows and horses where the Hawaiian village and Marquesan Tohua now stand. He said that the workers brought in piles of chicken manure to fertilize the grounds and said the tourists thought that it was part of the polynesian lifestyle to have it around.

He remembered that the Center was open from 10:00am to 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday and there was a night show on Friday and Saturday only. He recalls the Luau the workers would prepare for the tourists and served in the Samoan Fale. He said that the employees cooked the food in the villages. The Fijians made the taro leaf with corned beef and coconut milk, the Hawaiians cooked kalua pig, lomi lomi, and poi. The Maori's made Maori bread, the Tahitians had po'e, the Samoans, palusami and taro and the Tongans lupulu and watermelon juice. Everything was a combined effort. Also, everyday employees collected coconuts around the community to serve with the meal.

Meleki tells of the time the entire

---

## 23rd Anniversary Celebration

---

The Polynesian Cultural Center will be commemorating its 23rd Anniversary with a celebration that begins Friday, October 10th.

All employees are invited to the reception area of the Administration Building for a piece of our 'Giant Birthday Cake'. You can come anytime between 10:00am and 3:00pm, before or after work and spend time visiting with fellow observers.

Activities for our Anniversary Celebration will be held on Saturday, October 11th at the Laniloa Lodge Park. Employees should be there at 7:00am sharp in order to pick up your individual packets which include a t-shirt with our new anniversary design. You will need to bring those with you to sign on the activity day and put in a box to be eligible to win. There will be fun and games and a hearty breakfast. Also, 'Exceptional Service Awards' will be given out so don't miss it! There will be five \$200 awards in all. A total of \$1,000!

There will also be fireworks at 9:15pm that evening (Sat. Oct. 11) at Hukilau Beach. With a Brass Band concert prior to the fireworks beginning at 8:15pm. Everyone is encouraged to walk to the beach or park at the Laie North Stake Center due to limited parking at Hukilau Beach.

For further information please call PCC Special Projects at 293-3043.

Center cast went to Hollywood for a promotional tour. He said 180 people went for 2 weeks in Hollywood and 1 week in Utah. The trip was apparently sponsored by a millionaire who had an interest in the Center. The group performed at the Hollywood Bowl and CBS Studio as well as Salt Lake City. When they arrived home they had the additional thrill of seeing those performances on television.

Meleki said that employees worked from sunrise to sunset and were paid \$50 every two weeks, which he said was

## PCC Shares Stage With Disneyland

On October 22, 1986, the Polynesian Cultural Center will take a step into History. They are returning to Japan to embark upon the largest Hawaiian promotional tour in the history of the Center and possibly any group representing Hawaii.

Osamu Ozaki, Director of International Sales for the Center, states "We are very excited about this opportunity. Not only are we promoting the Center but also Hawaii in General." He also said that "we are not doing it alone, we will join forces with the Tokyo Disneyland!" This is a great honor and an excellent chance to share the stage with other talented performers from a company that is as much a part of the American culture as mom, hot dogs, and apple pie.

The team will arrive in Tokyo on Thursday, October 24th. Departing the next day for Kanazawa, where they will begin rehearsal for their six big shows. They will be performing in front of a combined audience of over 12,000 spectators!

All of the shows will last 2 hours and will include a variety of events. Japan Airlines will start the show off with a traditional Japanese welcoming ceremony. Not only are they Japan's largest airlines but they bring more Asian people to Hawaii than any other airline. Next on the program will be the "Hawaiian Show" featuring our promo teams 20 top dancers and 5 musicians. They should take the crowd by storm as they sing, dance, chant and entertain in their usual enthusiastic and exciting way which has made the Polynesian Cultural Center famous worldwide.

After the promo team performs, the

crowd will take an intermission to be followed by the Tokyo Disneyland's "We Love Mickey Mouse!" A floor show with an array of familiar Disney characters dancing and singing in tribute to one of the famous characters of the 20th century -- Mickey Mouse!

After a "Lucky Prize Drawing" the evening will be brought to a close with a finale featuring our performers who will blend their talents with Disney's to give Japan an experience they will not forget!

Along with these performances, the promo team has other duties. One of which is to perform at a series of "Agent Luncheons." These luncheons will feature a 40 minute "Hawaiian Program" and will be centered around a lavish buffet especially set-up for agents who send travellers to Hawaii and the Center. Japan Airlines knows that by doing this we will help them promote their airlines and at the same time bring many more Asian visitors to our place in paradise.

We are proud of our promo team, and especially the efforts of Bryan Bowles, Osamu Ozaki, and our Waikiki Sales staff for their ability to begin a new effort to capture a larger portion of our International travellers. To open up gates to the future development of friendship and fellowship abroad. We may wish we could go with them to Japan. But we know that we will enjoy the benefits that they will bring to us as many new visitors come to the Center to experience more of what they saw when the Polynesian Cultural Center and Disneyland joined forces in Japan.

To the promo team we say "Good Luck and Aloha!"

### Happy Birthday cont.

good money at that time. He recalls that coming from the islands he enjoyed seeing all the different people and didn't worry too much about being paid.

Remembering when the Center opened he said that there was no maintenance department and when something needed fixing the village workers were asked to take care of it. "So that's my skill," he said, "I do plumbing and electrical work now." He mentioned that Tony Haiku was an electrician so he learnt from him on the job.

Lily Kama and Lucy Unga both remember when the villages were rearranged, when there was three canoe

shows a day and when employee lunch cost 75 cents.

They remembered the flag raising ceremony that opened the villages in the morning and welcomed the guests.

Sister Kama recalls the young people then and now saying "I've worked in many places but never anywhere where young people put out so much energy."

It is this energy, excitement, youth, and willingness to share cultures that has greatly influenced the success of the Center. In twenty, thirty, or forty years from now we too will have much to remember about our days at the Polynesian Cultural Center. May these memories be fond and full of service. Happy Birthday PCC!

## Employee Menu

### Oct. 3-17

**Friday, October 3rd**

Salisbury Steak, Chili Frank, potato salad, dinner roll, mixed vegetables, drink

**Saturday 4th**

Pork Chop Suey, Breaded Pork w/brown gravy, rice, tossed salad, drink

**Monday 6th**

Baked Lasagna, Sweet & Sour Spareribs, rice, garlic bread, mixed vegetables, drink

**Tuesday 7th**

Kalua Pig, BBQ Chicken, rice, peas and carrots, drink

**Wednesday 8th**

Baked Meat Loaf, Chicken Stew, rice, corn, drink

**Thursday 9th**

Roast Beef w/gravy, Deep Fried Mahi w/tartar sauce, scalloped potatoes, seasoned corn, drink

**Friday 10th**

Beef Curry stew, Teri-Chicken w/sauce, rice, tossed salad, drink

**Saturday 11th**

Deep Fried Chicken w/giblet gravy, Beef Stew, rice, tossed salad, drink

**Monday 13th**

Italian Spaghetti, Roast Pork w/gravy, rice, garlic bread, mixed vegetables, drink

**Tuesday, 14th**

Braised Beef Tips, Pizza, oven brown potatoes, coleslaw salad, drink

**Wednesday 15th**

Hamburger Steak w/brown gravy, Beef Broccoli, rice, three bean salad, drink

**Thursday, October 16th**

Roast Chicken w/gravy, Teriyaki Pork, rice, coleslaw salad, drink

**Friday 17th**

Salisbury Steak, Chili Frank, potato salad, dinner roll, mixed vegetables, drink

**Saturday 18th**

Pork Chop Suey, Breaded Pork w/gravy, rice, tossed salad w/1,000 dressing, drink