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SECOND VISIT OF GBS TO HAWAII

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George Bernard Shaw and Mrs. Shaw made their first visit to Hawaii and Waikiki in 1933 (*Forecast*, February, 1954). On their second visit they arrived at Honolulu aboard the *Arandora Star* on February 24, 1936. In 1933 Bernie had raged at the absence of *Hula* girls. In 1936, after the *Arandora Star* had docked at Pier Seven a *Hula Troupe*, under the auspices of the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, boarded the ship and sought out the Irish brilliant dramatist and caustic wit. Yet even that apparently did not satisfy the Shavian ego.

SHAW TABOOS LEIS

The *Aloha Welcomers*, including the *Hulaists* and *Lei-Bearers*, located GBS prancing around deck in a set of whiskers and a cotton bathing suit. He would have none of the *leis* and said as much—

"I won't have those pesky flowers strung around my neck," he ultimated. Yet, a picture of a smiling Shaw with three *Lei-Girls* close to him appeared in the *Star-Bulletin* of February 24, 1936.

The bevy of grass-skirted brown-skinned *Hula Girls*, after chasing the Irishman around the deck, cornered him on the port side of the promenade-deck. Almost willingly, smilingly, he recognized that he was caught.

SURRENDERS TO ALOHAS, HULAS, BUT NOT TO LEIS

Spreading his venerable arms like the wings of an eagle, Shaw encircled the shoulders of two of the *Hula Beauties* while cameras snapped. He opened his eyes to the *hulas*, was heard to say *aloha*, but he spurned the *leis*. Half a dozen girls attempted to put ginger *leis* on him. These he discarded as fast as they were wrapped about his Hibernian neck. He exploded—

"I do not care to be made ridiculous!" One of the girls finally lassoed Shaw's snowy head with a fragrant *lei*. The Venerable Gent ripped it off. The young lady gave the famous Shavian beard a yank

that was felt around the world. He darted for the dining-hall with the girls in full pursuit. In the salon GBS won temporary seclusion with the help of the Stewards and enjoyed a luncheon of vegetables with Mrs. Shaw.

THE PRESS INTERVIEW

The reporters had requested an interview before this but the Great Man insisted that the press could wait but that luncheon could not. So he lunched and received the correspondents in the Smoking Room of the *Arandora Star* from one to three o'clock in the afternoon.

"I'll give only one interview," Shaw told newsmen.

"What is your opinion of Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler?" Shaw was asked.

"Stalin is the biggest man in the world today. He is the greatest statesman. Mussolini is not Stalin's equal and Adolf Hitler is too nervous, besides, nobody knows much about Hitler. He is unintelligible." Then he added—

"Charlie Chaplin is the best actor on the screen."

"How about Franklin Roosevelt?" queried a newsman. Shaw explained that Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a communist in social philosophy. He was a good President for an amateur, a communist at heart and the United States should stand firm with Russia.

"Are you going to dance with the *Hula Girls*?" asked one reporter.

"My dancing days are over," replied Shaw. "Who asked that?" Shaw demanded. "Why should I dance with a *Hula Maid*?"

"When you visited us three years ago you complained that the Chamber of Commerce representative came down to meet you and the *Hula Girls* didn't," explained the reporter.

"That's right," admitted GBS. "Where is the Chamber of Commerce man today?"

"He is represented by the *Hula Girls* as you desired."

"Pretty snappy representation," agreed Shaw; "but we'll let it go at that." The press interview was over.

ACCEPTS A VEGETABLE LEI

Although discarding *Flower Leis* of Hawaii GBS later accepted a *lei* made of carrots, tomatoes, radishes, onions and turnips. It was presented by a visiting feminine child-psychiatrist as he passed down the gangplank. A picture of this presentation was reproduced in the *Advertiser*.

"This is more sensible," Shaw said, adjusting the *vegetable lei* around his neck. Taking the *lei* off he ordered it left on the ship until he returned for evening meal.

LUNCHEON AT LAU YEE CHAI, WAIKIKI

Me P. Y. Chong played host to George Bernard Shaw and Charlie Chaplin at luncheon on February 26, 1936, at Lau Yee Chai. He served special dishes ordered by Vegetarian Shaw. The *Advertiser's* front page of February 27, 1936, shows Shaw and his wife, Chaplin and his feminine guests, lunching at Lau Yee Chai—soup to *chop suey*—no meats.

Chaplin had arrived the day before aboard the *President Coolidge* with his leading lady—Paulette Goddard—and her mother, enroute to Indochina.

SHAW AND CHAPLIN AT WAIKIKI

Shaw and Chaplin had arranged to have luncheon at Lau Yee Chai next day. They planned to meet at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Waikiki Beach, at 12:30 p.m. Chaplin and his two ladies were walking in the Royal Hawaiian Gardens when Mr. and Mrs. Shaw arrived at the hotel by automobile. Not finding Chaplin waiting for him, Shaw walked up and down impatiently. They walked through the hotel and viewed the world-famous Coral Crescent of Waikiki. Then back

to the auto-arrival-place of the Hotel. A crowd gathered. The Shaws waited twenty minutes as the Chaplin party enjoyed the gardens. Shaw and his wife then left for Lau Yee Chai. Chaplin and his two ladies emerged from the gardens, learned of Shaw's departure, and went on to Lau Yee Chai.

GBS REALLY LIKED WAIKIKI

The Shaws enjoyed their sojourn in Hawaii. They basked in the healthful sunlight and moonlight at Waikiki; attended the Honolulu Symphony Concert; had birds-nest soup with Me P. Y. Chong; took a brisk interest in various local problems; and sailed away with fond *alohas* from Hawaii, as the Royal Hawaiian Band played *Aloha Oe*. As Waikiki and Diamond Head faded from view his heart admitted that he really was fond of that historic area.

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