



# Jim Becker's HAWAII



**G**OSH, it seems like only a year has passed—come to think of it, it is a year—since Thrum's Hawaiian Almanac came across this desk and into the column.

And here it is again, better known as "All About Hawaii." This is No. 90 in the series, which goes back to 1875 in good King Kalakaua's days.

(According to page 239, the King was elected to his job in 1874. Just to show that things don't change a great deal, the election was widely regarded as rigged, and the people's choice never had a chance.)

Thrum's is my favorite book, as it is for practically everybody who loves Hawaii, and I often read around in it when I should be doing something more productive, such as writing the daily column.

*The current edition is edited by Charles Frankel, who is a medium-sized wheel of some sort around this newspaper's city room when he is not wearing his other hat as editor of "All About Hawaii." It sells for \$1.95, and is stocked by the stack in every well-run book store in town.*

Rush out and get your copy, and discover such fascinating things as the fact that nearly 3,000 cars enter the Ala Moana Shopping Center every day, on an average. (And 2,128 of them pull into the vacant parking place you were headed for.)

Or that the Bishop Estate owns nine percent of all the land in the State of Hawaii. The state itself owns almost 39 percent, and the federal government owns or controls nearly 10 percent.

There are 72 major land holders, including Bishop, who own 47 percent, which leaves four percent for the rest of us. (How much have you got?)

The Parker Ranch, by the way — still in the family that founded it — comprises 4.52 percent of the land area of the state.

And could you ever guess which is the largest natural lake in all of Hawaii? It's Salt Lake, which is 273 acres in area, and has a listed shoreline of two miles.

And if you judge a family by the ethnic stock of the head of the household, which is as good a way as any, haole families have the highest average income (\$10,319), followed by Chinese (\$9,479) and Japanese

(\$8,910). If you add in military families, the haoles drop to third place.

*Can you guess the lowest? (No, it's not Al Ricketts.)*

Do you know the name of the 1,000,000th visitor to Hawaii, who arrived around Christmas time last year? It was Mrs. Marjorie Hammond, and she was absolutely chosen at random, except for the fact that she had to be from a certain section of the country, make the right amount of money, be on the correct airline and have a nice smile.

You might also be interested to know that the International Market Place draws 7,000,000 visitors every year, almost all of them wearing funny kind shirts and muumuus, to sample such native delicacies as chili tacos, blueberry pancakes and whop-burgers.

And that the average beachgoer at Waikiki, after struggling for several hours trying to find a place to park within commuting distance of the sand, has an average beach space of 44 square feet, as opposed to 57 square feet on a busy day at Coney Island. In 1980, the average beachgoer will have 38 square feet and will have to walk to get that, according to page 73.

*And did you know that John Wilkes Booth once played Honolulu? (Yes, the same fellow who shot Lincoln.)*

And that a photograph of a sunset that is a little underexposed will have richer color than one that is "correct" and may please you more? (This is straight from the shutter of Urban Allen, the Star-Bulletin camera columnist who wrote a piece on photography for Thrum's.)

And that the ancient Hawaii sport of surfing was reborn in 1908, when Alexander Hume Ford founded the Outrigger Canoe Club for its practice and propagation? (From an article by Ron Haworth, our surfing columnist.)

Or that there is no poison ivy in Hawaii? (From an article by Harry Whitten, our hiking columnist.)

Or that "Sweet Leilani" has sold 15 million copies in records and sheet music since it was written in 1934? Or that the Hawaiian Wedding Song was written by a real Hawaiian? (Charles E. King.) Or that . . .