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THE OLD MOANA PIER AT WAIKIKI

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Moana is an integral part of Waikiki! History reminds us of the *Moana* Chiefs and Chiefesses, the good ship *Moana*, *Moanalua*, American Legation *Moana* at Waikiki, and the *Moana* Hotel.

About 1678 there was a High Chief on the Big Island of Hawaii with name of *Moana*, which means "The Ocean; the Sea generally or particularly, camping-ground; place of meeting for consultations among the Chiefs." Piilani was the wife of Chief *Moana*. Their daughter Iliki-a-*Moana* had two sons, and one daughter named *Moana*. Some of their descendants live on Oahu.

MOANALUA, OAHU

An early appearance of the word *Moana* on Oahu, in modern *haole* times, was in *Moanalua*, located in a beautiful part of suburban Honolulu.

FIRST DATE OF MOANA PIER IN HAZE

"No one seems to be able to trace down the exact date when the [Moana] Pier was built," explained the *Paradise of the Pacific*, October, 1930. "W. H. Baird of Honolulu, however, feels certain that the Pier was built forty years ago" or about 1890. That was ten years before the *Moana* Hotel was constructed by W. C. Peacock and his associates.

The property from which the *Moana* Pier jutted into the Pacific "was originally owned by Queen Kapiolani, who sold it to a Mr. William P. Toler of San Francisco," continued *Paradise*. "After Mr. Toler gave up the house it was occupied by Dr. J. W. Brodie. It then became the residence of the U. S. Minister [Harold M. Sewall]. For a while it was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Cunha and then acquired by the interests that built the *Moana* Hotel.

"Even before the tourist hotels were built at Waikiki, the Pier was a rendezvous for romantic persons who liked to break away from social functions for a *tete-a-tete* under the Hawaiian Moon," wrote *Paradise*.

AMERICAN LEGATION MOANA AT WAIKIKI

"In the early days the Pier led out into

the water from the residence of the United States Minister [*Moana* Legation]. The Big White House, now on Kalakaua Avenue across from the *Moana* Hotel, was then on the site of the hotel and was occupied by Harold M. Sewall, United States Minister.

"Sewall was a tall, distinguished figure, who entertained lavishly and the Pier was built in the hey-day of its romantic associations at that time. During state functions at the house of the U. S. Minister, the Pier was gay with flags and lanterns and many a statesman, distinguished citizen or visiting naval officer walked out upon the Pier with his lady between dances."

VISITORS TO LEGATION USED PIER

"On the sides of the Pavilion at the end of the Pier were two boat-davits which, in the opinion of A. P. Taylor, Librarian of the Archives of Hawaii, were used to hold the small boats sent out by the warships of foreign countries, anchored in the waters off Waikiki Beach. It is entirely probable that the visiting statesmen, who came to pay honor to the U. S. Minister, had their small boats fastened at the end of the Pier and walked up it to the American Legation," named *Moana*.

Many distinguished guests were entertained at the American Legation *Moana*, and enjoyed *Moana* Pier. "One day we sat on" the *Lanai* of the American Legation *Moana*, home of American Minister Sewall, "at Waikiki and watched the surf-boating," wrote Isabel Anderson

who, in 1897, had arrived at Honolulu aboard the *Gaelic*. "That day L and I put our bathing-suits on" and "got into an outrigger canoe with two native boys to handle it." Isabel enjoyed surfing very much.

ENTERTAINMENTS AT MOANA LEGATION

"The reception of U. S. Minister and Mrs. [Harold M.] Sewall from 3 to 6 was held at their house in Waikiki where they have recently moved," reported the *Advertiser*, July 6, 1897.

The American Minister honored Commodore Fort, of the French warship *Duguay-Trouin*, with a "breakfast" on October 1, 1897 at Waikiki, reported the *Advertiser*, October 2, 1897. Present were Commodore Fort, Rear Admiral Miller (U. S. Navy), Consul-General Haywood, French Commissioner Vossion, W. M. Giffard (Chancellor, French Legation), M. de Slane and M. O'Neil of the French Commodore's Staff, Flag-Lieutenant Rogers of the U.S.S. *Philadelphia*, Paul Neumann and W. N. Armstrong. Toasts were drunk to the Presidents of the American and French Republics. Then came the War between the USA and Spain.

PRESIDENT DOLE VISITS LEGATION MOANA AND PIER

Harold M. Sewall, the American Minister, held an official reception at the American Legation *Moana* at Waikiki from noon to one o'clock, July 4, 1898. It was a tense social function for all the guests and the host for all were hourly expecting news that the United States had annexed Hawaii. Present were President of the Republic of Hawaii, and

Mrs. Sanford Ballard Dole, and members of the Dole Cabinet; Japanese Minister Resident Shimura; Charge d'Affaires Canavarro of Portugal; Acting British Commissioner Kenny; M. Louis Vossion, French Commissioner; and American Naval and Marine officers of the *Monadnock*, *Mohican* and *Nero*. They all visited the old Moana Pier.

POPULAR S.S. MOANA

The S.S. *Moana* was a popular liner in the Gay Nineties. For instance, Burton Holmes, who participated in the formation of the Outrigger Canoe Club, sailed from San Francisco to Honolulu aboard the *Moana* in the summer of 1898. The Old *Moana* Pier became "American" when Hawaii was annexed on July 7, 1898 and the Flag raised the following August 12th.

THE MOANA HOTEL

Waikiki had become well-known to the world by this time and a *de luxe* hotel for the visitors was started at Waikiki—the *Moana* Hotel. In 1896 a design for the *Moana* Hotel appeared in the newspapers. The plan lagged but was revived in 1899. For the *Moana* Hotel Story, and its opening on March 11, 1901, read the *Forecast*, November, 1950. But, observe, that on this date the Old *Moana* Pier had been there for over ten years.

THE OLD MOANA PIER CONDEMNED TO DIE

"Old Neckin' Place must be repaired," headlined the *Advertiser*, August 28, 1930. "The *Moana* Pier, famous landmark of Honolulu and Waikiki Beach may be dismantled as the result of action taken," August 27, 1930, at the "weekly



The old pier at Moana Hotel

Pic by Edwin N. McClellan

meeting of the Board of Harbor Commissioners."

"Finding that a sign had been posted near the *Moana* Pier notifying all and sundry that the Pier was unsafe, and that those walking on it would do so at their own risk, the Board of Harbor Commissioners started an investigation," explained the *Star-Bulletin*, August 28, 1930. The notice had been posted by the Territorial Hotels Company, owner of the *Moana* Hotel. Members of the Harbor Board, which had jurisdiction over the waters of the Territory, after a thorough search of the records, failed to find any mention of permission to erect the Pier and decided that it must have been constructed prior to the "institution of the Harbor Board in 1913." Since the Pier started from the property of the Territorial Hotels Company, Ltd., and since owners of that property deemed the Pier unsafe, the Harbor Board notified that Company to either repair or tear down the Pier. So, the Old *Moana* Pier was erased!

OCC SADLY MOURNS PASSING OF PIER

"The old *Moana* Pier, in which a thousand romances have begun and, perhaps, almost as many dissolved, has been torn down," described the *Paradise of the Pacific*, October, 1930. "The old *Moana* Pier has universally a sentimental appeal to all who have known and loved Honolulu."

Moana Pier was there when the Outrigger Canoe Club was born at Waikiki in sight of the Pier, on May 1, 1908. OCC members mourned its passing after twenty-two years of close association.
