



VOLCANO HOUSE
HAWAII NATIONAL PARK
HAWAII



Dx. Elmer Sanders
Veterans' Hospital
Houston
Texas

2131



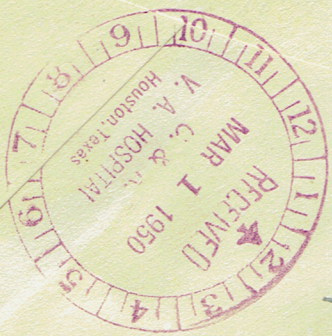
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VOLCANO HOUSE

George Lycurgus, Proprietor

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February 26, 1950

Dear Ed -

We've been having such a wonderful trip of the outer islands, Kauai, Maui and now Hawaii. We are spending the night, tonight, on the edge of a volcano and we can look out of our window into the crater! A dismal view at best.

The strangest thing of all happened just after we arrived. Rosalie passed the time of day with a middle-aged man at the main desk in the lobby. A short while later he and his wife asked if we would like them to show us the principal sights of the Park. Very kindly they took us on a personal conducted tour all morning and afternoon. We learned so much and did so many things that we would

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never have done otherwise. People can be so very nice to strangers. We had a time keeping up with his Scotch brogue!

Tomorrow we are off to Kona in our Ford V-Drive. It is like yours, but it doesn't ride as well. We feel very independent and then it dawns on us just how easy it is to run up the mileage - and it mounts horribly fast when we pay for each mile!

Kona is on the Coast and we will spend three days there. Rosalie is dying to go deep sea fishing. I want to go, too, now that I know it is the best fishing in the Islands - mahi, etc. We have been deep-sea fishing in Florida, but never really fancy fishing and these even come a hundred pounds or more. I would be beside myself if something like that hit my line.

While we were on Maui we met a very nice couple. He is a member of the Outrigger Club at Waikiki and owns his own canoe. Next Saturday he has



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invited us for an afternoon of riding the breakers. A long coral reef, some distance off the beach, drives the breakers in with terrific force, making the canoes and surfboards travel as fast as thirty-five miles an hour. It would be quite something if they turned over at that speed!

This island hopping has been developed into quite a system. The little planes take off regularly and any island can be reached within an hour and a half, some jumps taking only half an hour. It is fun to see the chain of islands below and the deep blue of the water. Quite a sight and quite a thrill!

When we meet new people the stock question is, "Are you going on to the Orient?" We found it bewildering at first, but we have now learned that Hawaii is usually

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a stopping off spot and not often an end in itself. Others have told us that we are foolish not to go home via Mexico City. But we now have a scheme up our sleeves - a trip home via freighter, by way of the Panama Canal and thence to New Orleans or Mobile. What do you think of that idea? Of course, it involves locating one leaving about the desired time, one that will carry women and is also going where we want to go! We have had our luxury cruise and something new added would be delightful. Besides we've both always wanted to see Panama. We haven't yet mentioned it to the family, for we haven't investigated the possibilities. It has only just occurred to us.

Please write soon. I feel as though I haven't heard from you in ages, but I'm hoping I'll find a letter waiting in Honolulu. I miss you a lot, but maybe you can make Birmingham in the Spring.

Love,
Augusta