

James Kamakaiwi's Diary/Journal.

James Kamakaiwi's daily journal was included in Richard Black's "Report of Tenth Cruise to the American Equatorial Islands."



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James Kamakaiwi, Daily Journal (Excerpt)

JUNE 23, 1937, WEDNESDAY. After leaving our warm beds at a very early hour we hoisted the flag as the arrival of the U.S.C.G. ITASCA was expected sometime today during late noon today. Breakfast consisted of the usual menu of hot cakes, beans, coffee and eggs, fried. We did nothing but read as the camp appeared to be in ship-shape condition. Towards supper time no ship hovered in sight so we granted that her arrival would be late tonight. At eight-thirty the mass light was seen just over the horizon. A bonfire and a carbide light, prepared this noon for this emergency, were lit to guide our dear friends on watch on the bridge. While she drifted out towards the west, the four of us went out for lobsters and only caught about twenty. Salmon balls, rice, corn, pineapple and tuna pinched for supper. Ascension work was carried on by Kaina and Lum and at tonight's schedule its results were transmitted to Honolulu through K6KPF. The arrival of our friends on the ITASCA brought us added smiles and spirits.

JULY 2, 1937, FRIDAY. Woke up quite early to prepare for the official welcome of the arrival of Miss Barhart Putnam and Captain Noonan. The sky was partly cloudy, mostly with high scattered cumulus drifting slowly past. The ITASCA kept in close to the lee of the island-sending out huge clouds of smoke to aid Miss Barhart in finding the island. Rescue party were stationed on the runways and out on boats, while the official greeters waited anxiously at the reception spot. All eyes gazed fondly, proudly, and eagerly over the horizons but after several hours all hearts sank low when the fliers could not be picked up on the radios. All personnel were called in and an immediate search was begun by the ITASCA. Immediately after the ship's departure I had the boys take a nap while Albert Akana and I kept a sharp lookout, with a field glass, on all horizons. Late this noon all cooperated in building a large bonfire which was set, after darkness set in. Tavares and Jacob Maili stood firstwatch up until twelve midnight when they were relieved by Carl Kahalewai and Joe Anakalea. The huge glow reached a height of about fifty or more feet. No unusual happenings were reported during the watches. All here are heartily wishing and hoping for the safety of our two fliers. Note: Two drums of aviation gas used for bon-fire.

JULY 3, 1937, SATURDAY. Breakfasted quite early after which Yau Fai Lum and his assistants, on the radio, took turns on watches. Albert Akana and I took the whole day's watch while the others rested for the night's grind. Circled the island saw no floating wreckage. Carbide lights were kept on all night. Drew in the watches this evening and placed them on the theodolite tower to watch for rockets. During breakfast both watches reported that nothing of importance was seen. ITASCA returns but steams out after an hour's drift on the lee.

JULY 4, 1937, SUNDAY. After breakfast Akana and I maintained an unbroken watch. During the morning hours Akana circled the island while I took to the tower to follow the horizons. We reversed our order during the noon watch. Tavares, Kahalewai and Maili took the shot-guns and hunted down thirty-five plovers. These were greatly enjoyed for supper. Lum and his assistants are doing all they can on the radio watches. The night watches took to their stations promptly and during the following morning no encouraging reports were given. We still have high hopes and believe, as others do, that the fliers are still safe.

JULY 5, 1937, MONDAY. Hearing very encouraging reports over the radio that the fliers are still up, a new wave of encouragement and joyswept over the hearts and faces of those of us here on the island, who are lending our earnest efforts in maintaining constant watches throughout the twenty-four hours. The night watchers rested easily during the day while Bonny Akana and I took to our post from morning