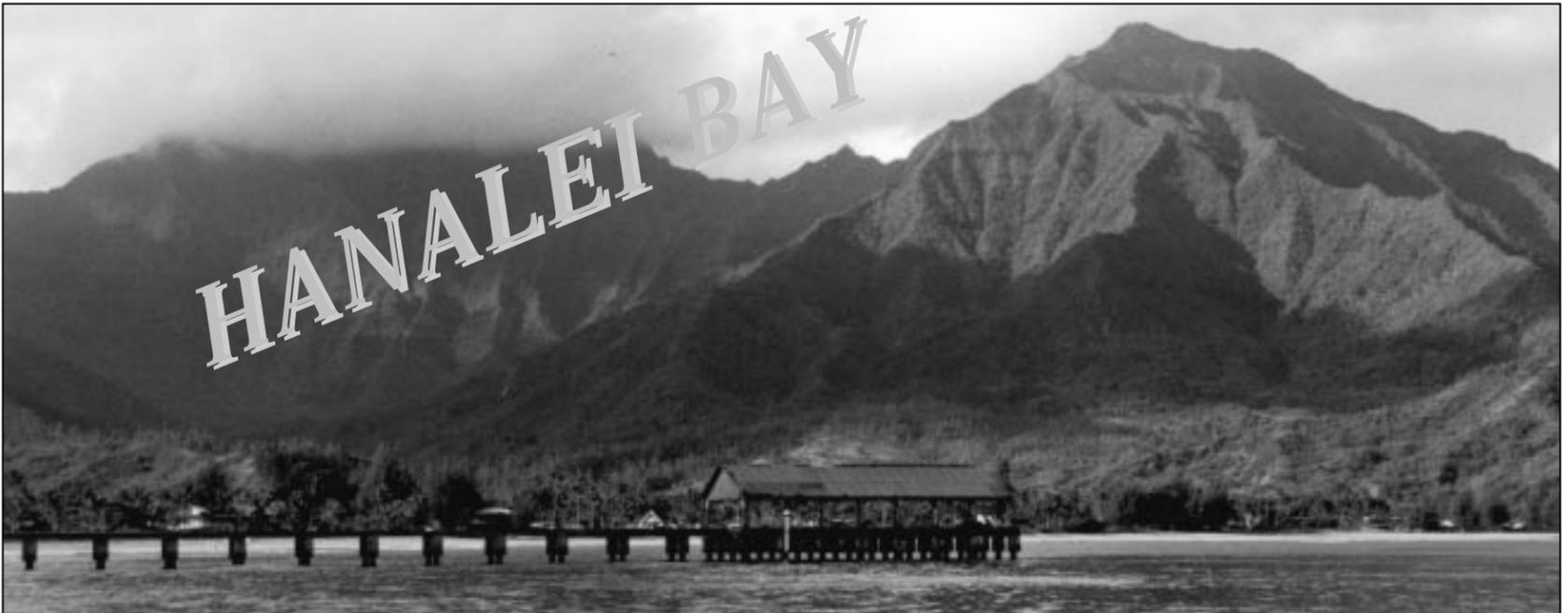


# LIBERTY CALL



Famous for its sweeping vistas, Hanalei Bay is a sandy beach shaped like a crescent moon. Jutting out from the east shore is the Hanalei Pier which was originally built in 1910.



TOP: Louise Marsdon owns Hanalei's famous Tahiti Nui Tavern, where the "Happy Hawaiians" play traditional Hawaiian music every Friday night. Marsdon, originally from Tahiti, has lived here 30 years.

RIGHT: The Hanalei river flows into the bay near Black Pot

Beach. The river is ideal for kayaking and swimming.

ABOVE: The Waioli Huliia Church on the outskirts of town was built in the late 1800s. Every Sunday morning, visitors to Hanalei can enjoy enchanting hymns in Hawaiian. Waioli means "healing" or "singing waters."

## Kauai's north shore retains Hawaii's charm

Story and photos by JOC(SW) Phil Eggman  
COMNAVREGHI PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*"Puff, the magic dragon, lived by the sea  
And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honalee.  
Little Jackie Paper loved that rascal Puff  
And brought him strings and sealing wax and other fancy stuff"*

Peter Yarrow of the legendary folk group, Peter, Paul and Mary, and Lenny Lipton, co-wrote this classic lyric for "Puff the Magic Dragon" in the spring of 1959 while both men attended college in Up-state New York.

The song tells the story of an eternal dragon and a mortal boy who played together in the magical kingdom of "Honalee". The song, which reached number two on the music charts in early 1963, has sold millions worldwide.

According to Lipton, "Puff is a simple, sentimental song about the loss of childhood and nothing more."

However, locals of Hanalei Bay, Kauai, will tell you, "Honalee" is none other than their own hometown and they have the dragon to prove it.

It's true. Although not set in Hawaiian legend, you can look to the west of Hanalei and see what appears to be the shape of a great dragon asleep on its belly.

The dragon's hump rises thousands of feet to the south of the village, its snout pointing out to sea — almost as if "Puff" sadly awaits the return of his one time friend, Jackie Paper.



"I believe Peter, Paul and Mary wrote that song about us," swears Diane Oliver, a seven-year resident of Hanalei, which means "lei making town" in Hawaiian. Whether or not Lipton and Yarrow wrote about Kauai's "Hanalei" remains a matter of debate. The fact is, this tiny hamlet on the north shore of Kauai is truly a magical place.

Coming here is almost like stepping back in time about 50 years. One can get a glimpse of old Hawaii, where the spirit of "Aloha" pervades the valley, like the fragrance of a million blossoms.

"This is a quiet and tranquil place, a special place," says Oliver, who manages summer rental properties in the village. "The people here are laid back and caring. We are all very close, like a family and visitors are treated well."

"There is no other place on this world more beautiful than here," she added.

Famous for its sweeping vistas of Hanalei Valley and the sea, Hanalei Bay is a sandy beach shaped like a crescent moon with verdant, waterfall laden mountain peaks rising thousands of feet into the azure sky.

The best vantages are from Princeville, a one time failed coffee plantation founded in 1853 by R. C. Wyllie and now a successful destination re-

sort. Just before you drop into the Hanalei Valley, a scenic must is the lookout along Highway 56, which offers a breathtaking view of narrow Hanalei Valley below, where most of the taro in Hawaii is grown.

The Hanalei River gently snakes its way down the valley before finally emptying into the bay.

Residents and visitors alike take their turn to cross the river on a one-lane truss bridge that was built in 1912.

The beach at Hanalei Bay is perfect for wading, swimming, boogie boarding and beginning surfing in safety, offering a gentle, sandy bottom and clear water, making it ideal for young children at play.

Two reefs front the bay, where advanced surfers are challenged, especially during winter. Restroom and shower facilities are conveniently located nearby.

Take a walk down the beach and head east. Eventually you will run into where Hanalei River enters the Bay.

Near the mouth of the River you will find Black Pot Beach, named after a one-time practice of keeping something tasty in a large black pot cooking on the beach.

Jutting out from shore is the Hanalei Pier which ends with a sheltered pavilion.

The original pier was built in 1910 for shipping agricultural products. Since rebuilt with reinforced concrete, this popular spot is ideal for fishing and swimming.

"This is a wonderful place," says Lisa Mullins, who, along with her husband, Mike, were visiting Kauai from Seattle, Wash. "There is a warmth here which is hard to describe - almost magical."

