

## Hawaii August 2003

### *Monday, August 25, 2003*

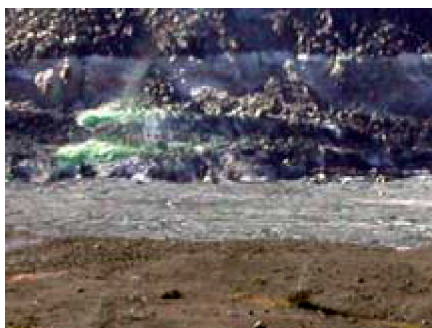
Our flight yesterday was long but uneventful. We arrived at our ship at about 6 p.m. though to us it was like midnight. We found our stateroom in the Crew Quarters was comfortable though close with a window. As the crew is generally European, there were mostly 220-volt outlets. Only one 110-volt outlet was available.

After breakfast, we went off on our excursion to Hawaii's #1 tourist attraction, the Volcano National Park. Our guide was very helpful, informative and jovial.

We passed through towns that used to be sugar plantations. Due to the high cost of labor and shipping from Hawaii, most of the sugar industry has been replaced by other agricultural products. Our first stop was at the north end of the park, Steam Vents such as this show that the rain seeps into the earthen fissures and causes steam when it contacts the magma (lava beneath the surface) below. The cloud shown at the top of the picture is the steam, pictures don't really do it justice, the temperature is very hot. Ground cover is sparse because the ground surface is warm, though it did not seem hot to the touch.



Next was the Jaggar Museum where one sees the Kilauea Caldera. This depression is caused by the volcano eruption. First the gas and magma push the crater upward, then after the lava comes out the void sinks causing the crater seen here. The lunar astronauts trained in this vicinity because the surface conditions are much like the moon's surface. The next photos show the interior of the crater.



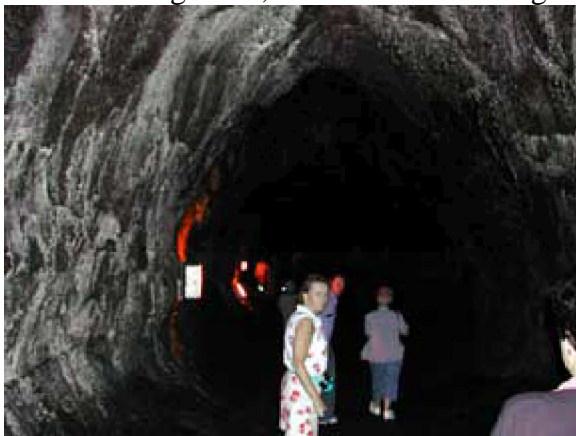
The museum houses seven seismographs that record activity all over the world. There are also videos of recent volcanic activity. Unlike most of the world's other volcanoes that are cone-shaped, the Hawaiian volcanoes are shield-shaped. This means that they cover a great area and are very gently sloped, rather than mountain-like. One

can see the mineral deposits from the gases that are expelled, the yellow dust is sulfur.

As we reach the southern part of our tour, we see the September 1982 lava flow. One sees where the lava stopped. We walked on this ropey, type of lava which is very porous.



While in the ground, the lava flows through a lava tube. This



lava tube is illuminated and you can walk through part of it. It is much like a cave with a flat floor where the lava remained after the balance had flowed out.

This lava tube is

in a tropical rain forest. The rain forests of Hawaii are unique in that they are the largest natural, tropical rain forests in the United States. There are other rain forests but they are either not tropical, e.g. Oregon and Washington, or not natural, like Puerto Rico where alien species have been introduced. A rain forest is an area that receives at least 100 inches of rain each year. They are easily distinguished by the presence of fern trees. These trees require at least 65 inches of rain per year. The rain forest is critical to the preservation of rainwater and the flora and fauna of the area.

On the way back to the ship, we stopped at a macadamia nut orchard and processing plant. We watched the machines crack the very hard shell, and then workers pick out the shells from the meat. They are roasted while they travel on conveyers and then are canned or candied. Meanwhile in the next area, a machine puts drops of chocolate on a conveyer that then passes through a cooler. Next workers individually place a nut on each chocolate spot. Finally, another machine squirts more chocolate on top. After more cooling, the workers inspect and pack the chocolate covered nuts in the paper trays that you are accustomed to seeing.

A gift shop that has samples was very popular with the guests. We had our share of nuts and candies knowing that Tom had given us a box of these delicacies that awaited our return home.

## ***Tuesday, August 26, 2003***

Today was a good day to be at sea – it rained all morning. We realized why this Bahamas registry ship must visit the Fanning Islands, it is because an international ship must have an international port. Norwegian Cruise Lines is planning the debut of their next ship, The Pride of America, a ship of US registry, subject to

US taxes and having US persons as crew. It will sail exclusively in Hawaii. The reason most cruise ships are not registered in the US is that no employment taxes are paid on non-US employees on a foreign vessel.

We taught bridge lessons one and two on take-out doubles this morning, had a quick lunch following the repeat passenger party and began the afternoon duplicate bridge game with three full tables at 1:30. Everyone had a good time. Judy and her partner came in tied for first with another couple who played very well.

That evening, the acting company presented their musical program based on the songs of the writer of Phantom of the Opera. It was truly splendid.

### ***Friday, August 29, 2003***

Wednesday's plans were changed due to a medical emergency. I heard a rumor that a woman had a diabetic problem and her life was at stake. The captain made the decision to return to Hawaii rather than continue to Fanning Island. From what we had heard, Fanning Island is largely undeveloped and the people know very little of electricity, clothing and such. Nevertheless, NCL has established a base there and has introduced them to some of the assets of the modern world, in conjunction with the tribal rulers there. It reminded us of Papua New Guinea. It gives me some comfort to know that if my life were in danger, the captain would turn around but I am concerned that the US Coast Guard cannot travel more than 100 miles to assist us. They explained that the Coast Guard was unable to reach us at our position, half way between Hawaii and Fanning Island. I hope that were an evacuation of the ship required that help would be made available.

Hence, Wednesday was another day at sea and the plan for Thursday was transferred to Wednesday. We taught lesson three on take-out doubles and due to the demands of our students had a duplicate bridge game that afternoon. We had eight people so we had an individual game.

That evening the theatre company presented their dance spectacular which was also very well done.

Thursday was our first day at port; we had a special landing at on the southwest corner of Maui in a town called Lahaina. We were fortunate to be able to rent scooters and explore the very beautiful western side of this island. We drove up the coastal highway seeing plenty of resorts and timeshares including golf courses and the elaborate Ritz-Carlton hotel. We made our way north and stopped at Flemming beach where we tried the water. It was a little cool so we lied on the beach to catch some rays. After we washed the sand off, we continued north down steeping winding roads with hairpin turns to a pinnacle that overlooked the ocean. It was a fun trip but I had forgotten to put sunscreen on my hands and the tops of my legs. It was a bit too late. We stopped for lunch at a little pub on the way home and had sandwiches. They were good. After we passed through the town, we still had an hour to go on the scooters so we continued east. The north and south edges of the island are quite barren, apparently because they receive very little rain. After a while, we turned around and headed back but after passing a bicycle, I looked around for Judy and did not see her. I slowed down and waited for her to catch up as I had observed that she prefers to go about 30 miles per hour and I may have been going about 35. When the bicycle passed me, I thought this strange and stopped at the side of the road. In a few minutes, she came into view but was going very slowly. When she arrived, she reported that the oil light had come on, her scooter smelled funny and it wouldn't go very fast. We were only a few miles from headquarters and tried to resume but the scooter wouldn't start. At her suggestion, I left her and the scooter at the side of the road and returned to the rental place for help. The proprietor brought a pick up truck out to get her and the scooter and we road bad in the truck together.

On the way back to the ship, Judy wanted to check out the stores, in search of a suitable charm for her bracelet. We had ridden by various pineapple farms and saw a pineapple charm that would suit quite well.

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bracelet. We had hidden by various pineapple farms and saw a pineapple charm that would suit quite well. We had left the bracelet on the ship for fear of loss while swimming. While Judy checked out the remaining stores, I returned to the ship to get the bracelet. She found that the price quoted at that first store was the best so we returned with the bracelet and the shopkeeper mounted the charm on it. Mission Accomplished!

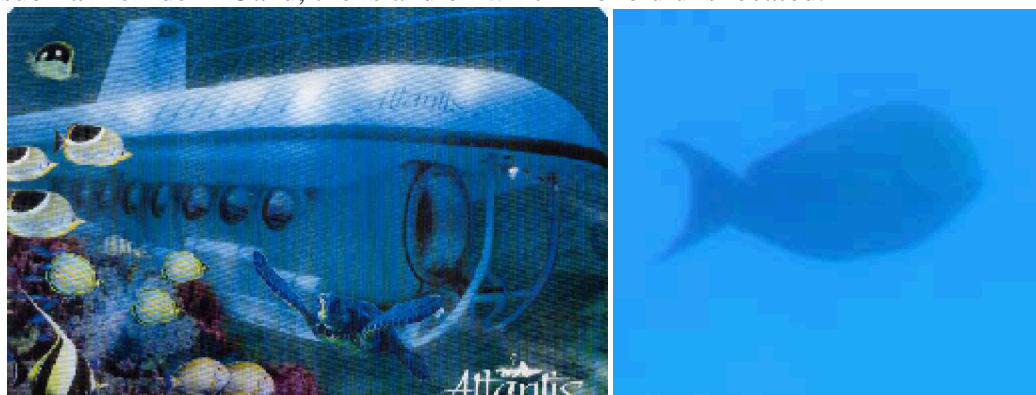
The evening entertainment was a magic show by Charles Bach. He performed well and we enjoyed the evening together.

## ***Sunday, August 31, 2003***

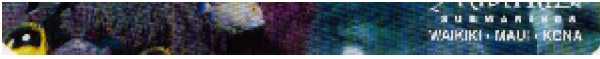
Yesterday, we visited a beautiful island of Hawaii, Kauai, the "Garden Island." We decided to rent a car in the morning and to take in the "breathtaking views" of "The Grand Canyon of the Pacific." Indeed we drove a pick-up truck around the south side of the island, taking in a coffee plantation and factory, a salt pond, a sugar cane plantation and factory, a craft show with lunch, and the trip up the mountain to see the canyon. It was very deep and beautiful, indeed breath-taking. We also so National saw an overlook of the north side of the island with the Pacific Ocean, the waterfalls and the cliffs. That afternoon we toured the National Tropical Botanical Garden, a fascinating collection of indigenous and introduced plants of Hawaii. We saw various plants used for clothing, eating, seasoning and medicine. It was as close as I could come to hiking. (Judy has said, no more hiking.)

Upon our arrival to the ship, late that afternoon, I put my Bill Proctor Speed Reading Course to work and finished the last 100 pages of The Brethren, the book I borrowed from the ship's library. Judy was charming, she suggested that we get a table for two at dinner and I finish the book while waiting to be served dinner. I did finish the book just before the main course and was surprised at the ending. Thereafter, we enjoyed the last entertainment, a stand-up comedian who was very good and a pianist/singer who was also entertaining. He asked us all to tap our room cards (much like a credit card) on the back of the seat in front of us to the rhythm that he started. He played a song on the piano and our tapping sounded just like tap dancing to the music. Quite a remarkable ending to the show.

I am finishing while Judy makes the final packing of our luggage. We booked a tour for Sunday with a submarine ride in Oahu, the island on which Honolulu is located.







We will be dropped off at the airport upon the conclusion of the tour for our long ride home. We leave at 5 p.m. and arrive in Atlanta, exhausted, early the next morning.