

THE HULA



JERRY HOPKINS



NATHANIEL B. EMERSON

Historian, writer, translator, greatest collector of hula legend and chants. B. July 1, 1839, Waialua, O'ahu. P. Rev. & Mrs. John S. Emerson, who sailed from New Bedford, Mass., 1831, part of the fifth company of missionaries to arrive Hawai'i. M. Sarah Eliza Pierce, Hawai'i's first woman physician. Educ. Oahu College; Williams College (1865); Harvard University; College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York (1869). Interrupted education to serve two years, Union forces, Civil War, First Infantry Regiment Massachusetts; wounded Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg. Returned Hawai'i 1878, serving as inspector, Moloka'i leper stations; Hawaiian Government Board of Health. Resigned 1889, opening private practice, Honolulu, 1890. Showed interest in Hawaiiana from childhood and although father (and other clergymen) had asked Lot Kamehameha V to ban hula, 1858, the son was permitted to pursue his studies, eventually becoming one of half-dozen all-time collector-translators Hawaiian legend and thought. First translation, David Malo's 1840 *Mo'olelo Hawai'i*, completed 1898, published Bishop Museum as *Hawaiian Antiquities*, 1903. This contained meager information about the hula, but the next work, *Unwritten Literature of Hawai'i: The Sacred Songs of the Hula*, became the major work in the field and remains so today.

Underwritten by U.S. Bureau of American Ethnology, it provided first "definitive" examination of the ritual and types of dances performed in ancient Hawai'i. Some of his translations and point of view eventually were challenged, but there is no other work that offers so much or is so highly respected by modern *kumu hula*. First published, 1909 in limited edition, became rare and generally unavailable, until 1965 when reprinted in inexpensive paperback, Charles E. Tuttle Company. Last great work, *Pele and Hi'iaka: A Myth from Hawai'i*, published 1915, Honolulu Star-Bulletin Ltd., told Hawai'i's most popular, and best, legend, offering Hawaiian texts and translations of more than 300 songs, chants, prayers, etc. Unfortunately, this too entered the rare book category, until 1978 when it was repackaged by Tuttle. Charter member, Hawaiian Historical Society, Polynesian Society of New Zealand. Author, many articles, Hawaiian Annual, Overland Monthly, Reports of Hawaiian Historical Society, Mid-Pacific Magazine. D. 1916, at sea between Seattle and San Francisco (returning from a vacation in Alaska, with his son), of a cerebral hemorrhage.



KENT GHIRARD

Dancer, chanter, teacher, musician, costume designer, choreographer; one of few *haole kumu* to teach regularly in

Hawai'i. B. San Francisco, Sept. 1, 1918. Educ. Stanford University (1940). Visited Hawai'i 1932 with parents, impressed by Bray troupe, revisited 1937, enrolled summer classes University of Hawaii, 1938. Studied hula under Marguerite Duane, San Francisco, 1940s, dancing as amateur in South Seas Club. Moved to Hawai'i 1947, continuing study with Bill Lincoln studio (several teachers), Alice Keawekane, Koochie Kuhns (dancing in her group a short while). Worked Records of Hawaii (Waikiki record shop), teaching first classes in the store to school-aged girls; also Betty Lei Hula Studio. Opened own Hula Nani Studio, 1949, same year took group into Kapi'olani Park hula festival, then into Niunalu Hotel. Known for discipline & perfection of "Hawaiian" image—long hair, no fingernail polish or jewelry, matching costumes, precision dancing. His Hula Nani Girls performed 1000s of times, with and without him, 1949–61—dancing down Kalākaua Avenue on "Aloha Wednesdays", greeting celebrities dockside and at airport for Hawaii Visitors Bureau. Also performed in "Hawaii Calls" radio show; "Hawaii Calls" TV pilot; Alfred Apaka TV pilot; *Big Jim McLain* (with John Wayne, Warner Bros., 1952); *Hell's Half Acre* (with Wendell Corey, Republic Pictures, 1954); *South Seas Adventure* (Stanley Warner Cinerama, 1958) and at Queen's Surf *lū'au* (with Nona & Mahi Beamer, Ka'upena Wong, Gabby Pahinui), Moana Hotel "Boat Night" shows, Surfrider Hotel Boat Day shows, Royal Hawaiian Hotel (with Ray Kinney), Don the Beachcomber's, Halekulani Hotel, many years on Ni'ihau float in Kamehameha Day parade, seven years Aloha Week *ho'olaule'a*. Toured all islands; played three months, Polynesian Room, Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago (1959, 1960); American Soc. of Travel Agents Convention, San Francisco (1954). Was first to take Hawaiian entertainers to Japan following World War II, in 1955, again in 1961. Selected by HVB for most photo assignments, resulting in more ex-

posure worldwide than any other hula group; in fact, many post cards of the period still being sold in 1980. Retired 1961. Reorganized 25 former dancers for tribute to Pauline Kekahuna (who played for him 100s of times), 1978, forming Hula Nani Alumnae with seven dancers, 1979. First return engagement, Hawaiian Music Foundation *lū'au*, Kamokila Campbell Estate. Subsequent performances incl. Aloha Week *ho'olaule'a*, many benefits, Queen Emma Summer Palace and "Pictures of Paradise", KGMB-TV (1980).



PUA HA'AHEO

Chanter, dancer, teacher; one of last great male chanters born 19th Century to have lived 20th Century; generally regarded as one of the most distinctive & influential teachers. B. Samuela Pua Ha'aheo, Jan. 23, 1886, Lā'ie, O'ahu. Pure Hawaiian, one of last to hold *kono-hiki*, or ancient fishing rights, Kahana Bay, O'ahu. First wife, Amoe, rec. two songs, Hawaiian Transcripts label (78 rpm), 1930s. Second wife, Rachel. C. Mamo & Wendy. Known for deeper-than-usual chanting voice & prowess with *pahu*, *pūniu*, *'ili'ili*. Rec. several chants for Bishop Museum. Began teaching *hula* & *oli*, Kahana Bay home, 1927. Classes, Palama Settlement, Honolulu, 1930-31. Students incl. Emily Kau'i Zuttermeister (a niece & inheritor of his

chants & style), Agnes Kanahale Cope, Sally Wood, Ma'iki Aiu Lake. Emp. Honolulu Police Dept. Member, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Order of Kamehameha. D. Apr. 22, 1953, Kahuku, O'ahu. B. Kahana Cemetery.



HILO HATTIE

Dancer, actress, singer, teacher, musician, "Clown Princess of the Hula," best-known Hawaiian dancer worldwide because of many film, television appearances. B. Clarissa Haile, Oct. 18, 1901, Honolulu. P. Rebecca & George Haile. Educ. Territorial Normal School, Univ. of Hawaii's Teacher's College. Pure Hawaiian, but parents never spoke native tongue; she learned Hawaiian as teenager, Kealaula O Ka Malamalama Church, Honolulu. M. John Baxter, Jan. 10, 1920; Milton Douglas, July 2, 1926; Theodore Inter, April 16, 1930; Carlyle Nelson, 1949. No children. Teacher, Waipahu Elementary School (1923-39). Member, Royal Hawaiian Girls Glee Club, performed Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Kodak Hula Show (1935-36); Waiālae Country Club (1937). First performed "Hilo Hattie (Does the Hilo Hop)" en route teachers' convention on mainland (1936). Quit teaching under pressure from school board to quit dancing (1940). Danced "Hawaiian War Chant" and "Cockeyed Mayor of Kaunakakai", *Song of the Islands* (20th Century Fox,

starring Betty Grable, 1940), later acted or danced, *Miss Tatlock's Millions* (1948), *Ma and Pa Kettle at Waikiki* (1955), *Blue Hawaii* (with Elvis Presley, 1960). Performed with Harry Owens, Al Kealoha Perry & His Singing Surfriders (1939-40); St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, & Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, during WWII. Returned Hawai'i 1947, performed with Alvin Kaleolani (Isaacs) & His Royal Hawaiian Serenaders. Toured Mainland U.S., then based Roosevelt Hotel, Los Angeles (1950s). Returned Hawai'i, performed Hawaiian Village Hotel (1960), Aloha Week pageants (1960s). Mastectomy (1967) then back to Hawaiian Village until 1969. Doctor ordered retirement, but engagements followed, Hawaiian Village, Ilikai Hotel. Named Sales & Marketing Executives Salesman of the Year (1971) following merchandising of Hilo Hattie name: i.e. Hilo Hattie Paradise Cake, Hilo Hattie's Fashion Center, Hilo Hattie Travel Tours, etc. Performed, MC Kahala Hilton Hotel *hukilau*, Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel *lū'au*. (1973). Tribute banquet, "A Hilo Hattie Love Affair," Hawaiian Village (1975). Performed with Don Ho, Las Vegas; several Don Ho television shows (1977). Same year underwent heart pacemaker surgery. Performed on board Pacific East Line ships. Final appearance, with Kailua Madrigal Singers, Palo Alto, Ca., June 15, 1977. Massive stroke same month, leaving partially paralyzed, unable to speak. Second stroke, April 1978. D. Dec. 12, 1979, Honolulu. Recorded for many companies, incl. Hawaiian Transcripts (with glee club), Bell (with Andy Cummings), Decca (with Al Perry), Paradise and Hui (solo); several still available (see Discography).

July 2009

Dear Tom,

Kent insisted on writing his own greeting to you on page 2. . . .

It reads:

Aloha Aunani,

I am honored to sign your book. I am also honored to have my photo used on page 113 which I took while they were rehearsing for a T.V. pilot film. These are all my girls from the 1950's. I am 90 years old and still involved with hula.

Aloha Plenty - Kent Sherrod

Albino Pick one —

I am honored to ~~be~~ ^{appear}
your book. I am also honored to

have my photo used on page 133
which I took while they were
rehearsing for a TV. talent show.

These are all my ~~and~~ photos
from the 1950s. I am 90
years old and this is my last
with you.

Albino Identity - Hart & Howard.



Thanks for remembering...



Season's Aloha

Drumming
up a pile of good wishes
for the Holiday's just
for **YOU....**

That's all at 91
Sugar



October 13, 2009

copy

**Kent Ghirard
c/o Tammy Ackerman
1303 Kika Street
Kailua, HI 96734**

Aloha Kent, Tammy and Susan,

***Kent* – Thank you so very much for inscribing “The Hula” to me. It will have a special place in our home.**

***Kent and Susan* – It was good to meet you when I was in Honolulu. I’d like to visit again on my next trip.**

***Tammy* – Thank you for facilitating my visit. Next time I hope to meet you, too.**

Enclosed are copies of the photos taken the day I visited.

Mahalo,

**Tom Moore
69647 Camino de Las Brisas
Cathedral City, CA 92234-1780 (near Palm Springs)
760-832-8213
pepperbud@dc.rr.com**