

FINDING AID

HISTORY OF THE HANAIEI TUNNELS

Kaua'i Historical Society

MS 46-R

History of the Hanalei Tunnels

Compiled by Marilyn Santiago, after research performed utilizing the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association (HSPA) Archives of the Lihue Sugar Plantation (housed at University of Hawaii at Manoa Library) and the *Garden Island* newspaper archives.

This account of the development of the tunnels outlines beginning of the development through the construction phases during the 1920s, and follows up with maintenance performed during the 1930s. The survey for the project, initially called the North Wailua - Iliiliula Ditch, was expanded to include waters from the Hanalei stream. The project would allow waters from the Hanalei Stream to be diverted to supply the East Kauai Water Company, which would be able to distribute water to the Kapaa homesteads, into Hanamau'lu and Lihue, using existing resources. Also of note is the development of a water distribution system for the Hanalei district.

Ms. Santiago is related by George A Crow, who was the superintendent of the project.

The collection consists of summaries of the research, noting each source.

Contents: (Reports are from HSPA unless otherwise noted)

- Letter from Joe Moragne to George A. Crow, April 24, 1920
- May 4, 1922 R.D. Moler report regarding the survey lines
- June 5, 1922 R.D. Moler report : update on survey lines
- July 6, 1922 indicates survey complete
- December 5, 1922 *Garden Island* newspaper article outlining project
- February 1, 1923 J.H. Moragne report : horse trail graded up to Hanalei tunnel
- April 14, 1923 Lihue Plantation obtains lease, requiring construction of tunnel from south fork of Hanalei stream to provide irrigation to Wailua area
- September 5, 1923 R.D. Moler report: work started on tunnel from each end, rails being moved for tunnel work
- October 2, 1923 R.D. Moler report: Crow indicates 448 ft. of tunnel finished, three shifts working through hard rock
- November 30, 1923 J.H. Moragne reports on Hanalei tunnel progress -- 185 ft. of tunneling (63 ft. in main tunnel); work on North Wailua - Iliiliula Ditch halted due to rain; camp enlarged to house 25 men
- January 3, 1924 Annual report from J.H. Moragne on Hanalei tunnel and Wailua - Iliiliula dtich
- January 22, 1924 R.D. Moler report : work commenced on Hanali tunnels on September 1, 1923. 1233 ft. of ditch and tunnel completed to date
- March 4, 1924 *Garden Island* newspaper update on project: 500 ft. completed on each end of Hanalei tunnel; wet weather making supply movement difficult
- August 24, 1924 *Garden Island* newspaper : county will construct tunnel for Hanalei water works, which will construct a supply tunnel to Hanalei; still needed is a distribution extending out from the Hanalei school area
- September 23, 1924 *Garden Island* newspaper update on Hanalei water works
- October 7, 1924 *Garden Island* newspaper reports three men injured when there was an explosion in the main Hanalei tunnel
- February 5, 1925 Annual report on tunnels: main tunnel: 3550 ft. completed of 4600 ft., expected completion July 1925
- May 26, 1925 *Garden Island* newspaper reports Hanalei tunnel broken through from Lihue to Hanalei; additional tunnels to be constructed to distribute water
- May 25, 1925 J.H. Moragne letter to R.D. Moler : Hanalei main tunnel connected, suggesting replace one bad section, concrete certain areas; expect water running by July 1
- July 1925 Lihue Plantation engineer readies ditch trails to connect with truck roads
- July 5, 1925 J.H. Moragne report -- water tuned into Hanalei - Wailua tunnels on June 28
- July 14, 1925 *Garden Island* newspaper reports completion of tunnel, and water diversion from Hanalei stream via the tunnel is now being turned into Lihue plantation ditches
- August 5, 1925 J.H. Moragne report to R.D. Moler indicates water through the Hanalei tunnels flowing well; updates the Wailua section of the Hanalei water works to supply the Hanalei area
- December 5, 1925 J.H. Moragne reports the bypass tunnel almost completed

Contents (continued) :

- January 4, 1926 J.H. Moragne monthly report indicated concrete work nearly finished
- January 11 1926 J.H. Moragne letter to R.D. Moler who requested details on the completed project
- January 11, 1927 *Garden Island* newspaper reports work started to tap the Waioli stream increase water to the Hanalei district
- March 13, 1928 *Garden Island* newspaper announces completion of the county tunnel extension project
- December 11, 1928 *Garden Island* newspaper: Board of supervisors approves plans for Lihue - Nawiliwili water works system, diverting water from Huleia stream to a tank in Puhi
- September 30, 1934 George A. Crow reports repair work on Hanalei Weir pool
- August 1, 1935 Report on condition of Lihue Plantation ditches and tunnels
- July 31, 1937 George A. Crow reports improvements to ditch man house
- September 30, 1938 George A. Crow update on trail repairs Hanalei, Kaapoko
- November 30, 1938 George A. Crow reports additional repairs Hanalei to North Wailua ditches and tunnels
- March 31, 1939 Additional repairs to North Wailua intake ditch, other tunnels
- May 31, 1939 George A. Crow reports work on Hanalei Wailua tunnels after storm