

Finding Aid

**DRAFTS OF *THE STORY OF THE COCO PALMS HOTEL*
BY DAVID PENHALLOW SCOTT**

Kauai Historical Society
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

MS 70

MS 70

Drafts of *The Story of the Coco Palms Hotel*

2-2.5” Binders (Black and White)

Abstract

The Story of the Coco Palms Hotel written by David Penhallow Scott is an account of the Coco Palms Hotel on Kauai under the management of Grace Guslander from 1953 to 1985. The hotel was located in Wailua, at the mouth of the Wailua River, on a property previously owned by Queen Deborah Kapule. Grace’s appreciation of the Hawaiian culture is evident in the interior and exterior architectural details she chose for the hotel and in the services and activities she provided for her guests. The Coco Palms employees are described and featured in numerous photographs as are many notable guests, politicians, movie directors and celebrities, and local dignitaries.

Historical Background

Grace Guslander, nee Buscher was born in Pennsylvania in 1910. She came to Hawaii in 1948 and held several jobs in Honolulu until she was hired by Lyle Guslander (whom she later married) in 1953 to manage the Coco Palms Hotel. The hotel was one of two hotels that existed on the island at the time and guests endured the sugar cane train that ran night and day during the harvest. The Coco Palms was the first hotel in what was to become the Island Holidays chain which was itself sold by Guslander to AmFac in 1969. The hotel started with 24 rooms and grew to more than 500 in 1980. The hotel survived Hurrigan Iwa in 1982 but did not survive Hurricane Iniki 10 years later.

Scope and Content (Arrangement of the Collection)

Binder 1 (white) is the first draft of *The Story of the Coco Palms Hotel* written by David Penhallow Scott and edited by Sally (Wilson). The copy is a computer print out with editor’s notes in red.

Binder 2 (black) is the last draft of *The Story of the Coco Palms Hotel*. The copy is printer’s page proofs, glossy and professionally printed.

Processed in July 23, 2019 by R. Kincaid.