

Finding Aid

**History of Polo on Kaua'i
by Bette Layton**

1880s - 2007

Kaua'i Historical Society

Lihue, Kaua'i

MS59

MS59
3 boxes

History of Polo On Kauai

p.2

The History of Polo on Kaua'i begins with a review of polo's roots, early play in Hawaii, polo players and polo associations, and inter-island matches including Army teams from Oahu. It begins as early as the mid-1870s and develops across the islands during the 1880s.

The majority of the collection is focused on the development of the sport on Kaua'i with specific information about teams, matches, championships, and players up to 2007. Early photos show polo fields with horse and buggies lining the field. Audiences numbered about 2,000 folks, many watched from bleachers or found space along the field. Polo was played on multiple sites; an old sugar cane field, front yards of larger homes in Puhi and Hanalei, and the Waipouli Race Course. In 1924, the Ahukini Terminal and Railroad provided free train rides to the Waipouli location, carrying fans from Kipu, Huleia, Puhi, Lihue and Hanamaulu to one Armistice Day event. The last polo field on Kaua'i was at Anini across from the beachfront.

While most sports continue without interruption over the years, there were definite periods of inactivity for Kaua'i. Some of these gaps could be attributed to World Wars, others were due to lack of suitable polo fields. *The Garden Island Newspaper* served as the main resource for detailed information on Kaua'i polo matches and there were years with few or no games mentioned.

The author, Bette Layton, as the historian for the Kaua'i Polo Association, provided *The Garden Island Newspaper* written reviews of local polo activities – matches, development of additional activities by the Kaua'i Polo Association, and information on polo players. She also reported on matches played on other islands, on the mainland and even Europe. Her love of polo began with matches she attended in New York before leaving the East coast to relocate to Arizona and eventually to Kaua'i for more than a dozen years. Bette is the author of The Golden Mallet, which is available in online bookstores. Ms. Layton volunteered at the Kaua'i Historical Society while living here, archiving a number of manuscripts (ensuring availability to the Kaua'i community) and providing support for numerous activities and events.

The manuscript runs 299 pages long and is available from the Kaua'i Historical Society, please contact their office to arrange for copies. The attached finding outlines chapters, a list of cassettes containing oral histories of many prominent players, and photographs.

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History of Polo on Kaua'i

MS59 p.3

Box 1 Manuscript : History of Polo on Kaua'i

Box 2 Deed of gift, finding aid, biography of the author

List of Chapters in the book:

1	Polo comes to Hawaii	p.1-5
2	Polo on Kaua'i 1900-1919	p.6-34
3	Polo on Kaua'i 1920-1937	p.35-73
4	Polo at Kipu Ranch 1951	p.74-76
5	Polo at Hanalei and Kilohana 1979-1981	p.77-78
6	Polo at Anini 1982-1989	p. 89-124
7	Polo at Anini 1990-1999	p.125-283
8	Polo at Anini 2000-2007	p. 284
	Appendix : Budgets	p. 285-299

Box 3 Player interviews on audio cassettes

1998 Mike Longley, Carlos Elzuaidia, Don Mackay Ken Anderson, Holbrook Goodale, Jim Tousignant, Charlie King, Hal Hargrave, Aunty Addy Gifford Kiawe, Bobby Sperry, Grey Smith

1999 Mike Zappa, Melinda Nesti, Ron Bonoguidi, Tammy McKanani

2000 Julie Naeda, Mike Sheehan, Ronnie Tongg

2002 John Elwin

Photographs included in box 3:

Arthur H. Rice 1913-1916 (Bishop Museum Collection)

Kaua'i Polo Team: 1917-1923: James Spaulding, John Molina, Charles H. Rice, Jay Gould

Kaua'i Team vs. Maui on July 18, 1953 (Photograph by Hobey Goodale)

Kaua'i Polo Club, 1988 : Terry and Jim, Terry Wells, Tom Godspeed and wife Julie Newton, Hank Jacinto, Dan Mackay, Greg Kyete, Carlos Elzuaidia

Box 3 (continued) Photographs within the manuscript (not from newspapers)

Chapter 2 p. 7 Moanalua Polo Field, Oahu (Bishop Museum Collection)

p.8 Wichman Trophy won by Kaua'i - 1904

p.11 Col. Zephania Spaulding (KHS Collection); Valley House,
photograph by E. Arruda (KHS Collection)

p.25 Waipouli Race Track and Polo Field, (KHS Collection)

p 31 James Spaulding, John Molina, Charles Rice and Philip
Rice (Bishop Museum Collection)

Chapter 4 p.75 Manoru Matsumura, Hobey Goodale, Larry Andrade,
Hiram Metrumoto (Holbrook Wichman Goodale Photograph)

Chapter 5 p.78 Ken Anderson, Mike Sheehan / Polo mauka of
Weke Road on the lawn of the Wilcox House

p. 79 Mike Langley, Carlos Elzuaidia

p.81 Polo played on the lawns at the Wilcox Home on Weke
Road and Kilohana, then unoccupied

p.83 Kilohana at Puhi

p.85 Charlie King (Charlie King Photography)

p.87 Barbee Needham (Steve Reid Photograph)

Chapter 6 p.90 Ronnie Tongg

p.92 Tommy Makanai

p.93 Kaua'i Open Tournament Trophy (Bowl, KHS Collection)

p.95 Ron Bonoguidi (Ron Bonoguidi Photograph)

p.104 Jim Tousignant

p.105 Hal Hargrave

Chapter 7 p. 218 Team photo, without names