

Finding Aid
to

MIKE ASHMAN COLLECTION
1940s – 1950s

Kauai Historical Society
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

MS 96

MS 96**Title: Mike Ashman Collection**

Extent: 1-2''X 12'' archival box.

Abstract:

A collection of lyrics for eighty Hawaiian and sixty-two Hapa-Haole songs, a copy of Leo Hoonana Hou, two copies of Kauai's first Visitors Guide Book, and an assortment of memorabilia from the '40s and '50s.

History:

Mike Ashman, having worked for several years as a radio announcer at KSAN in San Francisco, responded to an ad Charlie Fern (editor of The Garden Island newspaper) had placed in a San Francisco newspaper. Charlie Fern, as he was known, was seeking someone to join Kauai's first radio station, KTOH (Kauai Territory of Hawaii). At the young age of eighteen Mike arrived on Kauai and began broadcasting on May 8, 1940, his first year as an announcer at KTOH.

Monday through Saturday "he broadcasted music, news and sports, with Sundays being dedicated to broadcasting live performances of local musical groups from KTOH's studio" on Ahukini Road. "Ashman also entertained audiences by hosting a radio talk show called 'The KTOH Party Line,' in which he would randomly select a name from the telephone book, call the number and proceed to broadcast a conversation between himself and person answering the phone."

In 1941 during World War II Mike Ashman left KTOH to serve "in the Navy as a radio operator and as a Merchant Marine officer." Following the end of the war he joined KJBS in San Francisco, eventually returning to Kauai and KTOH in 1948. In 1952 he joined KGMB in Honolulu and subsequently worked in a variety of jobs in Honolulu, the Philippines, Saipan and once again in San Francisco.

More than a half century after Mike Ashman had arrived on Kauai in 1940, he wrote in 'Kauai: As it Was in the 1940s and '50s,' sharing his many experiences with the people and places on Kauai.

"Following a multi-faceted career in the visitor industry" (including an executive position with the Pacific Asia Travel Association), Mike Ashman and his wife of sixty years continued to live on Kauai and eastern Washington for a number of years. Mike Ashman died in 2018.

These records came to the historical society on June 24, 2013, deposited by Mike Ashman. These records are open to research with no restrictions.

Kauai Historical Accession number 2013.014.

Processed in April 2026 by Bonnie Lake.

Scope and Content:

The collection of eighty Hawaiian and sixty-two Hapa-Haole songs was compiled by Sarah Malina Kailikea and Mike Ashman in 1940-41 with the intention of preserving the songs that were popular in Hawaii at that time and to ensure that “the beautiful music of Hawaii will never be forgotten.” Mike noted that “Sarah kept the original and I have the only other copy.”

“Sarah first dictated the lyrics to all the Hawaiian mele that she and her sister could recall” with Mike Ashman making typed copies. These were then shared with a number of island musicians for their review, resulting in some changes as well as the addition of more lyrics. Specific musicians included Jacob Maka of Hanalei, John Akana of Kalihiwai, Henry Sheldon of Kapaa, Sam Peahu and Gabriel Ii of Lihue, Billy Waialeale of Koloa and Annie Holt of Kekaha. “For the Hapa-Haole songs Lorraine Fountain and Mike Ashman had the resources of the KTOH record and transcription libraries and their memories. Both Lorraine and Mike were employees of the radio station, and spent their free time listening to the recordings and writing down the lyrics.” Located in the back of the song book are three yellowed sheets of edited corrections of Hawaiian songs as well as a 3x5 card with Hawaiian text front and back and signed by John Koopuiki.

Kauai Edition Weekender, Kauai’s first visitors’ guide book, was inspired by Charlie Fern, editor of The Garden Island (newspaper). According to Mike Ashman, “Charlie Fern had appointed himself to be the island’s tourist bureau. He gathered a group of residents, assigned each one a subject and asked them to research and write a piece for the booklet.” Those individuals who worked for The Garden Island, including Mike Ashman, then edited and assembled the various pieces into a booklet, which was “then given to visitors or mailed to folks who requested information on the island.” Mike Ashman noted in an email sent to Mary Requilman (past director of the Kauai Historical Society) in March 2013 that a few years before he had “priced a copy of this booklet in a Hanapepe gift shop, with an asking price of \$195.”

A composition from 8th grade students of Kalaheo Intermediate School entitled “I am An American,” dedicated to Miss Bernice E. L Hundley, Supervisor of Schools for Kauai, to air on KTOH’s daily “Friendly Hour” is included among Ashman’s papers. Memorabilia of KTOH – a 5” x 5.5” printed paper noting KTOH Owned and Operated by The Garden Island Publishing Co., Ltd., Also included is a Verification of Reception, with a statement “We appreciate your interest in reporting reception of our signals,” signed by Mike Ashman.

Kauai Historical Society flyer for a “Book Signing and Talk Story” with the author Mike Ashman October 9, 2005 for the book Kauai As It Was In the 1940s and ‘50s.

A 4”x5” photo of the KTOH booth inside a Quonset hut at the County Fair in the late 1950s, where KTOH was broadcasting from during the fair.

A three photograph (each 8x11) collage of KTOH’s booth at the County Fair. Emblazoned across the three photographs is a banner stating “These familiar names use KTOH to sell their merchandise.” The background is filled with small photos of the merchandise as well as the

names of the various stores, such as Yasuda Store, Lihue Supermarket, Hale Kauai. Also included are photos of employees of KTOH, including Mike Ashman, Station Manager; Ray Sasaki, “Juan Pilau Guy;” Masako Hiranaka, Japanese Department; James Marugame, Japanese Department; Antone [Cacatian], Filipino Director, Encarnacion Tomas; Filipino Director; Katashi Nose, Chief Engineer, and Dwight Mossman, Commercial Manager.

A small brochure entitled The Garden Island issued by the Hawaii Tourist Bureau. In the center foldout is a map of Kauai issued in June 1939. Included are driving distances from Lihue, a travel guide and attractions, identified by Warrior Place Markers. Under accommodations it is noted the “The principal hotel is at Lihue. There is another at Waimea.” Two golf courses are cited, “The main course (9 holes) on The Garden Island is at Wailua. There is another good private (9 hole) course at Kukuilono Park.”

A playbill for “The Ghost Train” by Arnold Ridley, presented by Lei Mokihana Chapter, No.7, O.E.S. at the Lihue Parish House, Nov. 16, 1940.

An 8x11 photograph of the Kauai Little Theater group in the 1950s. In 2013 Mike Ashman gifted the photograph to the Kauai Historical Society, identifying by name those individuals he could remember, noting those he did not remember with a ?. According to Mike Ashman – “From left, Barlow Hardy, ?, ?, Bruce Wickman, ?, Jarrett Kano, Lillian Daily, ?, Dwight Mossman, Mike Fern (nose in magazine), Walt Ehlers, and “Sidelines” Kuraoka.

There are ten (nine) small photographs of various sites, some of which are identified as follows:
1) two of a large grass shack reported to be on Rice property
2) man and woman standing next to a car at the entrance to the Lihue Airport
3) Doris (Mike’s wife) resting on a swinging bridge
7/14/54

This 1952 printing of an Hawaiian hymn book, which was copyrighted in 1902, was given to Mike Ashman by the Kaopuiki family while Mike was living on Lanai in the late 1950s.

Related Material:

Kauai as it was in the 1940s and ‘50s by Mike Ashman, 2004.

Lihue: root and branch of a Hawaii town by Pat L. Griffin, [2014].

Container List

Box	Folder
1	1 Deed of Gift and Finding Aid
	2 Ashman (Song Book)

This small three ring binder contains the lyrics for individual Hawaiian and Hapa-Haole songs, each of which is named and is printed on its own page

Akaka Falls	Kukuna O Ka La
Ainahau	Kuu Ipo Hee Puu One
Alika	Kuu Lei Aloha
Aloha Ia No O Maui	Kuu Lei MomiKuu Lei Pikake
Aloha Oe	Leahi Uheuhene
Anapau La	Lei Aloha
Beautiful Kahana	Lei Aloha Lei Makamae
E Ka Wiliwili Wai	Lei Awapuhi
Haleiwa	Lei Mamo
Hamepila	Liholiho
Hanohano O Hawaii	Mahina Malamalama
Hawaii Pono	Mai Givi
Hilo Hanakahi	Maikai Ka Makani O Kahala
Holo Holo Kaa	Mai Poina Oe Ia'u
Hooheno Keia No Beauty	Makalapua
Hoonanea	Mauna Kea
Hui E	Mauna Loa
Imi Au Ia Oe	Moku Kiakahi
Iniki Niki Malie	Na Alii
Ipo Hula	Na Lei O Hawaii
Kaimana Hila	Na Molokama
Kaleponi	Nani Kauai
Ka Makani Kaili Aloha	Nani Wale Kuu Home
Kaneohe	Ainahau
Kealoha	Nani Wale Lihue
Keaukaha	Niu Haohao
Keaukaha Hula	None
Ke Kali Nei Au	Old Plantation
Kokohi	Opelo
Kolopa	Paahana
Koni Au Ika Wai	Palolo

Papalina Lahilahi
Parisa
Pua Mohala
Pulupe
Puu Ao Ewa
Pupue
Remember, Be Sure, Be There
Sweet Leilehua
Sweet, Sweet
Ua Like No A Like
Ulili E
Uluhua Wale Au
Uluwehi O Kaala
Wahine Ui
Wailana
Waipio
Across the Sea
Aloha Kuu Ipo Aloha
Beyond the Reef
Blue Hawaii
Blue Lei
Coconut Mayor
Come on Nancy
Dancing Under the Stars
Do the Hula
Down Where the Trade Winds
Blow
Ebb Tide
For You A Lei
Haina Mai Ka Puana
Haleiwa Maid
Haole Hula
Hapa Haole Hula Girl
Hawaii Calls
Hawaiian Hospitality
Hawaiian Paradise
Hilo Hattie
Hukilau
I Will Remember You
In A Canoe
In Spite of All

In the Garden of Paradise
I Want to Learn to Speak
Hawaiian
Kalua
Kehaulani
King Kamehameha
Kuu Ipo
Lani
Heaven Is in Blue Hawaii
Lei Aloha
Little Brown Gal
Little Grass Shack
Lovely Hula Hands
Mahalo, My Darling
Malihini Mele
Manuella Boy
Maui Girl
May Day Is Lei Day
Mele Kalikimaka
Mele O Tutu E
Moonlight in Hilo
My Isle of Golden Dreams
My Tane
My Waikiki Girl
Naughty, Naughty Mai Nei
Oni Oni
On the Beach at Waikiki
Pidgin English
Pretty Red Hibiscus
Princess Pupule
Sleep Little Baby
Soft Green Seas
Song Of Old Hawaii
Sweet Leilani
That's The Hawaiian In Me
That's What the Lei Said to
Me
The Winds from Over the Sea
To You, Sweetheart, Aloha
Waikiki
What Aloha Means

3 Two copies of Kauai's first visitors guide book, an assortment of memorabilia from the '40s and '50s.

4 (Silly) English and Hawaiian phrases for visitors; eight pages of lyrics for Japanese songs

5 Leo Hoonana Hou – copy to be found in the Kauai Historical Society book collection.