

The ancient grace of Hawaii still lives upon the high slopes of Waianae Valley



Princess Theresa

She died in 1944, I suppose somewhat worn and exhausted from the many bitter and often hopeless battles that she waged against all who attempted to thwart her struggle to assert her royal claims and to recover the lost estates of her ancestors.

She was the Princess Theresa Owana Kaohelaiani, the great-great-grandniece of King Kamehameha the First.

When I knew her, she was already heavy with age and laden with the burdens of her years. But there was still pride in her carriage, still a royal lift to her head and still that unending grace so characteristic of Hawaiian royalty. To those who saw her even in passing, there could never be a doubt that she was indeed a princess of a royal house and the daughter born of endless generations of ruling chiefs.

The Princess Theresa was born into a princely family of great wealth. The estates of her royal ancestors were vast, and a host of retainers catered to her every whim. Raised as she was in the old royal tradition, she found it extremely difficult to adjust herself to her changed fortunes and to the onslaught of democratic ideals that had overtaken her country and had cast aside what should have been her rightful high station in life.

And, I daresay, this was the fundamental difference between Theresa and her royal cousin, the deposed Queen Liliuokalani.

Both ladies lost their high estates with the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy and the loss of royal prerogatives. But the queen, despite her high chiefly birth, had been born a commoner even though of noble rank. She had been raised to the purple and her return to the commonalty was not too difficult a task for her no matter how distasteful it may have been.



The World of sammy amalu

Theresa, on the other hand, had been born a princess of the proud Kamehameha family that had founded by cruel conquest the Hawaiian Kingdom. So there was a bitterness that permeated the entire life of the Princess Theresa, and it colored everything that she did.

But it is not the entangled political web or the involved intrigues of her life that I recall most about the royal lady. Rather, I remember most her superb grace. Whatever the great misfortunes befallen her and despite the reduced circumstances that marked her latter years, the Princess Theresa never lost the infinite grace that bespeaks many centuries of high culture and breeding. She remained the gracious aristocrat even when her last years had fallen to near-penury.

The other evening, I witnessed that same royal grace and I could not help but remember the Princess Theresa. I attended a dinner party given by Bob and Kappy Toledo.

The Toledos have just completed their magnificent villa in the very heart of Waianae Valley. It stands on the high slopes that overlook their ranch and dairy and the entire valley below. It is truly a gorgeous setting both for living and for party-giving.

This particular dinner party was being given to honor the visiting Tony Costa from Fresno. Tony heads an organization called the Ranchers Cottonseed Oil Cooperative, to which evidently most of the Oahu dairymen belong since most of them were there.

Bob Toledo is, of course, one of our leading ranchers and is probably the most prominent dairyman in the Islands. The present Mrs. Toledo was formerly the Princess Kapiolani, the granddaughter of the Princess Theresa. And it was this relationship that most impressed me at the dinner party. As I watched Kapiolani, I saw again the royal grace of her grandmother.

Actually, I had expected only a small party, but when I arrived I found the Toledo courtyards and driveways packed with cars, the villa overflowing with guests. In our new age of small dinner parties, cocktails and pupus, how many people are there left who can afford a full scale dinner party for more than a hundred guests? You simply do not find them any more.

But it was not the party itself that so captivated me. Rather, it was the hostess.

And also her sister, Daisy Weaver. They made me remember an era that has almost vanished, a period that I can recall from my own youth when the formal etiquette of the court at Iolani was not altogether forgotten and when there were still royal ladies alive in the Islands.

I remembered Elizabeth Kahana, the Princess Kaiulani, and the lavish parties she often gave both at her beach villa, Pualeilani, at the very shores of Waikiki, and later at her home high on Pacific Heights. I recalled Abigail Wahikua, the Princess Kawanakoa, and the many fetes and galas that she often gave at her large Pensacola Street home.

And I remembered also so many other gracious ladies of the old Hawaiian royalty and nobility: Alice Kamokila Campbell, Muriel Shingle Amalu, Uliani Robertson Jabuka, Emma Napoleon Wilcox, Helen Holt Cushingham, Alice Kai-Nahaoluia Lane, Mary Bamister Lucas, Rose Brown Davis and so many others whose great charm and grace are still warm memories of mine.

They represented everything that was so lovely about the older Hawaii that I remember so well. I regretted those days are now gone, but as I watched Kapiolani Toledo and her sister Daisy, their regal bearing and their gracious charm, I realized with some measure of hope that all of yesterday's grace had not vanished. The grace of the old royal Hawaii was still alive in the heart of Waianae Valley and in the persons of these two lovely granddaughters of the Princess Theresa.

U.N. officials see new wave of boat people

By James R. Schiffman
United Press International

HONG KONG — Increasing numbers of Vietnamese are putting to sea in rickety boats this year in an unexpected encore of the 1979 "boat people" exodus.

The new wave of refugees reported by United Nations refugee officials comes with the busiest season for such activity still ahead and with interest in accepting the displaced people on the wane in several nations because the exodus no longer is in the international news spotlight.

Many of the new refugees have left their communist homeland because of food shortages and inflation, the officials say. Others hope to escape the military draft and possible service in occupied Cambodia, where tens of thousands of Vietnamese troops are now based.

Still others are simply anti-communist or have relatives who already have made it to more welcome shores.

"Now we have the biggest mix of reasons than we've ever had before," said an official with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Hong Kong.

Refugees — those coming from the south — complain more and more about southern rice going north, causing greater shortages in the south this year than last," said a veteran Western diplomat in Bangkok.

"Inflation is skyrocketing. As we know, the black market rate for the dong (Vietnamese currency) increased 100 percent during the first quarter of the year, from 15 per dollar to 33 per dollar." The official rate is 2.6 per \$1.

The refugee flow is a trickle compared with the great exodus of boat people in 1979, but it comes at a time when refugee officials say enthusiasm for Vietnamese refugee resettlement is waning.

According to Hong Kong and Macao government statistics, 2,695 boat people arrived in the two colonies off China's south coast during the first four months of this year, compared with 1,719 in the same period of 1980.

Official figures in Indonesia show a more dramatic increase. Through April, 2,158 refugees arrived in Indonesia this year, up from the 643 that reached the country in the first third of last year.

It also is a busy year for the U.S. Navy, which has picked up Vietnamese boat people in the South China Sea since July 1979. Navy ships plucked 921 refugees from small boats in April to make it the second heaviest month since the rescue program began.

Refugee agencies expect even more boat people as the weather grows warmer and the sea becomes more hospitable.

"We always expect a lot of arrivals from April through August," said Richard Shim, spokesman for the Hong Kong-based Joint Voluntary Agency which represents organizations resettling refugees in the United States.

"There's no indication at all the Vietnamese government is doing anything to encourage them to leave. On the contrary, they've even shot and killed some. We had three people arrive dead on a boat in Macao."

But a UNHCR official said refugees often use bribes to avoid the wrath of Vietnamese land and sea patrols.

"It seems that it more or less is pre-arranged with some intermediary so they have a clear field," he said. "They are very discreet about that kind of thing."

Most new arrivals are ethnic Vietnamese fishermen or peasants from central and southern Vietnam, although some are better educated technicians from the north, the U.N. official said.

Among the northerners are teachers and chemists and a few people who were educated in East Germany, he said.

One problem now facing Vietnamese refugees, an official of the UNHCR said, is that they are no longer in the international limelight.

"People are not as interested as they were in 1979" in Vietnamese refugees, he said. "People are more interested in refugees in Africa and Pakistan."

The United States still takes by far the largest number of refugees, followed by Canada, Britain and Australia.

UNHCR officials say the U.S. quota of 1,500 Vietnamese per month is expected to remain in effect through September, when a decision will be made on whether to extend it.

Britain, which is about 500 people away from fulfilling an 11,000-person quota established in 1979, has not yet set a new figure, the UNHCR spokesman said.

By the end of April, the United States had accepted about 35,000 Vietnamese refugees for immigration, the UNHCR said.

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