Lyman Museum to Host Second Pierce Photography Exhibit in 2016

The John Howard Pierce Photograph Collection will be featured in a special exhibit opening May 20, 2016 and running through the remainder of the year. This will be the second exhibit of Pierce photographs that have been identified by the community.

Pierce, who worked for the Hawaii Tribune-Herald from 1951 to 1968, became the curator of the Lyman Museum upon his retirement. He was an avid photographer, taking thousands of photographs of Hawaii Island from his arrival in 1950 until his death in 1979. The importance of the collection lies in the period it covers—those years immediately before and after Statehood, Hilo’s economic development and tourism boom, and a burgeoning Hawaiian renaissance.

Museum Archivist Hannah Loo has been working with the Hawaii Tribune-Herald, submitting a Pierce photograph each week for publication, and asking the community’s help in identifying the people, places, and events in the photos. The annotated photographs in this exhibit demonstrate the success of this collaborative effort. The exhibit will offer a unique chance for local visitors to recognize a piece of their past, and for first-time and seasoned travelers to view Hawaii through a historical lens. Well worth a visit!

MEMBERS’ OPENING AND RECEPTION:

John Howard Pierce

WHERE: LYMAN MUSEUM & MISSION HOUSE
WHEN: MAY 19, 2016 • 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
RSVP: BY MAY 12, 2016 • CALL 935-5021

YOU’RE INVITED!
PLEASE RSVP!

Click here to RSVP!

Upcoming event:
A Singular Man of Hawaii'i
On April 11, the Museum’s Saigo Public Program Series will have the special honor of hosting a truly exceptional man of our community—and a natural-born raconteur. He was born on August 21, 1920 in Pāhala. Now known as Roy C. Wilson, he was originally named after his father, Shotaro Suzuki, who was a Japanese immigrant laborer. His mother was Violet Grace Kahuloa Wilson, of Hawaiian/haole descent.

The elder Shotaro Suzuki arrived on Hawai‘i Island when he was just twelve years old, going to work on the plantation in Pāhala with a group of Hawaiian boys who taught him the Hawaiian language over time. Some of those boys’ fathers were employed by Kapāpala Ranch. Shotaro fell in love with the paniolo life and moved on to work there, eventually acquiring a string of twenty ponies.

In 1925 Shotaro Senior became ill and the family moved to Kalapana where his maternal grandparents, the Kama family, took them in until 1926. The family then moved to Kamā‘ili and stayed in William Kama‘u’s house. There Shotaro Junior attended school from age nine to fifteen. He and his family lived in Kamā‘ili until 1930, planting taro, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin, with breadfruit trees for subsistence. In his words, the ocean was the “icebox” that supplied the family with fish, limu, and shellfish.

At age fifteen, the young Shotaro Suzuki went to work for the Hawaii Development Corporation until he was seventeen and had attained the position of railroad trackman. A friend then suggested they try for jobs in the new Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the next day found them on the train to Hilo where they were to apply.

Though he was technically too young for the Corps, they accepted him and sent him to the Volcanoes National Park, where he learned masonry and carpentry. He earned $30 a month, $20 of which went to his mother, leaving him $10 spending money with room and board and clothing provided. In 1938 he went to Haleakalā National Park where he continued his CCC work.

Shotaro Junior’s next job was a stint at Maui Pineapple, after which a friend at home informed him that the railroad was hiring. He started there in 1938 as a gandydancer (a slang term used for early railroadworkers who laid and maintained track in the years before the work was done by machines). He quickly advanced to become a passenger train brakeman on the Hawaii Consolidated Railroad.

He spent the next eight years working on the railroad until the April 1946 tsunami devastated Hilo and destroyed the coastal railroad facilities there. Having lived through all these experiences, "Uncle Roy" Wilson emerged at the still-youthful age of 25. Now, seventy years later, we have invited him to the Museum to share this exciting beginning of his life story. Please join us in honoring the experiences and adventures of this unique man, with a memory sharp as a tack and a tale for every occasion! Don’t miss “Trackman, Brakeman, Gandydancer: One Man’s Work on Hawai‘i’s Railroads (1935-1946).”

PATRICIA E. SAIGO PUBLIC PROGRAM SERIES
Spring 2016

April 11, 2016, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Trackman, Brakeman, Gandydancer: One Man’s Work on Hawai‘i’s Railroads (1935-1946)

April 18, 2016, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Puka Mai he Ko‘a: Why Does Coral Health Matter to the People of Hawai‘i?
Annual Membership Meeting Held January 28, 2016

The membership meeting held on a warm January evening was sparsely attended by a few devoted Museum members.

The food was fantastic and those who showed up had a lovely time meeting and greeting one another on the grounds of the Museum.

Mahalo nui to our wonderful volunteers!

Pepe Arguy
Dale Dinsmore
Patricia Engelhard
Robert Gacutan
Brandon Haleamau
Terri Maguire
Kahealani Martins
Mary Alice Matsumoto
Bruce McClure
Sharon Midallia
Elizabeth Mulliken
Harold and Jane Uyeno
Mike and Irene Wegmann

Pierce Photograph Collection Identification Project

This is the twentieth in a series of images from the Pierce Collection that we are sharing with our members in The Journal. This photo was taken on May 30, 1963. We have no further description. If you can identify anyone in this photo, please contact Hannah Loo at 935-5021 or e-mail her at archives@lymanmuseum.org. Mahalo!
Ni‘ihau shell jewelry making workshop

Master Kumu Kele Kanahele demonstrating the art of Ni‘ihau shell jewelry making at a recent workshop (left). Kumu Kele Kanahele and his students (right).

Ikebana Examination

Go Green!

Go Green and sign up for our E-Newsletter.

Email membership@lymanmuseum.org or sign up online to remove yourself from our printed mailing list and help us save hundreds of dollars each year in postage and printing costs.

Did you know the Lyman Museum can also be found on social media? We’ve got over 700 followers on Facebook and 180 on our new Twitter account already! Are you following us yet?

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