

## A GLIMPSE INTO KAHALA'S PAST

In many ways Kahala today bears little resemblance to the Kahala we moved into in the last few days of 1939. As newly-weds, we rented a small cottage on Kealaolu Avenue, but two years later purchased a home a block away where we have lived for over 60 years. . This was semi-rural, sometimes referred to as the "last street within the city limits." Beyond us was real country only sparsely settled.

Some of the main features are still the same: the golf course, the beach and Waialae, Kahala, Aukai and Kealaolu Avenues. Farmers Road was aptly named. It was a narrow country road that meandered from Kealaolu toward Diamond Head through a forested area dotted with vegetable farmers, pig raisers, a riding academy with stables, a mango orchard, Doris Duke's hydroponic vegetable-growing structures and even a hula studio. Near the Kealaolu end was the Taylor chicken farm where on Sunday mornings we bought our weekly supply of fresh eggs and broiler halves, and exchanged greetings and gossip with neighbors.

There really wasn't much traffic. I don't remember seeing many trucks or tour buses or motorcycles. But Kealaolu was on the bus line. The city bus from Waikiki turned off Kahala Avenue and traveled mauka on Kealaolu to Waialae, and makai on Kealaolu on the return trip to Waikiki.

On Waialae Avenue between Kealaolu and what is now Hunakai, were a number of small shops. There were two grocery stores, Okada and Afuso, one at each end of the block. I remember a barber shop and a feed store (bird and animal feed) but the rest have faded from memory. People on their way to the country beyond us, often stopped to pick up lunch at Joe Fatt's Barbeque on the mauka side of Waialae near Kealaolu. I distinctly remember a glass-enclosed area where you could watch the meat turning on a spit as it cooked.

There was no school, no bank, no post office, no doctor, no dentist, no shopping mall, no hotel, no church.

World War II brought the first noticeable changes. The trappings of war were everywhere including a small army camp on the golf course about where the caddy house now sits. The beach was closed off with barbed wire. A large tract of the forest behind the row

