

MATSON NAVIGATION COMPANY

215 MARKET STREET
SAN FRANCISCO - CALIFORNIA

Miss Marjorie Polon
110 West 96th Street
New York City. New York.

S.S. LURLINE
Leaving Honolulu. TH
January 26th 1940.

Hello Margy:

Three guesses and I still bet you don't know who this is, so to save you a lot of trouble I'll tell you, its Bill Bailey you know the guy that had dinner at your house after I made the trip around the world and got off in New York. Well I was terribly sorry I had to made my trip so short while at your house, but I had a million and one things to do and that was the way it was.

I'm now on the SS Lurline, Flagship of the Matson Fleet, running down the Pacific to the Hawaiian Islands. One thing about this South Pacific Run to the islands, is that its always swimming weather out at Waikiki, but for the life of a seamen there's not much swimming to be done, as we are in Honolulu on a Wednesday at noon and sail Friday Noon, so with work from eight in the AM to five at night you can see that there isn't much time to visit the hot sopts. (that should be spots).

We took down about 600 people, and are returning with 300 that have been in the islands for quite a while. Before I left the United States for Spain, I was 6 months down here doing orgahizational work in thás "Paradise of the Pacific", and I don'txkx need to tell you whom it is a Paradise for.

There are I believe about five islands in this group. Producing mostly sugar cane, pineapples, and some tropical fruits. Honolulu, the city is located on the island called Oahu, pronounced Waa who. They are very pretty, with its big rolling surf beaches, its back-ground of Volcanos and palm trees. And as I said the weather is al-way ideal summer, great for swimming and a natural summer playground.

The people are a mixture of all races, the early inhabitants are those of the Polynesian people from islands like the Bali Bali, Guam, Java etc. Peace loving people, In the arly days when the so called grass shacks, and the hula girls were history or on the verge of making history, a group of Missionaries came to the islands from the United States, and with one hand gave the people a Bible and with the other took the islands away from them, and since the period the islands have been in the hands of reactionary intersts, that have been bleeding the people hand and foot.

Five big corporations whose names are dispised on the lips of every work^ain the islands are in complete command of every spark of life both politically and economically. If you were to ask the most ignorant person in any of the islands down here, as to who controls the islands, even tho they would not be able to s speak one word of english, they would put up there hand and show you that the big five are the ones.

Thru a number of years we were able to do a little orgainizing among the peöple here, and now there are anumber of small but important unions here that are slowly but surely meeting all workers.

Well I guess thats all I can say about the islands, for the moment.

How is things in general in New York, whats your opinion of the war, any ideas on it. And besides if you're not to busy how about a letter or two, or maybe three. If you drop me a line I will promise to let you know all the developments within the Oriente, and South acific, if you will likewise supply me the dope on things around your sector of the woods.

Well Marge, give my regards to your family.

Love.

Bill.

William Bailey
58 Commercial St
San Francisco, Cal.

*And lets know what you've
been doing for the past
year.*

B.