



Sharing girl scouts stories of hawai`i

GIRL SCOUTS FOR A CENTURY

Before the First World War, Honolulu was a great town for parades. When Mother was a Girl Scout, aged ten, she marched at mid-day in a parade from Thomas Square to Kalakaua Avenue, and along Kalakaua Avenue to Kapi`olani Park. The girls wore heavy khaki-colored uniforms, with stiff Army felt hats. Mother's Aunt Agnes Judd, Girl Scout Commissioner, strode at the head of the troops. "No one dreamed of dropping out - or fainting!" Mother remarked.

Somehow Aunt Agnes saw to it that **Mother was the first child to be enrolled in the brand new Girl Scout organization.** Hilda Von Holt was captain of the troop and her sister Katherine was lieutenant. The troop colors were maroon and yellow, the color of the hau blossom, which was the troop flower. Mother greatly enjoyed being a Girl Scout, and ended her scouting career as a second-class scout with two merit badges, for Art and Music. Her granddaughter Suzi Bond, a former Girl Scout, has custody of all but two of the oil paintings that won the Art award.

World War II began when I was 9. So many families sent Mama and the kids to the mainland "for the duration" that the remaining women, who would in peacetime have been Girl Scout leaders, were too busy doing "war work" to function in that capacity. So I never got to be a Girl Scout, although **Martha, my younger sister, came of Girl Scout age** when the war was over and the families were reunited. Much later, **I was for a time a member of "Gals in Green," a bowling group begun by present and former Girl Scout leaders.**

But my kids made up for it. My oldest, Caroline Bond (now Davis), was on the Girl Scout board and was one of four women who laid out the requirements for the Girl Scout Hawaiiana badge. Until very recently, **Caroline (her camp name is "Quarter Pint") was head cook for the Girl Scout camp at Paumalu** on weekends: menu-planning, shopping, cooking, and cleaning up.

Caroline's daughter, now **Jessica Tope, received the Gold Award (equivalent to the Boy Scouts' Eagle designation) for a Hawaiiana program** she designed and produced at Paumalu.

Two other daughters, **Suzi and Sally Bond, were Girl Scouts also. I remember Sally bustling around my kitchen making "Pickle Plaid Hamburgers" after her Brownie troop visited the Hawaiian Electric kitchen.** Girl Scouts weren't happening at their school by the time the youngest, Betsy, came along, so she was a Bluebird for a year or two with the Campfire Girls.

And although he never made it past Cub Scout, son Boyd Bond worked for a time for the BSA Aloha Council. Much later (in this century) he, his wife Becky, and their two sons were named Scouting Family of the Year for North Hawai`i. He is now Scoutmaster of Troop 56 in Kohala.

In 1991, a parade celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Girl Scouts in Hawaii took off from Fort DeRussy in Waikiki and processed down Kalakaua Avenue to Kapi`olani Park. It was greatly enlivened by the presence of two or three truckloads of Marines, just back from Kuwait. The daughters of some of them arrived at the rally point singing "From the Halls of Montezuma" at the top of their lungs (and the top of the scale!).

Notably also, a convertible carried Dora Derby (1), Dora's daughter Martha McDaniel (2), and the aforementioned Caroline (3), and Jessica (4): **FOUR generations of Girl Scouts in Hawaii, starting with the very first one.**

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