Faculty Member Teaches In Hawaiian Interlude

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Faculty Member Teaches
In Hawaiian Interlude

June Welch tells of Dr. Chittenden's work in Hawaii at a workshop for pre-school teachers.

Practically everything stops in Honolulu when boats arrive and depart. Waving crowds gather at the docks to greet the travelers.

Dr. Gertrude Chittenden, head of the Department of Child Development, viewed the colorful panorama of boat day on her trip to Hawaii last summer. Dr. Chittenden's destination was the beautiful University of Hawaii in Honolulu where a workshop for teachers of pre-school children was held. As an instructor, Dr. Chittenden helped the native teachers who attended the school gain a better understanding of young children.

Special interest groups covering creative arts, speech and language, children's food, music and rhythm, and social and emotional behavior were held each morning. The student-teacher spent an hour and a half at the two groups which most appealed to her. In the afternoon, a general meeting was conducted at which the 75 teachers had an opportunity to bring up their problems. Lectures and panel discussions also constituted an important part in the workshop's program.

At the University's nursery school the teachers were able to put their knowledge into practice. Children attending the school were from 2 to 7 years of age, chosen so that there was the same proportion of races in the school as in Hawaii itself. Although there were Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Hawaiian, Caucasian and children of mixed nationalities represented, they...
all liked to play the same games and sing the same songs as pre-school children on the mainland.

Besides the routine of study in the workshop, a social program was planned for the student-teachers and instructors. The Japanese and Chinese parties, the moonlight sail and the trip around Oahu island were especially entertaining.

Dr. Chittenden was privileged to attend a typical Hawaiian luau or feast. The luau was held in honor of a father who had just returned from the service and his son who was celebrating his third birthday. Gathered at the host's sugar plantation were about 100 friends, relatives and neighbors. The tables were laid with ti leaves for runners and were located under a thatched roof which the men of the community had built especially for the luau. The menu consisted of roast pig and sweet potatoes, poi, dried fish, long rice and chicken, raw crab, salmon and other kinds of fish, rice balls and fresh pineapple. Poi, a gelatinous food made as porridge, was eaten with the fingers and was greatly relished by all the Hawaiians. Poi is difficult and expensive to obtain now because the taro plants are no longer grown in large quantities. The whole pig and the potatoes had been roasted in a pit on live coals for 3 hours.

The 20 children who were there to celebrate Mike's birthday, ate sandwiches, salad, ice cream and birthday cake from a table about twelve inches off the ground.

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