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Volcano Hospitality

By Gayle Olson

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Kilauea volcano has for quite some time has enticed and fascinated visitors. Since the mid-1800s, The Volcano House Hotel has sat on the edge of Kilauea caldera. Between the years of 1865-1955 the hotel maintained a register which has recorded the experience and wonder of Pele's domain. A lesson in geology and human nature, the amusing entries chronicle the lengths an adventurer might go to experience a natural wonder.

The guest book first appeared in 1865. Volcano house was no more than a grass hut when O.H. Gluck donated the first blank guest book.

Travelers and passerby are requested by the donor of this book to record their names in it and to note all, or any, volcanic phenomena that may come under their notice during their stay at the time of their visit. By so doing, this record may become of great value, some years hence, to the scientific world...
O.H. Gulick, 2 Feb 1865

In 1865 Volcano House was located between two active volcanoes, Kilauea and Mauna Loa. As there was no official observatory at the time, Gulick proposed the original log book would be a means to record volcanic activity. The Volcano House eventually became a hotel which was rebuilt over the years. As one logbook was filled a new register was donated.

In 1866 an improved hotel was constructed by Julius Richardson of frame, bamboo and thatch. There was a furnished parlor, a fireplace, and two sleeping rooms.

Having visited Kilauea in the days when the old shed with its open door and hole in the center, for a fireplace, were all the accommodation for poor weary chilled travelers; how great is our appreciation and admiration of the present delightful dwelling which well deserves the name of hotel. Well may Madame Pele now light up her fires and advertise for visitors since she can receive them with hospitality.

M.A. Chamberlain, Honolulu, 19 July 1866

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In 1877, William H. Lentz was hired to assist in building an improved hotel. he took over as proprietor until 1883. The 1877 building now houses the Volcano Art Center.

The management of the Volcano House is second to none in the kingdom, and could be well copied by a house in Honolulu of far greater pretensions. I reckon that all who come here will be pleased, the combination of a cool atmosphere, a genial host, a table thoroughly supplied with various delicacies which could not be expected here and last though not least good beds and warm fires make it a place where one would like to remain for a week.

signature illegible, Louisiana, 6 Dec 1882

In 1883 O.T. Shipman took over managing the hotel until 1885. Guests were pleased with the new management. However, the main attraction continued to be Madame Pele.

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

The Great Craters

OF HALE-MAU-MAU and KALEAU!

Billows of liquid fire!

Waves of molten lava!!

Fiery fountains!!!

UNPARALLELED

PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS!!!!

Day and Night

Goddess Pele, Proprietress

Geo. D. Dorrin, Berkeley, Cal., 19-21 April 1884

In 1885 the Volcano House came under the new ownership of the "Wilder Steamship Company," with John Maby as manager.

I came to the Volcano House for the benefit of my health and must say that the climate, the comfortable and clean beds, the good well prepared food, the sulfur baths and the kind treatment I have received at the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Maby have made me feel like a new man. I can not help but feel surprised that people from Honolulu especially and the different islands also don't come here to the Volcano House when they need a rest, because everything that can be done for them is certainly done by the manager and his good lady. Only regret is that Madame Pele was not at home when we called on her, but the grand and awe inspiring sights we saw repaid us quite for any hardships we had to go through, if any, on our return home. The weather during the time I have been here has not been such as one would call favorable but the open hearted welcome which I invariably received after a tramp in the surrounding woods has always cheered me up.

John G. Eckardt, 24 Jan 1887

1891 saw new owners, the Volcano House Company. A new and larger hotel was constructed under the direction of George A. Howard. The new manager of the house was Peter Lee, he ran the Volcano House until 1898.

Four A.M. visited crater. Twenty-eight fountains were playing. Combined light from lanterns and crater

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formed an awe inspiring sight. Visitors are strongly recommended to visit Madame Pele by night. Mr. Lee's opposition may be overcome by strategy. Hide lamps and sticks in your beds.
no signature, 2 April 1894

In 1898, Fred Waldron took over management of Volcano House for about two years.

We made a trip to the crater by day and one by night – both of which were interesting. At night the cracks burned a fiery red and we amused ourselves cooking eggs, baking bananas and burning sticks. We went into the hot cone and felt the heat of 130 degrees, and charmed by the interesting wonders and moonlight, almost forgot to come back – so, much to our surprise when we were coming through the moonlit forest of ferns we met a search party – fearful that the edge had caved in and that we were no more. The relief of our host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. Waldron) at our return, was shown in a very charming midnight repast and a hot crackling wood fire.
Mrs., Edith Maling, 19 June 1902

After Mr. Waldron left, St. Clair Bidgood became manager until 1904.

For snow capped mountain peaks, rugged rocks, fiery pits, bracing air, complete cuisine, good service and the most congenial of hosts, visit the Volcano House.
C.K. Maguire, Manila P.I., 5 July 1904

In 1904 George Lycurgus and his nephew Demosthenes Lycurgus arrived to manage the hotel. Demosthenes ran the Volcano House between 1905 and 1919.

For the admirer of the marvelous; for the lover of Nature in one of her most picturesque garbs; for the seeker after health for the bob-vivant; for the botanist, the geologist, and the seismologist; here is to be found something or other to interest, to enjoy, and to satisfy. Singular must be the human being who cannot be happy amidst such charming surroundings.
Edward Armitage, Palikani, 2 Dec 1905

In 1919 Demosthenes went to Greece for a visit and Peter Anastasopoulos took over as manager. While in Greece Demosthenes became ill and died in 1921. The Inter-Island Steamship Company then gained control of Volcano House and made extensive alterations. Peter T. Phillips managed for awhile, and was replaced in 1923 by Channing J. Lovejoy who managed until 1927.

I shall remember my days here with great pleasure. The first time in traveling (India, China, Japan) I have been able to sit in the woods, enjoy peacefully the birds, the ferns. It reminds me of my own Dorset homeland. Beautiful Hawaii.
Wm. George, Dorset, England, 28 Aug 1927

Mr. and Mrs. James N. Gandy ran the Volcano House from 1927 to 1932.

The most spectacular sight I ever hope to see – came to spend a weekend, decided to stay two weeks.
Clare Bennett, 27 July 1929

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No better comforts. No better scenery and atmosphere. A home within a hotel.
Lady Florence, 10 May 1931

Only two years after the Inter–Island Company purchased and invested \$150,000 in renovations in the hotel Halemaumau ceased activity. Revenues fell due to fewer visitors. The Volcano House went into receivership following the depression, stock market crash and financial difficulties. At a sheriff's sale in 1932, George Lycurgus became owner of the hotel once more. The only bidder he purchased Volcano House for \$300.

The Volcano House became world famous, partly because of the unique location and beautiful country and partly because of Mr. Lycurgus himself.

The Volcano House and Hawaiian National Park is indeed a garden of Eden in Paradise. The exterior and interior of the Volcano House has all the sophistication of the most deluxe Hotel in the world, and yet, by the flickering firelight encircling the cheery hearth, you will find the happy family attitude of a small abode. The engaging smile of welcome and true hospitality, from the most pleasing countenance of Mr. George Lycurgus, greets you each morning, noon and evening. To me this gorgeous spot is like "love" – to describe it makes it but the less. It is something we feel yet can not define. It is something we know, yet can not express.

Fay Frances King, Honolulu, no date

In 1940 a fire in the kitchen ignited the entire hotel and everything within the hotel was lost. The 1877 building was spared and made into a temporary hotel. By 1941, Lycurgus had built a new hotel, the Volcano House which still stands today.

Related Internet Resources:

<http://aloha.150m.com/volcanohouse.htm>

Can Buying Groups Save You Money?

By Paul Joseph Buisson

Let me give you a brief history of Group Purchasing Organizations (GPO). They have been around for decades. Do you know what types of businesses get the best pricing on all of the goods and services they purchase? The answer is healthcare facilities. Do you know why? I'll tell you. Nearly any healthcare facility in the nation that is making a profit belongs to a buying group. The average healthcare facility belongs to two GPOs . Thousands of facilities join together to negotiate contracts with their vendors. Vendors aggressively compete to get awarded the group's contracts. As a result each group member saves money on everything they purchase. Annual membership fees range from \$250.00 – \$20,000.00. The concept is slowly evolving into other industries. Today there are National GPOs for Universities, Engineers, Cable Television/Satellite Installers and one for Small & Medium Size Companies. Smaller GOPs have formed at the regional, state and local level for a variety of industries.

Pros and Cons of the National GPOs

The benefit to the national buying groups is that their size gives them the volume to negotiate bigger discounts with national vendors. But there are many problems with the national buying groups. They have gotten greedy and charge their vendors ever-increasing percentage of their revenues generated by their members. This reduces the amount of the discounts offered to their members. The national GPOs do not backup their annual membership fee with a money back guarantee on member's savings. Some of these GPOs force their members to use their vendors exclusively. This has caused a backlash against GPO's because members maybe forced to use vendors that offer poor products and services.

Pros and Cons of the Smaller GPO's

With the exception of a few state GPO's most non-national GPOs are local. A group of businesses in a city in a particular industry get together and form a GPO. The advantage is that each member has say in the vendors that are selected by the GPO. The other advantage is that the GPO is free. The problem is that a few dozen members of a local GPO don't have the purchasing power to receive really big discounts from vendors. To get any decent level of volume all of the members are forced to use the same vendors exclusively. Thus the members do not have total freedom to select their vendors. The other major problem it that it takes lots of time and coordination by the members to manage the GPO.

There is One National GPO for Small Business That is FREE!

The Hospitality Buying Group,

www.hospitality-buying-group.com

, is a national buying group for any

small & medium size business that has a totally FREE lifetime membership. Unlike all other GPOs, the Hospitality Buying Group does not charge their vendors any fees or commissions on purchases made by their members. Don't let the name fool you! The focus of this GPO started in the hospitality industry, but so many non-hospitality vendors started participating in this GPO that any small business

would be able to use any number of the hospitality buying group vendors. Members have total freedom of using the GPO vendors or using their own vendors. The founder of this buying group was the committee chairman for a health care GPO for six years. This GPO is a value-added service for customers of several GPO vendors. To get a FREE lifetime membership to the Hospitality Buying Group all you need to do is email customer service at

questions@hospitality-buying-group.com

and tell

Volcano Hospitality

them you are considering becoming a customer of DHL Shipping Services or CFOToday Payroll Services. Provide your name, company name, street address, phone number and fax number in the email and you will be added to the Hospitality Buying Group database. You can then immediately start contacting the Hospitality Buying Group vendors of your choice and get access to the GPO discounts.

When selecting a GPO consider the cost of membership, vendor selection, how long they have been in business, and if you are forced to use their vendors. For small and medium size businesses the Hospitality Buying Group is a good no risk approach to get familiar with a GPO.

Paul Joseph Buisson

I was the committee chairman for six years for one of the largest healthcare buying groups in the southeast. For the past four years I've been president of the only FREE national buying group dedicated to small business. I have 12 years in healthcare management and six of those years were at the department head level. Feel free to republish this article.

questions@hospitality-buying-group.com



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