

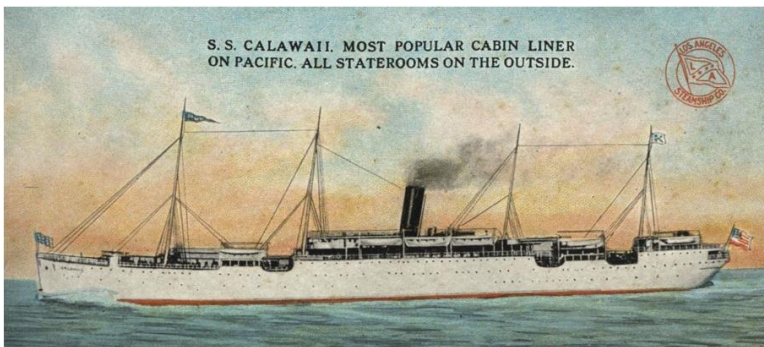
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Aloha

Myral and Loa were a very social and very active couple. They immediately immersed themselves in all the musical, cultural, and Mormon spheres on the Island. Most evenings were spent away from home with friends in interesting places. Even after they had their first child, their adventures didn't slow down much.

Journey to Hawaii

Once they said goodbye to all their friends and family in Utah and Idaho, Myral and Loa drove all the way to Wilmington, California—a ship docking area directly west of Long Beach where Loa had spent the most fun year of her childhood. It is possible that before they boarded the ship to Hawaii, Loa showed Myral her family's old duplex and took him to the amusement park on the dock where her favorite roller coaster had just been replaced with a new one. They may have ridden on it once or twice before leaving their car and luggage at the dock to be loaded onto the ship.



Sometime before the ship's departing whistles blew on August 23rd 1930, Myral and Loa boarded their first ocean liner—the S.S. Calawaii.¹ They scuttled through the ship's corridors, looking for their home for the next two weeks: Room 137, berths 1 and 2.²

Before the S.S. Calawaii, all Hawaii-bound travel was through San Francisco, but with the establishment of the Los Angeles Steamship Company in 1920, LA soon became a major port as well. The Los Angeles Steamship Company prided itself on its stylish ships and its celebrity

passengers, which made the whole sailing experience glamorous for the Clarks and all other passengers. In fact, the Calawaii was so glamorous that just two years after the Clarks' journey, Warner Brothers movie studios chartered the ship for a week to film "One Way Passage" on it.³

On the ship's info pamphlet, we read "The S.S. Calawaii is recognized as one of the steadiest and most popular of passenger steamships on the Pacific. Passengers on this ship constantly comment upon the spirit of sociability which prevails; the happy hours spent in dancing and



Loa and Myral onboard the Calawaii to Hawaii

in great variety of deck sports; the excellence of the service; and the particularly comfortable passenger accommodations."⁴ The ship had a large music room, a ladies' lounge, a writing nook, a smoking room, general lounges, and two dining saloons.

Both Myral and Loa, having been born and raised in Utah and Idaho, had never before been on a ship like this. Imagine their excitement as they left the dock, sailing towards an exotic island, not knowing when they'd see their farms or their families again. What an adventure!

Myral, the diligent note-taker, was clearly amazed by this ship, as he wrote all sorts of facts about it on his copy of the Calawaii's Passenger List: it costs \$30,000 per month to operate, 9,000 barrels of oil carried, 390 barrels used in a day, 330 passengers and 220 tourists, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick metal, 2 wheels & 3 propellers on a wheel, wheel is 15 ft. in diameter and weighs 8 tons.⁵

During the afternoon of Friday, August 29th, six days into their journey, there was a "Gymkhana Programme" on board ship. The events were as follows: a potato race for kids, a bean race for ladies, a potato race for men, nail driving for ladies, pie eating for children, bottle stepping for men, shoe fitting for ladies, 100 yard dash for men, and Tug of War for the men versus the ladies.⁶

While sailing across the Pacific, Myral and Loa met the incoming LDS mission president of Hawaii, Castle Murphy, and his wife, Verna. What interesting people they were. Back in 1909 to 1913, the Murphys had served a mission in Hawaii, departing just two weeks after getting married. They were currently on their way back to Hawaii to serve as the president and matron of both the Hawaiian mission and the Laie temple. Myral and Loa were enthralled as they listened to the Murphys recount incredible stories from their mission to the Islands twenty years ago. That must have gotten them so excited to become a part of the growing Church in Hawaii.⁷



The Clarks (right) with the Murphys (center with leis)

While on board, Myral and Loa shared their musical talents with the other passengers; Myral played the piano and Loa sang. For the Masquerade Ball one evening, Myral dressed as a little boy and Loa as a Japanese lady. During the voyage there was also a shuffleboard tournament in which Myral performed quite well and entered the finals. Truly, Myral and Loa had a marvelous time during their eight day passage on the Calawaii. Whatever feelings of anxiety or homesickness they may have felt were temporarily forgotten. Myral wrote in his diary, “We hate to have the time pass.”⁸

The land that Myral and Loa were approaching was like a different planet from the land they were leaving behind. The average temperature year-round in Honolulu was 70 degrees, whereas in McCammon the temperature ranged yearly from 20 degrees to 90 degrees. Light rain showers occurred frequently in Honolulu, thus creating an average 60% humidity—a sensation the Clarks had hardly experienced in the American

West. Furthermore, Hawaii's population of just 360,000 was extremely diverse. In 1930, over half of the population was Japanese or Filipino immigrants. The rest were native Hawaiians, Chinese, Puerto Rican, and just 13% of the islanders were white like the Clarks.⁹ What a different make-up than Idaho.



Loa and Myral fresh off the boat in Hawaii

Aloha

On August 30th, after eight joyful days on board the S.S. Calawaii, they pulled into the Honolulu harbor. Imagine their delight when they saw the lush tropical vegetation, the heavenly beaches, and the towering volcano, Diamond Head, in the distance. At the dock, lei-makers stood with their arms draped in freshly made leis to sell to people welcoming passengers on the arriving ship. Carl and Charmion Hancey, the friends who encouraged the Clarks to come to Hawaii, were standing at the dock



The Royal Hawaiian Hotel, the famous pink hotel on Waikiki Beach

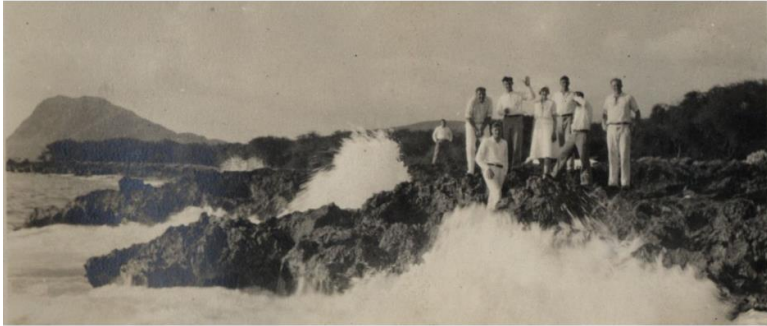
when the Calawaii arrived. They found Myral and Loa as they disembarked and piled their shoulders with fresh leis. The Hanceys took the Clarks to their apartment and cut up a fresh pineapple. Loa fondly remembers everyone eating it over the sink with the juices running down their arms.¹⁰ Afterwards, they stopped by the brand new and bright pink Royal Hawaiian Hotel right on Waikiki Beach to hear Hawaiian music.¹¹

The Clarks quickly found a temporary place to live alongside the beach. What a time they had adjusting to the frequent rain, the roaring



Myral (left) and friends on Waikiki Beach on Christmas Day 1930. What a change from snowy Utah and Idaho.

ocean nearby, and the new wildlife that often crept into their homes. On their fourth day in Hawaii, Myral noted, “We must not kill any more lizards for they eat mosquitoes and other bad bugs.”¹² But living next to the beach had its perks. They frequently swam—often just before dinner. Myral said of his first time in the water, “We had our first swim today. I got a mouth and a nose full of salt water.”¹³



Exploring the coast, 1930

They wasted no time familiarizing themselves with all things Hawaiian. Within the first month, the Clarks went to a Hawaiian wedding and tasted poi, played tennis, and saw pageants with costumes and hula dances. The “Utah Crowd” in Honolulu warmly embraced the two new Mormons from McCammon. They had many picnics on the beach which the Clarks attended. Despite moving away from dear friends and loved ones, the Clarks were so active with their new friends that Myral had to remark one night in his diary, “We spent a quiet evening at home for a change.”¹⁴

A more permanent residence was found after two months. Myral and Loa moved to apartment G at McKinley Court on Dec 1, 1930. They enjoyed their neighbors and the fresh fruit that grew right outside their windows.



The Clarks with bananas outside their McKinley Court apartment, 1931

School and Music

For the fourteen years they lived in Hawaii, Myral taught school during the day and played music in various dance bands at night. Loa was a part-time substitute teacher in between having children, and she sang in a vocal group on the side. It was the perfect arrangement.



Opening coconuts with Kalakaua students, 1930

Myral's original teaching offer was at Kalakaua Junior High School. He led the bands and orchestras there and taught several English classes, in which he directed more plays. He also went on field trips to harvest coconuts and to learn about the history of Hawaii.



Myral (2nd from left) and the Advanced Kalakaua Band and Orchestra, 1931

It was a great fit, but after one year, Myral discovered another teaching position that would be a 23% pay raise from \$1560 a year, to \$1920 a year. In 1932 Myral joined the faculty at Honolulu Vocational School. HVS was a school where local youth learned trade skills like sewing and



Myral teaching at Honolulu Vocational School, 1944

mechanics. Each graduating class had about 60 students in it—roughly 15 of them female. Myral taught English, Social Studies, and led the band and glee clubs.¹⁵ Occasionally all the students were sent to work in the campus shops, so his non-shop classes were cancelled.¹⁶ Myral also was the lead



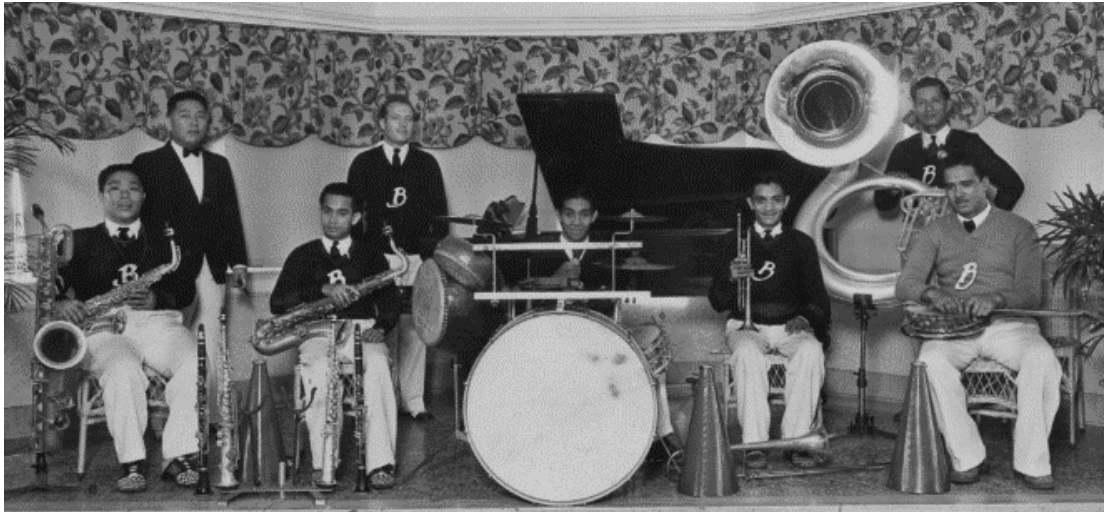
Myral led the Honolulu Vocational School Boy's Chorus

teacher for the yearbook and the school newspaper, the *Artisan*. He sometimes took these journalistic-minded students to tour the Hawaiian Advertiser newspaper printing and radio departments.

Within days of arriving on the island, Loa found work as a substitute teacher. As she taught the native Hawaiian children, she was enamored by their pidgin English, which she couldn't understand.¹⁷ Loa also tutored students in proper English at their homes.¹⁸ Besides teaching, Loa also worked for a few years at Central Market¹⁹ on Beretania Street—across from the future LDS tabernacle.²⁰ Shoppers found all sorts of wares at the Central Market, including local food, bundled flowers, and colorful

fabrics. Records don't reveal what Loa did there, but she must have had a wonderful time immersing herself in the local culture.

Three summers into their stay in Hawaii, Myral enrolled at the University of Hawaii and the School of Pacific and Oriental Affairs.²¹ He took a few classes to sharpen his teaching skills and to increase his salary.



Myral (at piano) with Biggy's Young Hotel Orchestra in 1930

Hawaii was a popular vacation destination for the rich and famous. Celebrities and politicians stayed at the luxurious hotels on the gorgeous beaches. The tourists and the locals loved to listen to live music at these hotels and they danced until the early hours of the morning. Myral desired greatly to be a part of this exciting musical sphere. Less than a year after arriving on the Island, Myral was selected to play with Biggy's Orchestra at the Young Hotel's Roof Garden—one of Hawaii's most fashionable social venues. He began in April 1931 and immediately got busy with rehearsing the latest dance hits.²² Myral and the group played at the Young Hotel throughout the week and always on weekends, as well as golf courses, other hotels, parks, and at radio stations.

As the years went by, Myral's reputation grew and he played all over the island with many different bands. In his 1936 diary alone, Myral wrote about playing at the Venice Cage and the Phoenix Club; he also played with Geo Siegler & his band, the Abel Sonya Orchestra, Sam Alama's Melody Boys, and Blair's Cotton Pickers Orchestra. He loved that

his piano playing was the means of introducing him into many different social circles.²³

In addition to hotel dance bands, Myral played piano and organ for his church. He knew many of the organists from other church denominations in town and enjoyed visiting with them. He played at funerals, at a few Masonic Temple ceremonies, and at many high school commencement exercises that the LDS church hosted in their building.²⁴ Clearly, Myral's reputation as a great pianist was known all over the island, and he was in great demand.

Loa, who had a lovely voice, performed for many years with the Honolulu Lyric Ensemble. They frequently performed at the Academy of Art building in town. Loa was part of the ensemble from about March 1932 to about 1941. Loa loved performing with this group and in 1939, she was their treasurer.



Loa with the Lyric Ensemble, 1941

The Church in Hawaii

Since Apostle Charles C. Rich called the first LDS missionaries to the islands in late 1850, the Church had grown steadily among the Hawaiian people. The first branch was established after just 10 months on Maui. By 1854 Church membership was over 4,000 in over 50 branches, The Book of Mormon had been translated into Hawaiian, and many prominent Hawaiian leaders had become leaders in the local Church.²⁵

In 1865, the Church bought 6,000 acres of land in Laie for \$14,000 to be used for farming and the temporal welfare of the Saints. President Joseph F. Smith felt prompted during a visit there in 1915 to dedicate the land for a temple. The completed Laie Temple was dedicated by President Heber J. Grant on November 27, 1919. It was the first temple built outside

the continental United States. Only four working temples were completed before the Laie temple: St. George, Logan, Manti, and Salt Lake.²⁶



The Laie Hawaii Temple, 1930

In the 1930s, Loa and Myral were witness to more exciting growth in the local Church. They both became very involved in the developments and contributed much to the growth and sustaining of the Waikiki Ward. During their fourteen years there, Loa was the kindergarten class teacher, the youth music director, the second counselor in the Stake Primary Presidency, and the ward choir director.²⁷ Myral was the pianist and the organist and he sometimes held a conductors class. Loa and Myral often



*Myral (far right) led a Conducting Class at church in Aug. 1934.
Each class member is holding a baton.*

shared their musical talents at church in additional ways. Loa loved singing solos in Sacrament Meeting, and during a special Sacrament Service entitled “Favorite Latter-day Saint Hymns and Composers”, Myral gave a talk about

that subject and then played accompaniment as various vocal groups performed 7 different hymns.²⁸

The Clarks and the other Utah Mormon couples in the ward became very close friends. They had picnics together at the beach for Pioneer Day and they gathered in each other's homes as "The Book of Mormon Club" to discuss various scriptural passages. Myral and Loa sometimes gave the lessons.²⁹ As most of their Utah Mormon friends had no family members on the island, they all became like family and often enjoyed Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner with each other.

Hawaiian Fun

Myral and Loa had a wonderful time experiencing everything the exotic island had to offer, both on land and on the surrounding water. They loved attending the fancy dinners and dancing parties on the docked ships



The Clarks enjoyed dinner and dancing on docked ships in Honolulu

in Pearl Harbor, and they spent some relaxing evenings just sitting on the docks watching the navy ships go in and out.³⁰ Myral and Loa also went on fishing trips in the bay, and once Myral had the opportunity of crewing on a yacht.³¹ On special occasions, they enjoyed moonlight swims at Hanauma Bay with treats of doughnuts and cocoa.³² While at the beach, sometimes they saw people leap from cliffs into the water—with and without parachutes—and they even saw an actual volcano eruption.

The Clarks attended fantastic Hawaiian weddings and also plenty of farewell parties for people who were leaving for the Mainland. Loa learned the hula and Myral learned enough of the local Hawaiian language to give a speech. He was even invited to play a game called “golf” for the first time at the Kapiolani Golf Club. The Utah farm boy, who had never touched a golf club before, made 9 holes in 54 swings.³³



Loa and Myral perform the hula

Hawaii was the destination for many famous people, and Myral and Loa didn't miss out on their celebrity sightings. When Babe Ruth came to the island in October 1933, the Clarks were there with 10,000 other people to see him hit a home run.³⁴ Once while touring the Dole pineapple cannery, Myral and Loa boarded a boat with Walt Disney.³⁵ While on board,

they must have talked about his recently released film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

Myral's father, Charles, on the Mainland was very intrigued by Hawaii. Myral sent a map of the island to him after he expressed curiosity about the places they were visiting. Charles was also fascinated by the vegetation there. He

asked in a letter, "How much in inches does an ivy grow in 24 hours? How long does it take peanuts to grow? And pineapple? How are they started? How long does it take to grow bananas? Which season of the year do they ripen oranges too?"³⁶ Once, Myral sent a coconut home to his mother and she doubtless had little idea what to do with such a strange food.³⁷



Babe Ruth at Waikiki, Oct 26, 1933



Fritz Kraft

Sometime early in their Hawaiian stay, Myral and Loa befriended a professional photographer named Fritz Kraft. Fritz had a photo shop downtown and took photographs of visiting celebrities, members of the navy at Pearl Harbor, the beautiful Hawaiian landscapes, and the picturesque local life and people. Myral loved accompanying him on photo shoots and loved getting copies of Fritz' work. To expand his own photography hobby, Myral purchased developing supplies and could easily set up a temporary dark room in his kitchen to develop his own photographs.

Margene Leilani is Born

In June of 1932, two years after arriving in Hawaii, Loa sent a wonderful letter to her mother. "I'm feeling swell now but for 6 weeks I couldn't keep anything down. We were pretty worried because the doctor



*Loa's parents, Emerett and J.I. Tolman
in Hawaii, Nov 1932*

didn't know for sure what was the matter. However, last week when I went in to see him, he found it was the common, ordinary "morning sickness" and what a relief. He says I'm in perfect health and should have at least six children, and we probably will. Baby is expected to arrive about Xmas. The worst part is that it means no trips, so I guess you'll just have to come see us."³⁸

To help with the preparation for Loa's first baby, Emerett and J.I. Tolman sailed to the islands, arriving on November 23, 1932. Loa and Myral had a grand time showing her parents around the island. Imagine how excited Loa and Myral were to watch the Tolmans eat *their* first fresh pineapple with the juice dripping down their arms. Myral took his father-in-law to a University of Hawaii football game, as well as a Green Bay Packers vs. Michigan game. Myral noted in his diary that 17,764 people attended—that was 1/8 of Hawaii's population! Myral also took J.I. and his cousin Eldred—who was serving an LDS mission on the island—to Waikiki beach to swim. As Loa was almost eight months pregnant, she and Emerett stayed home and prepared clothes and linens for the arrival of their first child.³⁹

During their stay, Loa's parents attended the Laie Temple three times. On January 21st, they celebrated the birthdays of J.I. (age 63) and Emerett (age 60) with a waffle breakfast.⁴⁰

Four days later, on January 25, 1933 Margene Leilani was born. Leilani means *heavenly lei* and was a common name given on the Islands. Labor and delivery must have been a long and painful experience for Loa, because immediately after Margene was born, Loa jokingly asked, "Was there two of



Loa with newborn Margene, Feb 1933

them?”⁴¹ As was typical of the day, she spent 11 days in the hospital. Myral went back to school the day after Margene was born and “received congratulations, of course, for [he] was indeed the ‘proud daddy’” That very day, he sent 45 baby announcement cards.⁴²

For the next month, Loa’s parents stayed and helped with the new baby. Even though Loa had had plenty of practice taking care of babies when her youngest siblings were born, it was still nice to have help with the laundry, the cleaning, and napping. On February 23, 1933, Judson and Emerett prepared to leave. Judson packed 13 coconuts in his suitcase, chuckling about the reactions he’d receive when handing



With Margene, 6 weeks old

them out to friends and family in Utah and Idaho. Loa draped stacks of leis around her parents’ necks to see them off. Upon boarding, J.I. and Emerett went to the railing to wave goodbye. After the ship left the dock, Myral and



Harvesting coconuts with J.I. and Emerett

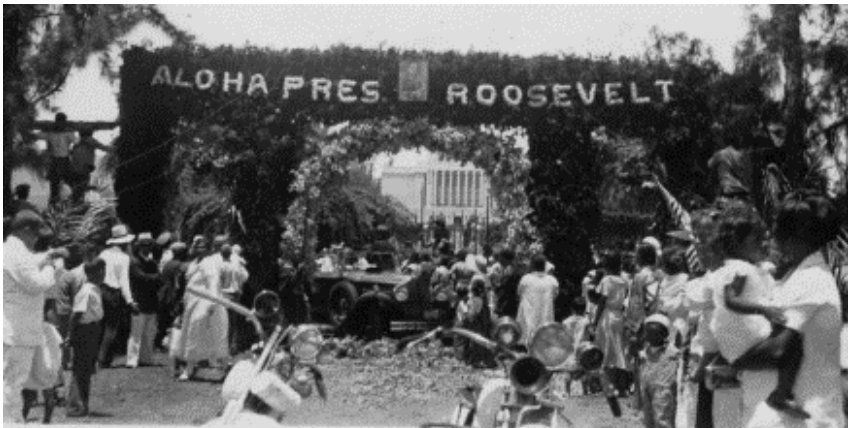
Loa drove to Diamond Head to watch the ship sail off into the horizon.⁴³ Even with a new little person in their home, the Clarks felt lonesome after the Tolmans left. It was so good to see distant family again.

Back in Murtaugh, Loa’s parents wrote letters expressing how much they loved and missed sweet Margene and how they wished they could visit again. Emerett wrote to Loa, “We were so glad to get better acquainted with Myral and with your home life. That alone made us so happy. Just think if I were there now I might mend some socks and

trousers.”⁴⁴ JI wrote, “We have labeled our trip as one of the brightest 4 months of our lives.”⁴⁵

Myral made note of new baby-related things that they were doing: “Had my first turn at the [diaper] washing for the baby—did 14 of ‘em.” He noted her first day with no bottle, her first day in her own bed, her first scribbles, first tooth, first patty cake, and first wave goodbye. He also loved showing his young daughter new things; once he brought home some turtles for her to see.⁴⁶

When Margene was born, America was in the midst of the Great Depression, though Hawaii was not as hard hit as the Mainland. Some Hawaiian citizens had hardships brought about by layoffs, shrunken resources, and bankruptcies,⁴⁷ but not much changed in the daily life of Myral and Loa and Margene.



President Roosevelt's parade around Oahu, July 1934

On July 26, 1934, in an effort to bring hope and strength to the Territory of Hawaii's citizens during the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt came—the first US president ever to do so. The whole island prepared for his arrival: flowers were hung everywhere, streets were cleaned, parades were mapped out, and native songs and dances were rehearsed.

Myral and Loa had listened to Roosevelt's inaugural speech on the radio the previous year and were excited for his arrival. Fritz wanted Myral to drive him around the city in the President's parade, so they stayed up late polishing the car. However, his car was not selected for the main parade; instead Myral drove it with other cars following the parade. Myral was

astonished at the large crowds who had turned out to see FDR ride by. At the Laie temple, the Samoans entertained the president and his party. Will Rogers came with FDR, and Myral somehow received a flower from one of Will's leis and pasted it in his scrapbook.⁴⁸



Roosevelt shaking hands with a ukulele player on the parade.

Loa and Margene Visit the Mainland



Loa and Margene leaving for the Mainland, April 27, 1935

After five years in Hawaii, Loa was eager to visit her friends and family on the Mainland and introduce them to her wonderful daughter, Margene, now 2 ½ year old. On April 27, 1935 Loa and little Margene left on the S.S. Lurline to Los Angeles.⁴⁹ Myral, acting according to Loa's wishes, drove his car out to Diamond Head and watched the ship sail away for an hour until he lost sight of it. He wrote about the experience, "That night it seemed an age since you and my dear baby left... Now, oh I have so many things to tell you so I guess I'll start back with the minute you left. That sweet Margene, wasn't that cute the way she waved at her Daddy – you know how that thrilled me, don't you? ... Oh, I've just been thrilled to think of what you must be doing. Tell me all about it, won't you. I think of you every minute. Wish I knew just what you are doing tonight... How did you get along with your room mate? I wish you would write a whole book including everything – how far you went each day,

where you stayed and all.”⁵⁰ He later wrote in his diary, “Seems pretty lonesome without my dears.”⁵¹

Their journey on the Lurline lasted six days. During the trip, young Margene curiously looked into a dog cage on deck and saw a stowaway huddled in the back. He put his finger to his lips and said, “Shh. Don’t tell anyone that I’m here.”⁵² They landed in California on May 2nd and traveled by train to Idaho.

Emerett and J.I. were thrilled to see how much Margene had grown, as the last time they had seen her was when she was born. Loa’s siblings were delighted to finally meet their niece, too. Margene was the center of attention the whole time. She recited nursery rhymes and sang songs while her Aunt Inez played the piano.⁵³ When a rabbit bit her, family members rushed to her side to comfort her. Even though she was in pain, the pain was worth all the attention.⁵⁴

Unfortunately, Loa’s mother was quite ill—if she stood too long her heart raced and she could barely breathe.⁵⁵ Loa was sad to see her mother in such a weak state, but grateful she was there to help. During their stay, Margene and Loa visited Myral’s mother, Annie Clark, who was aging and sick in the hospital. She was 72 and had worked her body beyond limits. Margene tried to give her grandma an orange, but she was too sick to notice.⁵⁶

Loa hosted luncheons with her hometown friends and traveled around seeing popular shows. Friends and family loved hearing about Hawaii and often asked her to sing Hawaiian songs and demonstrate the hula for them. She especially loved tasting her family farm’s fresh milk, home-made butter, and home-canned fruit. It was just like old times.⁵⁷

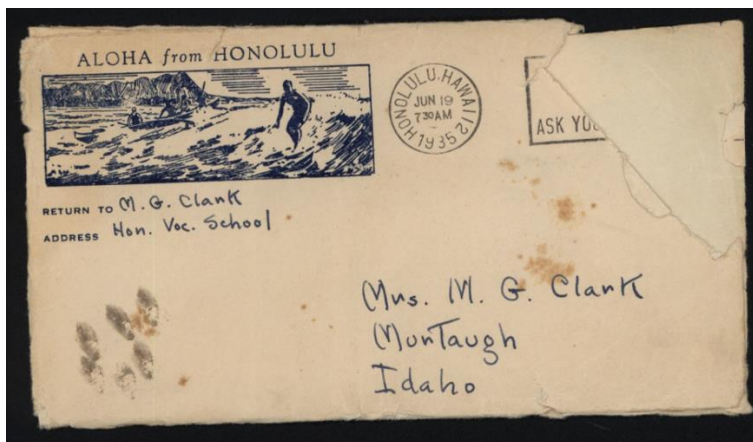
But amidst her happy moments, Loa deeply missed her husband. She lovingly wrote to him, “Myral, Dearest, you



Loa, J.I., Emerett, Margene, and Emerett’s mother, Luvena Bates in Murtaugh, ID, Summer 1935

can't know how terribly much I miss you. Sometimes I feel that I just can't stand it until you get here. I'll be so happy when I know that you are on your way. Do be careful and don't have any accidents or get sick, for I couldn't stand to think of you so far away – not being real well.”⁵⁸

Three thousand miles away, Myral was missing his family dearly, but was keeping busy. He had packed all their belongings into 16 boxes, distributed them into various people's garages, left the apartment, and had moved into the mission home. He had a private back room in the home with a cold shower that he used twice a day because he enjoyed it so much.⁵⁹ He was so grateful for the generosity of President and Sister Murphy, but he couldn't stay long, as more Elders were arriving. So he moved into a room at the YMCA where he paid \$17.50 per month, and could eat three meals at the café for 50 cents a day.⁶⁰



A simply-addressed letter from Myral in Hawaii to Loa in Murtaugh

Myral kept busy teaching piano and organ, seeing movie pictures and musicals, and attending concerts at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. He and his band continued playing music for dances around the island, especially now that the summer tourist season had begun. Myral spent some time with Fritz, who was staying just down the hall from Myral at the YMCA. Fritz once treated Myral to ice cream at the fancy Young Hotel and Myral said of it, “Oh boy, it was good.”⁶¹

Myral really missed his little daughter, Margene. He often wrote about her, “To the Objects of My Affection - Oh how is my baby? You didn't tell me much about her in Thursday's letter but I know she must miss her dad—doesn't she. I have your pictures all over my dresser... Your

daddy is just fine and behaving himself too and takes good care of himself. Be sure to go places and have a good time—well you know—within reason. Oh just about 7 weeks and I'll be in your arms again. I'll write you again soon, Aloha mui, Loa and Margene, Your Papa in Hawaii”⁶²

In one letter, Myral wrote that he had received a telegram with a job offer from Mr. Merrill in McCammon, ID where he and Loa taught before coming to Hawaii. The proposed salary was less than what he was receiving at the Vocational School, but Myral did take a moment consider that Loa might want to return to the Mainland to be closer to her family. But, after thinking of the dozens of people who would like to jump into his job there in Honolulu, he thought about what Loa would want him to do and replied via telegram, “Salary would not justify change.” Myral was nervous to tell this news to Loa, but hoped she would agree that staying in Hawaii with a great salary was the best choice. He promised that they would visit the Mainland more often.⁶³

Myral often asked if he was sending enough money for them, and then he always ended his letter sweetly, “Well I guess I can't think of more to say. Only that I love, love, love, you and can hardly wait. Have a good time and kiss my baby for me. Margene: Daddy got your tiny letter

and he will answer soon. I'm glad you are getting fat like your dad. Love and kisses, Daddy.”⁶⁴

Partway through his time on the island without his family, on June 20, 1935, Myral saw the arrival of President Heber J. Grant, J. Reuben Clark, and other Church authorities who came for two weeks to establish the first stake in Hawaii. The Oahu Stake was the first stake organized outside of the continental United States, and Ralph Woolley was called as the first Stake President.⁶⁵ Myral played piano for President Grant at various meetings and firesides during their visit. The guests of honor were showered with leis everywhere they went, because the local members were so thrilled to meet them. The Mormons on the island were so far away from



Murtaugh was not the lush landscape Margene was used to.

the epicenter of the Church, but this visit made them feel closer and more connected to all the Saints.



President Heber J. Grant (front row, left of center) and other Church authorities came in 1935 to establish the first stake in Hawaii.

Myral Joins his Family on the Mainland

On July 13th, 1935 (Myral's 34th birthday), Myral went to the dock

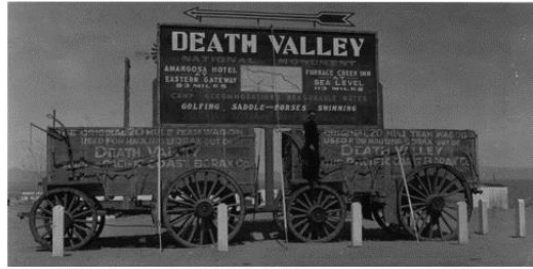


Myral departing for the Mainland, July 13, 1935. Diamond Head is behind him.

of the S.S. Malolo and his friends put 35 leis around his neck to say goodbye. He wrote, "A real birthday present to be able to go home." Undoubtedly he was longing to see his wife and daughter again. "So many friends were there to see me off. I think I'm going to be a good sailor, the voyage is great." Contrary to his hope, he became seasick shortly thereafter.⁶⁶

The Malolo docked at Wilmington, CA on July 20th and Myral spent a couple days in California enjoying the sights. At the World's Fair in San Diego, he saw the Mormon Tabernacle Choir perform and was fascinated by some midgets

there. Myral also passed through Hollywood and saw the Grauman's Chinese Theatre. He peeked into the Paramount Movie Studio where he saw movie star Gary Cooper, and the filming of "So Red the Rose". Myral then boarded a bus to Utah, and passed through Death Valley where he saw the life-size monument of the 20-Mule-Wagon—a 10 ton wagon pulled by 20 mules that carried borax across the desert in the 1880s.⁶⁷



Myral saw the 20-Mule Wagon monument in Death Valley on his way to Utah

On July 24th, Pioneer Day, his bus arrived at 2am in southern Utah, where he waited on the bus depot porch until daylight. He tried calling his sister Ella in Delta, Utah many times, but couldn't reach her as she was on her way to the Pioneer Day celebration in Hurricane. Lonely Myral just waited at the depot. After hitching a ride with the mailman, Myral drove up through Zion National Park and arrived in Delta around 5:30 that evening.⁶⁸

Myral visited his sisters, brothers, and mother in Delta, Salt Lake, and Morgan, and was amazed at how many changes had taken place in only five years. Sadly, their mill in Morgan had burned down in early 1932. Nevertheless, Myral's brothers, Wallace, Lawrence and Carlos, had been successful in the farming business together for many years. They sold their produce to dealers in the West, and they had 2,000 acres of grain, with additional pasture grasses for their 100 cows.⁶⁹ What a departure Myral's own life had taken from his siblings.

Myral enjoyed sharing his tropical adventures with his family through slideshows and stories. This was before color photos, wide-spread magazines, or books about Hawaii existed, so everything he shared was completely new and enthralled his audience.

In contrast to his happy reunion with his family, Myral was not able see his father, Charles, as he'd passed away on October 6th, 1933 while Myral had been on the islands. Although Charles had not been present most of Myral's boyhood, Charles had always written letters and remained informed about and interested in his son's life. Charles, who had a deep love of learning, had been especially enthralled about Myral's written

descriptions of Hawaii. Loa faithfully kept the last letter they ever received from Myral's father.



The Clarks reuniting at the depot

On August 1, 1935, twelve days after docking in California, Myral finished his family visits in Utah and arrived in Murtaugh. While the lovesick Myral and Loa were overjoyed to reunite, little Margene took a while to warm up to her Daddy.⁷⁰ They had a wonderful time together in Murtaugh for one month, relaxing, telling stories, and playing music with all the Tolmans. The day for departing to the California docks came all too quickly. It was certainly a teary farewell for Loa and her parents and sisters, for she didn't know when she would see them again.



The Clarks back in Hawaii, Sept 5, 1935

