THE VOLCANO LETTER
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Illustrated Monthly Bulletin of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. Anyone may join the Association and thereby
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KILAUEA REPORT No. 865
WEEK ENDING AUGUST 22, 1928
Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, U. S. Geological Survey
R. M. Wilson, Temporarily in Charge

At 9:50 a.m. August 18 the north wall of Halemaumau was working very slightly. Two tails of rocks were heard
in 10 minutes from that side, and another from the north-east corner. The north wall and talus gave the appearance
of having had numerous small slides. During the “Pageant to Pele,” presented to a large audience at the side of the
pit from 9 to 11 p.m., there was nearly constant avalanching, filling the air with dust, and at times drowning the
exercises. By daylight August 19 could be seen heavy coatings of red dust on the floor and walls of Halemaumau
and on the south Kilauea floor. The avalanching continued at irregular intervals, coming from blocks tumbling
from the north rim, and gathering debris along their course. Examinations show that widely cracked areas
formerly back of the north rim have gone in, and that there are numerous fresh cracks of varying sizes. Many
of the new cracks are emptying steam, and several of those
that are dry are allowing the escape of heat.
At the present time there is still some sliding from the north
rim.

The Observatory seismographs have recorded nine
local tremors during the week ending August 22. These
were all very feeble with the exception of one which occurred at 10:47 p.m. August 18. This one is classed
as feeble, and was apparently caused by an unusually large avalanche in the pit of Halemaumau. Tremors of
this magnitude can very seldom be ascribed to avalanches, yet the evidence points to the fact that this one is the
result, and not the cause of an avalanche. The amplitude
increases gradually to the maximum, and fades out again gradually; there are no phases to be recognized, as would
be the case in a true earthquake. The record of the same
disturbance from the Uwekahuna seismograph is 25% greater in amplitude, in spite of the fact that the magnification
of that instrument is less than the corresponding factor for the instruments at the Volcano Observatory.
This is easily explained in the case of an avalanche
tremor by the fact that the Uwekahuna instruments are but 0.7 mile from the pit, while those at the Volcano Ob-
servatory are 2.5 miles away. This tremor was the climax of a series of five avalanche tremors, of which the
first was at 9:41 p.m. Thus the Observatory seismographs
bear witness to exceptionally heavy avalanching during the
evening of the 18th, when there were present at the edge
of the pit well over a thousand spectators who had come
there to see the entertainment furnished by the program
of the Cook Sesquicentennial.

Microseisms throughout the week have been normal.
Slight tilt has accumulated toward the northeast.

THE PAVLOF VOLCANO EXPEDITION
A letter from Dr. Jaggar dated July 11 gives us addi-
tional notes of the progress being made by the National
Geographic Pavlof Volcano Expedition, of which he is the
Director. The letter was written in camp at the north end
of Pavlof Bay, just east of Pavlof Volcano. The party had
just completed a trip into the interior of the Peninsula,
where two camps were made on the northeast base of
the volcano. From these camps a nine-day side trip
was made to the region north of the mountain, where an
interesting bit of volcanic topography was found similar
in nature to the Chaos Juncture at Volta on Mount Lassen,
California. A view into the crater of Pavlof was had, and
two inner cones were seen. In the crater there was also
visible an old lava flow and considerable steam from a
number of solfatara. No hot springs were found, but
mineral springs were discovered on two occasions.

The topographic section of the expedition had mapped
2,000 square miles of country. The expedition had taken
225 photographs and a considerable number of color plates.
Wild flowers are there in abundance, and specimens of the
different kinds have been collected and pressed. Dr.
Jaggar says that fossils have been found and that the
geology of the region is very interesting. The geologic
details, however, must wait for a more thorough investiga-
tion by some geologist in the future who will be able to
base his work upon the present reconnaissance and the
topographic maps being made by the party.

The weather has been bad, especially from the point
of view of the topographic party, who need clear weather
for long distance photography and plane table operations.
There have been hundreds of caribou seen, and 25 to 30
bears. The expedition had no difficulty in keeping its
larder stocked with meat, fish, and clams at all times.
Salmon have been caught with a small some operated by the
"Honukai."

The "Honukai" is still holding its place as one of the
most useful units in the expedition's transportation. It
traverses the beaches with ease, and can go over the
greater part of the dry tundra country. Swampy tundra
and "sinkerheads" have at times caused it to turn back,
however. The use of the steel mats in soft places, as
suggested by the experience with the "Ohiki" in Hawaii,
has proved valuable in the extreme.

At the time of writing, the expedition was planning
to go westward to Volcano Bay as the last lap of the
season's explorations.

A radio message has just been received from Dr.
Jaggar stating that the work was completed and the expedi-
tion was starting back home from Alaska on August
16.

R.M.W.

52,000 words of volcanic information if you save and bind the Volcano Letter
Hawaiian Time is 10h. 30m. slower than Greenwich