

The History of The Outdoor Circle in Three Minutes or Less

By Paula Ress

In 1912 The Outdoor Circle band
Decided it was time for someone to take a stand.
Someone must accept the duty
To preserve and enhance Hawaii's natural beauty.

They decided our view planes shouldn't be blocked out,
So the nation's first billboard law was knocked out.
They urged hibiscus as the flower of the state,
And then planted the bush all over the place.

Cherilla Lowery was determined to stand fast
For Hawaii's beauty, and make it last.
"Chop if you must this old, gray head,
But save Hawaii's trees," she said.

With every means they could avail,
The planting started to prevail.
An early frontier for this fascination
Was planting trees on Tantalus' elevation.

So that the landscape would't be bare,
Trees at Magic Island, trees at Thomas Square.
And then so your car wouldn't be hot,
They insisted on trees in the parking lots.

To keep the trees both strong and fair
Their nursery and tree trimmer provided care.
Trees for Sand Island, trees on Kapiolani,
Banyans, Gold trees and false kamani.

Trees for Kuhio Beach and all the airports,
Trees shading parks for Hawai'i sports.
Along Nimitz and Diamond Head they planted the slopes
With palms, poincianas and heliotropes.

Trees at the harbor at Na Wiliwili,
But someone forgot to plant Kahekili.
Trees on every street and by-way,
Showers at the start of H-3 Highway.

For the future they insist on trees for new development.
To honor the past, trees at Palama Settlement.
Because just planting didn't insure vegetation,
They sweetly insisted on legislation.

Laws for street and exceptional trees
Securing their safety by official decrees.
When advertisers invented a new air pollution,
“Save our Skies” was our solution.

Sometime, when protecting, they had to be harsh,
So important were Waiahila Ridge, Diamond Head and Kawainui Marsh.
Because Waikoloa saw species’ adversity,
The Dry Forest Initiative now protects biodiversity.

Town center of green is Waimea’s crown—
Ulu La’au in the heart of town.
On Maui they further reforestation
by planting and tree-trimming education.

Magic Island was looking bare,
So we planted a lot of trees out there.
But that’s not all that shows the members’ care,
Their education programs are beyond compare.

Aunti Litter and Mr. Mynah meet kids face-to-face
To tell them not to throw rubbish all over the place.
For more education they helped nurture
Hawaii’s wonderful Nature Center.

They helped kids learn nature’s rules
With poster and essay contests in our schools.
Still their aspirations are going higher
As they try to underground the wire.

They think they will never see
A utility pole lovely as a tree.
Our founders definitely understood
The legacy of doing good.

That even when forced with conditions freaky
Like we suffered with Hurricane Iniki,
The Outdoor Circle would be right there,
Replanting Kauai with utmost care.

Our roots are deep, our branches wide.
We view our accomplishments with pride.
The first hundred years: Just a foot in the door!
We’ll keep working for hundreds more.

Outdoor Circle is privileged, not just dutiful
To keep Hawai’i clean, green, and beautiful!