

PALAMA SETTLEMENT CHILDREN'S CHORUS

July 17, 1958

We are half way through our summer at Idyllwild, California and I thought it would be nice to send greetings to you and tell you a little about what we have been doing.

Idyllwild is a lovely little town in the San Jacinto mountains in southern California. The place is covered with tall green pine trees and there are wild deer and squirrels roaming and playing in the forest all around the little town.

During the day time it is nice and warm - about the same temperature as in Honolulu. But at night the temperature goes down to about 39 degrees which is just a little above freezing....brrrrrr! This is because it is over 5000 feet high and the air is very thin and doesn't hold much heat. When we arrived here several weeks ago there was still snow on the nearby mountain tops. The little stream running through the town, called Strawberry Creek, is just melted snow. You can imagine why we haven't tried to swim in it!

There is a school of music and the arts here at Idyllwild where we are teaching for the summer. Colleen and Kathy are enrolled in the music, dance and arts program and are having loads of fun. They are also collecting many different kinds of stones and rocks which are beautiful and very different from our rocks in Hawaii. We'll show them to you and tell you about them when we return. Some of them are 15,000,000 years old! Some are even older.

Many teachers are gathered here from California and the other states to study folk music and dance and we are very happy to share the songs of Hawaii and the other Pacific nations that we know with them. And in turn they have shared some of their songs with us which we will teach you this fall. Some are very funny songs such as one called "There's a hole in my bucket!"

By the time we leave California to come home we will have visited the Palomar Observatory where with the world's largest telescope scientists can photograph stars billions and billions of miles away; the cyclotron in Berkeley where scientists are studying atoms and spin tiny invisible particles around in a big machine at such a speed that it would take a particle less than two seconds to reach the moon. We visited the famous valley called Yosemite which the glaciers carved out of solid rock during the glacial age thousands of years ago. And of course it wouldn't be a real trip if we didn't spend a day at Disneyland, too. We'll tell you all about that....uh-huh!

We hope to see you and all of the others in the Children's Chorus this fall and I promise you we'll have lots of fun with instruments and games, new songs and stories and trips to the mountains and the beaches! Thinking about it already makes me anxious to return.

Until then we all send our Aloha to you.

With frinedly greetings,



John M. Kelly Jr., Director
Music School