

On Mon, Oct 11, 2010

Hi Nelson:

In reading some of these I realize that while I have over the years gone to nearly all the places that Lorin took the Mongooses that in fact I did not actually go on too many with him.

I remember more of the day hikes on Oahu such as Kawaihoa, Moanalua Valley, Tripler Heights, Lanipo, Poamoho, Palikea, Peacock Flats, Kaneakoa, Kahuku Drum Road, Kaukonahua and several others.

The only neighbor island trip I went with him was Wailau and Pelekunu.

Yet the other trips are so vivid to me because my first introductions to them were in the inevitable post hike parties of the Mongooses where photos and stories were shared.

When I eventually got to most of the other places like Hualalai and Haleakala I already had a taste and familiarity of the place so there was an odd sense of familiarity despite the newness of going there for the first time.

I remember the rest of the gang talking about the trip through the Alakai Swamp to the State Cabin over the falls at Waimea Canyon and your trip to Lanai, Kohala Ditch and Hualalai almost as if I had been there with you. Being part of the group with Nora and Chester and Larry and the rest allowed me to share those vicariously.

Talking to Lorin later in other venues further cemented a relationship where I definitely received a lot.

Lorin always had comments about the history, culture, geography and politics related to these places we visited. They were always educational and Lorin was the consummate teacher of biology, Hawaiiana, history, geology, culture and politics. His bright smile and Santa Claus red cheeks and occasionally jokey, sometimes sarcastic comments making for a lively discussion and conversation.

I remember going with him to Dick Davis' house where we saw Dick's great collection of found bottles from hikes in Hawaii; a whole house lined with them and the two of them (veteran hikers) talking about places to find bottles.

Molokai of course stands out in these hikes with Lorin because of its length and now that I think about it the only neighbor Island trip with him.

I remember him introducing us to Auntie Rachel Nakii who shared with me the use of the fresh growing tips of the hala roots as a post partum healing concoction for women who had given birth.

Getting into Halawa and hiking up to Mooula Falls and hearing the legend of the mo'o in the water.

I remember Captain Inoka taking us out of Halawa Valley bay in a wild ride into the waves coming into the bay and out into the northeast swells with dolphins surfing the waves and following us part way.

Of course dumping us off the water at Wailau Bay where we had to float in our gear was a trip because it was too dangerous for his boat to get too close to the shallow water shoreline where the waves were crashing and we had to surf in our gear. Then after anchoring off shore he came ashore to throw net and dropped off some mullet for our dinner before going back to his boat to go to back to Halawa Valley.

Hiking up the Valley to the lookout at the back of the Valley.

I remember him giving us reading material about the battle of Haupu being a story similar to the classic battle of Troy and climbing to the ridge that led to the fortress of Haupu.

I remember the deep wilderness of Pelekunu Valley and the oopu and Tahitian prawn growing so large along with the hihiwai in both Wailau and Pelekunu.

I remember being dropped off by Captain Inoka in Waikolu and we walked the shoreline along the pipes and ditches that fed Kalaupapa with fresh water and into Kalaupapa to Father Damien's church, St. Philomena's, where we were picked up by Richard Marks in Kalaupapa and getting a great tour of Kalaupapa.

Over the years different people came in and out of the hikes with Lorin as people grew and many moved.

He touched so many lives that I am sure it is impossible to count. With the social service background he had both a liberal philosophy and a service oriented value structure in everything he did.

After he retired from Palama Settlement and went on to work for the Moanalua Gardens Foundation he continued to be involved in the preservation of natural places.

The longer I think about it the deeper the memory goes as old things covered with newer events begin to emerge.

Still, the essence of him remains always clear and I will miss his presence in this life.

George

(George Atta)