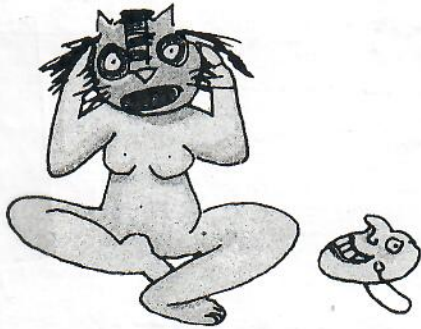


SATURDAY NIGHT
AT THE
PAHALA THEATRE

LOIS-ANN YAMANAKA



Please Return
HALE MAHANA
P.O. Box 540
Volcano, HI 96785

BAMBOO RIDGE PRESS

1993

Turtles

On the wall in Bernard's Taxidermy shop
is two big, green turtles. They all shiny.
Bernie, he use varnish make um look wet.
Bernie say, before could catch turtles
for the shell or for meat, but now,
he say not suppose to catch turtles
or else the police going arrest you.
He say, when you catch a turtle,
the turtle he cry a tear
from his big, wet eye.
Bernie seen um when he went fish
down South Point side.

He ask if I ever taste turtle meat.
He say, *Ono you know.*
I tell my wife cook
the frozen turtle meat one night
and you come over try some.
Ask your mama first.
I thinking about the tear from the turtle eye.
I tell Bernie I no like.

Bernie say the turtle eggs
look like ping pong balls.
He tell me, his friend Melvin,
the lifeguard down Punalu'u beach,
seen turtle fin marks in the sand
couple weeks ago so him and Bernie
wen' put all the eggs in one hole
and wen' put one cage over so nobody vandal um.

Late one Saturday afternoon,
 I was at Bernie's shop helping him sweep up
 the loose feathers, this white chemicals,
 and sheep wool off the floor,
 the phone wen' ring and was Melvin.
 Bernie stay all panic on the phone.
Okay, okay. I going close the shop.
C'mon, he tell me. No need sweep.
C'mon, c'mon. The turtles hatching.
We neva going see this in our whole life again.
 Us get in the Jeep and drive fast down Punalu'u.
No speed, Bernie, I tell him,
bumbye Officer Gomes give you one ticket.
 But Bernie, he no listen.

When us get there, close to night time.
 Get Melvin and his girlfriend, Teruko.
 Bernie's wife stay too—
 she work the lei stand down the beach.
 The little turtle babies,
 they pop their head
 right out the black sand.
 They all black too.
 And when one 'nother one about to come up,
 the sand cave in little bit
 around the turtle head.
Turtles, they know by instinct
where is the ocean, Bernie tell. Watch.
 And he turn one baby turtle backwards to the mountain.
 Then the turtle he turn
 his own self around
 and run to the water.

Get plenny. They all running to the water.
 They shine when the wave hit them.
 And their heads stay bob up

100

TURTLES



Marine life is fun and educational
 to observe in the wild.

and down in the ocean.
 Plenny little heads.
 Bernie pick one up and give um to me.
Like take um home?
Take um, take um, he tell me.
 I think about the turtles on Bernie wall.
 They look like they crying too.
Nah, I tell him. I no like um.
 I take the baby turtle to the water edge,
 his eye all glassy, his whole body shine,
 and I put um down.
No cry now, I tell um,
No cry.

UNITED
 VACATIONS

SHORELINE
PRESETS: Upper
15, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26,
27, 31, 32, 33, 34
p = 21, 22

BALAZS
(808) 983-5733
286-2899
2004-2006

Ke hiki mai nei ka wā kupono,
e ho'ihō'i 'ia mai i na honu i na 'ōiwi o Hawai'i.



Honu Guardian and Naturalist

Questions? Please Ask Me

Mrs. George Akau from Hauula called in to report a dead turtle found at Hauula that she brought to her house for us to pick up. She said its an old Hawaiian tradition that whenever she or her Portugese/Hawaiian husband find a turtle.... they call MTRP!!

August 04 - May 2006

Handwritten text at the bottom of the notebook page, partially obscured by tape.