

Sugar Museum Offers Learning Packets

by Linda Coleon

Maui students and teachers have a "sweet" treat awaiting them courtesy of the Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum in Puunene. The museum is offering learning packets to teachers which may be used as resource material in conjunction with student tours. Developed for grades two, four and six, these packets help educators motivate and teach youngsters about museum artifacts, exhibits and sugar industry history.

With funding provided by the museum and a grant from the Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation, Gaylord Kubota, museum director, retained Lynn Liu, Pukalani Elementary School teacher, as educational consultant. Presently a first-grade teacher, Liu developed the educational program during the summer, with assistance from Kubota. Liu has taught for 10 years in grades one through six. A graduate of the University of Hawaii and University of Connecticut, she holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

Kubota has been impressed with Liu's approach to making museum visits meaningful to children ever since she brought her own class in for a tour. He is gratified that her services may benefit more groups: "Ms. Liu is an asset to the museum and shows enthusiasm, imagination and creativity. The

program is sure to open more opportunities for learning about and enjoying the Sugar Museum."

Following basic objectives of the state Department of Education Social Studies Program Guide, learning packets for each grade contain activities and lessons designed to meet students' ability and interest.

The second-grade program focuses on the students' environment and then extends to other communities. Through various lessons, students learn about immigrant ethnic groups and their cultures. Activities enable them to apply this learning experience by comparing and contrasting past and present in relation to clothing, housing and tools. Students also may create cardboard replicas of items used by plantation workers such as sunbonnets and cane knives. Paper dolls in ethnic and work clothing provide additional stimulus.

Fourth-grade lessons stress Polynesian history and the sugar business through legends of Maui, geology, labor contracts, other documents and records and various artifacts. Students are permitted to handle selected artifacts at the museum on which they take notes and write creative pieces. They are encouraged to search for items similar to those at the museum from among family and friends.



Liu

Inventions and technology are emphasized for sixth-graders. The museum's hand-cranked cane crusher and sugar factory scale model are ideal for this age group to understand how technological development revolutionized people's lives. At this grade level, students may become inventors themselves or conduct scientific experiments related to sugar.

Lessons on language arts, social studies, science, mathematics and arts and crafts are integrated in packets for all grades. Activities before, during and after the museum tour help to stimulate interest and learning.

The teacher's packet includes a history of the sugar industry, general overview of the tour, guidelines for preparing students, a bibliography and evaluation form.

Liu also developed practical suggestions for docents who conduct student tours. These guidelines help volunteers communicate information to active, inquisitive children.

Liu drew ideas for lessons from The Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Hawaii Nature Center, Waipahu Cultural Garden Park and numerous libraries. She says of the program: "The Sugar Museum is a powerhouse of information and a learning experience valuable for children on Maui and elsewhere. Through the project, we hope to provide students, teachers and docents with meaningful educational materials." Learning packets will be made available at schools this month.

Museum Marks First Anniversary; Attendance Increase Noted

The Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum at Puunene marked its first anniversary in July.

To commemorate the occasion, Gaylord Kubota, museum director, presented to a visiting couple, an autographed copy of *Maui On My Mind*. The handsome picture book published several years ago is among items sold in the museum's gift shop. It includes a full-page photograph by Kubota.

The surprised recipients, first visitors of the museum's second year, were Frank and Andra Athis of Foster City, California.

The museum welcomed 16,987 visitors during its first year of operation, an average of 57 visitors per day. "Increased marketing and publicity efforts are paying off," says Kubota.

In January, the museum averaged 39 visitors per day. Last month the daily average had climbed to 130 people.



Kubota, right, presents Andra and Frank Athis with copy of *Maui On My Mind*

The museum is located at the intersection of Puunene Avenue and Hansen Road, near the Puunene Post Office. It is open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.