

## Show Opens With 25-Minute Bang

MON SEP 14 1964 SB IS

# \$14.4 Million International Center Is Dedicated

By PHIL MAYER

A fireman and a fiery, carnation-eating redhead starred in the formal opening of Honolulu's \$14.4 million International Center.

Fire Equipment Operator 2nd Class Trask Miranda lit the match that set off what must have been the longest string of firecrackers in Honolulu history. The barrage lasted 25 minutes. *dedication*

Comedienne Kay Stevens capped the first "official" show to be held in the new 8,500 seat Arena by proclaiming an astonished Neal Blaisdell "The sexiest mayor in the world."

Then, with her arm around him while he urged the Saturday evening crowd of 4,500 to join in singing "Aloha Oe" to her and the other Hollywood stars who were still there at 11 p.m., she took several bites out of the lei the Mayor was wearing.

It is hard to see any political significance in this.

The politicians who took part in the opening were almost primly non-partisan. So too, apparently, were the people who made arrangements for the dedication ceremonies on the lawn off Ward Street.

Those quiet rites were held in the dark while searchlights elsewhere on the grounds swept the night sky and members of the Aloha Week court ran among the palms lighting 300 luau torches.

Without the light provided briefly by a TV cameraman, the 1,000 onlookers would never have seen the Mayor, Council Chairman Masato Doi and Governor John Burns jointly cut a maile lei and jointly unveil the boulder or which has been placed a bronze plaque which dedicates the complex to "the sons and daughters of Hawaii who served in time of war and especially to those who gave their lives."

### INVOCATIONS

The invocations were by Bishop Zenkyo Komagata, by Monsignor Charles Kukumano who hoped that the Center will never house "shabby art," and by the Reverend Abraham Akaka who sprinkled the ground with water from the springs of Kawaiahae and noted "the aloha of 'Oid Plantation Nani Oe' whispering in the angel wings of tall palm trees," a reference to the Center being on former Ward Estate land once known as Old

Plantation.

These ceremonies were preceded by less exalted rituals in which Art Linkletter, master of ceremonies for the Arena show, was made an honorary citizen of Honolulu and turned a shovelful of earth which planted a tree in his honor.

He told the crowd, "I hope the union people aren't watching, I don't belong to the tree planters' union."

This was the evening's only reference to labor trouble. And there were no jokes at all involving the initials H.I.C.

But the Arena came in for some ribbing.

Hugh (Wyatt Earp) O'Brien said he was "glad to be here tonight—from the outside it looks like its going to take off tomorrow."

Parodist Allan Sherman remarked at the close of his act that "it's beautiful, but I don't see any poles holding up the roof so we'd better get out."

Linkletter noted that "the Christians and the liors are missing."

And Poncie Ponce, the cab-driver of TV's "Hawaiian Eye" said "I want to thank all you people for

building this beautiful garage."

Throughout the evening, Linkletter's easy patter was charming and he had good-natured fun with introductions of the politicians.

Stumbling slightly on the name of Councilman Clesson Chikasuye, he said "it sounds like something on a menu."

The evening's next most popular performers were Ponce, who belted out an unexpectedly operatic "Granada" then did some fine impressions of pop singers, and Sherman who did "Hello mudda, hello fadda" and other rather cerebral things including "Won't you come home, Disraeli" and "You gotta have skin."

Sherman added that he was surprised at the anti-Irish sentiment in Hawaii, "everywhere I go people are singing 'ugly Houlihan's' (Lovely Hula Hands).

Kay Stevens wowed 'em with a brassy version of "A Good Man Nowadays is Hard to Find" that became wilder and wilder.

Rhonda Fleming, also a redhead, did well with two ballads. Blonde Rita Lee sang several show tunes in-

cluding "Everything's Coming Up Roses" which came up a mite flat.

Eight-year-old local girl Eleu Butterworth, who Linkletter predicted could be "as big as Shirley Temple" did two fast-paced songs in Hawaiian and accompanied herself on the ukulele. Then she did "Bill Bailey" a bit too cutely.

### FAST PIANO

Lou Bush who is better known as Joe "Fingers" Carr and plays faster piano than anybody, did a nice, concert style "Rhapsody in Blue" after an earlier, brief, misunderstanding with the orchestra.

Comedian Paul Lynde offered a monologue on Africa.

Perry Botkin proved again that he's one of the world's top ukulele players and even did well playing a 25-cent plastic uke. Richard Boone contributed some kamaaina-style remarks.

Lauritz Melchior led the crowd in "The Star-Spangled Banner" and returned to the stage briefly when Linkletter had to leave to catch a plane to Miami.

Chuck Connors, Cliff Arquette and Bob Cummings didn't appear.