

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory Record Book 1937

This volume is one of a series of record books compiled by the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) from 1912 through early 1966. The pages for this volume were transferred by HVO to the Bishop Museum, in Honolulu, Hawai'i, in 1972 and are held at that institution (accession number 1972.265). In 2010, HVO entered a cooperative agreement with Bishop Museum to scan many of the record books in their repository. The scanning was done by HVO volunteer Frances Wong using a flat-bed scanner at a resolution equivalent to 600 dpi. The raw scans were then delivered to HVO volunteer Ben Gaddis, who processed each of the scanned pages by cropping and by adjusting the exposure and contrast using a photo editing program. The scanned and photographed pages for this volume were then combined to form this digital version of the record book. Quality control and posting was done by Tim Orr of the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Volcano Observatory.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

JOURNAL

Day	Wednesday	Date	January 6, 1937
	Thursday		" 7, "
	Friday		" 8, "
	Friday		" 15, "
	Sunday		" 17, "

January 6
11-12 a.m.

Fume visible at 1935 cones on Mauna Loa.

January 7
9:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m.

Small rocks trickling from W wall of Halemaumau.

Dust visible over NE rim of Halemaumau.

H.H.W.

January 8

At 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, January 6, I noticed dust from what appeared to be a small slide rising from the NE side of Halemaumau. At this time blue fumes also visible rising from the W and E side of the crater.

E.G.W.

2:18 p.m.

Moderate slide dust rose from NNW wall of Pit.

January 15
9:33 a.m.

Small slide from N wall of Pit.

January 17
12:03 p.m.
12:27 p.m.
12:35 p.m.

Small slides at Pit seen from HVO.

First light dust.

Second slide.

Third slide.

Small dust clouds rose from NW side of Pit and appeared to be from same place.

H.Y.

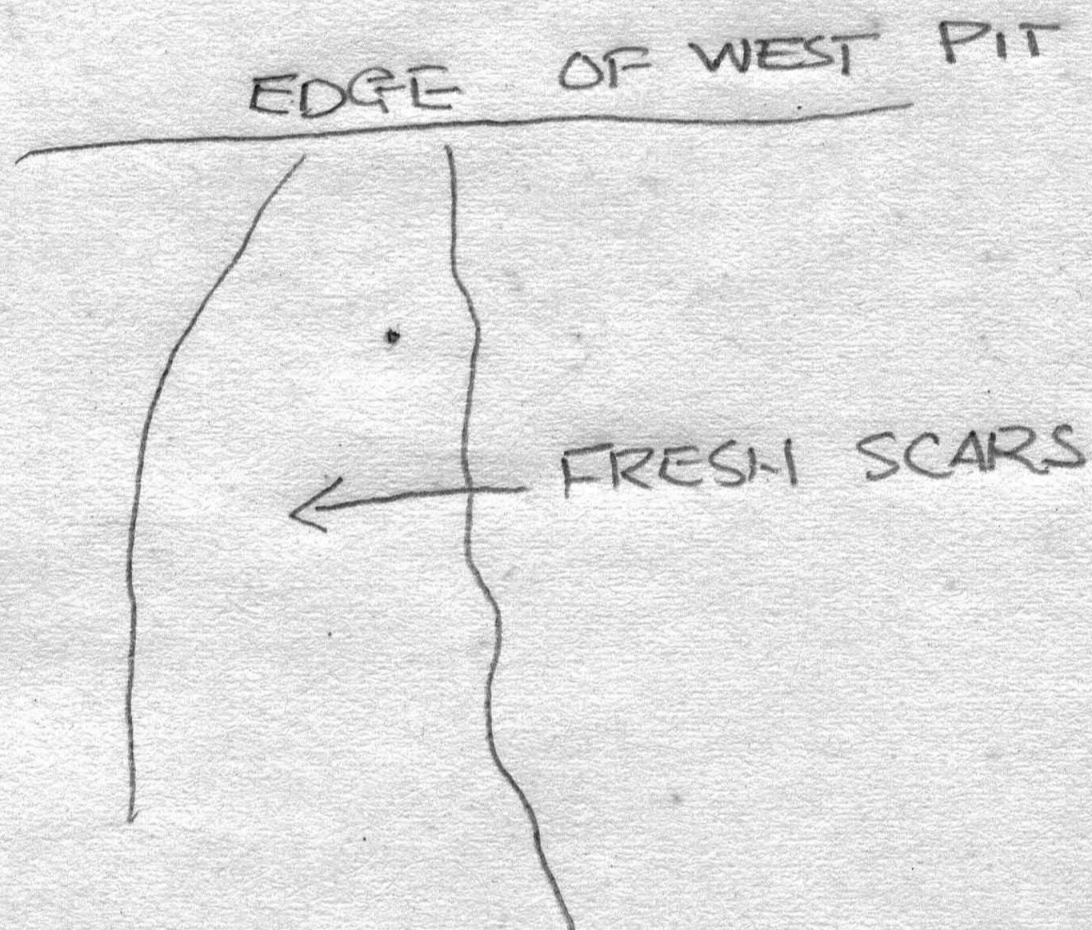
January 22
12:45 p.m.

Dust over N rim of Halemaumau.

H.H.W.

January 23
9:57 a.m.

Apparently there was a moderate slide from W wall of Pit sometime last night. Small rocks trickling continuously this morning and big scars show on wall. Slide looked as though it started from edge.



H.Y.

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JOURNAL

Day	Tuesday	Date	February 2, 1937
	Wednesday		" 3, "
	Friday		" 19, "
	Saturday		" 27, "

February 2 Heavy rain and vapor inside Pit came up strong.
Small slides from S wall of Pit at 10:03 a.m. and NE wall of Pit at 10:08 a.m.

February 3 Small rocks trickling continuously from NE wall. Fuming very slight.
Some vapor showing.

H.Y.

February 19 Small slide from NE wall.
10:45 a.m.

H.H.W.

5:23 p.m. A noisy slide fell from N wall of Pit. Pit was full of steam which obscured the view.

E.G.W.

February 27 Two slides. Moderate slide from NW wall and small slide from N wall. Fuming very slight.
10:08 a.m.

H.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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JOURNAL

Day	Sunday	Date	March 14, 1937
	Tuesday		" 16, "
	Wednesday		" 17, "
	Sunday		" 21, "

March 14 Report for week. No slides and very slight fume.

March 16 Fresh scars show on NE wall about 300 feet below the edge, indicating a slide sometime between yesterday and this morning.
9:45 a.m.

Fuming slight for last two or three weeks, but moderate this morning.

March 17 Slide NW Buttress.
10:30 a.m.

Earthquake we had about 12:30 p.m. dismantled the pit instrument. At the same time there was a slide on NE wall.

1:40 p.m. I looked into pit and saw that small rocks were still trickling. Slide was on the same place as day before.

Mr. Wingate reports that some people at 28 miles felt the quake.

H.Y.

3:40 p.m. Slide NW Buttress.

H.H.W.

March 21 About 5:20 this afternoon I observed a moderate slide starting on rim just above the Canoe Sill.

E.G.W.

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JOURNAL

Day	Date
Monday	April 12, 1937
Wednesday	" 14, "
Thursday	" 15, "
Friday	" 16, "

April 12
3:20 p.m.

At around 3:20 p.m. another landslide occurred at the NE section of Halemaumau, causing a cloud of dust smaller than the previous cloud of last week's landslide.

L.L.

April 14
3:25 p.m.

Small dust cloud indicating slide NE rim Halemaumau.

H.H.W.

April 15

At 11:47 a.m. another landslide occurred at the NE section of Halemaumau, sending a loud thunderous sound. However no dust clouds appeared, like the past slides, maybe due to the direction of the wind.

I happened to be outside (of Museum) at this moment and according to the loudness and duration of the slide I believe it to be the largest of all the recent slides that I have reported.

L.L.

April 16

At 11:30 a.m. a heavy booming sound was heard from the Uwekahuna Museum. When going out to investigate, I saw a large dust cloud rising from the NE side of Halemaumau, the landslide must have occurred at that part of the Pit, the landslide still is sliding at that part of Hale.

H.L.K.

Apparently constant rocks fall of varying amount from NE and E walls of Halemaumau entire day. Observed intermittently from 9-5:15 p.m.

H.H.W.

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JOURNAL

Day	Sunday	Date	April 18, 1937
	Wednesday		" 21, "
	Sunday		" 25, "
	Monday		" 26, "

April 18

This morning's earthquake was both long and strong. Most of the people at 28 miles felt it.

H.Y.

3-4 p.m.

Apparently extra strong fuming from SE solfatara.

H.H.W.

April 21
9:57 a.m.

Small slide from NE wall. Dust did not rise due to wall being extremely wet, but noise was loud.

April 25
9:49 a.m.
9:54 a.m.

Moderate slide from NE wall of Pit.

Second big slide from same place with loud noise but no dust came up.

Two small slides before these two slides reported by CCC boys.

April 26

Record of a large slide on Pit instrument. Slide was just beyond crack #28, and slid off from the edge.

H.Y.

A small landslide occurred at the NE side of Halemaumau at 11:30 a.m. The sound of the falling rocks could easily be heard from the Museum.

Dust cloud floated around the rim of the crater.

H.L.K.

JOURNAL

Day Saturday Date May 8, 1937
 Tuesday " 11, "

May 8

Slide at Pit yesterday was from NE edge. The slide started from just beyond edge of Cracks #24 to 28. Crack 28 slid off yesterday and crack 25's reading which yesterday was 52.40 was 54.20 this morning.

H.Y.

Steam visibility increased from cracks near Nos. 24 & 25 & plants being killed as the hotter. 15' to 20' gone at #28.

May 11

Cracks steaming & breaking soil & killing & browning grass S of cracks 24 & 25.

Fresh vapor. Sunshine.

10¹a.m.

Air 24° C

Max cracks 64° C

#25 55.50 a.m.

yes. 55.20

3 mm. open

#24 26.40

Road break on No. 37 crack. Temp on N side of road

Air 22° Crack 44° and 50°.

Iron plate under asphalt on rd has moved open again.

T.A.J.

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JOURNAL

Day	Date
Saturday	May 15, 1937
Sunday	" 16, "
Tuesday	" 18, "
Thursday	" 20, "
Friday	" 21, "

May 15

At 2:35 p.m. a large landslide occurred at the E end of Halemaumau. A large dust cloud could easily be seen from a distance.

A group of soldiers were right near the edge of the pit on the E side.

I could ~~see~~ hear the rumbling of the falling rocks. They are still falling.

H.L.K.

May 16

8:30 a.m.

Moderate slide. Dust cloud rose from N side of Pit edge.

H.Y.

May 18

4:30 p.m.

Dust over NE rim of Pit indicating slide.

H.H.W.

May 20

At 11:05 a.m. a landslide occurred at the E side of Halemaumau. No sound of falling rocks could be heard; the dust cloud floated toward the Western side of the Pit.

H.L.K.

May 21

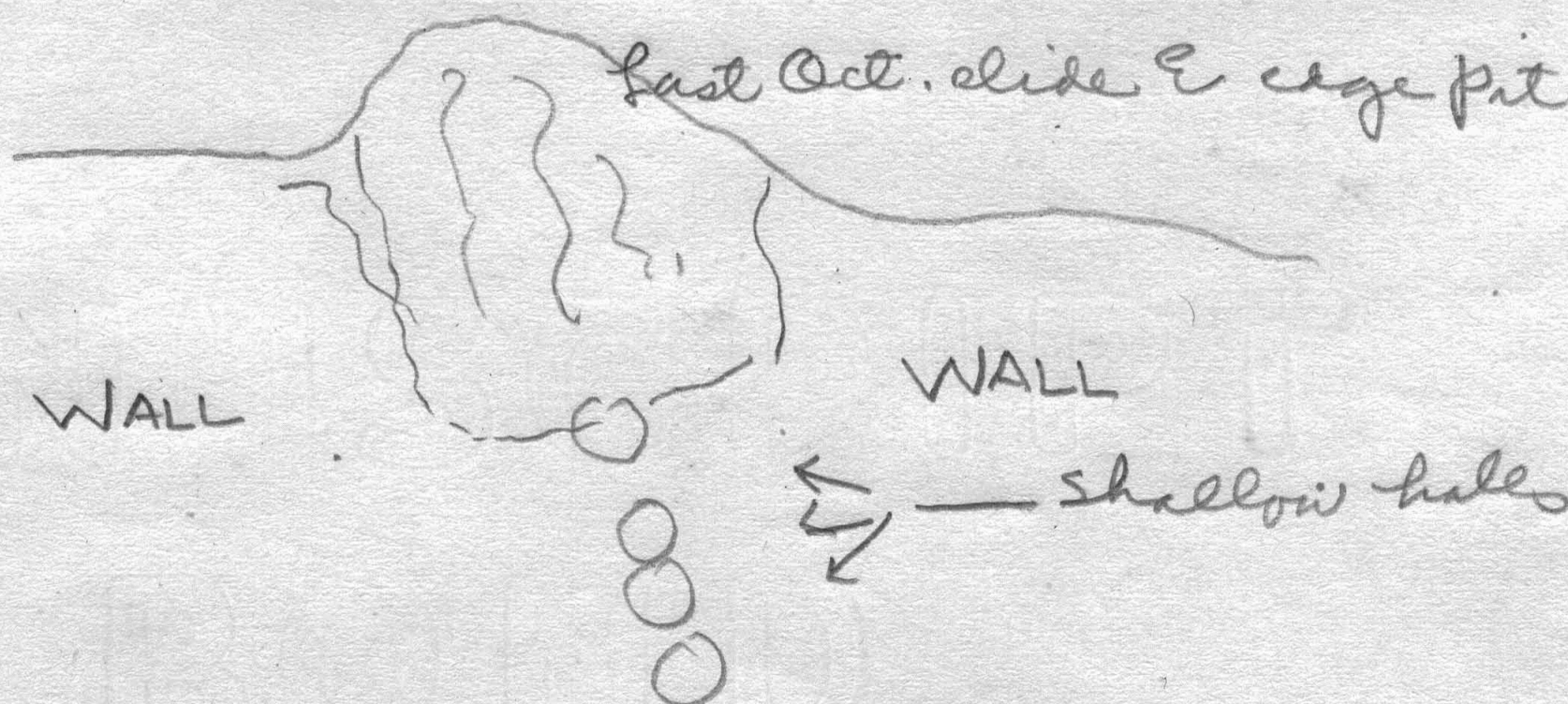
3:50 p.m.

Dust over ENE rim of Halemaumau indicating slide.

H.H.W.

May 26

Holes made some time between yesterday and last night. Three or four holes lined downwards starting about 150 feet below the edge.



H.Y.

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Day	Date	1937
Wednesday	June 9,	
Monday	" 14,	"
Thursday	" 17,	"
Saturday	" 19,	"
Tuesday	" 22,	"
Wednesday	" 23,	"

June 9
8:57 a.m.

Slide from NE section of Halemaumau. Witnessed by Mr. Lamb.

L.L.

June 14
2:07 p.m.

Slide East.

T.A.J.

June 17
9:57 a.m.

Moderate slide from S wall of Pit. Slide started about half-way down wall.

H.Y.

4:35 p.m.

Slide from E rim of Pit.

H.H.W.

June 19

At 10:45 a.m. a large landslide occurred from the W side of the Pit. It was witnessed by a group of soldiers and myself from Uwekahuna Museum.

June 22

Slide occurred at E section of Halemaumau at 11:25 a.m. A small cloud of dust rose.

June 23

Slide occurred at 8:30 a.m. at NW section of Halemaumau. A fairly large cloud of dust rose indicating quite a large slide.

L.L.

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Day	Date
Thursday	July 1, 1937
Friday	" 2, "
Sunday	" 25, "

July 1

At 1:20 p.m. a large landslide occurred at the Fire Pit of Halemauau on the E side. The sound of the falling rocks was easily heard from the Museum.

The dust cloud from the slide floated upward.

H.L.K.

July 2
9:17 a.m.

Small slide from E wall of Pit. The slide started about 200 feet below the edge.

H.Y.

July 25
9:30 a.m.

Note buttress developing strongly between NE & E taluses. This is over the buried E end of Canoe Sill.

Similarly N buttress: between NE & W taluses. W buttress, behind which 1934 cascades came, betw NW talus & SW talus. S buttress E side of rift cavern, betw S talus & SW talus. And SE buttresses, rather long & narrow, betw E talus & S talus.

No steam SE. Much fume NW sulphur. A small wet steam patch in E talus. NW pumice bank has caved away.

T.A.J.

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Day	Date	August	2,	1937
Monday				
Tuesday		17,	"	
Friday		20,	"	
Saturday		21,	"	
Sunday		22,	"	

August 2
2:20 a.m.

Slide heard at pit by Burns.

T.A.J.

August 17
2:30 p.m.

A large landslide occurred at 2:30 p.m. in the E section of Hale.

L.L.

August 20
11:20 a.m.

A very large landslide occurred at the W side of the Halemaumau crater.

H.K.

August 21
11:40 a.m.

A large landslide occurred at the E end of Halemaumau at 11:40 a.m. The sound of the falling rocks could plainly be heard from the Museum.

H.K.

August 22

Large slide of 11:40 a.m. yesterday was from E wall. Big fresh scars show on wall, starting about 30 feet below the edge. Moderate and small slides continuing still this morning.

H.Y.

A large landslide again occurred at the NE side of Halemaumau Crater at 9:45 a.m. The slide was witnessed by several people from the Museum.

H.K.

Day Sunday Date August 22, 1937
 Tuesday " 24, "

August 22
 (cont'd)

Another landslide again occurred at the NE side of Halemaumau Crater at 9:57 a.m. The dust cloud from the slide floated toward the W side of the Crater.

At 10:28 a.m. another landslide occurred at the NE side of the Crater.

At 10:35 a.m. another landslide occurred at the NE wall of Halemaumau Crater.

At 10:50 a.m. the slide is still falling at the NE wall.

At 11 a.m. another large landslide occurred at the NE wall again.

At 11:05 a.m. a large portion of the rim of the Crater fell down at the NE wall.

At 11:12 a.m. another landslide occurred at the NE side of the rim.

At 11:19 a.m. a land slide occurred at the NW wall.

At 11:30 another slide occurred at the NE rim.

At 11:33 a.m. a very large landslide again occurred at the NE wall of the Crater.

A very large landslide again occurred at the Crater at 11:45 a.m. on the NE side of the rim.

Again at 11:50 a.m. a large landslide again occurred at the NE wall of the Crater.

At 11:55 a.m. another landslide occurred at the Crater on the NE wall.

At 12:20 p.m. another landslide again occurred at the NE wall.

At 12:19 p.m. again another landslide occurred at the NE wall of the Crater.

At 12:20 p.m. a very large landslide again occurred at the Crater, of which a large part fell from the rim.

The slides are still continuing on the NE and E walls of the Crater.

At 3 p.m. a very large landslide occurred at the NE, E wall of the Crater, and a portion of the wall fell down into the Crater.

H.K.

August 24
 3:45 p.m.

Slide E rim of Halemaumau.

H.H.W.

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Day	Date
Wednesday	August 25, 1937
Thursday	" 26, "
Monday	" 30, "
Tuesday	" 31, "

August 25
12:50 p.m.

Landslide occurred at section directly in front of Museum (NW)
Appeared quite large.

L.L.

August 26
9:38 a.m.

A slight landslide again occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

H.K.

August 30
9:25 a.m.

Moderate slide on NW wall of Pit. Fresh scar show about 300 feet
below the edge. Recorded on pit instrument.

H.Y.

August 31

A very large landslide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater
at 11 a.m. The dust cloud floated upward on the side of the pit.

H.K.

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JOURNAL

Day	Date	September	1937
Wednesday		1,	
Friday		3,	"
Monday		6,	"
Sunday		5,	"
Tuesday		7,	"

September 1 Two slides were noticed today, one at 1:50 p.m., east wall of Halemaumau, and the other at 5:35 p.m. (small) at the NW wall of Halemau.

September 3
12:30 p.m. A very large landslide occurred at the NE wall of the Crater. A large part of the rim fell into the Crater. The slide was witnessed by several Chinese people.

H.K.

September 5
9:57 a.m. A large landslide occurred on the NE wall of the Crater at 9:57 a.m. It was witnessed by several people from the Museum.

September 6 Another landslide occurred at the NE wall of the Crater at 9:47 a.m. The sound of the falling rocks could be heard clearly from the Museum. Landslide continued again at 11:05 a.m. on the NE wall. Rocks could not be heard falling.

12:10 p.m. Small landslide on NE end of crater. Stones could not be heard falling.

12:33 p.m. Continued landslide.

12:38 p.m. " "

H.K.

September 7
9:50 a.m. The spot on the E edge of the Pit where Dr. Jaggar took the temperature before, slid in sometime between yesterday and the day before.

H.Y.

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JOURNAL

Day	Date
Wednesday	September 8, 1937
Wednesday	" 15, "
Saturday	" 18, "
Sunday	" 19, "
Monday	" 20, "

September 8 At 12:39 p.m. a landslide occurred at the NE wall of the Crater. The slide started about 50 feet below the rim.

At 1:10 p.m. a very large landslide occurred at the N wall of the Crater in front of the Uwekahuna bluff. It was also witnessed by two soldiers.

At 2:18 p.m. another landslide occurred at the NE wall of the Pit.

September 15 A landslide occurred at the NE side of the Crater at 2:33 p.m.
2:33 p.m. The slide started at the very top of the Pit.

September 18 At 8:53 a.m. a landslide occurred at the NE wall of the Crater. No sound of the falling rocks could be heard.

At 9 a.m. another slide occurred at the Crater on the NE wall.

At 9:10 a.m. another slide occurred at the NE wall again. This must have been a very big slide because of the heavy dust cloud rising from the floor of the Crater.

At 1 p.m. another slide occurred at the NE wall of the Crater. The slide was witnessed by several people from Kona.

September 19 At 12:20 p.m. a landslide occurred at N wall of the Crater, the slide must have been large because of the thick dust cloud rising up from the floor of the Crater.

At 2:55 p.m. a slide again occurred at the NE wall of the Crater, the sound of falling rocks could not be heard from the Museum.

H.K.

September 20 Large dust cloud from N rim of Halemaumau.
11:25 a.m.

H.H.W.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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JOURNAL

Day Monday
TuesdayDate September 20, 1937
" 21, "September 20
(cont'd)

At 9:30 a.m. a very large landslide occurred at the N wall of the Crater. The sound of the falling rocks could be heard plainly from the Museum.

At 9:45 a.m. another slide occurred at the N wall again.

At 10:30 a.m. another slide occurred at the N wall of the Crater.

At 10:35 a.m. another slide occurred at the N wall.

At 12:40 p.m. a very large landslide again occurred at the N wall of the Crater. The sound of the falling rocks was loudly heard.

Again at 12:45 p.m. a very large landslide occurred at the N wall and NE wall.

This slide was the largest I have ever seen from the Museum. The falling rocks was very plainly heard.

At 12:55 p.m. another slide again occurred at the N wall of the Crater.

At 1 p.m. the slide was still falling.

At 2:40 p.m. another slide occurred at the N wall of the crater.

At 3:25 p.m. another.

September 21

At 9:20 a.m. a landslide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

At 9:25 a.m. another landslide again occurred at the N wall of the Crater.

At 9:30 a.m. another slide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

At 9:52 a.m. another slide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

At 10 a.m. another slide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

At 10:05 a.m. another slide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

At 10:13 a.m. another slide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

Another slide occurred at 10:17 a.m. at the NW wall of the Crater.

At 10:20 a.m. another slide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

At 10:24 a.m. another slide occurred at the NW of the Crater.

At 10:49 a.m. a large landslide occurred on the NW wall of the crater.

At 11:05 a.m. another slide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater. This slide must have ^{been} a large one because of the heavy dust cloud rising from the floor. of the Crater.

At 12:05 p.m. another landslide occurred at the NW side of the Crater.

H.K.

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Day	Date	September 25, 1937
Saturday		
Sunday		" 26, "
Wednesday		" 29, "

September 25 A slide occurred at 10:25 a.m. from the W wall of Halemaumau. It was witnessed by people who attended a lecture given by Park Naturalist Mr. Williams. Rocks could not be heard falling.

September 26 On Sunday a landslide occurred at 10:02 a.m. from the N wall of Halemaumau. Rocks could be heard falling. Continued at 1:15 p.m. from the N wall and again at 2:14 p.m. at the same place. When the 2:14 p.m. slide happened, rocks could be heard falling.

W.P.

September 29 At 10:25 a.m. a slide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater. At 1:10 p.m. another landslide occurred both at NE and N walls. Again at 1:15 p.m. another slide occurred at the NE wall of Crater. At 1:45 p.m. another slide occurred at the NE wall of Crater. At 1:50 p.m. again another slide occurred at the NE wall of Crater. At 3:25 p.m. another landslide occurred at the NE wall of the Crater.

H.K.

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JOURNAL

Day	Date	October 1, 1937
Friday		
Sunday		" 3, "
Monday		" 4, "
Monday		" 18, "
Tuesday		" 19, "
Sunday		" 31, "

October 1

At 2 p.m. a very large landslide occurred at the E wall of the Crater.

October 3

At 12:28 p.m. a large landslide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

October 4

A large landslide occurred at the NE wall of the Crater.

9:33 a.m.

A landslide occurred at the NE wall of the Crater.

11:13 a.m.

Another landslide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

11:18 a.m.

Another landslide occurred at the NW wall of the Crater.

1:39 p.m.

H.K.

October 18

At 11:15 a.m. a dustslide occurred on the N wall of Halemaumau. Continued dustslides from N wall at 12:15 a.m.

October 19

At 9:31 a.m. a landslide occurred on the NW wall of Halemaumau. Rocks could be heard falling very clearly.

W.P.

10:08 a.m.

Moderate slide from E wall of Pit. Dust did not rise due to last night's rain having ~~the~~ wet the walls. Fume moderate. Heard slide sound.

H.Y.

11 a.m.

Slide at 11 a.m.

Craik.

October 31

A dustslide occurred on the N wall of Halemaumau at 11:20 a.m. Another dust slide occurred at W wall at 2:10 p.m.

W.P.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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JOURNAL

Day	Date
Monday	November 1, 1937
Tuesday	" 2, "
Sunday	" 21, "
Saturday	" 27, "

November 1
11:05 a.m.

A dustslide occurred on the NW wall of Halemaumau.

November 2
9 a.m.

A dustslide occurred on the NE wall of Halemaumau.

W.P.

November 21

Two slide N or NW corner, 1:45 p.m.

E.G.W.

November 27

The earthquake of 6:35 p.m. was felt by Mrs. Yasunaka at Dr. Jaggar's house. It was felt strong by her.

H.Y.

Was felt very strongly at CCC Camp. Broke Halemaumau hinge to seis. Scars observed in crater on top of Puu Huluhulu Nov. 28 (Moomaw). Quake was slow, not of large amplitude (slight) but vertical was perhaps unusual.

T.A.J.

December 21 At 4:08 p.m. a slide occurred on the N wall of Halemaumau. After the falling of rocks a large gush of dust appeared.

W.P. & M.K.