

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory Record Book 1939

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	Saturday	Date	January 14, 1939
	Sunday	"	15, "
	Tuesday	"	17, "
	Wednesday	"	25, "

January 14 Land Slides on the East and Northwest side of Halemaumau.
1:40 p.m.

XXXX

January 15 Quake felt. Prolonged. Rang #2.
3:30 p.m.

T. A.J.

January 17 Fume visible over Pit from Uwekahuna. Also strongly visible
10:00 a.m. from SE Solfatara from tourist stand at 10:00 a.m. Wind light
and from SW.

XXX

January 25 Landslide Record. From Uwekahuna

9:55 a.m.	W.
9:55 a.m.	SW.
9:57 a.m.	W.
10:01 a.m.	N.W.
10:16 a.m.	W.
10:52 a.m.	W.
11:00 a.m.	W.
11:09 a.m.	SW.
11:52 a.m.	W.
11:53 a.m.	SW.

XXX

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

JOURNAL

Day	Monday	Date	February 6, 1939
	Thursday	"	16, "
	Friday	"	17, "
	Saturday	"	18, "
	Sunday	"	19, "
	Tuesday	"	21, "

February 6 Avalanche on SE lower half of Halemaumau. It was big noise.
11:55 a.m. (From Uwekahuna.)

XXXXX

February 16 Land Slide on the NorthEast side of Halemaumau. From Uwe.
9:25 a.m.

XXX

February 17 Avalanche on N wall of Halemaumau.

7:55 a.m.

8:53 a.m.

Avalanche on W wall of Halemaumau. Big noise.

10:00 a.m.

Fresh scars, dust streaks and new rocks on floor of Halemaumau indicate sliding from NE and SW rims within preceding 24 hrs.

XXXX

February 18

11:00 a.m.

Rock slide on NE side and the N side of Halemaumau.

XXXX

February 19

10:01 a.m.

10:08 a.m.

Rock slide on the W wall of Halemaumau.

NE wall of Hal.

XXX

February 21

9:18 a.m.

12:10 p.m.

Rock Slide on N wall of Halemaumau.

On the N wall of Halemaumau.

XXXX

JOURNAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

Day Wednesday

Date

February 22, 1939

Thursday

" 23, "

February 22

5:30 p.m.

Steaming hole black inside and long stain crack SE.

Stained ledge W end of canoe sill N.

Stain on 1932 cone.

Fresh avalanche fall and scarred wall all the way up S, on E side of rift cavern. Rocks falling there.

Margins of floor sulphurous in many places. Canoe ledge white & stains.

Crack from 1934 lake to tourist stand, in floor looks wider.

T.A.J.

February 23

Evidence of Avalanche on NW wall of Kilauea Crater. Probably occurred during the early morning of 2/23.

XXX

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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JOURNAL

Day	Date
Friday	March 3, 1939
Monday	" 6, "
Tuesday	" 21, "
Monday	" 27, "
Thursday	" 30, "
Friday	" 31, "

March 3

10:15 a.m. Rock slide from NE wall of Halemaumau.
 10:28 a.m. Ditto

March 6

10:20 & 10:30 a.m. Small slides from N wall of Halemaumau.

March 21

2:15 to 3:30 p.m. Sulfur spot forming about half way down SW rim of
 Makaopuhi.

Slide (small) from N rim of Makaopuhi (foot of Kane nui o hame)
 at 3:10 p.m.

Cracks on NW side of Devil's Throat rim increasing. Small
 portion of SW rim has recently fallen in.

New crack development at parking area Devil's Throat.

Hump near Pauahi still growing and same for crack #105.

Little change in hot spot near Kokoolau. Temperature measured
 2:30 p.m.

March 27

11:51 a.m. Avalanche on NW wall of Halemaumau.
 11:51 a.m. " from NW.

March 30

7:36 a.m. Slide from NE.
 11:07 a.m. Slide from NW.

March 31

8:58 a.m. From NE.
 8:59 a.m. Ditto.

XXXXXX

Day	Saturday	Date	April 1, 1939
	Wednesday		" 5, "
	Sunday		" 16, "

April 1
 11:00 a.m.
 1:30 p.m.

Dust from slides visible over NE rim Halemaumau.

XXXX

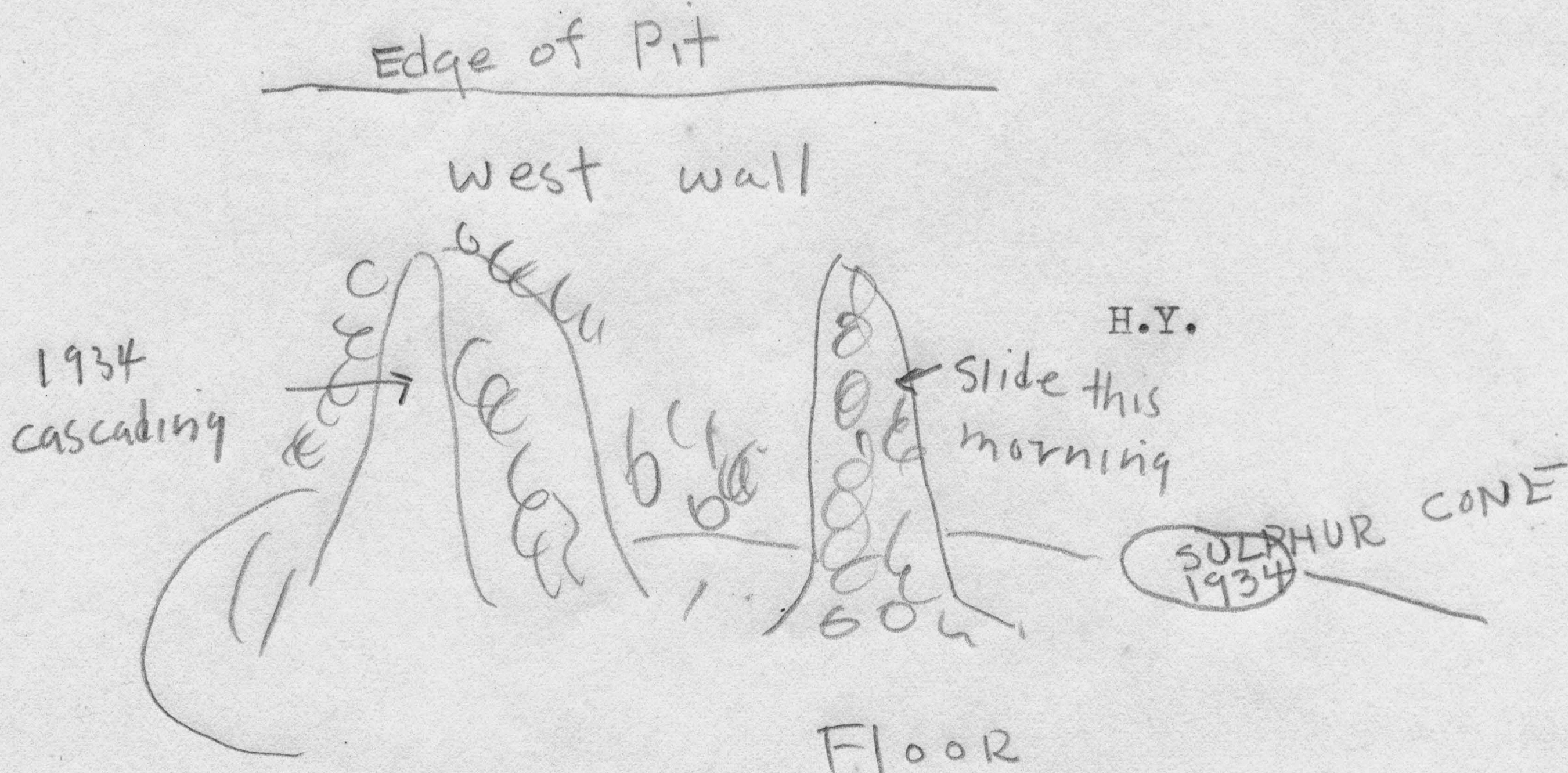
April 5 Rock slide from NW wall of Pit. Audible and visible from
 9:50 a.m. Tourist Stand.

A. L. Jess

April 16 The last night earthquake we felt in my house was moderate
 two shock. C.C.C. Camp boys report this morning felt very strong
 at the camp.

Pit Instrument was dismantled South North side.

9:32 am. Big slide on W wall at the pit. The slide start line with the
 1934 cascading just southside of 1934 sulphur cone lease for about
 five minutes and showed big mark on wall record on pit instrument.



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JOURNAL

Day	Date
Wednesday	May 3, 1939
Friday	" 5, "
Thursday	" 11, "
Monday	" 15, "
Thursday	" 18, "
Saturday	" 20, "
Tuesday	" 23, "

May 3

8:47 a.m. Avalanche from NW rim of Pit.
9:02 a.m. Avalanche from NW rim of Pit.

May 5

2:00 p.m. Slide (fresh) scars from base of Kane nui o Hamo . Parts of Devil's Throat rim seem to have caved recently. Hump near Pauahi continues to grow as does one at crack # 105.

May 11

12:47 p.m. Avalanche from NW rim of Halemaumau. From Uwek. Mus.
" from NNE. (time?)

XXX

May 15

10:28 a.m. Avalanche caused by earthquake on N-NW-W-SW sides of Pit.
10:29 a.m. Large avalanche on W.

R.H.

11:23 a.m. Avalanche on rim of Halemaumau NW.

XX

May 18

Mr. Wingate & Christ saw several slides in a short period beginning at 2:05 p.m. at Hilina Pali.

HHW

May 20

Mr. Wingate states that the Kalapana Hawaiians report a tidal wave sometime yesterday-Friday-at Kalapana and Kaimu. They said the water washed way inland.

C.W.

May 23

2:14 p.m. Earthquake. Avalanche on rim of pit Halemaumau N to SW wall.
Dust clouds visible for 22 minutes.
2:31 p.m. Avalanche on SW wall.

R.H.

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JOURNAL

Day	Wednesday.	Date	May 24,	1939
	Friday		" 26,	"
	Saturday		" 27,	"
	Sunday		" 28,	"

May 24

1:11 p.m.

Landslide on NE rim of Hal.

1:11 p.m.

Landslide on NW part of Kilauea crater.

M.G.

Dust indicating slides from N wall of Hal. at 2:30 p. and
5:50 p.m.

H.H.W.

May 26

8:17 a.m.

Landslide on the NE to NW rim of Halemaumau.

XXX

8:20 a.m.

Dust over N wall.

8:40 a.m.

H.H.W.

4:29 p.m.

Dust cloud above Halemaumau at 4:29 p.m.

G.E.O.

May 27

2:20 p.m.

Landslide on the rim of Hal. from NW, which shows dust coming
out of the Pit.

2:40 p.m.

Landslide on the rim of Halemaumau from NE to NW.

May 28

8:38 a.m.

Landslide on the rim of Halemaumau on the NE of Pit.

8:59 a.m.

Landslide on rim of Halemaumau on NW of Pit.

10:15 a.m.

Landslide on the rim of Halemaumau.

11:05 a.m.

Landslide on the rim of Halemaumau from NE to NW.

M.G.

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JOURNAL

Day	Wednesday	Date	June 7, 1939
	Monday		" 12, "
	Wednesday		" 14, "
	Friday		" 9, "
	Friday		" 16, "
	Monday		" 26, "

June 7

12:53 p.m.

Slides from Halemaumau, N and NW rims.

June 9

1:09 p.m.

Small avalanche from rim of Halemaumau NW.

June 12

1:36 p.m.

Slides from rim of Halemaumau NW. ~~and~~

XXXX

New talus from slide on Kalanaokuaiki Pali near junction with Pali Lele o Kalihipaa.

J.C.

June 14

At about 3:25 p.m. a slide of small volume but containing many large boulders fell from high up the west wall of Halemaumau just over the northern end of the west talus. No other slides or rock fall were noticed during the time 3:15 to 3:50 p.m.

E.G.W.

June 16

2:12 p.m.

Slide from rim of Halemaumau W-NW-N.

2:13 p.m.

" " NW (dribble)

Clud of dust similar to that of May 23,24 which accompanied the earthquakes.

June 26

11:15 a.m.

Avalanche on rim of Halemaumau NW.

XXX

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JOURNAL

Day	Tuesday	Date	July 11, 1939
	Tuesday	"	25, "
	Sunday	"	30, "

July 11

(July 7 trip)

"In the vicinity where vapor has been noted for past years, I noted that instead of one spot, there is a space about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile with at least six places emitting vapor, or fume, visible for at least a mile. In the place fumes are rising from a spot about 50' from the trail. There was a faintly noticeable irritation in breathing before nearing this spot, during clear weather enroute to the top, and as fog passed over this area on the return, noted that for a space of about a half-mile along the "river bed" the same phenomena occurred, in reverse, as when smoke is released near the steam cracks showing that fume was escaping from quite an area. One fairly hot puka was noted, traced down by the very noticeable odor of sulphur, on the trail in this vicinity".

J.E.M.

July 25

Three slides? indicated by dust from face of Hilina Pali between 4:10 and 4:30 p.m.

XXX

July 30

10:59 a.m.

Slide on NE rim of Halemaumau

G.F.

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JOURNAL

Day	Date
Tuesday	August 1, 1939
Wednesday	" 2, "
Tuesday	" 15, "
Thursday	" 17, "
Sunday	" 20, "

August 1 Small slide at Kilauea Iki since last rain opposite lookout.

B.F.M.

August 2

10:00 a.m. Slide on W rim of Halemaumau at 10 a.m.

F.M.B.

10:20 a.m. Slide on N wall of Pauahi Crater.

F.M.B.

11:30 a.m. & Crack along side of road at Aloi Crater opened about 2 feet
12:30 p.m. between 11:30 and 12:30 noon.

XXXXX

August 15

11:19 a.m. Avalanche on rim of Halemaumau N.

XXX

August 17

Evidence of fresh slides observed in Pauahi Crater by
Messers Moomaw and Christ.

August 20

3:17 p.m. Avalanche on rim of Halemaumau.

XXX

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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JOURNAL

Day Friday
Friday

Date September 8, 1939
" 29, "

September 8

12:40 p.m.

Avalanche from rim of Halemaumau. NW.

12:59 p.m.

Ditto

XXX

September 29

10:33 a.m.

~~XXXXXX~~ Small slide N wall Halemaumau.

Sliding in large crack near Pauahi #107 during past week.

H.H.W.

October 14

10:32 a.m.

Halemaumau slide on N rim.

November 10

10:22 a.m.

Slide producing dust cloud N rim.

JOURNAL

Day Friday
TuesdayDate December 8., 1939
" 12, "December 8

10:30 a.m.

Fume visible in Halemaumau from SE rim.

Rocks heard falling between 10:30 and 10:40 a.m.

December 12

2:55 p.m.

Large slide? reported Halemaumau NW rim. Heard at Uwekahuna.

3:25 p.m.

A second relatively large slide indicated by dust over N rim,
Halemaumau.

3:29 p.m.

NE rim.

XXX