

Time Capsule Buried in 1870's Is Found in Honolulu Building

HONOLULU, Dec. 11 (AP) — Using radar equipment along a wall of a landmark Hawaiian building, military specialists on Saturday quickly located a time capsule buried by King Kamehameha V in 1872.

Historians know the capsule contains priceless pieces of the islands' history, including photographs of some royal families from a line begun by Kamehameha the Great, who united the islands by 1810, and a constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom. But until now the capsule's exact location was unknown.

"We found it within the first 10 minutes we were here," said Larry Conyers, a University of Denver professor who used ground-penetrating radar to find the hollow spot in the northeast corner of the Aliiolani Hale building.

"It never happens like this," he said.

The capsule was left undisturbed. Digging it up would destroy the building above, which is also a historic treasure, experts said.

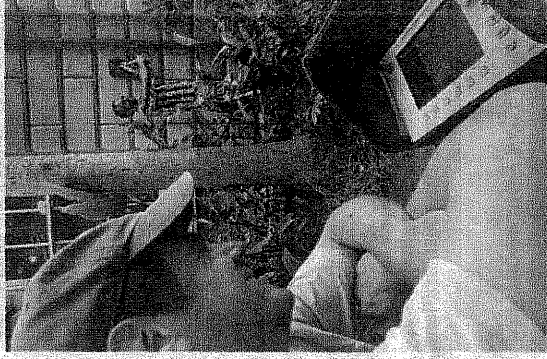
The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command located the capsule so it could be protected during future renovations or natural disasters.

"We were more concerned about its actual location," said Matt Mattee, executive director of the King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center.

The small casket was buried Feb. 19, 1872 — more than two decades before the kingdom was annexed by the United States — during a celebration at which Kamehameha V laid the cornerstone of the Aliiolani Hale.

It contains photographs of royal families, Hawaiian postage stamps, the Hawaiian Kingdom constitution, 21 Hawaiian and foreign coins, 11 different local newspapers, a calendar and books like a Hawaiian language dictionary.

The building initially put all the government offices, like the Legislature and the Hawaii Supreme Court, under one roof for the first time. It now houses the Hawaii Supreme Court, a law library and the Judiciary



Cindy Ellen Russell/Honolulu Star-Bulletin, via AP
Scientists Sam Connell, left, and Larry Conyers used radar on Saturday to locate the time capsule.

ry History Center.

With a famed gold-leaf statue of Kamehameha the Great in the courtyard, Aliiolani Hale is one of the most photographed spots in Hawaii.

New York Times Dec. 12, 2005