Oakland did call at the island on its way home. So, the conclusion is that someone who was on board wrote a to Mr Payne in Dunedin, probably while on the island. No postal services were then available on Rapa Nui (the Post Office didn’t open until 1953), and so the writer posted his letter at the first available port of call: the Canal Zone.

I am most pleased to have John Bryant’s further confirmation and information about the Bear’s stay. We don’t know the precise dates of the visit but the ship left the Antarctic on 7th February and, as we see, reached the Canal Zone by 25th April, so it was evidently some time in March 1935.

Best regards, David Maddock
(david.maddock2@ntlworld.com)

Moai in Holland
A PHOTO OF A MOAI IN HOLLAND was sent by Erwin van der Hoven of Rinjsburg. It was part of one of the most successful April Fools’ jokes in the country. On April 1st, 1962, a moai - so it was said - washed ashore on the Dutch coast near Zandvoort. “By coincidence” it was found by a man walking along the beach who reported it to the Coast Guard. The story appeared on Dutch television and thus was brought to the attention of the nation. As it turned out, the moai was made by a Dutch artist, Edo van Tetterode, who was presented on TV as a “Scandinavian expert” on Easter Island. The national papers believed it and the moai became a big story in all the papers the next day. Too late they realized it was an April Fools’ joke.

Moai in Italy
EL MUSEO DEL TERRITORIO in Villanovaforru, Sardinia, features an exhibit titled “Arte e cultura precolombian 10.000 anni di civiltà in America Latina.” The exhibit will be up until 27 October. Amongst the 300 Aymara, Mapuche, and Terra del Fuego objects on display from Chile and Peru is a large (replica) moai, brought from the Italian mainland for the Sardinian show.

The moai in the exhibit was made in 1990 at Vitorchiano (north of Rome), by 15 Rapanui who went there expressly to carve it for the city’s square. But, local authorities never “registered” the statue with the state bureau that protects works of art. So the “kidnapping” (as some residents of Vitorchiano say) of the statue for the exhibit was facilitated because no official record of it existed.

But when the statue was removed and sent to Sardinia for the exhibit, it caused an uproar in Vitorchiano, which is very proud of the exotic statue that stood in the village center. Local superstition claims that surely some catastrophe will occur as a result of its being removed, although museum authorities say it will be returned when the exhibit ends. However, it now seems that the local priest is tired of a non-Catholic “protector” taking up public space in the town square and the statue may end up elsewhere, out near the freeway to Rome.

Moai now in Sardinia. It is here shown in the Italian quarry where it was carved.

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www.theamericanmag.com/article.php?how_article_id=716

Mark Bright and Julie Harris were in San Francisco recently and there, at the intersection of Post and Taylor Street, they spotted a "sort of a Moai" adorning a House of Crepes.

The smiley-faced and beady-eyed moai may predate the current business at this location.
What’s New in Rawa’i

THE HAWALI VOYAGE CAOE, Hokule’a, departed Yap for Okinawa Japan, on April 12, 2007 and arrived there on April 22. She continued onward to Amami Island, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka, Iwajima, Oshima, Hiroshima, Uwajima, Muroto Miura, and Kamakura before completing the voyage with her arrival in Yokohama on June 9.

The Hokule’a was transported back to Honolulu on a NYK Shipping Lines container vessel. The canoe got a “lift” because “going upwind against the trade would have taken more than 200 days” and that would have been “impossible.”

Massive protests on E.I.! Island children were out on the streets demonstrating against cigarettes and their noxious effects. Thirty-five percent of island students between the ages of 11 and 21 smoke. The protest was coordinated by the Director of the school San Sebastián de Aquíles.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, June 1

FIVE SPECIALISTS FROM THE MAINLAND completed 1,899 dental checkups in a dental health program donated by the Chilean Armada. Efforts were concentrated on children and pregnant women. During six days, the five specialists worked in Hanga Roa hospital. Still to come are some medical doctors including an eye doctor and a nose and throat specialist.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, June 5

Independence” for the island is near. The Chilean congress passed, by an overwhelming margin, a bill that would make both Easter Island and Juan Fernandez Islands “special territories”. This means independence from the 5th Region so that, instead of having to beg for money from the V Region, islanders can request directly from the government at Santiago. Administratively, the island will be dependent on the Ministry of the Interior. The head of the First Naval Zone, Vice Admiral Cristian Millar, reports that, with the new special territory, nothing will change.