

The latest meeting of the Medics was held in August at the 442 clubhouse. The evening's business was the 50th Anniversary Reunion to be held in Bruyeres and Biffontaine. Members present at the meeting were TED MATSUO, WILFRED TAIRA, ED ONAKA, JACK YAMASHIRO, CARL MIYABARA, LIONEL IKEBE, HOWARD KOZUMA, and SUEO FUJII.

CHARLES FUJIMOTO of Riverside, California wrote to thank the Medics who made the 50th Reunion a great one. He sent copies of the pictures he took at the reunion.

HARRY ABE's return to Long Island after the 442 Reunion took an Odyssean turn. He wrote: "I'm finally getting home after those 5 days of a most heartwarming yet somewhat sad and nostalgic time in Hawaii - followed by almost three weeks of hectic running in California with my daughter's family, 3 days with my brother and his wife who took two of my friends and me to Vegas - then up to San Jose to see my in-laws, old friends, nephews and nieces - then finally home on April 16th to get some rest. The Newsday article about the reunion by MAUREEN FAN came out. The Medics were one of her favorites. BILL KOCHIYAMA is an old friend of hers. He asked her to contact me and I started the ball rolling (about her reporting the reunion, etc.)"

HARRY wrote later: "Thanks for the videotape of the 442. It let me see parts of the reunion I missed. MAUREEN FAN's 442 article got good space in the local paper. She said she had 4,000 words extra! What did you think of her article? Well written - easy reading? I had a little problem with her insistence on wanting so much information about the AJA's conflicts with prejudice, racism, etc. I guess I come from the old Japanese generation. Hence, my reluctance to tell her of my bad experiences. She used some

unauthorized quotes, but I guess all in all she produced a well-written article. We had a post-reunion get-together of some 442 fellows in NYC. I brought some copies of Fan's article. They liked her style of writing. She certainly worked hard on the article.

I'm also sending you a copy of John Hersey's "Behind Barbed Wire." This was condensed from his introduction to the book Manzanar (with superior pictures ANSEL ADAMS- a must for our library)."

CLAIRE and ROY SAKATA spent some time in Washington state by visiting their Medics friends. They chronicled their trip: "On a recent visit to Seattle, we met with the MOMODA brothers, the YASUTAKES, and the KANAYAS. It was great seeing them again so soon after our reunion in March. JUNE MOMODA planned a mini-reunion of sorts. The weather was just great - blue skies and plenty of sunshine! They swore we packed it in our suitcases to bring it to Seattle.

JUNE and SHIG took us on a tour of the city - Pike's Market, the Aquarium, and then we headed for the pier. We met TAK and KIMI MOMODA and KIM and JIM KANAYA. We boarded the ferry to Blake Island on the Sound, to Tillicum Village, and Indian village with authentic artifacts and enjoyed a great live show explaining the customs of the Chinook tribe, and enjoyed a salmon lunch prepared Indian-style.

After the tour, we drove over to the HIRAM CHITTENDEN locks to see how they regulate the levels of the sea and lake to let boats of all shapes and sizes come in or out - boating is so popular here.

We then headed for a great seafood dinner at Anthony's Home Port. The YASUTAKES joined us. Stopped over at KIMI and TAK'S for more coffee and talk story.

The next morning KIMI and TAK picked us up to visit MIN MASUDA's grave. We brought some Hawaii flowers to decorate his grave. We also found GEORGE SAWADA'S grave and left some blooms there too.

We all met at Snoqualmie Falls park for a

bento lunch. It is said that the Snoqualmie River cascades 270 feet (100 feet higher than the famed Niagara Falls) through a spectacular rock gorge. What a beautiful sight! Then we dove into our bento lunch - ono!

After lunch, we visited the Chateau Ste. Michelle winery, Washington's finest, where we tasted some of its fine wines! That evening, JUNE and SHIG prepared a fabulous dinner for all of us and of course more talk story. We said our good-byes that night and thanked them all for a wonderful visit. We told them that they all had their own brand of aloha which just about overwhelmed us.

KIMI and TAK drove us to the airport early the next morning and bade them aloha."

DONALD NAKASHIMA penned his latest activities from Lodi, California: "Here it is early September and we are now getting some warm weather which we should have had last month or in July. It is finally climbing up to 100 or so. But summer was very pleasant and it still looks like we may have an early fall as some of the trees are shedding. It begins to cool down about 5 p.m. and during the night the temperature goes down to the 50's and 60s which makes for comfortable sleeping.

We will be in Hawaii on October 4 for 3 weeks. We stay on Molokai for 10 days or so before going to Honolulu. I guess I will have to watch myself a little more as far as diet is concerned. Since my return from Hawaii in March, I ended up in the hospital for a few days. As for my back, I'll be getting some new treatments next week.

The annual Lodi Grape and Wine Festival Fair takes place in 11 1/2 weeks for 4 days. The peach crop wasn't very good this year and it is still a little early for table grapes though they are some on the market. Next month, I'll have to get my order in for almonds and walnuts. We are looking forward to having our family reunion in Lodi this year. It is hard to get all the kids together. Steve will be coming in from Bangladesh in December and my other son from Providence, RI over the holidays. My daughter and her family will come from Tucson. Our grandson is now 8 1/2 months old and has

learned to pull himself up and take a few steps.

Not much going on at this time. I still go to water aerobic classes three times a week for exercises, look after my orchids, and try to do some work at home and in my daughter's yard. But always something to do. Pretty soon, it will be the winter season for the Stockton Symphony concerts, Lodi Symphony and we do go to a few in SF. The winter shows at the Sacramento Music Circus just opened last week with "Cats." We got to some of the musicals in SF and the next one is "Phantom of the Opera" in February next year. "

EDONAKA attended the dedication ceremony of the new Honomu Christian Church on the Big Island. He reported that unlike the days of his childhood when the congregation was entirely AJA, it is now multi-national - Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Hawaiian, Samoan, etc.

The Honomu church and boarding school was founded in 1904 by Reverend SHIRO SOKABE, a minister from Shikoku, Japan. Not unlike other Japanese communities in Hawaii at the turn of the century, violence, gambling, adultery, wife-swapping, and drunkenness were present in Honomu. So Reverend Sokabe established the Honomu Gijuku, a Christian mission school and Japanese language school for Japanese immigrant's children that served as an orphanage, a crisis center for the victims of spouse or child neglect, rehabilitation center for delinquent children, a dormitory for students who attended Honomu School and Hilo High School, a poor house for the wayward and beggars and a half-way house for the mentally and physically disabled and handicapped, according to Reverend MITSUO AOKI.

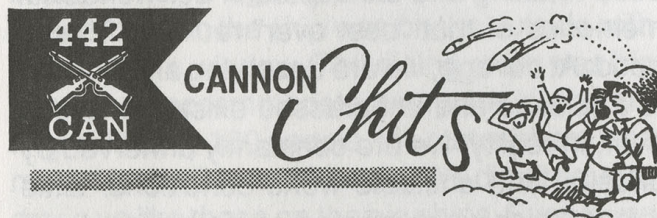
Medic ED ONAKA stayed at the boarding house while his father was trying to establish a business on Maui. SHIZUICHI HAMADA of M Company was also there after he lost his father. DR. JIRO NAKANO, a Hilo physician, has written a biography of Reverend SHIRO SOKABE titled Samurai Missionary. Out of the pages of the book emerges a truly saintly person.

The family of TAKASHI NAKAMURA held a

70th birthday party for him at the Waiialae Country Club. Many of NAKAMURA'S friends were present to celebrate the anniversary. A large Medics group enjoyed the savory menu and entertainment.

DOROTHY and TED MATSUO are on a travel spree. This time they are changing their itinerary from Asia to Europe.

Restaurant Ohmasa is still the favorite dinner place for YOSHIO KITSU and his wife. Ohmasa now has a license to serve whiskey, beer, wine, and sake. There is much karaoke activity there on Friday nights. Recent visitors to the bistro were the co-hosts of the Japanese TV show "Champion Karaoke Challenge" and the new series "Enka no Hayari Uta," KEIKO TAGAMI and YASUSHI ONO. The duo's pictures and other entertainers' are displayed on the shokudo's wall. Owner STEVE YAMADA's brother JACK YAMADA, a local karaoke instructor, appeared as a judge in one of the Tagami - Ono TV telecasts. 442 karaoke singers JANET and SHIGERU GOTO were recent Ohmasa guests.



Let's see what I can share of the items found on my desk. There are letters from HARU MAYEDA, a large envelope from TOSH SUYEMATSU and a packet of photos. There are news articles sent by JOE HAMANAKA of Seattle. It includes a photo article by SALLY MACDONALD headlined "A Unit of Many Heroes." I also see a schedule of fall classes. Enough clutter that keeps us busy, important clutter to hopefully keep us alert mentally and physically healthy in retirement.

Would you believe, it took me almost three months to clear away a mountain of correspondence, newspapers, magazines, and books stacked on my desk? I was away on a month's visit to my daughter IRIS in Torrance, Califor-

nia.

There were so many things to do and see in Torrance. The flowers are so gorgeously beautiful in the spring season. All the roses, irises, azaleas, camellias, and the well-cared gardens sparkled on the morning walk to and from Del Almo Shopping Center, the library at the Civic Center, and the surrounding neighborhood.

I spent a full morning with CHUCK and HARU MAYEDA. It was then that HARU related her precious writing in her notebook about her life with CHUCK. It is a family love story written for her grandchildren, both teenagers who have been requesting such a heritage story. CHUCK wasn't aware she had been writing...Of course she had been writing regularly to their friends, among them ALFRED GOTO and the OHARAS. CHUCH has had an inoperable heart condition for 5 years. CHUCK spends all his time caring for HARU. CHUCK is an excellent housekeeper, cook, gardener, shopper, devoted nurse-companion, and of course, the best mechanic. This amazing couple knows how to laugh and be cheerful in the most physically trying times. I felt very excited and honored in making a tape from her family love story. I was deeply touched to read a dramatic part of her story. HARU wrote that the happiest and saddest day of her life was the wedding of her oldest son, CHUCK, JR., to DONNA HARIBE. Her son, BILL, pushed her on the wheelchair to be beside CHUCK. They had waited 23 years and CHUCK and HARU had wanted to dance at their son's wedding reception. Both HARU and CHUCK are never ones to dwell on tears though for we all know they are very thoughtful and generous.

Soon after coming home, MASAMI and I spent a few days on Molokai to check on TOKUO and SALLY OKIMOTO. We wanted to know why TOKU was listed as a participant in the reunion and was a no-show. CHUCK and HARU MAYEDA wanted to know about TOKU, too. Well, as we suspected he's as happy as can be in Kualapuu..with SALLY they run a successful, fast-food restaurant. TOKU also helps his son with his farm raising sweet potato, cucumbers, pumpkins, and onions. We sent photos to

CHUCK to show that the OKIMOTO'S have a very comfortable and happy niche on the Friendly Isle.

It seems while I was a non-participant in the 442nd Golden Anniversary, I was busy keeping in touch with other non-participants such as TOSH SUYEMATSU. We finally sent his souvenir package. TOSH is very prompt with his thank you letter, only this time he sent a large photo and article that appeared in the Casper, Wyoming newspaper. Cannon Co. has another award recipient. The large photo shows TOSH receiving his third unit citation badge from Lt. Col. VIRGIL MILLER. CHETTANAKA'S Go For Broke book has two photos that show TOSH parading to receive the award. Belated congratulations First Sergeant TOSHIO SUYEMATSU!

A few days later we received another large envelope from TOSH. The envelope contained a cap with their family emblem. The cap was designed with an American version of the SUYEMATSU family crest. Since "SUYE" means the last, and "MATSU" is pine, a more appropriate idea gave birth to the "Eternal Pine." What a beautiful name and design for the crest at their family reunion! Thanks for sharing a very American creation!

Did you know that the idea for Japanese surnames is only about two hundred years old? Why are there so many similar names? There are so many NAKAMURAS, TANAKAS, MORITAS, and HIRATAS. Did these family names originate from their environment or their profession? What were the reasons for the family name? The family crest may have been designed according to the occupation or chosen field. These interesting questions may be answered at the lecture course, tuition free, at the University. My first lecture of Japanese history #321 by Dr. MINORU SHINODA was outstanding! Dr. SHINODA has a score of excellent stories to make history alive.

Well, my desk is clear but keep in touch. Send letters to the Cannoneers on the mainland, exchange photos and news clippings or even audit classes, many free for senior citizens in

history, literature, or art at the University or the community colleges. Retirement can be an interesting and refreshing time.

Thanks to KAZU SAIKI, the Cannon members and their wives - 21 in all - enjoyed a very pleasant buffet dinner at the Edgewater Hotel on June 10, 1993. KAORU announced plans for a Las Vegas reunion being coordinated by TSUKA MURAKAMI and European travel for the end of April, 1944.



Do you realize that nearly half a year has passed us by since we enjoyed our 50th Anniversary Reunion in March?

News of Howe Chapter were inexhaustible during the period of memorable events and unforgettable activities. But since then the home front has been very quiet. I think most of us have been relaxing and exhausted in our wonderful memories of that "best ever" reunion. This is good. At our age, we are deserving and entitled to a relaxed and unharassed existence. However, in reality, we are constantly unnerved by unusual and unstable world conditions. Little things which we dismissed as insignificant and unworthy of mention are now in focus. Everything is important to us today. So come out and share your experiences.

H Chapter L.A. members have been utilizing their time positively. In July they have already had their mini-reunion in Las Vegas. DOC and MARGE YOSHIDA were able to meet with them since they were in town attending a wedding. ALLEGRA and I were in the vicinity but too early to meet with them. We were on our way back from an Alaskan cruise trip. However, we were fortunate to have had a mini-reunion in Seattle...thanks to YOSH and BETTY FUJIWARA and MARGIE and BONESY YANAGIMACHI. They surprised us by greeting us when we landed at Seattle airport. They also

treated us to a Japanese dinner and we really appreciated the "Kamameshi" since we were on a rice free diet for over a week during our trip. Next day they took us shopping at a huge shopping center which was open on the 4th of July holiday. For the afternoon and lunch, we were invited to a get-together at the home of G.K. and HAMI SATO. Also present were ROSE and GEORGE HOSODA and son, and AMY and KOZO YAMANE who drove all the way from Warden. MOLLIE and JOE SHINSATO were also there. The food was plentiful and the company was enjoyable. Incidentally, BONESY is a terrific sushi maker. He provided all the delicious nigiri and maki sushi. Thanks to the Seattle gang, the get-together was a topping to our enjoyable Alaskan cruise.

The HASHIMOTOS with their daughter and grandkids also went on an Alaskan cruise. According to their report, they had a wonderful time.

Our cruise was mostly for elderly couples like us and we're glad we sailed on a small cruise ship which accommodated only 130 people instead of on a big ship with over 1000 people. Every room on the ship was on the outside with huge picture window. The dining room was big enough to accommodate everyone in one sitting. With only 130 people, the atmosphere was more compatible and friendly. We didn't have to dress up like those on the big ships. Everything was taken care of except for liquor. With a small ship, we were able to go into areas inaccessible to bigger ships.

Sighted in Las Vegas recently were DORIS & WONG YOSHIMOTO and VIOLET OKUHARA. YOSHI and HARRY KIYABU and BESSIE and CHARLIE OKAZAKI also were seen contributing to the town's bulging kitty. As usual, the HASHIMOTOS were gracious hosts. VIRGINIA and EDDIE were recently in Hawaii. In August, they finalized the selling of their Honolulu condo. VIRGINIA, as reported, is still the champion queen for accumulating "royal flushes." I don't know what a royal flush looks like but she has already amassed enough of them to tally on all the fingers and toes. Well, one of these days...

MOLLIE and TOE YOSHINO were in Honolulu recently to attend their family reunion. They were busy everyday so that we were unable to meet with them.

TAKAO HEDANI is recuperating from some ailment and so is MARIA MATSUMOTO. Wish them well. HARRY KIYABU was also interned with surgery to his hips and leg. He's okay. He says he feels good and grew 2 inches.

Plans for the Kauai reunion in September of 1994 are going well. The L.A. gang has already signed up 32 people. We in Hawaii should be more enthusiastic..not because the reunion is in Hawaii but because of the importance of getting together.

HARRY reports that our next H Chapter meeting will be on Sunday, October 31, 5:00 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Shinnen kai, the New Year's get-together is also planned. We have a great surprise for all the members.

In order to have a better and more well-rounded report for Howe Chapter members, we need more reporting...any news however insignificant it may seem, call CHARLIE, HARRY, TAK, WONG, or JACKSON.



Work! Work! Work! Seems like that's all the S/D do! This is what I have heard from many sources. This is true...understandably and so far. This is the 50th year; the golden anniversary time, and the wave of the future is building from now to 1995. If the S/D are to become a viable and leading force, as our fathers are very successfully, we have to be able to pool all our resources now and be ready to ride the crest and shoot the tube when the time comes to do so. This does not mean we finish after 1995... This only sets the future for other, bigger projects that will capture the worldwide attention and commitment. The S/D Council is one step to the

accomplishment of this goal, and is taking place. Linking ourselves to different organizations and using all possible approaches to validate ourselves as key players is another step to the goal.

This is the key to our success... COMMITMENT. And this was evident in all of our activities to date (except when no one showed up for a scheduled meeting - only me). We have had setbacks but known only to key players; no one else knew about them. But the blood that runs in our bodies still carries the "Go For Broke" attitude from our father as evidenced by the Special Events Committee. BOYD YAMASHITA, aided by SHIRLEY IGARASHI, GAIL ONUMA, and the 3 URADA sisters, VELMA, CORRINE, and ARLENE and their families undertook the task of creating an Aloha Week Parade float, even when the apparent corporate financing fell through. The S/D Executive Committee started sponsoring with a sizable amount followed by a donation from City Bank of Honolulu (which GRANT KAGIMOTO of Cane Haul Road, Inc. helped us with) and a matching donation from GEORGE NAKASATO and the 50th Anniversary Reunion Committee. Many individual donation of money, greenery, flowers, and kokua rounded out the picture. Continuing encouragement from NELSON FUJIO, WAYNE SILVA, and RICK OMURA kept the fires going. Jumping in with a new concept for the float design and winning all hearts present were JOE and TOMMY UNO, who caught the spirit and volunteered to construct the design of the float. I gave up a trip to San Francisco with my wife (who won an award in nutrition education from the U.S. Department of Agriculture - congratulations, STEPHANIE) and aided the set-up of the float and construction area. Hundreds of hands in the closing days of P-Day (Parade Day) put on thousands of flowers, leis, and greenery in place to complete the float. Problems arose and were addressed - TOMMY UNO drove the float like a pro when the scheduled driver didn't show up. The color guard, RON, OBA, GEORGE NAKASATO, ERNIE UNO, SHIGERU GOTO,

RODNEY YAMASHIRO, RICHARD URADA and boarded the float at 7 a.m. to be judged - AND WE WON THE QUEEN'S AWARD! Crowds acknowledged the hard work and the role the veterans played in their lives. A real "chicken skin" time was had by all participants and workers alike. The small party and teardown time was one of unity, congratulations, and aspirations - maybe again next year? We all came out even closer together in body and spirit onto our goal of our father's camaraderie

The Sons and Daughter may be participating in the intermission show of the Hula Bowl, which is sponsored by Kodak. NELSON FUJIO is the contact person, so the Special Events Committee may be very busy around January and February of 1994!

More commitment - the Membership Service Committee is going full steam ahead (Go For Broke!) and is planning a quarterly newsletter along with other events in the near future. ED GOTO is spearheading the S/D newsletter which is coming soon and from all indications it'll be better than the first!

The charter membership banquet was attended by about 80 people and heard the director of the Maui Nisei Veterans Center, LEONARD OKA, give an inspiring message. The next day, ALVIN YOSHITOMI, ALAN YUKITOMO, EILEEN SAKAI, our advisor JIMMY MIYAKE and I went to Maui to meet their S/Ds and to bolster their spirits. We had a great time during the luncheon and subsequent meeting. Much was shared as ALVIN gave them an example of his expertise and knowledge of artifacts and DAVID FUKUDA of Maui with us their oral history project.

Keep Saturday, October 23 open as KAREN YOSHIDA is planning a Halloween party at the University of Hawaii - not only sansei and yonsei, but for Issei and Nisei too! This will be a family event as well as our upcoming Christmas party on Saturday, December 4th which DALE ANZAI is putting together. Chairperson EILEEN SAKAI is really doing a great job and coordinating all these events.

Our Education Committee, headed by ALAN

YUKITOMO, put on a great seminar which was attended by nearly 100 people. GENNY GOTO got State chairperson on Aging JEANETTE TAKAMURA to do a very informative session for all ages. JEANETTE was impressed by the organization and scope of this project. Follow up seminars and contacts are planned for the near future. I will stress to all of you readers to the young and retirees age - the planning must be done now! Not soon, or the next time, but immediately as my brother GLENN KOGA and I can testify to in our case. If you wait too long, YOU will pay for the delay....no one else. Call me and I'll talk facts with you. So not only for the Nisei are these seminars planned for, but to us sansei it is also being addressed.

The Archives Committee is "going for broke" in more ways than one as our fathers have given us charge to prepare apartment #102 in our apartment building as an archival facility for the 442nd RCT. A workday was held on August 7 and attended by MASAJI KUROZUMI, TAKAMORI MIYAJI, WALLY KAGAWA, ISAMU FURUYA, myself and STEPHANIE KOGA, ALVIN YOSHITOMI, JAN KAWABATA, ED & GENNY GOTO, NELSON FURUYA, GAIL NISHIMURA, RODNEY ONZUKA, JENNIFER BAKER, and GRACE OKAMURA. Continued work is being done as more plans are made and

changed as different materials become available and system (Hi-tech & Computers) modifications are revised. Seems like only myself has volunteered, so if anyone wants to help...ALVIN YOSHITOMI has been busy going around and securing different artifacts and procedures of preserving them. AMY FUKUNAGA also has been busily attending may seminars on the data preservation side. These chairpersons are continuing to set up the oral history section also - at JCCH recently, an oral history workshop was presented and over a dozen S/Ds attended. Soon equipment will be purchased for this portion also.

As you have read, we are working and working hard in establishing all programs to honor our fathers, their sacrifices and accomplishments of past years, and lifting the Americans of Japanese ancestry image and show the world what they did for freedom and the American way. And not to let you forget - March 26, 1994 is the 51st Anniversary Banquet and Memorial Service. Plan to keep all day open as we S/Ds have a very ambitious plan.

