

April 18 @ HCC

Old 'possum ROCKY while complaining about his sore back made a bid for Ace of the Month with a net 67. He would have complained all the way to the bank, too, except TED with an identical 67 pulled the rug from under ROCKY's closed stance by virtue of his lower handicap. All eight place winners shooting under par in the ILN includes TEIJI, GEO, LARRY, TOKU with last man BIGGIE slamming the door after him. BIGGIE should also get the prize for "Best Dressed Golfer" with his permanent press polyester pants and immaculate white shirt. In his sartorial splendor, he could have gone from the golf course directly to the ballroom floor.

If it's any consolation for ROCKY, he with partner TOKU was the best Two-Man Team. GEO/LARRY, TED/FRANCIS, TEIJI/TOSH, DON/WALT and JOE U./AKABO followed for the diminishing returns. That LARRY's got his meathooks in everything today.

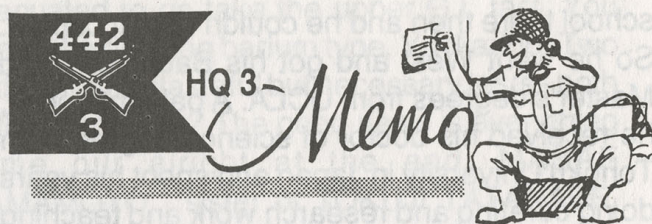
WATER, son of FLORENCE and the late BILL HORIE was the guest of TED.

19th hole was at the Moanalua GC restaurant. The thirsty and ravenous golfers didn't need handicaps to put away \$61.00 worth of drinks and pupus with the golf club picking up the tab.

May 19 @ HCC

Ace of the Month - JOE O. He's right. Dancing does improve his golf game. Okay, all you golfers line up. Now then. Slow, quick, quick. Second in the ILN was TEIJI. TOSHI and JOE U. tied for third place. For whatever was left in the cookie jar was split by BOYAN, STAN S., KON KON, and DON. Give KON KON a little bit more for he bought the box of doughnuts.

When one is good, two is better. That's how come the one-two- (JOE O., TEIJI) in the ILN teamed up to cinch the Two-Man Team prize. The other five teams were fingers in the money jar were TOSHI/JOE U., STAN/MITS, BOYAN/Y.T., DON/HAROLD, KON KON/ROY O. HAROLD finally hits pay day with his irons-only on the fairways. This should somewhat ease the strain on his wallet and ulcers. CP's on the par threes: #4 Y.T., #8 STAN, #13 CLUB, #17 LARRY.



by **CHARLES WATANABE**

Getting into the swing of the things again, Hq3rd had its first regular meeting of the year at the clubhouse on February 18, 1994. We were present at the meeting? Should I say the usual guys...the same boys...except with seemingly longer faces. At the meeting were SAM FURUYA (President), SHIGERU GOTO, BILL KUWATA, ERNI UNO, TAKESHI NAKAMURA, HAJIME MATSUURA, and CHARLES WATANABE. Absent and presumed traveling were DAVID KAIURA and SAM SASAI. With the above mentioned regulars, hopefully, Hq3rd will enjoy many more years ahead.

Now what was the meeting all about? Just to be honest, the meeting lasted just as long as it takes SAM FURUYA to get to the clubhouse from Keolu Hills. Meeting adjourned quickly without anything of importance on the agenda.

Not much difference for March meeting...SAM FURUYA's car didn't get chance to cool off when the meeting ended and the group headed for the coffee bar. But before adjoining the meeting, SAM FURUYA reported that ERNI UNO will now become 442nd Veterans Club chaplain. So if you ever need to meet with ERNI on any matters (not financial aid), I'm sure he'll be available.

March 26 marked the 51st anniversary of 442nd Veterans Club and, in remembrance, a banquet put together by the Sons and Daughters was held at the Ilikai Hotel. They deserve much accolade for a well presented program. Hq3rd was very supportive of this even with the attendance of TAKESHI & IRENE NAKAMURA, ERNI & GRACE UNO, SAM & HARUMI FURUYA, FRANCES TSUBATA, JANET MATSUDA, HAJIME & HINAYO MATSUURA, TOMMY & ELAINE TAMASHIRO, SAM & MICH SASAI, BILL & YAEKO KUWATA, SHIGERU &

JANET GOTO, and CHARLES & CLARA WATANABE.

Next year's anniversary banquet will be held at the Pacific Beach Hotel. And, don't forget June dinner meeting at the Beachcomber Restaurant. With regards to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Foundation, contact ERNI UNO if you have any questions.

This reporter was unable to attend the April meeting, so I asked SAM FURUYA what to report and his reply was 's "Same as March - nothing to report."

May meeting was held at the clubhouse. The clubhouse had been recently refurbished and took on a new look. Furniture and chairs are of Scan design and decor...bought at a bargain, I hear. Hope you liked what you saw.

Highlight for the month of May is the annual Memorial Day visit to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. This will be followed by a potluck dinner in the evening. More on this in the next newsletter.

### Obituary

HAROLD M. MIKUNI of Honolulu, a retired carpenter superintendent, died on April 4, 1994 at his home. He was a long time member of Hq3rd and Anti Tank truck driver. He is survived by his wife, MERILYN, son, MILTON, daughters, JOY, BETTY-JOANNE and ELLABELLE. Memorial service was held at the Hosoi Garden Mortuary. We extend our deepest sympathy to MERILYN and family; we will miss HAROLD, especially on meeting nights.

On a final note, the Sogetsu School of Ikebana recently held its 30th Anniversary Celebration Exhibition at the Liberty House Special Events Room. GRACE UNO participated with an arrangement of her own, using only white and blue agapanthus (one kind of material), and done in a basic upright style. Congratulations, GRACE, the arrangement brought out beauty and simplicity.

For now all da kine PAU.



by HERB AKAMINE

MASATO INOUYE recently joined the "no longer with us" Medics list. His funeral service was held at the Hosoi Mortuary in Honolulu. ALBERT TSUKAYAMA conducted the service and DOROTHY MATSUO gave the eulogy. MASATO was a carpenter contractor before retirement. He and his wife MITZI were avid ballroom dancers with the 442, 100, and community groups. Besides MITZI, he left three sons.

Six Medics will make up ALEX OKA's Second Battalion tour en route to Bruyeres and Biffontaine. AIKO and GEORGE MINATA of Spokane, TOM NAKAHARA and his wife of Paauilo, and my wife and I are the six. It will be the first reunion for the trio who started the Italian campaign together.

MASA NOMURA wrote: "I fractured my right ankle in January and was rushed for x-rays, referred to a orthopedic man, etc. And with Memorial Day around the corner, we will go to DICK's grave. We usually go on Sundays to avoid the crowds - being a Catholic cemetery, they hold an outdoor mass on Memorial Day and the crowd is humungous.

"My daughter and son-in-law were on an extended vacation in the Southwest so were not home for Easter and/or Mother's Day. He took early retirement so they decided to take off on vacation and have a good time. Both their sons are out of school, their house is paid off, etc. so I was thinking to myself, DICK worked 'til 72, worked 50 years at one job, and we never took a vacation for more than 3 weeks at a time. Oh well, it's a new generation.

"I'm going to be visiting Hana in a few weeks. At the same time, I'll see DICK's brother. It'll be a year since he became incapacitated. He wants to go home very much but he's still unable to

move his left leg. He was a very heavy smoker. DICK was a smoker until 1971 but he quit "cold turkey" when a close friend succumbed to lung cancer.

Sometimes I wonder about my memory but during a recent exam I had to take in applying for a long-term care policy, I passed the memory test with high marks, So they said."

JIMMY KANAYA gave us the following information: "A military historian has compiled a lot of information about the 100th and 442nd from all of the published books so far - including MATSUO's Boyhood to War. This historian is a retired military man now with the Civil Service Military Education Center. He took a liking to the Niseis and our World War II situation. His historical record will include short anecdotes from selected individual experience to be included in lesson material for military dependent students in the school system.

"The 442nd is invited to attend the 34th Infantry Division reunion being held just outside of Chicago in July. The 36th Infantry Division's annual reunion will be in Fort Worth, Texas this year. We are also invited to that one but I doubt if I'll attend this year. We went to their reunion a few years back in San Antonio but it was a confused situation. The hotel said, "We have your confirmed reservation but we don't have any rooms for you." How about that? That started off the 3-day reunion with a bang. The hotel we were directed to was outside of town and it was an old run-down Holiday Inn that was being remodeled. Needless to say, I got lost looking for it and got lost everytime we had to go back to the reunion hotel downtown. We paid for all of the function's events but missed every one of them. Talk about "Lost Weekend."

I plan to spend at least 3 days in and around Bruyeres - Biffontaine - La Housierre, looking and walking over the route we took before and after we were captured. Maybe SUEO FUJII would like to join me. If I could only locate MAS UCHIMURA who was also captured at the same time, we might be able to relive some of the events that took place on that fateful day Monday, October 23rd, 1944. There was a haole

Medic named "TEX" who was supporting us from the Collecting Company that was captured with us. I have announcements out on the military publications, the Army Times and the American Ex-POW Bulletin, in an effort to locate him. If he's still around, I would like to see if he could make the trip to France and join us in the last "hurrah."

HARRY ABE and I attended an ad-hoc meeting in San Francisco in February for the Go For Broke National Veteran's Association. So we took this opportunity to visit FRANK YANO. He looks good, retired from the Postal Service and living life comfortably as any retiree should. I had not seen him since the day before we were captured, almost 50 years ago. The three of us talked for nearly two hours. It was good seeing him again."

WILLIE YASUTAKE had this to say: "You probably heard from JIMMIE KANAYA that he is planning to go to Bruyeres impendently. HARRY ABE and I have decided to go with the group that is leaving from L.A. It is organized by RUDY TOKIWA (Sunnydale, CA) through the S.I.E.L Voyages Agency (PIERRE MOULIN is the coordinator for the agency). Our paths may not cross during our tours, but I hope we will be able to get together at the reunion. I see that your group will be staying in Colmar which appears to be 25+ miles east of Bruyeres on the map. We will be in Hotel Ibis in Epinal - which is approximately 15 miles west of Bruyeres.

HARRY is planning to fly directly to Rome from NY and will join us in Rome. I will fly into Chicago from Seattle and join the group there. I'm really looking forward to the trip. I'm planning to do lot of reading to jar my gray matter - will tale a lot of jarring, I'm afraid.

We were in Anaheim during the middle of April. Like kids we did the various rides at Disneyland. We dared ride that Matterhorn but is almost scared the life out of us.

KAY KANESHIMA cam down from L.A. to treat us to Sunday brunch at the Anaheim Marriot Hotel. We spent the whole morning with KAY and her family - daughter JOCELYN and husband RON KAWASAKI and son SPENCER and

daughter NINA and husband LESTER TANAKA and son TYLER. RON is with the Postal Service and LESTER is a graphic artist. Needless to say, KAY is fully occupied with the two baby grandsons.

I finally got to see brother MIKE and his wife MARGARET in Redondo Beach. The last time I saw them on the mainland was in 1955 at Fort Wayne, Indiana where he was studying engineering. He showed me his family picture album. In it was an interesting photo of a bronze plaque located in the modest Waiakea-uka graveyard on the Big Island. The tablet memorializes 442 KIAs YOSHIMURA, GOYA, TOKUSATO, and the two TAKAYAMA brothers. I also got to see the citation awarding him the silver star medal. He is another of the K Company boys who went over to help the 100th. I wonder if the award was in some way due to WALTER LESINSKI's tough training program. MIKE's parlor is full of judo trophies earned by his two sons and two granddaughters. The boys, sandan and ni-dan, are the judo instructors at the Gardena YMCA. The older son's wife is a ni-dan and her father is also a judo instructor. Having gotten tired of judo, her trophies were discarded and wound up at the Salvation Army thrift shop.



by JUNE OHARA

### **Cannon Chapter Reunion, Las Vegas, April 27 - May 2, 1994**

71 mainland Cannoneers and 22 Hawaii Chapter Cannoneers experienced an unforgettably successful reunion at the Fremont Hotel. We enjoyed fabulous luck, exciting fun, and the finest food for a very, very happy week.

We were most fortunate to have JOHN and MARY KASHINO hosting us. Not only were they superb in the hospitality room by providing us with refreshments and snacks but they also

checked on shopping excursions, public transportation, family shows, and other interesting activities.

Thursday, our first evening in Las Vegas, was unreal. MARIKO HANAMI won a brand new Saturn on the nickel machine. MARIKO had to ask FRANK SUGIHARA what the sounds and lights were, not realizing she was a winner! Just as thrilling, the book authored by TOORU KANAZAWA arrived from New York City. Titled Close Support, many Cannoneers bought copies for their family members. TOORU is such a fine writer even the memories of those Cannoneers killed in action are brought to life. The Cannoneers are very enthusiastic over Close Support. Close Support is available for purchase at the clubhouse for \$25.00. It will be interesting reading as well as viewing because of its collection of fine photos.

The hospitality room was a hub of talk story sessions, autograph sessions, and meeting first time participants GEORGE NAKADA, BILLITO, YO OSHIKI, MINORU NAKAYAMA's brother, and ART SUSUMI. Also, for the first time was ROY MIYAKE with his new bride MAY from California. Another newlywed couple was WILBUR and MERLE HOLCK of Arizona. TOSH and ELLEN SUYEMATSU celebrated their wedding anniversary.

Early the second morning we missed the commotion caused by a distraught employee. She went home to get a gun, came back to the Fremont, and fired at a slot machine. She was upset because she had lost so much money. Police were called to the scene while the circumstances seemed so unreal, to many people Las Vegas is a dreamland of possible wins. TOORU and MAE KANAZARA won over \$11,000, MITSUKO KUDO won \$800.00 and I was happy to win \$60.00 in quarters and \$40.00 in nickels. MANUEL KITAGAWA is also lucky while the losers were good sports or polite. If they lost, at least they said they're helping to pay for MARIKO's new white Saturn.

There is so much to see and do in Las Vegas....MGM, Luxor, and Excalibur are fabulous, the factory outlet store can't be missed, the

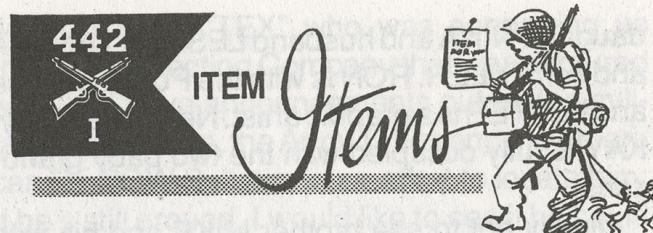
family show at the Lady Luck was fun and enjoyable, and of course, the scenic tours, especially of the Grand Canyon, are wonderful. Small wonder the majority of the Cannoneers voted to meet on May 25, 1995 at the Fremont Hotel. Would you believe the golfers have much to do with the scheduling of the reunion in Las Vegas? Ask TOORU TAGUCHI, NORMAN SATO, BOLO MIZUKAMI, or the lady golfers, NATSUKO CHAGAMI and SUE MATSUI.

As usual, many omiyages were exchanged. MICHIKO KUDO's cute little kokeshi pins were a hit. The YAMAGATA's freshly dried nori, large ume and dried persimmons were mezurashii and greatly appreciated. KAORU and MABEL WATANABE brought cases of small sugar loaf pineapples that were so sweet. MARIKO and TAK brought beautiful kanpyo which were carefully stripped and dried from their home-grown gourds.

All the joy and happiness of the reunion is due to many people, especially the KASHIKIs, WATANABEs, CHAGAMIs, and the KANAZAWAs. Special thanks go to ALICE BECHARD from San Jose who volunteered to mail Close Support to those who couldn't attend the reunion. She mailed those beautifully packed books free. ALICE is a good friend of AKIRA OKAMOTO who joined us all the way from Palau.

Warmest regards to those who were under the weather and spent much of the time at the hospitality room...HONEY and GUS GUSTAFSON and THOMAS and REIKO HANAMI. Take care of yourselves because your health is very important! I almost missed the reunion and wish to thank all of you who were there.

Please remember Close Support is available at the 442nd Clubhouse. It's a book for your family library.



by MINO SUZUMOTO (Posthumous)

An Itemite is someone who is looking for a gadget he needs to complete a project and has an inkling he probably left it in his garage, trudges to the front of his home, enters his garage, and then his mind goes completely kaput. At that instant, he catches himself muttering out rather loudly, "Now what in heck did I come here for?!"

The 442 Banquet, held annually in March closest to the date commemorating the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in 1943 (March 23, 24, 25), and this time at the Pacific Ballroom, Ilikai Hotel, attracted beaucoup Itemites and Itemites at heart, of whom, as designated chapter ticket pusher, I'm extremely proud. Those who responded are as follows: MASA NAKAMURA; HIRAM DOI; CHAMP SUZUKI and BELLA NAGATOSHI; STAN and TERRY YAMAMOTO; MINO, DOT, and ARNOLD SUZUMOTO; BILL GONZALES; MICHU KATO; AKI and BARBARA KAMEDA; BRUNO and ELLEN YAMADA; BILL and PEGGY NAGANUMA; TOGO and GLORIA NAKAGAWA; EVELYN OISHI; LARRY and MARIAN ISHIKAWA; FRANCIS SUGAI; MITS and YUKI YAKUMA; TERRY and ELSIE ARATANI; WALTER and JANE FURUKAWA; KAZU and WINIFRED TAKEKAWA; KENNETH and BETTY OKUMA; CLARENCE and NANCY TABA; TOMMY and MARIA UMEDA; TOMMY HARIMOTO; AL GOKAN; SAB ITAKURA; CHOSEI TAMASHIRO; YUKI ARASHIRO; LIZ NISHIOKA; C.B. and GAY SAKAMOTO; TSUKA MURAKAMI. Special out-of-towners in attendance: FRED and BEA MATSUMURA, Gardena, CA; FRANK SHIMADA, with guests CAPPY UTSUNOMIYA and SLIM NAKAMURA, all frequent visitors from San Jose, CA, golfing

being their forte; GEORGE and MARGARET OSHITA, Kapaa, Kauai; EDDIE YAMASAKI, Tokyo, Japan, who is definitely planning to make Hawaii his permanent home, this time — his Mom's failing health being one big reason.

To all of our Co. I widows — MICHI, BETSY, EVELYN, HARUKO, VIOLET, LIZ — we have never said it in so many words, but you've always been considered permanent non-dues-paying members of Item Chapter, unless the request to be dropped from our roster comes from you. That's what our Prexy ARATANI says.

Someone, can't recall who it was, once said, "A moment of joy spent with friends is worth a million dollars!"

GUY KOGA just called in with a News Highlight! MISS KARI ANN HIRAOKA, SHIRO and LOUISE KASHINO's granddaughter just won the title of NISEI QUEEN of Seattle, Washington. Her talent portion of the contest was an original oratory and photo display of her grandfather, SHIRO's, experiences during internment and of his 442nd/WWII service. QUEEN KARI's proud and happy parents are STAN and KRIS HIRAOKA. Congratulations to KARI and her family!

HAROLD WATASE had promised to make the March 20-23 BRUNO-led Co. I / 442 Retiree Golf Club's Invitational on Kauai. The same as he did last year (we shared the same room at Kauai Coconut Beach Resort). Several days prior to the take-off date, he had to cancel his trip because of a severely sprained wrist. Upon returning from the Garden Isle, I gave him a call to remind him that our 51st 442 Anniversary Banquet, that he had promised to attend, was merely evenings away at the Ilikai Hotel (he had reserved two tickets). His response: "My wrist got much better so I was practicing my golf swing. And, darn, if an excruciating pain didn't shoot all the way up to my elbow. Heck, I'm in no position to go to the banquet!" Was trying to get in touch with him 2 weeks thereafter to remind him that our chapter meeting he had promised to attend was coming up (2nd Thursday of the month), when BRUNO informed me that Mr. WATASE had an accident at home and had hurt

his back! Promises, promises, promises! . . . No, I shouldn't be jumping on him this way. If there's anybody falling apart at the seams at this stage in time, it's yours truly! Incidentally, the golfers did what they do best at Wailua Municipal and at the Kauai Lagoon (formerly the Kauai Surf).

Our Hayden mango tree had tons of flowers in late Feb. after 4 whole years of drought (the El Nino effect, I suppose). Then along came the proverbial March winds. And did it blow!? With a vengeance! For a week! Result: the ground below my giant size tree was carpeted right around it, in a circle 30 feet in diameter, with marble-sized mangos, an inch deep! Guess that's what's meant by "the Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away!"

With deep humility and utmost sincerity, we regretfully acknowledge the demise of TOKUMI MASAKI, a Hilo Co. I member. He had passed away on Monday, Apr. 18, 1994, 4 days after YUKI and ASAYO NAGUWA of Hilo, who dropped in on our April session here, had informed us, "TOKUMI didn't have too long to go." (NAGUWA turns out to be his brother-in-law.) Just when that quiet and unassuming guy had seemingly started to enjoy taking in our annually held Co. I Mini-Reunions to Reno and Las Vegas. He was 72. He will be missed. Memorial service was held on Thurs., Apr. 21, at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. On behalf of Chapter Pres. TERRY ARATANI and Item members all over, we humbly use this means to convey our deepest condolences to his wife MILDRED and to all his next of kin.

*[On the evening of May 26, 1994, MINO suffered a heart-attack from which he never regained consciousness. He died in the arms of his son. This last report for Co. I under MINO's byline is respectfully submitted for MINO SUZUMOTO by ARNOLD SUZUMOTO]*