

In our own country, we certainly have not achieved the equality that LINCOLN talked about when he stated that this country was founded on the premise that all men are created equal.

Well, most of us feel so inadequate, so impotent. Our small voice will not affect the United Nations Assembly in making peace among mankind. We can't realistically make a dent in influencing the people of the US to cease its racist tendencies or to really offer equal opportunities to all.

Since we, individually, can't do these BIG things, why don't we leave that to the few who CAN, or think they can. Rather, why don't the MOST of us do a LOT of LITTLE things to make life better for our community?

A local organization known as LIVE ALOHA created a list that goes:

"Respect your elders and children. Leave places better than you find them. Hold the door. Hold the elevator. Plant something. Drive with courtesy. Let others in. Attend an event of another culture. Return your shopping cart. Get out and enjoy nature. Pick up litter. Share with your neighbors. Create smiles. Make a list of your own."

How about that?! Each of us can do SMALL things that make our communities a better place than when we came into it.

QUO Cadis? I think we owe it to our departed comrades to TRY!

SAM SASAI

A warm 'thank you to SAM SASAI for the informative report. Those of us who were unable to join the tour appreciate your contribution, for the report conveys much sentiment and emotion. The names, the places, and the events have once again stirred our minds and they will remain with us forever. MAHALO.

"Mele Kalikimaka, Hauoli Makahiki Hou!"



by HICHI MATSUMOTO

Chapter Meeting Hi-Lites September

HELEN TAKANO brought food/refreshments for the member and their wives to partake. She didn't mention but could have been da hinichi for her late husband, MERVYN. She is so kichomena.

October

Business part for this meeting get underway at 7:30 PM on the nose almost always. But for this night, President TEIJI CHINNA yoh yatto got things underway around 7:45 PM. For the discrepancy you can place the blame on da kawaii and caring wives generous contribution (food) which caused our tonari friend KAZU TOMASA (2 HQ who kompan da hall with us on meeting nights) to again comment: "You guys, boy," translate something like, "Yura yoh kurau no."

November

Me and da good wife went AWOL (Away With Official Leave). Chotto yutara, went cruising. Anyway, being the wanting to know everything guy, checked with TEIJI who conducted his last meeting (December no more meeting, only Christmas party) as to what transpired. Answered: WALTER MATSUMOTO (our communications guru) read letters received from mainland Engineers and DOC KAWAMOTO elaborated on their trip to Europe. Me: And what else. Him: 'Nuff eh.

Attention

EDDIE SATO's new mailing address
5740 N. Sheridan #8 D
Chicago, IL 60660

Bingo

Bingo... remember the game? After some long lay-off, came back with a bang and for sure will be a must on any programs from now on. The last time it was on any kind of program in the past wasn't years, but more like decades ago. Anyway daibun nago katta. Like they said, as times go by your priority no stay the same but shifts.

Guys used to say, in fact, complain...to slow, dead, kids game/stuff. How true. But just our speed now with the ookata everybody, make it everybody in their "second childhood," already observing and celebrating their Kanreki Iwai.

With money as prizes, people never fool around and played nesshin ni. The silence at times was deafening and broken only when da sukoshi mimi ga toii guys (have more than you think) asking to repeat the numbers please. Our generous treasury went gibaru \$\$\$ and cards were purchased for \$1.00 per. Doubt if anyone bought more than one. No, not because of the money part (manini) but overseeing just one card at a time for us is takusan today.

KIYO KIMURA, Master M.C. was the caller and like always did a "kimura" like job with continuous wise cracks and had the game moving along at our today's pace, not too fast and yukkuri pace.

Hiisa min JIMMY NAKAMURA and YUSO IWANE showing up was a pleasant surprise. They still on the ailing list but looking much improved. Remember, YUSO had not one but two major operations not too long ago. Their kao no irome good too. Also GILBERT & KAY KOBATAKE looking some good. Okage samade they are all doing okay. After going through rough and tough times they still manage to keep their cool and cheerfulness. Tuff buggas.

Very nice of LILY MURAKAMI (Makakilo) and LILY YASUHARA (Kaneohe) coming to make the get together more nigiya kana. The two ladies bin katte came out toii place kara.

Many thanks to TOMMY HIRAO (Nisshodo Candy Store) for da onolicious chichi dangos. This ever so generous man, kuru tanbini nanika plenty teni sagete kuru. He must feel naked coming empty handed. Nisshodo Candy Store

is located at 1095 Dillingham Blvd., Bldg. I-5. Denwa: 847-1244, mauka of Dillingham and Waikiki side of Kapalama Canal. Giv'em a plug, why not.

Da IJIMA's assorted fruits platter was something on da mezurashii side and dashita to omotara went disappear, that fast. Da lilibit enyro seta guys that were going to yobareru later, would have kicked their own okole if they could. Nobody had a chance for seconds. The platter was passed around and that was it. Now you see it, now you don't. The platter came back alright, empty/kara/niente/pau. They sabe next time. Asked CHARLEY what he call da whatcamacallit. Him: Hell with the name, go eat up. Korera (IJIMA) mo saisai things motte kuru.

TOMMY and EDYTHE HIRAO, the only time they won was together in the same game. Family das why instead of go wakeru da spoils, they did what any red blooded nisei couple today would do... EDYTHE said thank you and morotoko.

Lucky JANET MATSUMOTO won the grand prize of \$25 blacking out the entire card first. Early part she no win so was grumbling under her breath.. dis kine no can win, boy. After all, pays to monku.

This successful get-together (surely hope we have more) was handled by Chapter President TEIJI CHINNA and his VP, KIYO KIMURA. Other members assisted.

Eh, one good way to spend a quiet (?) Sunday. No strain to the body or mind. Ample time to catch up on the latest. Profitable to some.. da katta people.

Main entree was chicken/BBQ beef, Kim Chee II style. Their bento plate tamageru generous so me and da good wife went kompan and enjoyed one order. The other one motte inde had 'em for dinner, another treat. How rakuna for dis dish-washer, no need to do atojimai.

"Church of No Hope," the most Reverend RODNEY YAMASHIRO blessed the food in Japanese, using boo-coo kanji kine muzukashii kotoba.

People attended: TEIJI & MICHIKO CHINNA, HARRY & KAY FUJII, MITS & MILLIE HONDA,

TOMMY & EYDTHE HIRAO, CHARLEY & MARGIE IJIMA, YUSO IWANE, DOC & MARY KAWAMOTO, EDDIE & TSURU KAWAMOTO, KIYO KIMURA, GILBERT & KAY KOBATAKE, HICHI & JANET MATSUMOTO, WALTER & HAZEL MATSUMOTO, LILY MURAKAMI, JIMMY NAKAMURA, MONTE & LILLY OKAMOTO, JOE & JANE SATO, MASAO & YVONNE YAMASAKI, RODNEY & NORA YAMASHIRO, and LILY YASUHARA. Everyone claimed they enjoyed it.

Rafu Shinpo, Thursday, May 5, 1994
SATO named Vice-President of AT&T Foundation. The Honolulu native will be responsible for the AT&T corporate art collection.

"SUZANNE M. SATO has been appointed vice president of arts and culture for the AT&T Foundation.

SATO, who assumed her new position April 25 will direct the AT&T Foundation's wide range of arts grant programs and sponsorships, which encompass music, dance, theater, music theater, and the visual arts. She also will be responsible for the corporate art collection.

"We take pride in our arts program at AT&T and we couldn't be more delighted to place it in SUZANNE's capable hands," said SARAH JEPSEN, Executive Director of the AT&T Foundation. "She's a pro. We're lucky to have her on the team."

Since 1987, SATO has served as associate director for arts and humanities of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York. In that position, she has managed program design and grant-making in the performing arts in the United States and throughout the world and has coordinated the foundation's film/video program.

Prior to joining the Rockefeller Foundation, she spent 10 years in theater management, both on and off Broadway. SATO served as managing director of the Circle Repertory Company, and held management positions with the Brooklyn Academy of Music Theater Company, Dodger Productions and the Williamstown Summer Theater Festival. She also served as the

managing director of the Louis Falco Dance Company in New York.

Before beginning her career in the arts, she held admissions positions at Williams College and Harvard-Radcliffe College.

SATO holds BA degree from Harvard-Radcliffe and a master of fine arts degree in theater administration from the Yale School of Drama.

Active in arts organizations, she has been a fellow of the National Endowment for the Arts and served on a number of its review and policy panels. In addition, SATO is a member of the Tony Award Nominating Committee and chair of the New York Grantmakers in the Arts.

A native of Honolulu, SATO lives in New York. She is married and has two children.

At the AT&T Foundation, she succeeds TIMOTHY J. McCLIMON, who previously assumed the position of vice president-international programs and director of community services.

The AT&T Foundation supports programs to benefit education, health and human services, and the environment, as well as arts and culture."

(SUZANNE is the daughter of JOE & JANE SATO. She graduated from Punahou and was an outstanding student in the senior class. Attended and graduated from Harvard.)

Highest Fashion - EMPRESS MICHIKO's wardrobe sparks Isle-style debate

"Perhaps," say ANNE NAMBA (daughter of DR. RYOJI "BULL" & WINNIE NAMBA) who turns old kimonos into chic contemporary designs and who created outfits for Hawaii first lady LYNNE WAIHEE and Honolulu mayor's wife JOYCE FASI for events here with imperial couple.

Some of these little saucer hats are sort of weird...but some are pretty stylish," said NAMBA, whose designs were on the backs of a number of guests at yesterday's Consulate Garden Party for the Emperor and Empress.

She herself wore a tea-length dress made from re-assembled kimono.

"You're supposed to wear darker colors and cover your knees," NAMBA said, according to

imperial protocol."

(The above article appeared in the Honolulu Advertiser when Japan's Royal couple, EMPEROR AKIHITO and EMPRESS MICHIKO visited Honolulu.)

Designing Women (Honolulu Star Bulletin, Friday, October 21, 1994)

Designer ANNE NAMBA's specialty is taking vintage kimonos from Japan and westernizing them to create something unique. She'll be presenting a series of her creations Nov. 13 at the L.A. Convention Center as part of the Japanese American National Museum's "Family Expo: Sharing the Japanese American Legacy." She's gone from sewing her own clothes to creating a company that did nearly \$500,000 worth of business last year. NAMBA counts among her clients HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, MAGGIE (MRS. DAN) INOUE, and Hawaii's first lady LYNNE WAIHEE. Now L.A. will have a go at her creations.

BARBARA FUJIMOTO

The following article appears in the Hawaii Herald earlier this year.

"Home is where the heart is. For BARBARA FUJIMOTO, there's no question about it. "Home" is Hilo.

Except for the few years she spent away, attending college on the Mainland and in Honolulu, FUJIMOTO has lived her entire life in Hilo.

"I always wanted to come back. I think for myself as a social worker, I want to give back to the community," says the self-described sansei and a half.

The homey old town has given her so much that she cherishes in her life. It's the only place she and her husband BYRON, a Hilo son, would ever want to raise their two children, daughter BLAIRE, 7 and son BRYCE, 6.

Her nisei dad, TAKESHI HIRATA, served with the 442nd. He is currently president of the Big Island AJA Veterans Council. Her mother was a sansei whose grandparents operated the Okino Hotel, which was located on the bay front. The hotel was washed out to sea in the 1946 tsunami.

They also leased another hotel a few blocks away on Kinoole Street.

FUJIMOTO graduated from Hilo High School and the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where she earned her bachelor's degree in anthropology. In 1973, she transferred to the College of Idaho as part of a student exchange program. She was one of only three students of Japanese ancestry enrolled at the small college.

Culture shock hit her square between the eyes. "When you live here and you're in the majority, you don't think anything. It was a very interesting cultural experience for me."

FUJIMOTO met many people who had been interned during the war and saw for the first time the effect the internment had on their lives. It's made her want to learn more about that period of history.

Many of the former internees she met said her values and attitudes were more like those of a nisei than their own sansei children.

The experience dovetailed with her area of study, cultural anthropology. She was fascinated by the fact that "we could be of the same ethnic background but because of our upbringing, where we grew up, and our experiences, it really does affect your perceptions of your goals, how you feel you want to live your life. We are very different because of that."

The experience changed her view of herself and how she valued her culture.

After earning her Master's degree in social work from the UH-Manoa, FUJIMOTO returned to Hilo and began working for the State Department of Human Services. She later transferred to the Health Department where she worked with developmentally disabled adults. From 1982 - 1991, she was a medical social worker at Hilo Hospital.

Three years ago she began working as a social worker at the Veterans Administration's primary care clinic in downtown Hilo, where she counsels veterans and works with community agencies to help the vets maintain independent lives. Networking with other community agencies is important because the VA in Hilo does not have access to many of the resources available

in Honolulu for its sizable caseload of homebound veterans. "That's really a challenge for us, to monitor their (veterans) health and to support the caregivers so they can be with their families and stay in the community."

FUJIMOTO sees many of her dad's war buddies in the course of her work, people whom she grew up with. "I'm so proud that my dad was in the 442nd, and I feel like my job here is like giving back, trying to help them if they need help. So I'm really enjoying my job."

FUJIMOTO is in the process of organizing a creative art therapy group so vets with artistic talent can share their knowledge and skills with other veterans - a vets teaching vets approach. Last year she organized a Veterans Day exhibit of their art work, which was displayed at Hilo airport. This year she's hoping to persuade some World War II vets to display their works as well.

FUJIMOTO's involvement in veteran's affairs is personal as well as professional. She is one of four Hilo sansei who are helping to organize a "Sons and Daughters" group that will bring together the offspring of AJA veterans from the entire island. Also involved in the preliminary organization are BARRY TANIGUCHI, MYLES NAKATSU, and WINSTON TAWATA. "At this point, we're just going for be supporting the activities of the AJA veterans," she said. The group may take on other projects after they get their feet wet.

Why I Read the Hawaii Herald: "The Hawaii Herald is like a history book - all of the articles you have on the history of Japanese Americans and also the cultural practices and the origins of it. I just think that it's very relevant. I learn so much. I want to know about it, but I couldn't even know where to start researching it. But it's all done for you."

FUJIMOTO's experience living on the Mainland - even if only for a short nine months - left her interested in issues facing AJAs and other minorities here. The Herald's Asian-Pacific America page fulfills that interest.

"And because I like the cross-cultural perspective, my favorite articles are DALTON

TANONAKA's about living in Japan. I enjoy his articles."

(TAKESHI "JOE" & VIOLET HIRATA of Hilo are the parents of BARBARA FUJIMOTO. Correction, should read proud parents. We would be, that's for sure. With the passing of FRED FUJIMOTO, TAKESHI is now our Main Boy on the Big Island.. keeping us posted on the happenings over there. He is da shinyo ga dekiru can count and depend on guy. Having him is a beeg plus. He gat da kine daughter any father would be proud of. Takashikani his dakine went utsuru on her... lucky girl. With the nice write-up had a picture of her. Yasashii young lady and yoh utsuttoru.)

Captain NAKADA receives Honors on behalf of his Engineers Company

"Peninsular Base Section Headquarters, Leghorn, Italy- For meritorious service in support of combat operations," the 232nd Company of the Combat Engineers of the 442nd Japanese American Combat Team, commanded by Captain PERSHING NAKADA, Mitchell, Nebraska, was presented with a Fifth Army Commendation recently.

The presentation was made during a decorations ceremony of the famous infantry team whose entire enlisted personnel and many officers are Americans of Japanese ancestry who volunteered to fight our country's enemies. Brigadier General FRANCIS H. OXX, Commanding General of the Peninsular Base Section, presented the commendation to Captain NAKADA.

A former student of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Captain NAKADA received his commission from the University. He was given command of the company of Combat Engineers when the Japanese American Combat Team was activated in the spring of 1943. At that time, he was the only Japanese American to be in command of a field company in the United States Army.

Captain NAKADA led his men in training and overseas through four major campaigns in Italy and in France, the northward drive of the Fifth Army from Rome to and across the Arno River.

the bloody fighting to break the German defenses in Vosges Mountains of Northeastern France and the heroic rescue of the Lost Battalion of World War II in the forests of Alsace, and in the final spring offensive in the North Appenines and Po Valley which resulted in the unconditional surrender of the German armies in Northern Italy.

During this period, the Engineers were in close support of the Japanese American infantrymen who have received five Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations, two Meritorious Service Unit plaques, and over a thousand individual decorations including 48 distinguished service crosses.

Often under fire, the Engineers cleared minefields and road blocks, neutralized booby-traps, built by-passes, constructed bridges, kept important roads and supply routes open, and even went into the lines as infantrymen when the infantry ranks were so depleted that help was needed.

The Fifth Army Commendation notes that the 232nd Combat Engineers Company rendered "praiseworthy service in support of the Japanese American Combat Team from June 26, 1944 to May 2, 1945 in Italy and in France.

"Working under adverse conditions of weather and terrain and under enemy artillery fire, the personnel of this organization displayed outstanding diligence and resourcefulness in the accomplishment of their missions. At all times the high morale and faithful performance of duty of this work unit exemplified the finest cooperation and accomplishments in engineer work. The performances of the members of the 232nd Combat Engineers Company is deserving of the highest praise and is in accord with the finest tradition of the Corps of Engineers of the Army of the United States," the Commendation concluded."

(The above article appeared in the Mitchell, Nebraska newspaper dated November 8, 1945. A friend of PERSHING's sister sent her a copy of the newspaper and KIYO (PERSHING's widow) got to know about it only a few months ago.)

Sampo

RAYMOND & LAURA SHIGENAGA (E), CURLEY MURAOKA, MASAMI & JUNE OHARA (Can), HIROMI & ANN FUJIWARA (522), RAY TANAKA & dog (Liv), KIYO KIMURA and ALBERT KOGA (232), CHIC (TOM) TANAKA (Ser), YOSHI YOSHIWA & wife (G), CHOKI YARA & wife and B. OYAMA (F), TOMIZO SARUWATARI and AILEEN (TITI) YONEMORI (2HQ), BILL & YAEKO KUWATA and WALTER OMURA (3HQ), HIDEO NAKAYAMA (L), CHARLEY HINO (I/100), JIMMY NOJI (A/100), YOSHIKATSU MARUO and MINAMI (Reg. HQ)), and FUJIO MIYAMOTO (K). They are the personally shitto people we walk with, see 'em walking, or talk story with them, they living along the route... and of course, in McDonalds.

Boo-coo people (walkers), men and women as well, we got to know them by looks only. Meet 'em on the road usually at about the same time and about the same place with about the same outfit on. You find that people keep a regular schedule. These people no faces yo, to chude you see them elsewhere, you can't place them at that particular moment but deep down you know for sure dokoka de mita koto ga aru, you know what we mean, eh. We find that ookata all of them are like you.... nice and friendly. A very small minority likes to keep to themselves. They way they eye you up from top to bottom and give you da you no bother me I no bother you kind stink look. Tsumetai...brrr.

Walking is sheer pleasure, even asekaite bisshari nattemo, especially in da suzushii-ness and quiet of the early morning. The beauty part of it all is without any interference from anyone, you do it at your own pace. You like take-off and go like hell, more power to you. You like take it easy and go piano piano and drag your okole, so be it. And by walking, you get to see a thousand and one more things that escapes the eye when riding a car. Try it, you'll like it, maybe not the first time, but. And too, no need take any kind night cap and yoru baby no yohni gugu nerareru.

KIYO KIMURA, a dedicated walker if there ever was on, walked way before sun-up so by the crack of dawn is already cooling his heels at

the Kaimuki McDonalds on the corner of Waialae and Palolo Avenues, having coffee and holding court with his early bird old and newly made friends. Always kapu-ing the same table nearest the street, watching all the pretty girls (young or dakine) go passing by, Easy find him, just look for the most crowded and nigiyakana table, you see him mannaka.

Sick Call

KIYO KIMURA: They say in any athlete, the legs are the first to go. Das da time for pauhana/hang 'em up/call it quits/ retire. Anyway, murimo naiyo if still yet shiran monga attara of KIYO's athletic prowess during his prime time days. He was in the championship flight class sprinter during his McKinley High School days... class of '42. Because of being on the modest (?) side, he never was the type to go around broadcasting of his exploits...much.

For several years now, he's been fully retired from his real bread and butter job - Japan Airlines home based in Los Angeles. Being da energetic jitto sete oraren type and also to keep him out of mischief works "part-time" (way more than 40 hours per week) for a Japanese tour agency in Waikiki that caters to Japanese tourists from the old country.

Anyhow, konaida, while escorting a group and giving 'em his line, hyokutto without any kind of warning his tsukareta daijina sprinter-legs gave way at the knees. He dunno but the cause of that could be a combination of things. Abused it running too much younger days (could be), carrying too much weight (most likely), or toshi (arekamo shiren). As of this writing, he is doing fine, just about back to normal. Eh, dis guy is as tough as they make 'em.

A woman co-worker of his, concerned and shimpai kakete over his unfortunate mishap called him on the telephone the following day inquiring: "Yu dohyu ambaika," or something along that line. KIYO answered her the only way he could: "Sewa nai, mada kooden okuran demo okay."

GILBERT KOBATAKE recently underwent

cataract operation for his eye. Not too long ago had both knees operated on.

MIT'S HONDA had hernia operation. Minor compared to his past three heart by-pass operations.

Of GILBERT and MIT'S - the old folks would say, "Mo toru toko nai," or something to that effect.

KAZ KIYOMURA suffered a mild heart attack. HERB KIMOTO and FRANK NAKATSUMA suffered slight stroke. Glad to announce all three of 'em are doing okay. All this happened after their returning home from the last 232nd Engrs/Band Chapter Reunion in Las Vegas in June earlier this year. They went "Go For Broke" too much or what.

EDDIE KAWAMOTO is just about recovered from a bout with pneumonia.

HARRY FUJII accompanied his wife KAY to Stanford University Medical Center at Palo Alto, California for a second opinion. Her health has been on the up and down as of late. Hope everything turns out okay.

Anyway, the word is kiwotsukete and yohjin surukoto in anything you do, take it real easy like and do one thing at a time and at your own pace. Not as if there is no tomorrow.

Dis kine discouraging news not too healthy but outside island and stateside people shirase tai, eh.

Entertainment

MILLIE HONDA was one of many karaoke singers who performed at the recently completed Japanese Cultural Center.

Condolence

To TEIJI CHINNA and family of the passing away of his father. He was ninety-five years old.

Note: The following is DR. SHIGEO KAWAMOTO's extended trip to Europe with the 442 group.

Our pilgrimage to Bruyeres and Biffontaine on the 50th anniversary of their liberation from German occupation by the 100 Inf. Battalion and

the 442nd RCT is WRITTEN BY ME, as HICHI could not make it. Although Bruyeres was taken before Biffontaine, our ceremony started with Biffontaine on Saturday, October 15th and followed by commemoration in Bruyeres the next day, Sunday, October 16th.

Our trip was organized by Carlson Travel Network of Honolulu and headed by Mr. RALPH CHINAKA and wife GRACE. Numbering 80 people in all, the group was divided into two. Bus #1 was headed by MR. CHINAKA and Bus #2 was headed by MICH & SHARON TAKATA. SHIGERU GOTO and wife JANET, my wife MARY and I were assigned to Bus #2 as requested.

Our tour began from Honolulu on October 11 with stopover in Los Angeles to change planes and pick up LA people. We flew during the night with arrival at Dulles airport in Washington D.C. the next morning. After spending the whole day and night at Day's Inn we began a long 9-hour flight via United Air to Frankfurt, Germany arriving there early the next morning on Friday, October 14th. There, after going through immigration and customs, we got into our respective buses and were off on a long drive to Strasbourg on the French side of the Rhine. The port city of Strasbourg has a population of about 250,000 and is busy and appears to be a very prosperous and thriving community.

Before reaching our destination, we stopped over in Heidelberg and other small communities along the German side of the Rhine River and finally arriving in Strasbourg in the late afternoon to settle down for two days in the Hotel Le Grand.

I wish to mention one incident that sort of shook up MARY and this is the only time during our whole trip that anything annoying happened. It was all nice and pleasant the rest of the way - everything well planned and many extras like extra dinner, extra shopping tour, and even a flamenco show added. With everyone settled in their rooms and getting ready for the Welcome Dinner, our two suitcases were missing. I went downstairs to inquire and they said that all had been delivered to the rooms. So the tedious

search began, but no luck. MARY was just about in tears - I asked the tour guides to ask the drivers to look again. After much pleading they finally relented and came down from their rooms to search the baggage compartment again. Lo and behold, they found them hidden in the corner of the compartment.

Early morning call the following day with bus leaving the hotel at 6:30 AM, we arrived in Biffontaine well ahead of schedule. The town itself is a one-street town with about 200 or 300 inhabitants but there were people out on the road welcoming the visitors with waving flags. With 22 buses bringing in 800 to 900 participants, there was some difficulty finding parking places. It is estimated that this group is one of the largest gatherings in this town.

With all the buses accounted for we bus-caded into the Vosges, where the people of Biffontaine have put up a memorial honoring the 36th Division, 100th Battalion, and the 442nd RCT.

It was a very touching and impressive ceremony with the United States Army Color Guard and United State Army Band with its snappy young men and women withstanding the long services in the very unusually clear and sunny skies for that region this time of year. Of course, many of you will remember 50 years ago when it was dark, miserable, rainy, and deep mud. The tall pine trees made it even darker - you can't believe this peaceful and serene forest harbored such scary implements of war. We had to clear the mud, clear the mines, and make roads passable for our transport while trying to avoid snipers and tree-bursts and at the same time keep dry and warm. I could almost hear a snide remark like "Did you guys really have such a bad time?" from the wives, sons, and daughters who were present there. After playing the national anthems of both countries, the French Military Honor Guard saluted those who did not make it home with rifle volley and taps.

Ceremony over, the buses winded down the well-graveled mountain road to the town square where the people put up a portable tent structure to accommodate all 900 veterans and guest for a gala lunch banquet. The structure itself was a

huge thing and part of it had to be in the street. There the festivities really started with friends and buddies meeting for the first time in a long while. Some were happy, others a little sad but the whole affair was unbelievably well-coordinated.

I could observe the French people, what may have come into their minds: I sort of sensed that they were thinking "How in the world these bald-headed, white-haired short guys were ever able to get the Germans out and rescue the Lost Battalion?" about those they had gathered to honor. It was incredible how much they admired the AJAs - you had to be there to appreciate the full impact, let alone put it into words.

The people of Biffontaine worked hard for the occasion, with seating arrangement well organized in color-coded group assignments. For the celebration, they prepared a commemorative bottled wine, vintage 1993, which sold for \$10 per bottle. On the bottle is an inscription describing the Liberation of Biffontaine. I had it translated roughly thus:

"50th anniversary of the Battle of Biffontaine - October 22, 1944 was the beginning of the liberation of Biffontaine by the American troops (36th Texas Division- 141st-142nd-143rd Regiments also 442nd RCT and the 100th Inf. Battalion.) After a very hard battle, the village was liberated. One battalion of the 141st was left on reconnaissance under the mandate of the French at more than 7 kilometers of forest. At this moment, the German troops cut off the return passage of the 141st Battalion and it was isolated by more than 5 kilometers inside the German lines. At the very moment on the morning of the 34th was the beginning of the "Lost Battalion" considered by many Americans as the second battle of the liberation of France and which made many thousand of victims in the two camps, namely the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT (originally from Hawaii) lost 800 men and about 1200 for the French in the last 300 meters that separated the Lost Battalion. It is of these exploits that the Hawaiian Islands are to become an American state and in the forest of Biffontaine that the 50th star of the American

flag was added. Biffontaine and the Vosges are having a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of this event and the ceremony will be on October 15, 1994 on the Fields of Combat." End of inscription.

After a joyous reunion luncheon, we had to leave to still another ceremony at Epinal, the site of the World War II American military Cemetery. There again, the US Army Color Guard and US Army Band were there to help in the services. I understand there are still a few Hawaii boys interred there.

Back to Strasbourg in the late evening that day and early wake-up call for breakfast and off again on a sleepy drive to Bruyeres, the next day October 16th.

We arrived in Bruyeres at 8:30 AM and immediately gathered at the train station for a short prayer meeting and greetings. Then the whole group marched to the Town Square where the Bruyeres version of celebration took place. Again the US Army Color Guard, US Army Band, and the French Military Honor Guard were there to participate in the festivities. No need for me to go into details as it was as equally impressive as it was in Biffontaine.

With the ceremony over, we all boarded the bus to travel a few miles into the woods where the people of Bruyeres have erected a memorial for the 442nd and the 100th Battalion. Again this day was unbelievably clear and warm. The road in the woods were graveled - no trace of mud at all. I clearly remember the mud we had to push away and lay corduroy to keep our vehicles from sinking into deeper mud. Here at the site of the memorial more services were conducted with greetings from the French dignitaries and by SHIRLEY BARNES, Consul General of the United States to France.

I tried to find the street where our squad occupied a building by somehow all have been rebuilt and so much has changed that it was just impossible. I took a wild guess and told MARY, "This may have been the place that no sooner we got in a German shell landed on the third floor," and you can guess we scrambled down real fast to a safer downstairs. I also recall the

small hill just outside the town where we cleared a whole draw of teller mines.

Luncheon accommodations was at the School Gym and very roomy and comfortable.

During the Bruyeres trip I met former Engineer ROBERT OWAN and wife - they are looking very well. Also at lunch banquet, I sat with FRANK YAMAMOTO. He says that he lost his wife last year and now that he has more time, will be able to attend some of our meetings. TOM MASAMORI and wife LILLY were much in evidence at the functions. It was a long day at Bruyeres and most of us fell asleep on our way back to Strasbourg.

With the formal part of the tour over, the next fourteen days we traveled to Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal.

Highlight of the Swiss tour was the drive through the Black Forest of Germany and the visit to the Palais de Nations, the United Nations complex located in Geneva. From Geneva we drove all the way to Avignon, France, the border town to Spain and then into Portugal. Much of Spain and Portugal - their architecture and cultures - are very much influenced by the Romans when most parts of Europe were occupied by them during the late B.C. era and early A.D. periods roughly 1500 years ago. There are still bridges, aqueducts, roads, and protective walled cities scattered about France, Spain, and Portugal. Moroccan invasion of Spanish and Portuguese cultures are much in evidence by the presence of Mosques and churches built about year 1300..

Much of our tour was concentrated on historical places - churches and palaces and noted artists who left their mark on civilization. We did lots of walking plus lots of bus riding. Total mileage traveled from Frankfurt to Lisbon was about 3,200 miles according to the odometer reading on our bus. Add to this the over 20,000 miles of air travel, well, our okoles ached a little.

To break the monotony of long bus drive, MICH TAKATA came up with a program idea. He had volunteers come up front of the bus to relate some of the veteran's wartime experiences - once this got started he had no difficulty in finding more to come with their stories. I am

sure these tales, some of them, were never heard before by their wives and children and they were well received by our group. To add a little variety, SHIGERU GOTO came up with a few sly jokes to keep the riders awake. SHIGERU and I had some cassette tapes of familiar songs that we played and sang to. I hope I wasn't too overbearing with my singing. I wish I had prepared more for group singing - NEXT TIME!

All good things must come to an end sometime and the day came on the 1st of November when we departed Portugal for London to fly back home.

MARY and I had a stop-over in Los Angeles to see our kids and grandchildren. During the stay in LA I had the chance to meet with the LA Engineers. It was a very fun evening, I ran the videotape of the Biffontaine and Bruyeres celebration which was well received by them. I left a commemorative shield given to the 232nd Engineers by the people of Bruyeres for display at the on-going Los Angeles Japanese Historical Museum's presentation at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Well HICHI, you asked for it and I hope it meets your approval.

Thirty for now,
DOC KAWAMOTO



Rural Chapter NEWS

by ED IMAMURA

GARY YAMAGUCHI - Grand Marshall

GARY YAMAGUCHI, an active community leader and a veteran of Anti-Tank Chapter, 442nd Inf. Regt., was honored by being selected as the Grand Marshall of the annual Veterans Day parade in Wahiawa on November 11.

The Wahiawa Lions Club has sponsored this event for the past 48 consecutive years.

The parade is a big event in Wahiawa. The

event is the state's only parade that honors American veterans. Participating in this year's parade were: the Royal Hawaiian Band, the Army's 25th Infantry marching band, ROTC units from Campbell, Kahuku, Leilehua, McKinley, Radford and Waianae High Schools, several veterans organizations, the Wahiawa Senior Citizen's Club, Boys and Girls Scouts and marching units from the 25th Infantry Division and the 324th Intelligence Squadron.

GARY has been a member of the Wahiawa Lions Club since July, 1958, a total of 36 years. He has served as President of the club in 1966-67, Zone Chairman from 1969-70, Deputy District Governor from 1977-78, and secretary of the club on 10 different occasions.

GARY is the current president of the Rural Chapter, 442nd club. He has served with the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission and Club Asoka in various elective offices. He is also an accomplished singer and is very active in the Wahiawa Karaoke Club.

He volunteered for the 442nd when he was just 18 years of age and was assigned to the Anti-Tank Company. Due to his language proficiency (his mother was a Japanese school teacher in Wahiawa for many years), he was transferred to the Languages School in Camp Savage, Minnesota.

During the war, GARY participated in the Okinawa and Philippines campaign and later was a member of the team that interrogated the Japanese war criminals in Manila.

Upon his discharge from the service, GARY matriculated at Tri-State University in Angola, Indiana and received his Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1951. GARY worked as a civil engineer for both the Army and the Navy and retired from his civil service job after 30 years in 1981.

He has been happily married to the former HISAE OKIMOTO of Hilo for the past 42 years. They have been blessed with 3 daughters, CHERYL, VALERIE, and ALMA, and six grandchildren.

GARY and HISAE spend most of their time watching their grandchildren and his 97-year old

mother.

Congratulations, GARY, for your outstanding accomplishments!

Postscript: GARY's mother, MRS. MATSUNO YAMAGUCHI, passed away on November 21. Her memorial services were held at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission temple on November 25. Our heartfelt condolences to GARY and his family.

Monthly Meeting

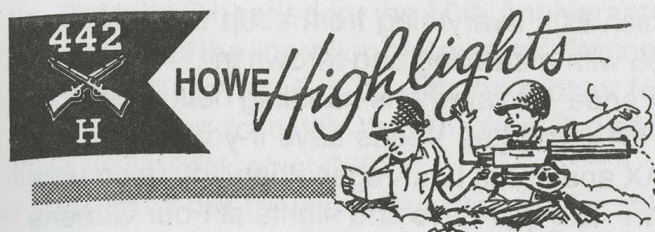
Seven members attended the Rural Chapter monthly meeting which was held at Dot's Drive-In on Thursday, November 17, 1994. Those in attendance were: JOHN CHINEN (Service); EDWIN IMAMURA (Service); SAM KIHARA (MIS); YUTAKAKAJIWARA (Service); KENICHI "SAM" SAKUMOTO (522); NOBUO TAKAMORI (522); and GARY YAMAGUCHI (Anti-Tank).

Regulars who missed the meeting were: FUTAO TERASHIMA (Item); RAYMOND KATAOKA (522), who was under the "weather," and JOE USUI (522), who was in Las Vegas on a golf junket.

MATSUJI "MUTT" SAKUMOTO (Item), who was having dinner at Dot's, dropped-in at the meeting to say "hello" to the gang. MUTT returned to Waialua about two or three years ago after spending many years in Japan and Korea on civil service jobs.

MUTT made a name for himself during the Bruyeres and Biffontaine campaign. As one of the few survivors of Item Chapter, he was the first 442nd soldier to contact the soldiers of the Texas "Lost Battalion."





by JACKSON MORISAWA

If you are interested in reports from the recent Bruyeres/Biffontaine reunion and tours, there are beaucoup recounts in the other chapter's news. Therefore, Howe Chapter will not report in detail (an excuse?)...Regular members JUNE OGANEKU, JOE KURODA, the KEEGANS, and KUROZAWAS were the only people who participated, but there were reports that GANEKO and KISHINAMI were also present. The most important report was that the weather was excellent, not like the miserable conditions we experienced in the Vosges.

The Canadian Rockies tour which we are planning for mid-September is still in the process of development. The tour agent reported that each tour will consist of about 48 people. We have a list of 16 people from Honolulu and possibly others from the mainland. YOSH FUJIWARA sent me brochures on the two airport inns which they used before and may be favorable for the reunion sight. Quality Inn and Radisson Hotel seems adequate and reasonable. The travel agent will look into this possibility (tentative stay - 3 nights). Extended trip to Las Vegas is also being considered.

Those interested are: DOROTHY NAKAGAWA, PRISCILLA SADANAGA (2), DORIS & WONG YOSHIMOTO, YUKIE & RONALD SAKAI, JUNE OGANEKU, YOSHI & HARRY KIYABU, MARGE & DOC YOSHIDA, ALLEGRA & JACKSON MORISAWA, and from Las Vegas, VIRGINIA & EDDIE HASHIMOTO. TED OHIRA indicated that they were very interested. TURK TOKITA and AKAMA from Kauai may join the tour also. The TODAS, OGAWAS, KEEGANS, YAMAKIS, and other associated with them are for the Seattle reunion only, including the KUROZAWAS, KUNISHIGES, and

AFUSOS from Honolulu.

The Kauai mini-reunion was very successful and the mainland response was very favorable. Thanks to TURK TOKITA and all the fellow Kauaians for their hospitality, a job well done!

ROBERT KUBO of Chicago was interred at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on October 7, 1994. He served as a driver for H Company HQ and was formerly from the Big Island of Hawaii. Wife HEIDI and son GARY came from Chicago for the ceremonies. Several H Chapter members were present.

Shinnen Kai, New Year's get together will be held on January 22 at the Captain's Table in Hawaiian Waikiki Beach Hotel. The Sunday buffet will again be partly defrayed by the generous Howe Chapter treasury. Over 30 members are expected to attend.



by JERRY ISHIMOTO

19 Oct 94 Chapter Meeting

Roll call. Pres. JOE OBAYASHI, Treas. BIGGIE NAKAKURA, NEIL NAGAREDA, HIROMI FUJIWARA, ROCKY TANNA, WALTER INOUE, MIKE HARA, and KATS MIHO.

Treasurer BIGGIE reports that the outgo of \$700.00 for Christmas party and \$225.00 for bingo set is not larger than the income so not to worry.

Committee reports: Tentative transportation schedule for the 1995 Bn Reunion has been announced. Since this is not the final schedule, there's no point in getting all hopped-up about it now. More info will be passed on as they are confirmed.

Turkey Shoot will be on 21 Nov. followed by luncheon at the Inn of the Sixth Happiness. If you found out about it by reading this, then you