

TONY/ROY F., DON/JOE O., BIGGIE/TOKU,
JOE S./TOM.

CP's on the par 3s were #4 KATS, #8 KITTY,
#13 LARRY, #15 STAN K.

15 May @ HCC

Another rainy day or is it still raining from the last month? Aren't there anything better for these guys to do than get wet before the first T-off? BOYAN didn't mind for he won the Ace of Month and a huge take-home pay. Two man combis in the money were DON/JOES., BOYAN/KATS, Y.T./KON KON, STAN S./JOE U., KEN/TOSHI, GEO/TOM.

CP's on the par 3s were #3 TED, #8 KITTY,
#13 TONY, #15 JOE U.

As for the others who didn't win anything, let's just say they were sent to the showers.



by HICHI MATSUMOTO

Annual Banquet

Three and a half tables, that's all were set aside for the 232nd Engrs/Band Chapter's personnel. Sad but that's our speed today. Occupying all of nine-ten tables, pau, history, mukashi no koto.

The personnel in charge of the banquet did a very good job. Many thanks to General Chairman JOE OBAYASHI (522B) and his staff. And history says that whenever JOE is around, good buddy BIGGIE NAKAKURA is certain to be close by.

Hajimete never get main speaker, which we didn't miss too much. Instead, numerous people were introduced and acknowledged for their contributions to the club down through the year.

One of the evening's announcements was introducing the winner of the annual 442 Golf Tournament played the day before at the Hickam Golf Course who was MASAO TAMAYEI of the Fox Chapter. He is the same guy that went

wow'em and knock'em dead, da Uta No Kai members, the ladies especially the night previous at the 442 Karaoke Class. A local boy, he moved to L.A. years ago like plenty of da ano koro guys. He was called MASA before but now Hapa-Kotonk, answers to MAS. His "thank you very much," after being awarded the first prize of the golf tournament was the evening's best speech - short, snappy, and to the point.

Been all of some 52 plus years since basic training days, the years no doubt took its toll. Had some kind of snafu during the presentation of the colors but what the heck, nobody perfect and to err is human. Hey, on second thought, it could have been deliberate... to loosen up the somewhat solemn gathering.

We were sitted directly manmae in front of the 111th Army Band, Hawaii National Guard that supplied the evening's music was a blast. Even us considered lilibit on da mimiga tooi side had to cup our ears.

Lucky us, we had the good fortune of sitting on the same table with out of towners TOM & LIL MASAMORI. Also had the chance to bang heads and make boto-boto with our Daitoryo and First Lady. Boto-boto is Filipino talk for suck around, small kid time language.

EDDIE KANAYA, the old maestro, still get'em. His playing of the Lord's Prayer on his trusted flute was well received by the 600 plus members, wives, and friends. Umai koto yaru and mada mada tohbun sewanai. But admits to needing more time to practice. He's been retired as a music teacher from the Department of Education for a good many years, but not quite completely because kids still come to him for private lessons. Hard to turn'em away, he says. Lucky kids.

VELMA, chojyo of da RICHARD URABA's three girls was very visible helping out at the banquet, non-stop from the morning memorial service earlier in the day. An ochitsutoru and very nice young lady. She is very active with our Sons & Daughters and they are doing way more things than many of us realize. Bless them.

Very nice of sisters GRACIE & SHARON, oyakoko daughters of YURI & YASUhide (de-

ceased) ISHIKAWA to escort mom to the banquet...kanshinna.

In the drawing for door prizes, MARY (DOC) KAWAMOTO was the lucky winner of a beautiful clock. How true of the old saying....the rich get richer.

Was it due to our early departure from the party or what but we never get to see the ballroom dance team of "BARN & BERN" showing their stuff, cutting up da rug on the dance floor. In private life, they are BARNEY & BERNICE ZENIGAMI. Majimeni still attend dance class. They must be past the basics by now.

Memorial Service

The 442 Choral Group was invited to perform at the 442 Regimental Combat Team 52nd Anniversary Memorial Service at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Saturday, March 25, 1995. To the last member willingly accepted the invitation and showed their stuff, rendering three well-rehearsed numbers. Two old timers, "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and "Kanakanai Waiwai." The third and final number sung was recently learned "Bless This House." The Choral Group have been performing regularly for more than a few years no, so the confidence part, no need shimpai. Noticed that steadily more and more people have been attending the service. Ahem, we like to think that the Choral Group has something to do with it.

Wuz totemo hot, kogero hodo, but still beats the rain any time. Murimo nai for the people monku-ing about the sorching/blistering hear. Which comes to mind da akamai guy that composed the following poem:

As a rule, a man's a fool

When its hot, he wants it cold

When it's cold, he wants it hot

Always wanting, what is not.

Honna kots bai. 232nd Engrs/Band Chapter members and wives in the choral group that performed: MILLIE HONDA, EDDIE KAWAMOTO, HICHI & JANET MATSUMOTO, and JOE SATO. Meni kakatta people in the audience : ESTHER (MOTOYUKI, deceased) FUJIOKA, BARBARA (ROSCOE, deceased),

HARUKI, DOC & MARY KAWAMOTO, WALTER MATSUMOTO and MASAO & YVONNE YAMASAKI. We had a respectable turnout.

MASMORIS of Denver

Even it's spring time in the Rockies now, our Rocky Mountain friends TOM & LIL MASAMORI of Denver, Colorado, scheduled their vacation time to attend the annual banquet so tsuideni stayed for several more days to soak in some Hawaiian sun. During their leisure stay, they attended both banquet and also the memorial service at Punchbowl, where many of our fallen buddies are interred.

Sticking to the policy of entertaining guests, the members and wives hosted TOM & LIL at the clubhouse da akuru nohi of the banuqet.

Our chapter communication system is second to none....most of the time.

Anyway, after learning that the MASAMORIS were in town, around mid-morning, First Lady HILLARY, no, no, MARGIE called as commanded by her danna san who doubles as chapter president to get things going. The call was to hustle the food. Thinking that Korean food would be something on da mezurashii side for them, thought plate bento from Kim Chee II would be perfect. We are by no means P.R. man for them or anything like that but arera no product ono and more importantly, quantity.

Dat pau and mira chotto suwatta to omotara, BARNEY ZENIGAMI, our group's telephone captain called, yura ikuka or ikanka (entertain our guests) and the count. Ours is automatic tow. No more da kine gotta check with the wife first, baloney. Eh, give our Taisho, konojo for promptness.

Twenty members and wives plus the two guests made it thirty, a good crowd. YOSHI ASATO and YUSO IWANE who were on the sick call list just konaida ma de, were looking well and recovered. Yuso yo, soro soro putting back some of da ushi naota pounds. Now, he looks more like the before time no Yuso.

DOC KAWAMOTO "just happened" to have his shobai dohgu in his car and that really got the party to the next level. Dis guy DOC, we address

him sensei, get class. His dakine but he no play whole cheese and let TOM break the ice with several numbers. Dis guy TOM, hontoni, he's good, good, good. We've known him for say at least 10-15 years, could be more and all the time thought that his bread and butter job was photography.

Being an impromptu thing, never lacked da "borots." Note: borot is Filipino word for show-off. The way it was somebody would say, "Eh, how about you." No sweat that's all the encouragement they need and sasseto go up and do their thing. You no hear the word enryo nowadays. Like the happy go lucky brahmas would say, "no makule, mo pupule." The stars that performed for free were KIYO KIMURA, DOC & MARY KAWAMOTO, JANET MATSUMOTO, & JOE SATO. But NORA YAMASHIRO was the dark horse and went tamagesu everybody with a karaoke number and another adoroita thing is her shosha yo, just like one professional... you can never tell. Both the YAMASHIROs are retired and being on da jitto sete oraren type have second careers. Him a "Bonsan" and her an entertainer. What a contrast.

Who waz da guy now, you cut his long hair, he all jam-up and come helpless. DOC is something like that. Normally he's normal but let him grab hold of a microphone, mama mia, he bugga loose. Omoshiroi ossan do.

Dat KIYO no yatsu yo, nonkina bugga. Being the VP he's automatic honcho for all social events and having the last say in everything. As directed, we picked up 28 bentos. That number of people signed up or called in. But after the ladies went kubaru to each individual, two no nuff. They checked the list several times with the same results, everybody all present an accounted for. Mystery solved when KIYO sheepishly admitted he never included the two guests names to the final count. Otoboke like said, "they never call me." How you going get huhu with somebody like that. Good thing the three ladies, MARGIE IJIMA, JANET MATSUMOTO, and LILY OKAMOTO on da cool calm and collected type. Boy, if that were men, fingers pointing in all directions.

TOM get Hawaii ties his mom, a nisei, was born on Kauai Shima. The great big huge fish in the center of the table, that een if you tried to ignore, you couldn't help but notice due to the size was CHARLEY IJIMA's doing. The name of the fish forget but not the taste. Da bugga was good... like the old folks used to say - uma katta, ushi maketa.

Chapter Meeting - March

People attending - TEIJI CHINNA (immediate past president), HARRY & KAY FUJII, MITS & MILLIE HONDA, CHARLEY & MARGIE IJIMA, BOB ISHIKAWA, EDDIE & BETTY KANAYA, DOC & MARY KAWAMOTO, EDDIE KAWAMOTO, HICHI & JANET MATSUMOTO, WALTER MATSUMOTO, MONTE & LILY OKAMOTO, JOE SATO, MASA & YVONNE YAMASAKI, RODNEY & MORE YAMASHIRO, and BARNEY & BERNICE ZENIGAMI. Ten couples and five solos.

Excellent turnout for imagero. CHARLEY is a go-getter and a good president. Place him in a category that leads by action ... not lip service. Well prepared and can tell he does his homework. None of that I think so kind baloney. Moving from report to report with none of that teregure stuff. Wuz his charisma or "threatening" people with "you come out or else..." Hiisa never get this kine encouraging turnout.

For one, BOB ISHIKAWA who went AWOL for... some long time anyway, yo yatto found his way back to our clubhouse. Caught him thinking aloud, "Eh, dis my second meeting in a row, boy." Very good, no break the string and keep coming. Him, tsurega arunoni, he should take advantage. He lives out in Pearl City. Being on da akamai side, he is a self taught musician, a good one, ukulele being his main forte. He once ase nagashite tried to pound into our heads some of the key basic chords which was like Greek. Says, after you get 'em down pat nothing to it, you can play anything. Yeay, easy for him to say.

Atama tsukote our leader extended the very popular happy hour prior to the business meeting, allowing members and wives to partake and

yukkuri go yobareru on da wives ga sekkaku motte kita ogochisos. Who brought what sappari wakari mahen, but takusan... no two dish alike. The amalgamation of goodies, no makeru een you go kuraberu with any cruise ships.

Our good 2HQ friend KAZU TOMASA wazatto like go nozoku at our food table for a choito look see and go comment, "You guys, boy," which translate to something like, "Eat up eh, yoh kurau no, molto sempre manjare, who's birthday this time." We suspect he is putting on weight just by feasting his eyes on da ukupaila food.

Communications guru, WALTER MATSUMOTO, read a letter he received from S. JOHN IWATSU of the passing away of his brother PETER O. IWATSU, who was an officer with the 232nd Engrs. at Camp Shelby.

Of the multitudeness and tondemo nai amount of food, limit people as to how much they could bring. Ask the BOD for a much larger table than the present one. One last resort, everybody eat and come.

Attending our first chapter meeting of the year, paid the required annual chapter dues and being a fully paid up member, can now monku when any kini iran stuff should come up without holding back.

We assume we being the last with no stragglers left, chapter treasurer MONTE OKAMOTO can close his book (that is until next year) and ankini can take it easy. He being the conscientous type, kiga suman until what's to be done is done.

LILY OKAMOTO, chairman, coordinator, and committee of one gave the latest report of the Reunion in Las Vegas.

Chapter Meeting - April

Da feasting continued (no place for any person on a diet) with assortments of dis kine and dat kine stuff. Happy days are here again, more than the usual people came out. The puzzle is how come all da beer went miteru even with HARRY FUJII absent.

Usually meetings start with the same old routine, the president calling the meeting to order, followed by the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by the secretary. Konban was

marukiri different, the president calling for the treasurer's report first. His thinking could be to make damn sure it be known to every body just how much we get (in the bank) before talking or going into anything. Good sound thinking. Anyway, the reverse order caught the treasurer with the pants down. In this case was a she, LILY OKAMOTO who reports the finances for her treasurer husband, MONTE. With CHARLEY, you got to be on your toes... yudan tai.

MARGIE IJIMA corralled the ladies interested in learning some kind of aerobic dance sequence to the music of Alley Cat. Most likely preparing for the Reunions chapter night. Preliminary indications show that the program gonna be mo betah than last years

RICHARD URADA came out after a long hibernation. Looking chipper and lilibit thicker around the middle, otherwise the same old pleasant guy with a smile for everybody. BOB ISHIKAWA made it three in a row - needs only 2,127 more to tie LOU GEHRIG's record.

Dis guy CHARLEY, he no fool around and intense when conducting a meeting. Passes on all the available information. No like hear guys say, they heard something, something from elsewhere. When he speaks, we respond immediately. Not from fear but respect. One of his standout traits, he'll never ask/tell anybody anything he wouldn't do himself. Not da type to ketch people head.

Chapter Meeting - May

Comedy of errors. Reunion iku mae, Daitoryo IJIMA passed the word to his VP KIYO KIMURA attend the Board of Directors meeting on May 1 because he'll be leading the 232nd Engrs/Band delegation to Las Vegas for the reunion. KIYO heard May 8th, so went one week late.

No sweat, the meeting went smoothly. Business was taken care of. The hard part was taking care of the food on hand. The ever so generous HELEN TAKANO, under the weather most likely from da tsukare attending the Vegas went kotozukere us with pies for the meeting.

BOB ISHIKAWA now needs only 2,126 more.

Sick Call

GEORGE YAMADA of L.A., receiving a letter from DORIS SATO, in turn called WALTER MATSUMOTO informing him that EDDIE SATO (Chicago) underwent surgery recently to remove several feet of tameni naran intestines. Doing fine and is resting at home.

HOWARD HIRANO underwent surgery konaida and is resting at home. Hope he has a speedy recovery and get on with his golf game which he loves so much. With wife APRIL looking after him, he has the best of care.

Reunion in Las Vegas

This is the second consecutive reunion in Las Vegas and in the same California Hotel & Casino. Next year? Your guess is as good as any bodys. Honcho for 1994 & 1995 reunion, LILY OKAMOTO, going on sabbatical. She deserves it.

Aloha/Welcomes Banquet

This is what reunion is all about... everybody together for one good time. CECILY (ART) KIKUKAWA opened the evening's program by saying grace, followed immediately by Chapter President CHARLEY IJIMA's welcoming speech, which was short and snappy and to the point. And the party was on.

Ace photographer TOM MASAMORI took several kinen group pictures for posterity. Da shashin yoh utsuttoru hazu yo, everybody (winners and losers) in fine spirits so far. But the shashinya man had some anxious moment, he didn't expect, setting/getting the group together. The woman like always, no problem. But da menfolk, donkon nara. With a good size corwd and getting everybody in position, posed, not a minor but major problem. So shikata nashi was forced to have some men stand on chairs in the back, last row. You think getting them up to stand on the chairs was a problem? It was duck soup compared to getting them down to the safety of the floor, picture totta ato. Oriru toki, ashige furuete, meni ota. The men sitting on the floor, bolohead row, weren't any better. Kawaii sona, they couldn't get up under their own power. Boy,

shirazu ni age crept up on us. For sure the next time around, gotta have the revolving kine camera. Man alive, did TOM ever work hard...for free.

Show time, no worry with JOE SATO in command. TOM MASAMORI didn't fail his public with "Danny Boy." BOB ISHIKAWA did himself proud, accompanying himself on the ukulele for a couple of solos. Of course, MASAO YAMASAKI's "Kono Ni Sachi Ari" is coming to be just as popular as WALTER MATSUMOTO's "Donkey Serenade." Like SUSUMU AWAYA (Serv.) of 442 Uta No Kai keep pounding in our pakiki heads, better to know all of a few songs than lilibit of many. Some of the women had equal time too. MARGIE IJIMA introduced sort of a line dance so everybody participated. Her crash course instructions of five minutes (or 50 minutes wouldn't have made any difference) was all it needed, it seemed. Two rings were formed, da wahines inside and da kanes outside. That was how it was meant and supposed to be. Nani dokoroka, da dance hajimatta to omotara, what, shiran uchini HIROSHI ARISUMI stay dancing in da inside wahine ring. Nesshin ni concentrating and counting one, two, three, four, right... reminds you of the basic training days, only you in step and the entire platoon out of step. Wuz good fun. People namida dondon kobosete, hara wo kakaete laffing uncontrollably. In short, waya.

The chairperson, yoh kiwo kikasete, had a huge banner made and had it posted on the wall, indicating the event. Now what was the wording. Anyhow, if I recall, shira sete kure.

One of the hi-lites of the evening was GEORGE YAMADA celebrating his 80th tanjobi. Da Happy Birthday boy admitted that this was the best birthday party so far. He expects many more. This party was done in style with a great big birthday cake. And this amazing man of eight summers, without any warm up blew out all the lighted candles with just one mighty blow. Most likely some of his tsuba went help pio more than some candles.

Boocoo awards/prizes were dished out with BARBARA HARUKI winning the grand prize.

Golf

FRED ARASHIRO, LARRY INAGAKI, TOM MATSUNAMI and GEORGE YAMADA, same foursome like last year, played at the Desert Rose Golf Course, par 71. Like who da guy said, you tourist come dis kine place, no manini and Go For Broke. Being golfers and not duffers, they no fool around and went geev'em and played from the championship tee-streching 6,511 yards.

Listed below is one day score only. The other three day score cards "disqualified." No can make out. Gujya, guyja, worse than chicken scratch. Greek more easy. Dis waz TOMMY's day, other three, wait till next time.

GEORGE YAMADA, Da Happy Birthday Boy and defending champ never came close repeating this year and came in 4th. The important thing is he shot his age, remarkable/deko ageta bai.

FRED quipped: "Eh, playing golf is the best way to save money when you come here."

Moshimo, should there be any kind protest/monku from any of the players for not having the other scores made know, you gotta gaman and wait until the next tournament. Until such time the unreadable score cards, azuke toko.

FRED ARASHIRO	88-16 = 72
LARRY INAGAKI	98-19 = 79
TOM MATSUNAMI	86-16 = 70
GEORGE YAMADA	99-19 = 80

Slots Tournament

BARBARA HARUKI, da winner and new champeen. First place was worth \$150 cash and so on down to 10th place. All others suck wind. Better luck next time.

LEATRICE NAKASHIGE, last year's winner and defending champion never win, place, or show. Nice of her to give others a chance.

Ohsodo while the tournament was going on, from the players and watchers as well. KIYO HIRABAYASHI and friend (TOMOYO WATANABE) hayo kara itte were the earlier ones to sign up. They didn't fare too good but at least can say they were first in line. Yappari da wahines get faster fingers, six of the ten that won

cash awards were women. Some of the first times (ladies) were overheard saying something like "I dunno how to play dis kine game" but came out winners.

Playing the machines next to YVONNE YAMASAKI was an experience. No can help but overheard her groaning and mumbling some wakaran stuff, went geev'em da side eye. She tapping da kine with her right and switching to the left hand muttering to herself, "dis kine, erai boy."

With so many new players signing up this time, shoganashi was forced to have two shifts. EDNA ARISUMI won the dubious prize, first from the last. The top winners were:

BARBARA HARUKI - 8772
ESTHER NAKATSUMA - 8489
CHIYO ISHIGAKI - 8158
MITS HONDA -8002
ALICE WATANABE - 7896
YOSHIO SHIBUYA - 7848
TOM MASAMORI - 7740
BARNEY ZENIGAMI- 7676
MARGIE IJIMA - 7612
MICHICO CHINNA - 7574

Donations

KAZ "KOTONK" FUJII & HIROSHI ARISUMI, very generous monetary gifts. GEORGE & MARY, several crates of fresh grapes, cherries, and berries. SHIG & CHIYO ISHIGAKI, nuts and ogo. TOM MATSUNAMI, Kakimochi. HELEN TAKANO, cake. KAZ KIYOMURA, beef jerky. ART & CECILY KIKUKAWA, mango chutney and barbecue seasoning. KIMI HASHIMOTO & son JERRY JR., salami and tsukemono.

These are the known contributors. If there are some people missed, not wazatto. Thank you all.

Hospitality Room

Many thanks to the numerous people that contributed mostly eating stuff to tsumamu while chewing the fat. Even here in the entertainment capital of the world with exciting things going on day and night, the Hospitality Room was well patronized which made it money well spent.

Give much credit to HARRY FUJII and CHARLEY IJIMA utilizing it to da max.

Reunion Roster

From California: KIMI HASHIMOTO & son JERRY JR., KIYO HIRABAYASHI, SHIG & CHIYO ISHIGAKI, KAZ KIYOMURA, TOM MATSUNAMI, FRANK & ESTHER NAKATSUMA, MIN & YAE SUEDA, TOMOYE WATANABE (Guest), GEORGE & MARY YAMADA.

TOM & LIL MASAMORI of Denver, KIYO NAKADA (PERSHING's widow) & BEATRICE UGAI (PERSHING's sister) of Chichago, LARRY & RUTH INAGAKI of Maryland, WESLEY NARITA of Michigan, GENGO & MASAKO OKURA of Las Vegas, KAZ & MAY FUJII & daughter KAREN from Oregon, TOM & MARY HIRAKI of Seattle.

From Hawaii: FRED ARASHIRO and sister EDITH, HIROSHI & EDNA ARISUMI, TEIJI & MICHIKO CHINNA, HARRY & KAY FUJII, BARBARA HARUKI, MITS & MILLIE HONDA, CHARLEY & MARGIE IJIMA, BOB & SHARON ISHIKAWA, YURI ISHIKAWA, ART & CECILY KIKUKAWA, HICHI & JANET MATSUMOTO, LEATRICE NAKASHIGE, YOSHIO & ESTHER SATO (SUE KIYOSAKI's sister) CHOW & CLARA SHIBUYA (Guests), HELEN TAKANO, TETSUI & ALICE WATANABE (Guests), MASAO & YVONNE YAMASAKI, BARNEY & BERNICE ZENIGAMI and LILY & MONTE OKAMOTO.

Miscellaneous

Must be toshi, several in the group requested wheelchairs at the airport. For sure, going be needing more in the future.

That FRED ARASHIRO is a charcter if there ever was one. Seeing him with some papers in his hand at the airport and being the Inquisitive Reporter that we are asked, "Wat Dat?" Without answering, handed it over and him kara totte miruto, 232nd Engr./Band Chapter Roster dated 1976, 19 years ago. Present chapter president CHARLEY IJIMA nearby told'em, you better fix dis guy up.

The cancellations in a way was a little disappointing. Having your mind set in seeing/meeting the guys and they not showing up, due to circumstances beyond their control. Band members attending were TOM MASAMORI and WESLEY NARITA, both mainlanders. HIROSHI ARISUMI and GEORGE YAMADA have attended every reunion.

With CHARLEY's kid sister and husband coming from Grand Junction, Colorado and MARGIE's big brother and wife coming from L.A., the IJIMAs extended their stay a few more days. Wuz good for them, CHARLY hitting a Royal Flush at MGM... making the trip free.

Kaerishina, HARRY & KAY FUJII stopped by to visit their son HAROLD in the Bay area. Being already on the mainland BARBARA HARUKI tsuideni went to Dallas, Texas to visit daughter ANN and children.

The only two times everybody got together was the Aloha/Welcome Banquet in the Ohana Room, California Hotel and for the suckling (kalua) pig dinner at Fremont's Paradise Buffet. Otherwise it was to each his/her own and go do their thing.. you must know what.

Reunion Chairperson

LILY OKAMOTO, our all everything shitoride did just about everything. No more her, no more Reunion, as simple as that. Get people willing to kokua (we are in that group) but to be da main boy, that's entirely another ball game. Takara Jewel.

After seeing to it that everybody left for home in good shape, extended her stay several more days to have some fun of her own and relax. How she manages to keep her cool in spite of everything is simply amazing. No wonder, so wako mieru. Eh, MONTE, no watch out, people going mistake her for his daughter.



by SHIRO AOKI

Kohala No Ka Oi

Kohala is a sleepy little plantation town on the southern tip of the Big Island of Hawaii. It is where I was born and raised. It's main industry used to be sugar with sugar cane planted all over the place right up to the edge of steep cliffs overlooking the ocean. It had sugar mills at Hoea, Union Mill, and Halaula. We walked barefoot to school from Hawi to Honomakau while others from far off places like Mahukona on one end and Niulii and Makapala on the opposite end came by bus while still others were lucky enough to ride their own horses to school. That's how we got to be known as the "Kohala Cowboys." It's main claim to fame was that King Kamehemeha I was born there and the original statue stands proudly on the courthouse yard in Kapaau.

But along came World War II and changed all that. Now our claim to fame was that for the Japanese population of the district, we had the highest number of volunteers per capita (or so it seemed to me, anyway) to join up with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. When the parents sent their sons to uphold the honor of their country, they knew that some would not come back. When the war was over, of the first five bodies that were taken from the battlefields of Europe to be re-interred at Punchbowl, three were Kohala boys - the legendary GARY TSURUO HISAOKA from Hoea; ROY SHIZUO FUKUMOTO from Halaula; and M. Co.'s TSUGITO KAJIKAWA from 17 Camp. Wow! Just imagine that! From all the KIAs that we had, three of the first five to be re-interred at Punchbowl came from the small sleepy little plantation town of Kohala.

KOHALA NO KA OI!

And then there's DR. WALLACE NAGAO, past president of Mike Chapter. He was born,

raised, and educated in Kohala. After graduating from Kohala High School in 1936, WALLY went to work for Kohala Sugar Company for three years so that he could earn enough money to further his education at the University of Hawaii. When he was a junior at UH, war came and soon he was a member of the Territorial Guard, then the Varsity Victory Volunteers, and the 442 RCT. After basic in Shelby, he was among those selected to go to Camp Savage and MIS training. WALLY spent most of his war years in Southeast Asia and the Burma campaign. After the war was over, he got discharged in Hawaii and two weeks later was in East Lansing, Michigan to attend Michigan State University where he got his Veterinarian's degree. While he was at MSU, he went to visit his long-time friend WALLACE DOI in Salt Lake City one summer and met PRISCILLA and soon PRISCILLA became MRS. WALLACE NAGAO. After he got his degree, WALLY returned to Hawaii and served as the Vet for the State of Hawaii on the Big Island of Hawaii. He is a three time president of the Veterinarians Organization, and was elected to the prestigious position of President of the Board of Veterinarians Association for one term. After 20 years on the Big Island, WALLY came to Honolulu to head the State of Hawaii Animal Industry and at the same time, another Kohala boy, SOTARO UEHARA was the head of the State Plant Division. So at that point in time, the entire State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Programs were headed by two boys from the sleepy little plantation town of Kohala.

KOHALA NO KA OI!

A "Weesh" Visit

YOSHIO "WEESH" TAKAHASHI, 1st Platoon, was here in Hawaii for a visit in early March. He was on his way to go on an all island tour on the Independence when he called to say hello. I asked him to call me as soon as he got back to Honolulu as all of the "Magnificent Eight" as well as some other of his First Platoon buddies wanted to take him and his wife out for an evening of reminiscing but he did not call until he was ready to get on the plane for his trip back to

Los Angeles. When he got back to Los Angeles, he dropped me a short note to thank everyone for the offer to take him out and he would have gladly accepted except for the fact that he was here with this wife and her two sisters and their husbands and he did not think it would be right to burden us Hawaii guys with all of them.

On his cruise to the outside Islands, he met FRANK KANEDA in Hilo; PUFFY NISHIDA in Maui; and his good friend ISAO "SUGAR" SUGIBAYASHI took him around in Kauai. He also ran into DAVID UMEDA at Ala Moana Center. Too bad we couldn't get together with "WEESH." He is a first class guy.

The 52nd Anniversary Reunion

The 52nd Anniversary Reunion festivities started with a memorial service at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on Saturday, March 25th and ended with an anniversary dinner at the Pacific Beach Hotel that night. It was a beautiful memorial service that featured the 111th Army Band, the Pledge of Allegiance led by a 9-year old 442 Yonsei NADINE MATSUDA, the memorial address by WILLIAM PATY, and the harmonious renditions of the 442 Choral Group which has Mikers RALPH & ALICE TOMEI, GALDYS UYEMURA, JIMMY KANEMORI & YORI INOUE among its singers.

On Thursday, March 23, TOMMY KIKUCHI, RALPH TOMEI, SHIRO & EVELYN AOKI went to Punchbowl to place American flags on the graves of Mike Co. members buried there. The 24 Mikers buried there are: TSUGITO KAJIKAWA, TOSHIRO KAWABE, SANJI IKENO, SUSUMU ISAKI, YOSHIO TANABE, JIMMY MASUDA, KATSUMI ENOMOTO, RICHARD GOTO, EMMETT HIGA, SADAMICHI HORIUCHI, GEORGE ISHIKAWA, KENJI KATO, CLARENCE KOIKE, YOSHIO KURAMOTO, HIROSHI MASADA, ICHIRO NAGAISHI, CHIKAO NISHI, MASAYOSHI OHARA, KENNETH OSHIRO, HARRY SHIGETA, CHARLES TANAKA, HIROSHI WATANABE, ARATA YASUHIRA, and JOE "MUTE" TANIGUCHI. At the Anniversary ban-

quet, there were 21 Mikers paid up. Our chapter did all right in the door prize drawings with KIMIYO IDE winning a beautiful arrangement of proteas and YORI INOUE winning a gift certificate.

A Visit to Maui

FRANK NOMURA & NORI AKUTAGAWA took time out to fly to Maui to visit ITSUO SHIRAKI. FRANK reported that SHIRAKI is now in a long-term care nursing home, Hale Makua, and while the facility is well maintained, the recovery process for SHIRAKI is very slow and a painfully expensive one. FRANK noted that there is a volunteer, a former 100th Bn man, ARTHUR KUROHARA, who visits almost daily and spends time massaging ITSUO and in general tries to buoy up his spirits. Because of the stark reality of the expenses related to long term medical care, FRANK sent each one of us at the monthly meeting copies of how Medicare and long term medical care could financially affect us in the long run. Speaking for myself, I did not even know about the 36-month look back period until FRANK brought it up. Now I know, thanks to FRANK.

A Continuing Tradition

Although we have lost our long-time benefactor, JOHN GOGIAN, we still want to keep up our annual summertime cookout at the TOMMY KAKESAKO Hall in Keehi Lagoon. This year it is to be held on Sunday, July 9. You will be contacted by our contact people prior to that time.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to ALICE BEPPU on the death of her mother at age 95 and to JOSEPH & HAZEL YASUDA who lost their son JAN at the age of 43.

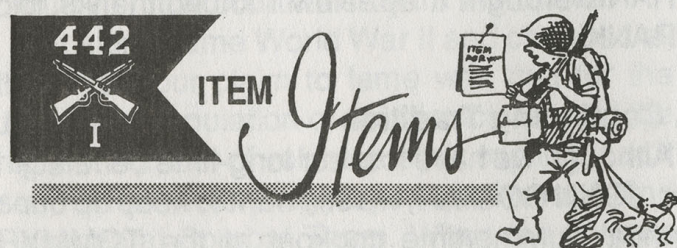
From Hawaii to California with love

SHIGE & YORI INOUE went to visit their daughter and grandchildren in Los Angeles in April. While there, they were able to get together with SHIRO & FLORENCE TAKEI along with DAVID & JANET UMEDA who drove them to

San Jose to meet the TAKEIS. SHIRO & FLORENCE were very appreciative of this visit from wartime buddies and enriched Mike Co.'s treasury with a donation of \$25.00. Thank you, SHIRO.

SHIGE & YORI also had time to get together with HIROSHI & GRACE YAMASHIRO and DICK & SUMI TOCHIHARA. Every day you hear stories about what a small world it is. But it is never smaller than from Hawaii to California when SHIGE & YORI INOUE's daughter and grandchildren live only three doors away from DAVID & JANET UMEDA's daughter and grandchildren. This world of ours is getting smaller and smaller each day.

JIMMY & FREIDA KANEMORI were also visitors to California in May, when they went to visit their daughter ANN and to attend the graduation of their granddaughter JAMIE HIRATA who received her degree in Biology from Loyola Marymount and was honored with the top award for excellence among those receiving their degrees in Biology.



by BRUNO YAMADA

Memorial Service

Our Veteran's Relations Chairman, KAZY TAKEKAWA, deserves a lot of credit for the fine showing of I Company members and their participation at the 52nd Anniversary Memorial Service at the National Memorial Cemetery at Punchbowl.

Answering KAZU's call were: RICHARD & NICKY OSHIRO, C.B. & GAY SAKAMOTO, AKI & BARBARA KAMEDA, BRUNO & ELLEN YAMADA, CHAMP SUZUKI, BELLA NAGATOSHI, MASA NAKAMURA, BILL NAGANUMA, NORMAN YOKOYAMA, KAZU TAKEKAWA, TOGO & GLORIA NAKAGAWA,

and TOMMY UMEDA with son ALLEN and daughter-in-law FUMIKO. Also GEORGE & MARGARET OSHITA from Kauai, SHIRO & LOU KASHINO from Seattle, FRED & BEA MATSUMURA from Gardena, and FRANK SHIMADA with his golfing gang from San Jose.

Company widows included: LIZ NISHIOKA, BETSY YAMAMOTO, HARRIETH ORIUCHI and family, MICHIE KATO, MURIEL (KAPUNO) SUZUKI, YOSHIKO OSHIRO, EVELYN OISHI, and VIOLET MATSUMOTO with daughter. NOBU AMAKAWA's two sisters were seen but left before KAZU or I could get more information on their identity. GUY KOGA and ALAN KUBOTA represented the hard-working Sons and Daughters group. I'm sure our deceased comrades were well honored.

Anniversary Banquet

The biggest single group must have been I Company with 54 members, wives, sons and daughters, and friends present. They feasted on BBQ chicken and fillet of mahimahi at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 25.

Miss KARI HIRAOKA, granddaughter of SHIRO & LOU KASHINO and the 1994 Miss Japanese Community Queen of Seattle made a brief appearance thanks to GUY KOGA. Fine entertainment was also provided by vocalist TRACI TOGUCHI. Door prizes winners were: MICHIE KATO, HIRAM DOI, BARBARA KAMEDA, HUNTER DOI, SHIRO KASHINO, and RICHARD OSHIRO.

Condolences

From JIM YAMASHITA comes word that JAMES MUKAI of Fresno passed away on October 25, 1994 from a massive heart attack. Deepest sympathy goes to his wife MARY from all his friends in Hawaii.

Other sad notes: UMEYO ITAKURA (SABURO's mother) passed away on April 15, YASUKO SAKAIDA (SUSUMU's wife) passed away on April 21.

KENNETH KAWAMOTO passed away on May 10.

YOSHIHIKO OGATA (TED's brother) passed

away on May 16.

EDWIN ARITA (ELLEN's brother) passed away on May 23.

HARUKO FURUKAWA (WALTER's mother) passed away on May 14.

Our sincere condolences to all the families.

Under the Weather

TSUNEYUKI "MONTY" MURAKAMI was confined to the Straub Clinic and Hospital on April 4 and was operated on April 6 for aneurysm of the brain. After spending over a month and a half at Straub, he was transferred to the Hilo Health Center on May 19th.

JAMES OKIMOTO, who is suffering from Alzheimer's is resting at the Kuakini Geriatric Care (Hale Pulama Mau.)

EDWIN UYECHI was at Kuakini Hospital and later to the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific after a slight stroke. At present he is resting at home in Waimanalo.

We wish you all a speedy recovery!

Mini-Reunion

By the time you receive this bulletin, the I Company Mini-Reunion in Las Vegas should be all set and ready to go with 120 rooms reserved at the Four Queens Hotel & Casino on October 22 through October 26.

A two-day golf tournament on Monday and Tuesday at the Las Vegas Club and the Boulder City Golf Club should keep some of us away from the crap tables and save us a few bucks. JIM YAMASHITA and FRANK SHIMADA will conduct the tournament.

The hospitality room will be at the Royal Pavilion with RICHARD and NICKY OSHIRO getting the headaches again. They were told that if they do another super job, they will become our permanent honchos. Please give them your full support.

The Banquet at the Kings Pavilion on October 21 is looking for a take-charge guy or a group. I'm sure someone will raise his hand soon. I understand that a musical group from Las Vegas (Hawaiian) will be part of the entertainment.

Sorry we cannot submit all the names who will

be participating at our mini-reunion but three welcome sights will be TSUNE SHIIGI of Hilo who is recovering from Parkinson's Disease; MIKE KREKOSKY of Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania, and KAZ MUTO of Fairfield, CA, who is recovering from prostate cancer operation.

BERT AKIYAMA of Aurora, Colorado will not make the reunion this year but promises to join us in the future. BERT has been corresponding with JIM YAMASHITA and he has many interesting memorabilia about I Company.

Aligato

We would like to thank the following people for their generous monetary donations during the 52nd Anniversary Reunion: MR. & MRS. SHIRO KASHINO, MR. & MRS. TAK SENZAKI, MRS. MASA FURUGEN, and MRS. MASA MANABE.

Chapter Meeting

The Chapter meeting on April 13 and May 11 filled the 442 clubhouse on Wiliwili Street to capacity. Is it the shifting to morning or was it because of the forthcoming mini-reunion. Whatever, it was, it was very gratifying to President ARATANI.

Present were: MR. & MRS. RICHARD OSHIRO, MR. & MRS. C.B. SAKAMOTO, MR. & MRS. YUKIO NAGUWA, MR. & MRS. KAZU TAKEKAWA, LIZ NISHIOKA, HIRAM DOI, MASA NAKAMURA, SHIGENORI MATSUMOTO, MASA KOBASHIGAWA, LARRY ISHIKAWA, KAZUMA OYAMA, and MITS OSHIRO. Also JOE OKUMOTO, BRUNO YAMADA, TERI ARATANI, BILL NAGANUMA, SHUSKE FUJITAKE, DAVID ITO, CLARENCE TABA, TOGO NAKAGAWA, MITS YAKUMA, NORMAN YOKOYAMA, TOMMY UMEDA, WALTER FURUKAWA, GUY KOGA, KEN OKUMA, TOM HARIMOTO, ALAN KUBOTA, SADAICHI KUBOTA, MOTOMI SHINDO, AKI KAMEDA, MAMO SHIROTA and CHAMP SUZUKI.

A Visit with Jesse by KENNETH OKUMA

After conferring with both HENRY KUNIYUKI

(Livorno) and KATS MIHO (522B) I proceeded to take steps to arrange a visit with TAKAMIYAMA (JESSE) OYAKATA AZUMAZEKI of the Azumazeki-Beya (Stable) in Tokyo on our recent 2-week sojourn to Northern Japan.

When we arrived in Tokyo on May 12, the Haru Bassho had begun a few days ago. I was able to contact by phone a worker at the Azumazeki-Beya.

After introducing myself as a long ago acquaintance of the Oyakata when he returned to Hawaii as a sumotori, I expressed my desire to observe the training at the stable. According to the worker, practice (Keiko) begins at 8:00 AM and lasts a few hours.

Thus, we agreed to visit the Beya on May 23 after we returned to Tokyo from the North (This arrangement was made without realizing that this date was just a few days after the tournament, which is explained in this article.)

We were not able to make the visitation on the second day of our arrival because we had previously made an appointment to tour Tsukiji, the popular Tokyo open market, to be followed by a train ride to Ryogoku Kokugikan where the sumo tournament was being held. Fortunately, BETTY's Tokyo cousin was able to purchase tickets for what was to be a memorable event.

The atmosphere was electrifying with supporters yelling throughout the matches. Spectators start arriving at least four hours before the first Makuuchi Division confrontation. The last match ends at approximately 6:30 PM. Needless to say, consumption of bentos was prevalent. It was a very enjoyable and satisfying experience. By the way, the three Hawaii sumotoris, Yokozuna AKEBONO, Ozeki MUSASHIMARU, and KONISHIKI won (I think.)

So on May 23rd at 8 AM, upon our return to Tokyo, we reached Azumazeki-Beay, JESSE's stable. As we entered the building, it was quiet and dark. Undismayed, through the persistence of BETTY's cousin, we were able to get through to JESSE.

As he appeared at the door, his huge frame covered the entire entrance. Although it seemed that we had unexpectedly awakened him, he

greeted us generously and graciously.

According to JESSE, after a major tournament, the Rekishi (sumotoris) are given one week's rest and vacation. That was the reason for the absence of Yokozuna AKEBONO, who was resting in a hotel. Some wrestlers were seen sleeping in a hall designated for them.

We were pleased to meet JESSE's wife, who served us tea. She is both charming and pretty.

JESSE was generous with his time. He has a keen memory. Since he is from Happy Valley, Maui, he vividly recalls the names of his friends with whom he attended Baldwin High School where he starred in football.

For instance, he recalls associating with GLENN and EARL MATSUI, nephews of BETTY. The Matsui Store was owned and operated by BETTY's sister and her husband. JESSE said his mother used to patronize the store.

JESSE and his wife have two children, a boy and a girl. The boy is a junior at Boston University. When asked why Boston U. was chosen, he said that his son selected it himself. His daughter is a freshman at the same school. The proud fathers states that they are both doing well.

It was a heartwarming occasion. We ended the half hour with several picture-taking poses.

In observance of his 30th Anniversary in sumo, an attractive and informative brochure has been published.

