

Report from Richard and Katherine Miyakawa

The pikake farm keeps me on my toes. Katherine does the "calculation" and does most of the work. Rugged works hard, too. They have vacation without pay from November through February.

Stanley and Diane Louis have 4-year old Michael with sister Emily who will be 1 year old on April 29 this year. They are planning to come home for 2-3 weeks in June from Okinawa. Diane goes to a quilting class.

Report from Chilly and Irene Sasaki

Had a guest for the Christmas holidays and now is taking it easy and enjoying life.

Report from Jack and Margaret Kaguni

Heard Mineo Inuzuka who went around the world in a boat. It was very good, an interesting talk. Jack observes that watching his grandson grow up is also interesting as well as keeps them busy.

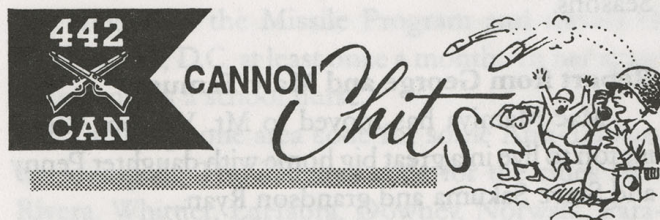
Report from Lizo and Yvonne Honma

Lizo works hard in the garden. Yvonne is still walking with the help of a cane and Sally. Sally is a big help. Guests keep Lizo and Yvonne busy from week to week. The French people are lucky to have such a wonderful couple to help them enjoy their Hawaii visit.

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to both of you!

Report from Mits and Shizue Akiyama

We miss hearing from you! Happy belated Valentines to your 51st anniversary, a loving couple.



by Kazu Saiki

The December breakfast meeting was held at Zippy's at Iwilei with the following "faithfuls" in attendance: Lincoln Maeda, Masami Ohara, Curly

Muraoka, Charles Oda, Bolo Mizukami, Tom Okino, Harold Nakasone, Yukisada Oshiro, Kaoru Watanabe and Kazu Saiki.

We were informed by Tom Okino that Norman Sato had suffered a mild heart attack shortly after our reunion in November, requiring heart surgery. He assured me that he is fine but that full recovery is several months away.

Our meeting centered on the November Reunion. We were happy to learn that all of the Oahu portion of the reunion expenses were covered by the assessments to our local members and generous donations from our mainland participants and friends, including John and Mary Kashiki and Linda Fujioka. The Maui portion ended under the amount assessed to each participant. The Hawaii members voted to send the surplus to John Kashiki for our May reunion in Las Vegas. I hope there are no objections from our mainland participants.

Our January meeting was held at the same location with the same members except Bolo Mizukami and Harold Nakasone. However, Mamo Morita and Doc Koike were able to attend. One topic of discussion was the proposal by the House Rules Committee's recommendation for the KIA Memorial for the front entrance to our clubhouse. After much discussion, Cannon Chapter voted against such a large expenditure for the project.

George Nakasato, Chairman of the March Anniversary Banquet, reported that Geri Gustafson has been invited as one of three officers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team to be the featured speakers at the Banquet to be held on March 22, 1997 at the Pacific Beach Hotel honoring all the officers who served with the Regiment. Cannon Chapter will be defraying the cost of hotel accommodations. It was also decided that our annual "Shinnen Kai" dinner gathering be rescheduled to coincide with his visit. The date, time and place will be determined later. Let's make a special effort to attend the Anniversary Banquet.

Tsuka Murakami, our Kauai member, will be conducting a tour through European World Travel called "Ozark Country & Branson." It's a 12-day tour that leaves Honolulu on May 9th for St. Louis, Missouri to join the Globus Tour visiting various sites along

the way to Branson. After 2 nights in Branson which include the Andy Williams and Shoji Tabuchi shows, the tour continues on to Memphis, Tennessee, the end of the bus tour. From Memphis, you fly to Vegas on Saturday morning and stay at the Flamingo Hilton Casino Hotel for 3 nights leaving Vegas May 20th, Tuesday, for Honolulu.

This tour was arranged to enable Cannon members to join the Cannon Chapter Reunion which will commence on Thursday, May 15th. The Hawaii contingent will leave Honolulu on a morning flight arriving in Vegas about 8:00 PM, checking in at the Fremont Hotel. The group will spend 5 nights in Vegas and leave for Honolulu on Tuesday, May 20th.

It was at our February breakfast meeting at Zippy's at Iwilei that we learned of Bill Nitta's colon operation after returning home from the Maui Reunion in November. At last report he was receiving chemotherapy treatment. We are all praying for your full recovery and are expecting to see you and your family in Las Vegas. Keiji Kawakami also had a heart bypass surgery the latter part of 1996 and is recovering nicely. (See March comments)

Our March meeting was devoted to finalizing arrangements for the Cannon "Shinnen Kai" gathering at Wah Kung Chinese Restaurant at Mapunapuna and obtaining the final head count of those attending the 54th Anniversary at the Pacific Beach Hotel. 1st Lt. Sam Yoshinari accepted Cannon Chapter's invitation to attend this banquet as one of the Officers to be honored at this occasion.

Sam and Alice arrived in Honolulu on March 18th. Thanks to Cheryl (Rance Saiki's girlfriend), Cannon Chapter was able to obtain rooms at the Outrigger Prince Kuhio Hotel directly across the Pacific Beach Hotel. Kaoru Watanabe was kind enough to entertain the Yoshinaris on Wednesday. Major Gerald Gustafson arrived the following evening accompanied by Ms. Johanna Fuhry.

On Thursday evening, 33 Cannon members, spouses, and friends gathered at the Wah Kung Restaurant for a sumptuous 7 course dinner. In attendance were the following: Lincoln and Irene Maeda, Tom and Barbara Okino, Kaoru and Mabel Watanabe, Masaru (Doc) and May Koike, Thomas and Nancy Inouye, Henry and Natsuko Chagami, Akira and Betty

Takahashi, John and Mary Mikasa, Harold and June Nakasone, Kazu Saiki and Lilly Miki, Yukisada Oshiro, Curly Muraoka (Ann on vacation in Korea), Toki Shimizu, Mamo Morita and the appearance of June Ohara with Masami was a pleasant and welcome surprise. Also, Keiji and Edith Kawakami and Dykie Kunishige were able to join us for the first time after Keiji's and Dykie's operation. We all enjoyed renewing acquaintances with our guests from the mainland.

On Friday, while Geri was on the golf course, Kazu and Lilly invited Johanna and Sam on a sightseeing trip. Alice opted to remain at the hotel. Included in our tour was a stop at Blow Hole where it wasn't spouting and the Pali where there was hardly a breeze. Saturday morning, Kazu, Geri, Johanna and Sam drove up to Punchbowl Cemetery. Before the program started, the three accompanied Geri to "Honeys" columbarium and assisted him in placing flowers in her memory. At the ceremony, Yukisada Oshiro was up front with the Cannon Company Guidon. Other Cannoneers at the Memorial Service were Kaoru, Doc Koike and Mamo. Col. Walter Ozawa (Reserve), the featured speaker at the Service gave an inspirational speech.

Saturday night's 54th Anniversary Banquet was a big event for us Cannoneers for we were all anxious to hear what Major Gerald Gustafson had to say. He turned out to be a very accomplished speaker. All three speakers were great. Johanna ran the video camera while he was speaking. Hopefully, those of us attending the Las Vegas reunion in May will be able to view the tape. Included on our two tables were the Yoshinaris, Maedas, Okinos, Koikes, Nakasones, Kazu and Lilly, Oshiro and his son-in-law, Curly, Masami, Thomas, Henry, Kaoru and Mamo.

On Sunday, Geri and Johanna continued on to Kona to spend a week relaxing and playing golf to their hearts content. They returned to Arizona that weekend. Sam and Alice left for Chicago on March 25th. The Hawaii Cannoneers were honored and privileged to assist in honoring our two officers. They both indicated that they will be in Las Vegas in May.

Since our May reunion is 2nd Quarter news, I'll just say that 22 from Hawaii will be attending.

Aloha and stay healthy.



by Herbert Akamine

Harry Abe was in Honolulu recently. He came for a meeting of the board of directors of the newly planned Japanese-American Monument in Washington, D.C. Seventeen Medics Club members met with him and his friend at a dinner party at China House Restaurant. Jimmie Kanaya sent a generous check for the get-together. Ted Matsuo showed the guests some of the sights of Honolulu.

Harry Abe brought unhappy news about his fellow MD Tosh Kuge of Portland, Oregon. Kuge passed away around Christmas time last year. He had been in failing health for some time.

Another fatality has hit the Medics ranks. Shigemi "Slim" Nakamura died a few days ago on April 4. His funeral service will be held at Hosoi Mortuary on Sunday, April 13. Survivors include wife Mutsue and two daughters and two sons. He became a paratrooper after the 442 left for Europe. He was a plumbing contractor before retirement.

We got a phone call the other day from George Minata who was at the Honolulu Airport. He and his family of seven were on their way from Spokane to Princeville, Kauai for a week of golf. Last April, they were at Kaanapali; for golf also. George is giving his grandson as much golf exposure as possible. The fifteen year old is already six feet tall with a four handicap in golf. Shades of a Tiger?

Ted and Dorothy Matsuo are finally first time grandparents. Daughter Michele Mossman gave birth to Allegra Somei on February 9, 1997. She weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces and stretched 21-1/2 inches. Ted says her projected adult height is 5 foot, 8 inches.

We received holiday greetings from mainlanders George Minatas, Tosh Yasutakes, Joe Saitos, Masa Nomura and Vic Izui. Masa is doing well in an upscale senior citizens' facility near Chicago. Vic spends considerable time caring for his disabled wife. Rela-

tives sometimes relieve him. The Saitos spend more time in the South where two of their children have relocated.

Another misfortune has befallen the Medics. This time the bells tolled for the other Nakamuras. It was Dr. James Nakamura's wife, Shirley, who passed away. James is the son of Eva and Takashi Nakamura.

Vic Izui sent a copy of the News Bulletin of the Nisei Post of the American Legion. There was a very surprising item in the News. It eulogized Tony Zale, the former world middleweight boxing champion who died recently. He was one of the toughest fighters in the history of boxing. He had been a member of the Nisei Veterans group, an active one rather than an honorary, inactive one. The presence of a world famous person in their group must have been a source of great comfort to the Nisei members. Navy veteran Zale's involvement in the Nisei Post was through an AJA friend of amateur boxing days.

The Medics present at the annual March banquet were the Tairas, Tsukayamas, Yamashiros, Fujiis, Tanakas, Mossmans, Ed Onaka and his son, the Yamadas (perennial guests of Ed), the widows Tsunehiro and Inouye and an officer honoree of the night, Dr. Wallace Kawaoka and his wife. Dr. Kawaoka was truly deserving of honor because of his exemplary service during combat.

I spent much of the night at the banquet quizzing Albert Tsukayama about his activities in Okinawa. We had met at the VA in Honolulu when he was ready to leave the islands to work for the U.S. Air Force at Kadena. Albert felt at home in Okinawa because there were many Hawaii people working for the U.S. military there. There was also a 442 club where the vets got together. He did well at his job, married an area girl and fathered two medical doctors who now practice medicine in the States.

We met many friends and acquaintances at the banquet. Among them were Mildred Nakata, Sakaye and Tadao Yoshimoto, Nancy and John Suzuki, A.J. Oka, Halo Hirose, Takao Ito, Minoru Nagasako and his wife, Kikuye and Takamori Miyagi, Lizo Honma and his wife, Laura Miho, Mimi and Ray Tanaka and Harold Afuso. We hope to see them again at next year's banquet.



by Ed Imamura

1997 Officers

Masaji "Shadow" Kurozumi was elected as Service Chapter President for the 37th consecutive year at the regular monthly meeting held at the 442nd Clubhouse on Wednesday, January 15, 1997.

Others elected at the March 12, 1997 meeting were: Ralph Chinaka, Vice President; Takemi Kajikawa, Secretary and Tom Tanaka, Treasurer.

Prexy Kurozumi appointed Susumu Awaya and Toshio Nakanishi to head the Social and Welfare Committees respectively.

Special Mahalo's to Chinaka's

We are grateful to Ralph and Grace Chinaka for sharing their lovely home to hold our monthly club meetings in the evening for the past 37 years. The members decided to change our meetings to the Clubhouse and have the meetings during the day (third Wednesday of each month).

Mahalo Grace, for all the wonderful times we had at your home! We will miss your gracious hospitality, especially the delicious spread you took out at each meeting.

Annual Banquet

Thirty-six members from Service Chapter attended the 442nd 54th anniversary banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 22, 1997.

Attendees were: Susumu & Kozue Awaya, Ralph & Grace Chinaka, Edwin & Amy Imamura, Mike Inouye, Takao "Juicy" & June Ito, Takemi Kajikawa, Tomoe (Yutaka) Kajiwarra, Allan & Sara Masuda, James & Martha Miyake and their guests, Michael & Jeanne Rupp of Epinal, France, George & Hisako Miyashiro

and their sons, Cary & Earl, and their guest, Marlene Coach, of the Honolulu Federal Veterans Administration Office, Toshio & Clara Nakanishi, Alexander & Jean Oka, Herbert Oshiro, Cynthia (Robert) Otani, Tom & Chiyoko Tanaka and their guests, Ray & Edith Arakawa, Noboru Tanoue, Frances (Kiyoji "Sam") Yamada and Theodore & Clara Yamate of Princeville, Kauai.

Club Meetings

Beginning the first of this year, our monthly Club meetings are held at the 442nd Clubhouse on the second Wednesday at 10 a.m. We averaged about 15-17 members at each meeting. Regular attendees are: Susumu Awaya, Ralph Chinaka, Gordon Furuto (great to see him again), Edwin Imamura, Mike Inouye, Takao Ito, Takemi Kajikawa, Masaji Kurozumi, Allan Masuda, James Miyake, George Miyashiro, Toshio Nakanishi, Hideo Nimori (missed him the past few meetings), Alexander Oka, Herbert Oshiro, Masami Tanabe, Tom Tanaka, Noboru Tanoue, Bill Toma and Yoshio Yatagai.

Visitors from France

Michel & Jeanne Rupp of Epinal, France spent their 3-weeks vacation to Hawaii to meet their Service Chapter friends and to participate in the 442nd 54th Anniversary activities.

Jimmy & Martha Miyake, who met Jeanne 10 years ago when Jeanne came to Hawaii with a group of about 50 people from Bruyeres, hosted the Rupp's during their visit in Honolulu.

Ralph & Grace Chinaka, together with the Miyake's, drove the visitors all over Oahu to see the various sites.

The Rupp's also spent about 3 days each at the Big Island and Kauai before they left for home on April 9th. Mahalo to the Service Chapter people who took good care of the Rupp's during their visit to Hawaii and Kauai.

Actually, the Rupp family are no strangers to Hawaii. Jeanne, who was born and raised in the town of Vimenil, outside of Bruyeres and her husband Michel from Epinal, were here for our 50th anniversary.

sary in 1993.

Isabell, the Rupp's daughter, is a school teacher in St Claude, which is located about 200 miles from Bruyeres. She spent her 3-weeks vacation here two years ago. She received the royal treatment from the Miyake's, Chinaka's and members of the Honolulu 442nd Sons & Daughters Club of which she is an Associate member. She also visited the Big Island, Maui and Kauai during her stay in Hawaii.

Tidbits

1. Congratulations to Glenn Mirikidani for his outstanding job as Master of Ceremonies for the 442nd 54th anniversary Memorial Service Program at Punchbowl. Glenn, who is very active with the Honolulu 442nd Sons & Daughters Club, is the son of the late Harry Mirikidani, an original member of Service Co.

2. Congratulations also to Mrs. Sandra Calmes, the daughter of our former Company Commander, Capt Lee Hawkins. Her collection of her father's pictures, letters, medals, clothing and equipment and other memorabilia which she donated last year to the 442nd Archives Center were prominently displayed and enjoyed by many people at the Anniversary Banquet.

3. Mahalo to Ron Oba of F Chapter for carrying the Service Chapter Guidon at the recent 442nd Memorial Service at Punchbowl. The M.C. asked for volunteers to carry several Guidons before the Service started and Ron was the lucky recipient to carry our Guidon. Good job, Ron!

Masaji "Shadow" Kurozumi

It was a very sad day for our Chapter when our Prexy for the last 37 years passed away on April 4, 1997 at the Kuakini Medical Center.

A huge throng of people, including many of his 442nd friends, attended his beautiful funeral service which was held at the Hosoi Garden Mortuary on Monday, April 14, 1997.

The service was officiated by Pastor Calvin Takara, of the Kaimuki Christian Church. Service Chapter

members, Takao "Juicy" Ito, served as the Master of Ceremonies and Susumu "Sus" Awaya gave the eulogy. Shadow's granddaughter, Sara Funamura, gave the "Thank You" message on behalf of the family.

Sus mentioned that Shadow was drafted in the Army in May 1941 and was assigned to the 395th Port Bn and the 1399th Engr Construction Bn. Shadow volunteered for the 442nd RCT in March 1943 and was assigned to Service Co. as an Automobile Mechanic.

Upon his discharge from the Army in 1945, Shadow worked as a mechanic at the Hickam AFB Transportation Motor Pool where he retired as an Auto Mechanic Supervisor in 1975.

After his retirement, Shadow kept busy by working part-time at an Ala Moana florist for six years, took two trips to Japan as part of the 442nd sponsored Hawaii/Japan Prep All-Star baseball games, took the 1995 Camp Shelby Revisit Tour and many other 442nd reunion trips.

Shadow was very active with the DAV and was one of about a dozen members of the "DAV Thursday Gang" who cleaned up and maintained the DAV buildings and grounds at Keehi Lagoon.

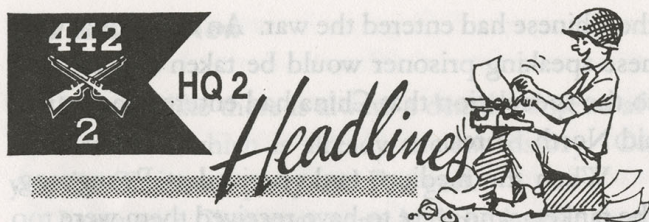
Shadow's greatest joy was working part-time as a Custodian and doing odd jobs at the 442nd Clubhouse. He looked forward to meeting and talking to all the veterans and members of the executive staff, Gail Onuma, Robert Sasaki, and archivist, Katherine Collins.

Shadow will be sorely missed. Our deepest condolences to his wife, Toshiko; son, Derek; daughters, Mrs. Joan Funamura and Mrs. Joy Jose; three grandchildren; mother, Chiyono Okada; brothers, Dennis Okada and Albert Okada; sisters, Jean Yamaguchi and Sueko Okada and all his relatives.

New Chapter Officers

At our monthly meeting on April 9, 1997, at the 442nd Clubhouse, Ralph Chinaka was elected President and Takao "Juicy" Ito as Vice President.

Takemi Kajikawa and Tom Tanaka were previously elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.



by Moriso Teraoka

Members of HQ2 chapter turned out in force for the 54th anniversary banquet. We were 26 members strong, the most ever except for the 50th Anniversary celebration. After all, Larry Ishida, our current chapter president, was a member of the planning committee and we couldn't let him down.

Who was the first speaker of the evening? He was none other than our own Col. Bert Nishimura, USA (ret). Who was the Master of Ceremony? He was none other than our Kenneth Saruwatari. The Ed Sasaki came all the way from Texas to attend the banquet. Active members of HQ2 chapter just couldn't let Ishida down for the great effort that went into the planning for this unforgettable anniversary dinner.

After all these many years, our chapter is still a viable chapter. Although our active membership is down to 16, the monthly second Friday night meetings are still a place to argue, shoot the shit over a beer or two. We've come to know each other's idiosyncrasy, laugh about it and enjoy each other's company more than ever.

Now, take Bert Nishimura, he just never got the idea that he is retired from the Army, he is still giving orders. We all know where Kenneth Saruwatari is during Rainbow baseball season, at the Rainbow Stadium. When Herbert Isonaga says, "no," we all stop and listen. But we usually don't take it to heart. Likewise, Tokuo Kaneshige is always a surprise when he pops up at our meetings, he must have missed the plane to Las Vegas. William Thompson is our chapter historian, he is still doing research at the Archives. Beside his musical endeavors, Larry Ishida is doing such a bang-up job as president, we want him for another year. Mike Sugai was an absentee president most of last year so what he should do is to volunteer for presidency next year. Although Lippy Higuchi

is always present at the meetings, he cares very little about what is going on. He is too busy eating. Nobody dare talk stink about Bert in front of Masa Yamamoto, they're buddies. Silent Scully Shimizu, we don't know how he sounds like. Of course, every one of us is nice to Takeshi Okemura, he can close the purse string on us. Robert Uyeda, we're nice to him, too, we depend on him for ceramic door prizes during our Christmas parties. We always hope that Kazu Tomasa hits another jackpot at Las Vegas. We might be treated to another can of coke. Toshi Hayama, if you want a pikake lei, talk to him. Richard Nakamura is almost as silent as Scully. Moriso Teraoka, nobody can talk bad about him, after all he is the chapter reporter.

Enough said. We usually have a cup of 26 cents McDonald's decaffeinated coffee before we hit the road.

Bert Nishimura

A survivor of two major wars, Bert Nishimura still vividly recalls when he was almost caught in the debacle at a place called Kusan in November of 1950 when the Chinese entered the Korean conflict. "I left Kusan in the morning before the Chinese caught up with the 2nd Division that afternoon," Nishimura said.

Discharged after the European fight was over, Captain Bert Nishimura of the 2nd Battalion Headquarters Company began enjoying the post-war civilian life in 1945. A surprising twist of events put Nishimura back in khakis four years after the end of the European War.

The Army asked Nishimura whether he would accept a tour of duty and go to the port of Maizuru, Japan where returning Japanese soldiers from China was being repatriated. To his surprise, Nishimura was not accepted into the Allied Translation and Interpreting Section as originally ordered. "I was rejected because I had not attended the Army Language School," Nishimura said.

He was reassigned to the Eighth Army with headquarters in Yokohama and assigned to the Troop Information and Education Division. When North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, the Eighth Army was designated the lead headquarters

for the United Nations command.

Conventional wisdom believed that Korea was too hilly and had too many rice paddies to support heavy vehicles, least of all, tanks. The North Koreans knew differently and their attacks were led by Russian-made T-34's. These were lightly armored and crudely built tanks but the ROKs (Republic of Korea) were no match for these behemoths, Nishimura said.

Lt. Gen. Walton Walker, Commander of the Eighth Army, and Colonel Withers were both from the armored corps and had previously served together. They ordered tanks from CONUS (Continental U.S.) and an armored section was created.

"Since I was the only officer in Col. Withers' unit with any combat experience, I became his only assistant," Nishimura said.

Nishimura's first job was to go to Pusan and coordinate with the Transportation Corps to find dockcranes capable of off-loading tanks. His next job was to plan how the tanks would be deployed into the combat zone.

By this time the tanks arrived in Pusan, the North Koreans had pushed the UN forces into a small perimeter around Pusan.

"We were in imminent danger of having to swim back to Japan," Nishimura said.

Enough light-weight tanks were available to form four tank companies, 22 tanks per company. Sufficient reinforcements had arrived to enable the UN forces to break out of the peninsula with the tanks leading the way. This counteroffensive was in coordination with the amphibious landing at Inchon, the port city for Seoul. The operation succeeded in separating the NK forces in the Pusan area from the Communist forces further North.

"Our drive took us all the way to Pyongyang," Nishimura said.

The War Department thought that the Korean War would be a good place to test the newest medium tanks which had been built under Fort Knox Armored Center's guidance. About 21 tanks arrived in Pusan while we were making a dash to the north. "The first time I learned that they had arrived was when I was in the "forward" headquarters in Kim Il Sung's palace in Pyongyang," Nishimura said.

About the same time there was a speculation that

the Chinese had entered the war. An occasional Chinese-speaking prisoner would be taken and this led to the speculation that China had entered the war to aid North Korea.

When the medium tanks arrived at Pyongyang, the tankers who were to have received them were too busy retreating to the rear. As a result, the tanks remained at the railhead.

When Nishimura got out of Pyongyang, his boss radioed to ask him whether he knew what had happened to the tanks or whether they had arrived or not.

Nishimura managed to talk the Artillery into making an observation trip over Pyongyang. "Fortunately, we had air superiority and our only concern was ground fire," Nishimura said. He spotted the tanks at the siding. There were no troops around and reported this fact to his boss.

Next day, Nishimura was told that Air Force planes were ordered to bomb the station with the tanks as their specific target. Abandoning the tanks at the railhead would have been catastrophic to the UN Forces. There were five or six sorties.

Nishimura got the same pilot to fly him in his L5 observation light plane. The railhead was in shambles. Most of the tanks seem to have been hit. He reported this and learned that the AF made several more sorties to insure damages.

"Light snow was falling and it was cold as hell when I left Kusan," Nishimura said.

"I also recall getting a hot turkey meal from a 1st Cavalry mess cook and while trying to eat it on the run, the turkey froze up on me," Nishimura said.



by Ron Oba

New Year dawns on families

Grandchildren twine bonds

Three tiered genealogy

Old and the New

It seems like there is always a dearth of news after a reunion which is already ancient history. Oh yes, the Christmas party and Fox golf.

Last year's Christmas party had the largest turnout ever. So many children - couldn't keep up with them so here's a list as they gave me their parent's name. Garret Takata: Kimberly, Ann and Caralyn; Okada: Justin; Joanna Cook (Higa): Jacob and Britany; Dean and Pat Kageno (Higa): Tanya, Shane, and Dayton; Uranaka: Krysti; Sakai (Imai): Cameron and Corey; Charlene and Gregg Matsushima (Oba): Calvin and Katie; Gary and Kelly Oba: Kelsie, Cory, and Traci; Gerald Oba; Teramoto (Shibuya): Kira and Sheri Lyn. Guests of the Nakamuras: Grace and Gary Fujii. It was nice to see Florence Imai and Natalie Oda with the rest of the regular members and wives.

Santa Claus came out bearing gifts to the children from the North Pole but the children knew it was from their parents. Sorry, George. Anyway, they enjoyed taking pictures with Santa in his red suit. This year, Santa had on white eyebrows - must have aged. The bingo games ran out of money when we foolishly had a black-out and 6 winners came charging forward for the \$20 jackpot. Luckily, I had some change in my wallet. We must start giving video games as prizes - the children are acting like their parents, looking for big bucks with a mean gleam in their eyes. I wondered why more children were coming to our Christmas parties.

There were more than three wise men bearing gifts to this Christmas party. The wise women also brought gifts for all. Today we try to be discreet in the use of unisex nomenclature but the rest rooms are still designated by gender. Why?

They were: Fred Okada, Jr. Uranaka, Grace Nakamura, Shige Higa, Sharon Tanaka, Myrtle Nakasato, Roy Iritani, Chikako Shimada, Clara Shibuya, Clara Yamashita, Shinako Takata, Michi Oba, and others I may have missed.

New News: Bob Katayama was installed as the new president of the 442nd Veterans Club. This makes five Fox Chapter members as presidents of the 442nd Veterans Club. He announced a series of

exciting agenda for the coming year and promised to do a good job for the year including a trip to Japan for the Unabara Kai's invitation to commemorate another year of reciprocation of the end of WWII. Kats Miho will be arranging a group tour for the 442nd club members with about 10 days' stay in Tokyo and optional extended stays by individuals

By the luck of the draw, the new officers for Fox chapter volunteered as: President, Ron Oba, Vice-President-Secretary, Shige Higa, and repeat Treasurer, Bill Tanaka. May the good Lord keep their names off the lottery next year. The agenda will be the same: breakfast and dinner meetings with an occasional special receptions for visiting firemen. Like Sam Yamaguchi who called to '97. I told him not to listen to unconfirmed rumors, so instead he'll be coming for the 54th Anniversary banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 22. Sunao Furusho heard the same and is coming. Ocean confirmed with Richard Murashige that he will come at that time. Sam remembers most of the 2nd platoon squads. He got hit on Hill 140.

Shige Higa has reserved the Natsunoya Teahouse for our Shinnen-En-Kai for February 14th. Forty members and wives have signed up to attend. More on this after the affair.

The Hawaii Food Bank will be honoring the 442nd Veterans in their annual fundraising effort. The Food Bank honors prominent persons or organizations to help them generate donations from the public just like we did with Mr. Yoshiharu Satoh for our memorial fund raiser.

Alan Kubota, President of the Sons and Daughters, was elected to fill the vacancy of the third vice-president for 1997. Ed Goto moved to the second vice-presidency.

The organizers of the Washington D.C. Monument (National Japanese American Memorial) will soon be embarking on a fund raising campaign with Hawaii earmarked for two million. Our Bob Katayama, among other Hawaii honorary co-chairs, is serving on the Memorial Foundation.

The Property Management and House Rules Committee through Harry Tokushige is proposing to erect several granite slabs on the front outside walls of the club house to inscribe the names of all the

AJAs who were Killed in Action during World War II. This list will include all of the mainland friends veterans who were KIAs. The KIA Memorial inside the club house does not include everyone, thus this effort to update the list and honor them properly. The construction costs will be \$52,000 and will be raised through a fund raiser.

Finally, the AJA council who represents all four AJA organizations, would like your input whether we should finally have a joint Memorial Service and Banquet, or just the joint Memorial Service to inaugurate in 1998. Each organization may still celebrate their own events. How about smoking a peace pipe together for the first time? We look like Indians, anyway.

Kunia Fox Golf

Tommy Tamagawa stayed away from Vegas long enough to arrange a tournament at the Kunia course on a sunny morning that was supposed to rain according to the weather forecaster. Thank heaven the forecasters are never right. The contestants were: Shige Higa, Doc Roy Iritani, Michi and Ron Oba, Mich Takata, Joe Tanaka, Bill Tanaka, Tommy Tamagawa, and Yoshio Shibuya.

And the winners were: defending champion, Doc Roy Iritani, net 66; Bill Tanaka and Ron Oba tied for 2nd, net 69; Mich Takata, fourth, net 71 and Yosh Shibuya, fifth, net 72.

This year's tournament chairman will be Mich Takata, who has graciously accepted to plan several matches.

Tournament chair Mich Takata announced the following schedule for 1997:

March 6, Thursday, 11:18 a.m., Ewa Village

June 3, Tuesday, 11:24 a.m., HCC

August 26, Tuesday, 11:00 a.m., Ewa Village

November 3, Monday, 8:00 a.m., HCC, 19th hole at Moanalua G.C.

March Tourney

The Ewa Village Golf Course with its narrow fairways and gusty headwinds made the long par fours looking like a five. Unfortunately, they constructed

the fairways in defilages or ravines that are natural depositories for run-off water during heavy storms. A blessing in disguise? Some of the long par fours still had debris from the last storm and made into par threes. The ladies tees were about a hundred yards in front of the men's. So the winners were: overall, Michi Oba, net 66; second, Mich Takata, 73; third, Ron Oba, 74; tied for fourth, Joe Tanaka and Oscar Tsukiyama; and tied for sixth, Doc Iritani and Yosh Shibuya. Our venerable front runner, Bill Tanaka had an unmentionable score. I guess his left to right fade found too many roughs. Anyway, it was the wind that carried the ball there. Front nine was won by Doc Iritani, net 35; back nine, Joe Tanaka, net 35. Closest to the pin, Michi Oba. Others participating were: Kiyoshi Takeuchi who came out of hibernation for this tournament, Tommy Tamagawa, Shige Higa and Ken Inukai.

January-February Meetings

Our first meeting of the year was held at the Wistaria Restaurant. This time they set up a head table so everyone could hear the treasurer's report which he ad libbed and the numbers did jive. Discussions centered on welcoming the new president of the 442nd, Bob Katayama; the anniversary memorial service and banquet at which our Michio Takata, will be honored as the surviving battlefield Commissioned Officer of the Honolulu Fox Chapter; Mas Chomori of Wilmington, California has also been invited to attend; the invitation to celebrate in Japan with the Unabarakai organization in October, 1997; and the effort to upgrade war time citations and medals at every level. With Bill's glowing cash report, it was unanimously carried to defray the cost for all the ladies at the Natsunoya Teahouse. The drinks are on the house so bring your ladders but don't bend your elbows too much because of the D.U.I. Fox rosters and scheduled meetings, dinners, and the telephone tree was burst to everyone present. Absentees did receive theirs in the mail.

Shinnen En Kai

Forty members and wives attended the New Year's

Party at the Natsunoya Teahouse. Everyone seemed to be in gay spirits as they didn't have to sit on the floor. Tables and chairs were provided through Shige's efforts and to his dismay, the two cases each of beer and sodas did not sell out. Eat less, drink less, and enjoy less - scientists discovered that you'll live longer if you starve! And they used to say, "If you don't drink, don't gamble, and don't have sex, what the hell are we living for?" Anyway, take heart, the experiments were conducted on rats and rabbits. By the way, the rats and rabbits are still multiplying by the dozen and enjoying long life - cloning or clowning?

Delving on cloning, what an unisexual orgy we would have if we had the same looking president, treasurer and secretary and every member of our chapter would look like ?*#@! Wow, how do we choose the next president?

We decided not to have games or musical chairs since the only ones who could run around would be the children and they were not invited. Those in attendance were: Chairperson, Shige Higa and Rose, Florence Imai, Mineo Inuzuka who gave a talk of his trip around the world to the Anti-Tank chapter, Dr. Roy Iritani, Bob Katayama, Phyllis Miyaji, Mary Muranaka, Natalie Oda, Richard and Dorothy Murashige, Kats and Grace Nakamura, George and Myrtle Nakasato, Ron and Michi Oba, Fred and Yoshino Okada, Jean Okamoto, Jo Okazaki and Yoshio and Clara Shibuya, Mich and Shinako Takata, Kiyoshi Takeuchi, Tommy and May Tamagawa, Joe and Sharon Tanaka, Bill and Cupie Tanaka, Junior and Ruth Uranaka, Paul, who gave the invocation, and Clara Yamashita, Frances Yorita and Ken and Joy Inukai.

Tid Bits

Kaoru Masuda reported from Turlock that he was not flooded by the recent rains. Tak Sasaki of Monterey is not doing too well and spends most of his time in bed. Joe Tanaka scared the hell out of us by landing in the hospital with pneumonia and a mild heart ailment. George and I visited and Joe seemed to be his old self again.

In Memoriam

Hiro Takusagawa reports that Shigeru Muranaka of Harbor City, CA and Tom Matsumori of Sandy, Utah have passed away. Just got word from Richard Murashige that our good friend, Pine Tree Matsuoka died the other day. On March 7, Richard got word from Kaoru that Tak Sasaki passed away. Mas, we were saddened to hear that your better half, Shiz, passed away peacefully in her sleep and the funeral was held on March 21. Our sincere condolences to the families for their loved ones.

Memorial and Anniversary Banquet

Ocean Miyake, Sam Coolige Yamaguchi and Mas Tamaye from the mainland, and Bob Honda, Helen and Yas Deguchi from the Big Island and Mr. Kauai, George Kawakami who came without his wife, helped celebrate our 54th Anniversary.

Puuowaina crater was blessed with clear skies and radiant sunshine as Paul, Richard, George, Michi, Ocean, Bambino, and Ron raised the flags on as many of Fox buddies buried there as we trudged to locate the headstones. Sada Kubota, father of Alan Kubota, patiently and unselfishly helped me carry the 46 flags for an hour while we searched the headstones. Not everyone of the 46 names could be found.

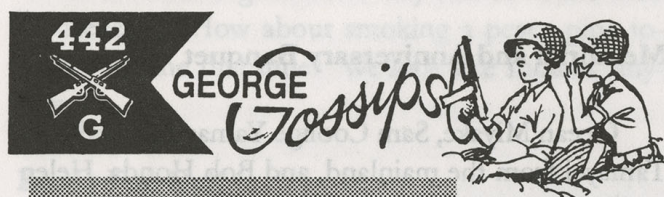
Gerald Oba represented Fox in bearing the Fox Guidon, as well as George and Ron for other chapters who didn't show up, during the memorial service. Every speaker gave a heartwarming accolade to our fallen comrades and those in attendance.

If you wanted to park at the Pacific Beach Hotel, you had to be there by 4:30 p.m. Over 800 vets and wives, Sons and Daughters and guests attended in a reunion-like atmosphere as people were table hopping all night except when the three main speakers were introduced and gave their ten minute speeches. Honest, they spoke ten looong minutes each. Won't elaborate since I am sure their speeches will be reproduced elsewhere in this bulletin.

The highlight for Fox members was the crowning of Mich Takata as one of the many commissioned officers of the 442nd RCT during the war in Europe.

Those attending were: Shige and Rose Higa, Florence Imai, Dr. Roy Iritani, Bob Katayama, Richard

and Dorothy Murashige, Kats Nakamura, George and Myrtle Nakasato, Ron and Michi Oba, Fred and Yoshino Okada, Yoshio Shibuya, Kiyoshi Takeuchi, Tommy and May Tamagawa, Tajiro and Ruth Uranaka, Paul and Clara Yamashita, Ken and Joy Inukai, and of course, the out-of-towners mentioned above. Joe and Sharon Tanaka stayed home to nurse his scary but mild illness. It was good to see so many enjoying themselves.



by Harold Fukunaga

Annual Shinnenkai

Our annual Shinnenkai was held on January 24th at the Natsunoya Tea House on Alewa Heights. Al Amii made the necessary reservations and arrangements, so that we didn't have to sit on the floor like they ordinarily do at the tea houses. I guess it would have been disastrous for us senior citizens to try to cross our legs and sit on the floor and being unable to get up without assistance. Fortunately, we sat on regular chairs, with the dinners served on the tables.

We were very fortunate in having some out of towners attending the dinner. Stanley Serikaku from Chicago and Billy and Margaret Yokochi from Whittier were present to enjoy the dinner and chance to meet with our Honolulu members and wives. The food was excellent, with about 7 or 8 dishes, which were served one at a time, every 5 minutes; so we had a hard time keeping up with the servings. However, they all tasted very good.

Fred Ida, our president, had the banner of our chapter hanging on the wall. We need to thank him for doing that every year. He also made sure that we had pictures taken of the group, with his camera and apparatus. He later showed us the pictures and they were excellent.

Bingo games were held, as usual, and Mrs. Chizuko

Hamada was the big winner. We need to thank Grace Ishii, Rose Ebisuya, George Furukawa and Alfred Amii for donating door prizes and coordinating the dinner.

The following members and wives and visitors attended: Richard Ajifu, Alfred & Helen Amii, Kenneth & Catherine Fujimoto, Harold & Jane Fukunaga, George & Jo Ann Furukawa, George & Chizuko Hamada, Raymond & Pat Handa, Grace Ishii, Fred & Dolores Ida, James & Betty Ishizaki, Robert & Yoshiko Ito, Toshimasa Kanai, Taketo & Judy Kawabata, John & Clara Kikuyama, Kazu & Fujiko Motobu, Takeshi Onuma, Edward & Emily Tamanaha, Yoshi & Carol Yoshiwa, William & Margaret Yokochi, Rose Ebisuya and Stanley Serikaku.

Rocky Matayoshi Visit

Rocky and his wife were in town recently, to attend his mother's services which were held on year after her death. He had enough time to visit with us at our January George Chapter meeting. It gave him an opportunity to chat with the boys and reminisce about the army days, especially in Europe.

Since he wanted to sit down and talk stories over a longer period, he asked if I could round up some guys. He asked that he didn't want to have too many guys, so I asked Speed Tanna, Taketo Kawabata and Satoru Gota to meet with Rocky at the 442 Clubhouse. Fortunately, they didn't have any other meeting then. Rocky was quite happy and talked quite a bit. Satoru Gota, who was in the same squad with Rocky was able to remember many of the incidences and actions, which Rocky had forgotten, so it was enlightening for Rocky. Many of us have the same problem of remembering certain incidences because of our age. However, Satoru filled in lot of the empty spaces for Rocky. Speed and Taketo were able to remember many of the battles and actions, so it was a length meeting of over two hours, so Satoru and I had to leave earlier because of other commitments. Speed and Taketo were able to continue the reminiscing until Rocky's relatives came to pick him up later.

Induction of Yoshimi Fujiwara

Yoshimi Fujiwara was one of the 7 Distinguished Service Cross recipients of George Company. He was inducted into the Gallery of Heroes at Ft. DeRussy in Honolulu recently. This gallery now has 2 George Company guys honored and it honors those who received DSCs or higher awards from those who lived in Hawaii. We were disappointed in not being able to attend the ceremony, because the authorities did not notify the 442 Veterans Club in time. We would have wanted to have some representation from George Chapter members at the ceremony, just like the time that Rocky Matayoshi was honored.

Annual Memorial & Banquet of 442nd Veterans Club

The annual memorial and banquet of the 442nd Veterans Club, celebrating the 54th anniversary, was held on March 22, 1997. The day before, Speed Tanna, Fred Ida, Takeshi Onuma and the writer spent about an hour at the Punchbowl Cemetery to honor the guys buried there, by posting small American flags by their headstones. Speed, who has been doing it for umpteenth years, knows the general location of the graves, so he told us what areas to cover. Speed and Onuma took care of the largest area and Fred took care of another and I took the area which had the most concentrated graves. Many other chapter members were there also, decorating their respective guys' graves.

The next day at the Memorial Service, we were very happy that the weather was nice and sunny, because of the recent rains. The memorial service was well attended and George Chapter had a fair representation on hand in Speed Tanna, Fred Ida, Taketo Kawabata, Takeshi Onuma, George & Chizuko Hamada, Eddie Ochiai and Harold Fukunaga. Jan Kawabata, Taketo's daughter, was there also and volunteered to be our George Company guide-on bearer. Amidst the solemnity of the ceremony, one humorous incident provided some levity. Through some miscommunication, Jan Kawabata was told by Speed Tanna to be there early (7:15 am) at the ceremony, even though the program was slated to start at 9:00 am. So Taketo and Jan arrived there at 7:15 am, with

just a handful of people there. Evidently, Taketo had a premonition that he would have lots of time, so he brought a copy of the Readers Digest to read. Well, he read a long time. He said that he was there before the Cemetery Director arrived, because the latter came later and talked to Taketo, because there were still very few people there at that time. Speed later said that he thought he told Jan to be there at 8:15 am, after listening to Taketo's complaints that he was there from 7:15.

The 54th Anniversary Banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel was a gala affair, with approximately 820 attendees. This anniversary honored the commissioned officers of the 442 RCT, so we saw many of the white haired officers in attendance. Fortunately, we had our Captain William Aull and his wife, Mary, in attendance. Fred Ida assisted him to the table by pushing the wheelchair for him. It seems as if he had a good time, considering that he walk talking to so many of our members and friends, including other commissioned officers. As part of the program, three commissioned officers spoke of their experiences with the 442 RCT. All of them were very impressed with the way the men were tenacious and strove to ensure that the 442 was going to go all out or "Go For Broke" in all of the battles. There's no need to write more of the program, because it will be written by others elsewhere in this bulletin.

Among those who attended from our chapter were the following: Richard Ajifu, Alfred & Helen Amii, Bill & Mary Aull (our guests), Harold & Jane Fukunaga, Ray & Pat Handa, Fred & Dolores Ida, Robert & Yoshiko Ito, Taketo & Judy Kawabata & Jan Kawabata (daughter), Takeshi Onuma, Eddie & Grace Ochiai, Eddie & Emily Tamanaha and Robert & Edna Tanna. As a special note, the chapter wishes to thank Bill & Mary Aull for a very generous donation to the chapter.

Other Tidbits

We were surprised to hear of some ailment to Mrs. Grace Ishii, who was recently hospitalized and had to cancel her trip to our Las Vegas reunion. It must have been a big disappointment to her, because she loves to go to Vegas and try her best to outwit

the casino tables. I understand that she is up and around, walking. We're glad to hear of her recovery.

Mike Shiraishi had an accident in his home when he slipped and fell. He was sent to the hospital. We all hope that he recovers and can go home and rest.

Las Vegas Reunion

This reunion was held on March 11 and 12 and was coordinated by Fred Ida, who did a Herculean job in coordinating the whole thing, from setting up the reservation at the Fremont Hotel, accounting for the reservations made by all of the participants, working with the hotel on the dinner and the hospitality room arrangement, MC-ing the program and picture taking. Hats off to you, Fred! I'm leaving the description of reunion to Mary Karatsu, our LA correspondent, who has sent us a vivid description of the Mainland activities and all.

"G" Company (by Mary Karatsu)

We were deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved Kay Sekino last month. She has been an active member since the inception of the "G" Company Veteran's group (almost 50 years) and her husband Nori Sekino, served as the Association president for two terms. Kay attended every 442 reunion and was always available when asked to participate in any way. She leaves four daughters and one granddaughter. She will be missed dearly and we will always remember Kay as someone who touched all of our lives and made us better because she did.

We have just returned from the "G" Co. mini-reunion held in Las Vegas—one of the best yet!

We had an early start this year since several of the group came into LA one day early so they could ride the bus with us. We had a dinner at Tin Sing in Gardena to welcome them on Monday evening. Those attending from out of town were: Ray & Frances Sugai, Rocky & Elsie Matayoshi and Stan Serikaku from Chicago; Frank & Dorothy Kuroda from Michigan; and Yukio Okamoto from San Jose. We were also honored to have Jan Hagiwara (attending for the first time) and her son Mike in attendance, as well as Darrell Kunitomi and sister Kerry Cababa

who went to Bruyeres a couple of years ago to pay tribute to their uncle, Ted Fujioka. They also wanted to see some of the "G" members who were on the same tour so it was "Hey, I remember you" time!

Also present was a staff writer from the *Rafu Shimpo* who did a great article on our most decorated Rocky and other "G" guys. It was a very informal get together so we were able to just sit around and chat. Others who attended were: Tets & Dot Asato, Bones & Shiz Fujimoto, Stan's friend Toshi Fujita, Larry & Gladys Gima, Taki Handa, George & Chiye Hayashi, George & Mary Karatsu, Mary Kawabata (who was on a cruise to Mexico and just pulled into port a few hours before the dinner), Roy & Fumy Machida, Jim Makino, Jim & Dorothy Nakagawa, Tom & Sachi Nakamoto, George & Mary Nakatsu, Sue Nishinaka and Eddie & Marie Otsuka.

We adjourned early so we could go home to pack for our Las Vegas bus trip early the next morning. As usual, George Nakatsu had everything in perfect order—the new comfortable bus seated 50 of us and as soon as we pulled out of the El Monte station, out came the obento (at 10:45 a.m.!). the only thing we didn't count on was the road construction just this side of Barstow—delayed us by 45 minutes—but we still had enough time to gamble before dinner. We had a delicious chicken/or ribs dinner in the banquet room where we were joined by the rest of the group. Fred Ida, head honcho of the Hawaii "G" Company, made all the arrangements and served as the personable M.C.

We were well represented from all over the country:

Chicago: Rocky & Elsie Matayoshi; Ray & Frances Sugai, Stanley Serikaku & Guest Toshi Fujita

New York: Roy Greene

Georgia: Jimmy & Alice Doi

Michigan: Frank & Dorothy Kuroda

Washington: Clem & Rosalia Miyaya and guests Joe & Jean Miller

Minnesota: Hisashi & Terry Kumagai

San Jose: Yukio Okamoto; Bill & Esther Oda

Richmond: Minor & Lilly Miyasaki and sister Alice Yuki

Campbell: Katsumi & Alice Hikido (glad to meet them for the first time!)

Palo Alto: Jiro Yoshizawa