

## Hope

As the years swiftly roll by, we have our fingers crossed that there will be many of the widows present at the Seattle gathering. Aside from Emily Kawaguchi, a real steady attendee, we would like to see Alice Sano, Mary Tatara, June Goto, Masako Hamada of Montana, Florence Nishi and somehow, some way, George Iwamoto and Betty & Harry Hoshiko, who are not in the best of shape, and a few that I probably failed to mention here. With time getting shorter, it would be the greatest to see all these people once again.

## Out

Couldn't help but have a quiet, soundless chuckle when they announced that they will introduce so many of the old officers who served with us during the conflicts, knowing that the K-Men will be drawing a blank on this subject. You may not believe this, but for a company who had the most casualties, the most Distinguished Service Crosses (six KIA and two living) we had just one field commission for this entire campaign. Yep. For the K-Men, they were here one morning and gone the next, especially the Lost Battalion ordeal.

And so it goes as we meet this April deadline, which is getting to be a backbreaker as the years roll by.

Till the next one, so long.



by Allen Nakamura

## Fund Drive

Our Annual Fund Drive continues to be a successful event with very generous donors, members and friends alike. Unable to attend the function but who nevertheless mailed in their donations are: Aoki,

Yoshiji; Arakaki, Alfred; Arakaki, Richard "Pluto"; Arakawa, Hideo; Fujimoto, Kunio; Fujita, Mitsuyuki; Furukawa, Chizuko; Kurozumi, Masaji "Shadow"; Matsumura, Teruo "Cowboy"; Matsuura, Stanley; Miyamoto, Mitsuru "Doc"; Nakama, Albert; Oshiro, Bill; Shoji, Kobe; Takabuki, Matsuo "Matsy"; Uno, Ernest; Watanabe, Jiro.

Members and friends donations in attendance are: Fink, Arthur "Kazuo"; Fukunaga, Tom; Fujii, Lawrence; Gushiken, Robert; Jichaku, Jacob; Kakesako, Tommy; Kashiwa, Genro; Leong, Wilfred; George Matsumoto; Matsuura, Hajime; Nakahara, Toshio; Nakamura, Allen; Nakamura, Randal; Ogata, Kazuma; Oshiro, Joe; Oshiro, Seichi "Freckles"; Shishido, Ralph; Takiguchi, Paul; Takiyama, Isa; Tome, Yoshito; Lennon, Dorothea; Ms's Asato, Miller, Yuen.

Because of these generous donors, we are able to sustain the \$1,000 Emiko Nakamura Scholarship to Delta Kappa Gamma for their qualified recipient to further their education. My sincere appreciation to these donors. Besides, our combined chapter's treasuries are richer from the fund drive to continue our social events with a minimal, if not a token cost to each of our social functions.

We had always prepared the dinner at the fund drive to keep the expenses low. However, we decided to give a well deserved rest to the dedicated cooks, so we catered Chinese cuisine. We can look forward to having this menu to future fund drive functions. Everything worked out real good as we stayed within our budget.

We give thanks to the perennial donors to all our events: Tommy Kakesako, Lawrence Fujii, John Fink and Hideo Nakayama and to all who brought their favorite delicious desserts. Also to Tom Fukunaga for the huge amount of Ahi for sashimi and fish belly and blood fillet at both our functions prepared by my daughter Cynthia Medeiros.

## Shinen Enkai

Gaiety filled the air on Sunday, February 23, Weinberg Hall at our annual family oriented Shinen Enkai. Revitalized in recent years thru the efficient leadership of our departed chairman, Victor Yamashita, his hard work carried on by yours truly,



there were over 141 in attendance counting the children at this great Family Affair!

Music filled the hall with Jiro Watanabe's Akogare Hawaii group, Wade Shishido, Larry Ishida and Ted Yanagihara performing to their prelude for their appearance at the 442nd Banquet. As an added attraction, Jiro's grandson gave a masterful rendition on the ukulele. We would like to have more grandchildren perform, so if you parents/grandparents can encourage them we will set up more time for their performances. Remember that this event is always held on the last Sunday in February.

Thanks to Terry Jichaku that the numbers increased from the call-in dateline, as she called a number of members who probably forgot the date. The count is important as we cater the food. Please help Terry to make her job easier. Thanks!

We have invited the widows of our departed comrades to all of our events as our guests. Timmy Yamashita and Edna Kuramoto were present to be recognized. We hope other widows will accept the invitations and join us.

Besides the lucky number drawings, we had special drawings of watches, jewelries from Tommy K., & \$25 gift certificates from John Fink. Also toasters and electric can openers to excite the gathering in a separate drawings for these items.

Mouth-watering dessert donations by: Terry Jichaku; Hilda Takiyama; Jenny Matsumoto; Pauline Tome; H. Kawaoka; Elaine Gushiken; Doris Ishida; Nancy Oshiro; Pat Rotzman; Brenda Shimahara; Mitsue Shishido; Gloria Oshiro; Grace Kimura; Ann Nakamura; Sherrie Kalug. Apology to Betty Aoki and Flora Watanabe for not recognizing their donations during the program.

Thanks to the following ladies who donated the paper plates, cups, forks, spoons, chopsticks, handwraps, coffee, cream, tea, all necessary items, (\* both functions): \*Nancy O.; \*Betty N.; Marian M.; Pauline T.; Edna K.; Jenny M.; Hilda T.; Mitsue S.

Thanks to everyone, donors and participants alike for keeping active this chapter social event of the year! Save the date: 1998 Shinen Enkai, Sunday, February 22.

### Visitors

We had surprise visitors escaping the cold from Chicago, Kenji & Louise Tani during the holiday season. Kenji was able to attend our January chapter meeting, having to leave for home the following day.

### Memoriam & Sickness

The following report missed the last edition. Toshio Nakahara received a phone call from Mrs. Miyamoto that her husband Richard Tsuruo Miyamoto, 3rd platoon passed away. Richard was never active in our chapter. Our deepest sympathy to spouse Hisako, children Clyde/Jasmine Nakayama, Ian/Joan Miyamoto.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Kenneth Motonobu "Moto" Sasaki who died on March 16 and to Robert/Lily Sasaki, brother of the deceased.

Tommy Kakesako our generous benefactor member was taken to emergency hospital on an ambulance for observation after fainting while waiting in line to have lunch at the luncheonette, next door to his Kakesako store. This accounted for his absence at our chapter meeting as it was on this day that he was stricken. He is O.K., altho' the cause of his fainting is not yet exactly known. He attended the banquet and mingled at the hospitality room—a good sign!

### Abroad News

Contributed by Toshi/Betty Nakahara. Kenneth Inada, Ph.D., scheduled to retire from the State University of New York in May. They will set up residence in Nevada. The warm climate should help both of their arthritic conditions.

Kenneth will be semi-retired as he was appointed Editor in Chief of the Chinese & Japanese Buddhist Texts Committee by the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai in Tokyo.

### Mini-Reunion

Because of the Seattle group's noticeable absence on visits to Las Vegas, Paul Matsumoto initiated this reunion, hoping to lure the Seattle group to come to



Hawaii with its beautiful setting and great Hawaiian hospitality. The response drew Ken/Aki Higashi; Jim/Yuri Suzuki; Mas/Hisa Watanabe. However, a large contingent of associates and friends signed up from NORTHERN CAL: Howe/Mary Hanamura; Paul Higuchi; Joey Ishihara; Hide Kiyomura; Shiz/Ruby Kizuka; Joe Mori; Ken/Masi Nihei; Ray Nomura; Yoji/June Nukaya; Jack/Jane Oda; Ray Orite; Mel/Kiyono Tominaga; Bill/Miyo Tomura; Feb/Amy Yokoi; Jim Yokota; Shig/Rose Yokote.

PORTLAND: Kaz Ochiai. SALT LAKE CITY: Tomi/Jean Nakano. LAS VEGAS: Frank/Frances Nomura. SOUTHERN CAL: Tak/Ruth Hashimura; Seigi/Hazel Imamura; Ben/Fudge Kitagawa; Ocean Miyake; Connie Nomura (daughter of Frank/Frances); Jun Yamamoto; Don/Sumi Seki and daughter Lynette Matsuyama from KONA.

Their visits were tied in with the 54th Anniversary Banquet at Pacific Beach Hotel and the Memorial Services at Punchbowl. Love Chapter had 86 at the banquet, reminiscence in attendance of the good old days. The itinerary took 17 of them to the Kilauea Military Camp in Kona March 18-21 arranged by Bill Oshiro and accompanied by Yoshiji Aoki, Bill O. & P.K. 20 took in the optional tour to Maui, headquartered at Maui Beach Hotel, March 25-26. The Maui group treated the guests lavishly. Don/Sumi Seki visited Kauai.

With the efficient guidance and planning by Genro Kashiwa, co-chaired by Yoshito Tome, the transportation to and from the airport to Pagoda Hotel, headquarters for the mini-reunion encountered only a minuscule of problems. They really deserve loads of thanks in handling this problem area. Then too, hard to leave out ubiquitous Genny M., seen coordinating at the banquet, the transportation back to Pagoda for our guests.

### Hospitality Room

Apt 126 at the Pagoda Hotel, a spacious 3 room with built-in stove and a patio was a perfect setting for a hospitality room. Food were plentiful with Genny Matsumoto & Betty Nakahara as the leading ladies in arranging the abundance of oishi foods served for breakfast, lunch, dinner and after hour

pupu's. The best part as Genny said, is that the rooms were always fully utilized, a sign of a successful reunion. Even long time no see Stanley Matsuura was there! Genny also emphasized that, not to leave out any of the ladies who helped, she wants to thank all of you without naming names. But it will be remiss not to also mention Nancy & Joe Oshiro and Toshi Nakahara for their hard work in the hospitality room.

### Luncheon

The buffet lunch at the International Garden Ballroom at Pagoda Hotel with live musical entertainment by Jiro Watanabe's Akogare Hawaii, set the proper tempo for the luncheon. Yoshito Tome besides performing as a member of the Akogare group, gave an impressive and excellent invocation. Individual Karaoke singers by Isa Takiyama, P.K., Yoshito, Larry Ishida and Don Seki had really livened the luncheon. But, I thought that the afternoon's star was Lynette Matsuyama in her pantomime act in tune with the 442nd Song was unique and outstanding!

Jacob made an announcement in behalf of Genro for the guys to write their war memoirs for volume 3, that Genro is compiling. You can mail it to Jacob Jichaku, 94-635 Heainoa Pl., Waipahu, HI 96797 or Genro Kashiwa, 5341 Apo Dr., Honolulu, HI 96821.

### Donors

Under the new guideline for the bulletin, only the donor's name without the amount of monetary donations will be listed. Names with asterisk also donated to the hospitality room pleasures:

Frank/Frances Nomura; Ken/Aki Higashi\*; George Hata; Tommy/Kay Kakesako; Genro/Muriel Kashiwa; Robert/Joan Yukitomo; Bill/Harumi Hagio; Chizuko Furukawa; Masato "Mansan" Suehiro; Robert/Lily Sasaki\*; Ben/Fudge Kitagawa; Turk/Yuri Suzuki\*; Co. L, No. Calif; Jun/Mrs Yamamoto; Don/Sumi Seki; Hideo Kiyomura; Seigi/Hazel Imamura.

Beer, Soda, Liquor donors: Yoshiji Aoki; Mabel Fujimoto; Hideo Higa; Jacob Jichaku; Wally Kawamura; Paul Matsumoto; Toshi Nakahara; Hideo Nakayama; Allen Nakamura; Joe/Nancy Oshiro; "Freckles"/Gloria Oshiro; Bill/Lily Oshiro; Kobe/



Chiz Shoji; Yoshito/Pauline Tome; Edna Kuramoto; Cowboy/Marian Matsumura; Kazuma Ogata; Isa/Hilda Takiyama; Jiro/Flo Watanabe; Timmy Yamashita; Ken/Aki Higashi; Mas/Hisa Watanabe; Connie Nomura; Jun Yamamoto; Joey Ishihara; Ray Orite; Ray Nomura; Paul Higuchi; Shig/Ruby Kizuka; Ken/Masi Nihei; Jim Yokota; Turk/Yuri Suzuki; Tom/Jean Nakano; Tak/Ruth Hashimura; Feb/Amy Yokoi; Shig/Rose Yokote; Mel/Kiyono Tominaga; Lynette Matsuyama.

### **Las Vegas - November**

Gold Coast Casino, Las Vegas on November 12, 1997 was voted for by those present at the luncheon for the next mini-reunion, to be hosted by Northern Calif. Altho' the Northwest group fell short in numbers, it was really nice to see Turk/Yuri Suzuki, Mas/Hisa Watanabe who seldom visits Las Vegas. Of course, Ken/Aki Higashi, regulars to Las Vegas, were also a welcome sight.

So ended the reunion. Kudos to Paul Matsumoto for his fine efforts and to the ever hard-working Genny full of vitality. Our thanks and appreciation for your hard work!

### **Masi Okumura's Memoirs (cont'd)**

My vivid remembrance of the Battle of Bruyeres begins in a copse of woods just before a rolling valley within sight of the town. We had been in reserve and now we're called upon to take Bruyeres in a frontal attack. Some 36th Division guys were dug in with machine guns, 50 ca., and we dug in amongst them. Lt. Smith had to go to company hqtrs for orders so we all waited. When he came back, he told me to call all the squad leaders and gave them the orders. "L" Co to lead the 3rd Battalion. 2nd Pltn to lead the company. The artillery was to land smoke in the valley and when it lifted we were to advance. The artillery barrage began and the smoke started to land. Smitty said, "let's go men," and to my amazement started out of the woods with his carbine in his hand and no scouts out! Being his runner, I had to go next!

In the Italian campaign, it was his custom to have a squad and scouts in front, then we came, the pla-

toon CP with the platoon sgt himself and his runner, namely myself. So I was rather non plussed (scared shitless) when he strode in front alone and me behind him with mincing steps. We were about two hundred yards out when the smoke lifted and the shell started to land amongst us. Evidently, it was our own shells, short rounds! The Germans spotted us and we were pinned down with small arm fires, rifle and burp guns and artillery fire. We were ordered back to the copse of trees and regrouped. I think a couple of guys were hit but none seriously.

Later, we took the road into town and we were the first troops in Bruyeres. We had to go house to house to clear them of the enemy and when we reached a bend in the road, we could see the German marching orderly out the other end of town. By that time other elements of the regiment had entered from other streets and we had secured the town. I remember that we slept in a house that we were told later was the Mayors. The bed I slept in had silken sheets and I went to sleep with my boots on! After Bruyeres, the other battalions had taken all four hills surrounding the town, Hills A, B, C and D, and had moved on to other objectives. Later on we found out that the Germans had reoccupied Hill D and F Co. was ordered to retake it with a platoon from H Co., and 2nd platoon of L Co. F Co. made the frontal attack which they later called "Banzai Hill." I never saw H Co., but we were placed in ambush position on the reverse side of the hill. As F Co made their charge, we caught the Germans in retreat, coming down the hill in full flight. It was like knocking down pins in a bowling alley! I saw the men firing from behind trees with Tommy Guns and rifles and throwing grenades and just decimating the enemy. Just at that critical time, Smitty told me to tell the men to fix bayonets! As I ran around relaying the order, I could tell that it was just about over. As he yelled "charge," a potato grenade landed between he and I. He got it right in the ass, so we desisted. It was all over anyhow and were hollering, "Kamerade, Kamerade." That means I Surrender! They were all kids, 14 to 17 years old and crying out loud. Richard Koto told me 51 years later that they were Polacks, forced into the German army.

We regrouped and got out of there with Smitty leading and I right behind him. Frank Miyauchi was



right behind me and as we were walking along the trail in the forest, he stepped on a Schuh mine and injured his leg. I escaped injury but the grenade hit Lt. Smith. I lived a charmed life during all four battles, escaping by a frogs hair many times! (To be continued)



by Shiro Aoki

### Shinnenkai

"Akemashite shinnen omedeto gozaimasu!" With these words, the men and women of Mike Chapter welcomed in 1997 and the year of the Ox with their Shinnenkai held at the Maple Garden Restaurant on Sunday, January 19th, 1997.

It was an exquisite luncheon put together by Frank Nomura, who said, "What the hell, let's go First Class!" and that he did with a rarity these days—a full 9 course luncheon that was greatly enjoyed by all of the 37 Mikers who were in attendance. Thank you, again Frank.

At the luncheon, a wonderful thing happened to all us Mikers. You remember at our Christmas party last December, we could not play Bingo because the Bingo set that we had reserved for that day didn't show up. So Shige Inouye suggested that we buy our own Bingo set so we could have it available any time that we wanted. We advised the members that we would do just that when Lo and Behold! Two generous (and I guess wealthy) ladies, Alice Beppu and Haruko Obara volunteered to purchase the set and donate it to the chapter. We gratefully accepted their offer and we will play Bingo at our next gathering. Thank you, ladies.

### Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary

Nowadays people just age gracefully. A case in

point is Jimmy and Freida Kanemori who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 15th, 1997. They have three wonderful children, Paul, Ann and Neil, and 7 grandchildren. One of their granddaughters, Jamie Hirata was a candidate for Cherry Blossom Queen at the Cherry Blossom Festival just past. Although Jamie didn't win, she enjoyed the exposure and the experience. Jimmy & Freida couldn't be prouder of their offsprings.

For their 50th Anniversary, the couple had planned on going to Japan but because Jimmy has to be very careful of his diet, they could not take a chance on going and went to Las Vegas instead. Congratulations on your 50th wedding anniversary, Jimmy & Freida.

### 54th Anniversary of the 442nd RCT

Again, as in the years past, Ralph Tomei, Tommy Kikuchi and Shiro Aoki went to Punchbowl on Thursday, March 20th to put flags on the graves of the 21 Mike Co. members buried there. Then on Saturday, March 22nd at 9:00 AM, the Memorial Service was held which was chaired by Alan Kubota & Guy Koga of the S&D Chapter. Our permanent guidon bearer, Shigeo Inouye stood at attention and dipped our guidon for the presentation and retirement of the colors and the names of Shiro Takei, Mamoru Furuya and Richard M. Tashiro were read for the roll call of those members who had passed away in 1996. Col. Walter Ozawa gave a stirring speech that touched all of us present.

The banquet that evening held at the Pacific Beach Hotel with the overall theme of "honoring and recognizing officers (commissioned) of the 442nd RCT" was attended by 26 Mikers. The keynote speakers for the evening were three former officers of the 442 who gave very impressive speeches which were well received by all. Then the 442nd Choral Group sang some selections ending with the 442 Go For Broke song with all of the audience participating in the singing. It was a great banquet.

### Donations

The Mike Chapter treasury was enriched by



generous donations from Edith Furuya, Shigeo Sorakubo and Casey Kunitomo from the mainland. Thank you all.

### In Memoriam

Robert Yuruki, Third Platoon, who lived in Gardena, California, passed away in January 1997. I remember Yuruki marching down Kalakaua Avenue during the 50th Anniversary reunion and he impressed me very much with the military manner in which he carried himself as we marched. He also attended our mini-reunions in Las Vegas. Rest in Peace, Robert.



by Harry Tokushige

The arrival of 1997 marked the 54th Anniversary of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. This year's anniversary activities were geared to Honor Our Commissioned Officers. Able Battery was privileged to Salute Lts. Al Binotti and James Kurata at the Battalion Luncheon on Friday, March 21, the Memorial Services at Punchbowl National Cemetery and Anniversary Banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel on Saturday, March 22nd.

I met Lt. Kurata and Mildred at the Kauai airport on Tuesday, March 19th as I was returning to Honolulu from a 442nd Golf Tournament. I informed them that I would pick them up at the Honolulu Airport on Thursday morning. Although Lt. Kurata is nearing eighty, he drove Mildred up to Kokee (West Side) and Princeville on the East Side before arriving in Honolulu.

On Thursday morning, Gilbert Takamori and I picked up the Kurata's at the airport and took them to our Clubhouse at 933 Wiliwili Street. While at the Clubhouse they took a tour of our Archives & Learning Center and were impressed with what our Sons & Daughters were doing to preserve our legacy.

Before checking in at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel, we had lunch at the Izumiya Japanese Restaurant at the McCully Shopping Center. During the evening the George Ozaki's and George Mark's entertained and dined the Kurata's at Won Kee Chinese Restaurant.

On Friday, the Battalion Luncheon was held at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel. This was a buffet luncheon and was organized by Baker Battery. Our thanks to Baker Battery for their time and effort in putting up such a wonderful luncheon honoring our Officers and their spouses and guests. There were about 100 people attending this luncheon. Able Battery was represented by Roy Kawafuchi, Sadashi Ohara, Minoru Okabe, Seijin Taba, Jackman Taniguchi, Yoshio & Gloria Taguma, Gilbert Takamori, Tadashi Tojo and Harry Tokushige.

On Friday evening, the Kurata's were invited to dinner at Yanagi Sushi by untiring hosts, Yoshio and Gloria Taguma.

Saturday morning the Taguma's drove the Kurata's to the Punchbowl National Cemetery where we had our Memorial Services and also honored our officers for bringing us home safely. Gilbert & I also visited Tarball's grave and paid our respects to a fine Staff Sgt.

After the Memorial Services, the Taguma's drove the Kurata's to Mililani to visit with Lt Kurata's right hand man Sgt Nishiyama. It was indeed a heartwarming reunion for the two of them. Nishi and his wife Evelyn took their visitors to lunch before they headed for Waikiki and the Anniversary Banquet.

The final activity of the 54th Anniversary was our Banquet at the Grand Ballroom of the Pacific Beach Hotel. The Ballroom filled up early because everyone wanted to beat the parking problem. The Banquet Committee did make arrangements with other nearby hotels to provide parking for our members. However, like anything else, we all want to park in the same building. Our chapter was represented by the Kurata's and Taguma's. They were seated with Baker Battery (Taguma is also a member of Baker Battery Golf Club). Our membership is getting older and they cannot drive, especially at night, therefore our participation in night activities is very limited.

Sunday was departure day for the Kurata's and



was indeed a very hectic day for them. Lt Kurata was scheduled for an "oral interview" by the Archivists for Sunday morning. The Taguma's scheduled a luncheon at Yanagi's for 11:15. How they managed to be at the airport for a 1:30 flight is still a puzzle to me. I certainly wouldn't have made it.

In closing, we wish good health to all of you and a special get well to Nishiyama, Tiger Imada, Amon Oshiro, George Ikinaga and Tom Mayeda.



by Jerry Ishimoto

As they say—"better late than never" so here's wishing you all a Happy New Year for what's left of this year.

The Chapter closed 1996 with the usual Christmas party. Well—not exactly. The equal opportunity committee made a change in venue to Victoria Inn. This was to accommodate the city slickers by selecting a site closer to town as compared to Natsunoya Tea House where the hicks—er suburban dwellers had it closer for two years. Wherever the place may be, the format was the same. Talk story and play bingo, bingo, bingo. Kay Hirayama wanted to inject some seasonal spirit by leading the gathering into singing Christmas carols but the response was not too enthusiastic for most were talking, talking, talking. Again, the "Atta boy" goes to all the hard-working committees and hustlers for door and bingo prizes.

The Chapter thanks all the donors for the various gifts which were raffled off to bolster the Chapter treasury. The donors were: Mr./Mrs. Masa Kikuchi - beer, wine, soda, peanuts and arare; Mr./Mrs. Sam Ogawa - (2) wall clocks, (2) desk clocks, (2) wrist watches, persimmons. Mrs. Florence Horie - (8) btls. whiskey; Ricky Tanna - (1) btl. whiskey and an unrecognizable thing called Private caddy which went unclaimed. Walter Inouye - bags. Or more fa-

miliar to you—container, large, plastic, general purpose, M1A1. Sam Hironaka - (4) btls. whiskey; Yoshio Taguma - (2) \$25.00 gift certificates; Stan Kaneshiro - (1) btl. champagne; Robert Yutaka - (1) btls. whiskey; Ted Tsukiyama and Kenneth Kawate combined to donate a birthday cake for their birthdays when combined equal to 150 years. No room for that many candles. Cake was not raffled off but was consumed at the site.

### Chapter Meeting, 19 Feb 97

Seventeen members present and Hilda makes 18. Chapter received 'thanks' from Doris Ishida, sister of the late Minoru Hirozawa for helping at the Choba. Betty Hirozawa herself donated \$300.00 to the chapter in memory of Minoru.

Another donation of \$100.00 was received from Albert Binotti. Chapter thanks the donors for their generous donations.

Proposed design for clubhouse entrance with the price tag of \$52,000.00 was nixed by the Bakers because of fiscal constraints. What with the AJA memorial still in the hole—. Members enjoyed the boiled soy beans donated by Fukiko Ohara and dried octopus from Yoshio Taguma. Do you have any more?

Last December, Hide Nakamine wrote Senator Akaka concerning the possibility of awarding the 100/442nd RCT, including the 522 FAB, a Presidential Unit Citation for their support in the various campaigns—specifically the rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion. In January 97, the Senator replied by stating that he has contacted his congressional liaison with the Department of the Army. He also initiated an inquiry with the Army concerning the eligibility for the military service medals to which the members of the 522 FAB is entitled. Hide was also informed by Brig. Gen. Arm Puck that he has contacted the Texas congressional delegates and Senator Akaka to recognize the 100/442nd with the Presidential Unit Citation. In addition, Hide received a 'thank you' letter from Bob Katayama, President, 442nd, for keeping him informed about his efforts to obtain the Distinguished Unit citation.

Etcetc



For some families the old year ended and the new year started with sadness. The Chapter members join Betty Hirozawa and family members in their bereavement of the passing of Hiromi in late December. Hiromi was in the ration section of Service Btry. An active Baker Chapter member until he succumbed to his affliction. He will be missed. Nobuo Takamori lost his dad in early January. At the time of his death, he was 105 years old. What a long and interesting life he must have had to share with his children and generations that followed. The Chapter members send deepest condolences to Nobuo and family members.

Another Baker to join the 522 Bn formation up in the sky is Raymond Kataoka in late January. Raymond was in the Personnel section of the 522Bn during his military service. Upon discharge, he became a fireman and retired as Captain at the Schofield Fire Department. The Chapter send deepest condolences to Flora and other family members.

Most recent Baker member to answer the call to "fall in" to that formation in the sky is Masayuki Kikuchi. "Masa," original member of Item chapter transferred to Baker Chapter. Masa being hospitalized on and off, finally succumbed to his illness.

The Chapter sends deepest sympathy to Jenny and family members.

Jane Ueoka underwent an emergency surgery to correct a collapsed retina with imminent blindness if not treated. She's back hula-ing while sporting shades. Medical advice is to cease peeking thru keyholes. Stan Kaneshiro, had several radium seeds implanted for his prostate problems. Enough seeds to set off a Geiger counter, sez he. His advice: nenmine about your vanity or macho image. Go get your prostate checked now before it's too late. Did you notice that cancer is taking it's deadly toll by moving downward? First it was brain cancer, then throat cancer, lungs, intestines and now you hear mostly prostate cancer. Scary enough to heed Stan's advice and hurry over to the doc to spread your cheeks. Gloria Taguma had an operation on her trigger finger—to correct her trigger pulling?

### **Chapter Meeting, 19 March 97**

Dedication of the Nisei Memorial at Fort

DeRussy is scheduled for June '97.

Kats Miho has firmed up the schedule for the 1997 442nd Veterans Peace and Friendship tour of Japan. Tour date is from 17 Oct. to 27 Oct. If interested, make up your mind and call him by April.

Since there are several other chapters writing about their company history, Ted Tsukiyama suggests that a history of the 522 FA Bn be written. It will take a lot of factual research and Ted is willing to include his Dachau documentary. More input must come from members and all are urged to submit their stories—be their unit stories or anecdotes.

### **21 March 97**

The detail for placing flags for the departed vets at the gravesites at Punchbowl National Cemetery were: Fred Hirayama, Rocky Tanna, Harold Ueoka, Irish Ohara, Yoshio Taguma, Sam Hironaka, Roy Okubo, Dan Tada and Y.T.

A 522 FA Bn luncheon was held at Queen Kapiolani Hotel to welcome the battalion officers, their wives and guests. They were: HQ Btry-James and Billie Craig, A Btry-James and Mildred Kurata, B Btry-Al and Annette Binotti, C Btry-Sus and Minnie Ito, Svc Btry-Min and Cherrie Tsubota. Walter and Martha Inouye presented the guests with their home-crafted tote bags and Manila palm seed leis. The Battalion gave gifts of 442nd tote bags with lapel pins, shoulder patches and leis. Included were Hide Nakamine's personal gifts. Not to be left out, Al Binotti's guest Betty Rutherford was given the Baker and Battalion gifts.

### **22 March 97**

The 54th 442nd reunion is history. This was a reunion to honor all the officers who commanded and led the men to battle, a chance to shine. 522B Chapter alone occupied 6 tables at the reunion banquet. The 522nd officers were all from the mainland. Our sole officer from Hawaii was Shuichi Sakamoto, deceased.

### **Scorecard by Rocky Tanna**

9 Dec 96, HCC. Christmas Shoot, Ace of the