

Chapter XXXVI

Paradise

January 1, 1940 – February 4, 1940

Culry had made his way to the gangplank just as Geannie, Sandy, and Austin were met by the greeters. Properly welcomed to Hawaii, Geannie called excitedly, “Flyboy,” as she threw herself into his open arms. Finally after three months, Curly was reunited with his family and they were together again. Holding Geannie in one arm he gathered Sandy and Austin to him in the other. They too were happy to see him.

“Gosh, I missed you guys.”

“We missed you too, Dad.” Sandy and Austin said in unison.

“How was your trip?”

“It was amazing! I would love to do that with you sometime. I felt kind of out of place without you.”

Geannie remarked.

As they made their way through the crowds of people toward the terminal building, they told of all the fun things they had done. Sandy told him about the hula lessons, Austin talked about all of the activities. Geannie told him about Mr. Tucker and the friends she had made aboard the ship. “I’d like for us to take ballroom dance lessons.” She commented. “We do okay together, but Mr. Tucker showed me how much more fun it can be.

“Speaking of Mr. Tucker, that’s him over there.”

Geannie called out to him to get his attention. Mr. Tucker made his way over to where they were standing to receive their luggage.

“Mr. Tucker, this is my husband, Commander Sheffield Braosn. Curly, this is Mr. Charles Tucker and his friend, Katherine Mullony. She’s from Brisbane.”

“So you are the lucky man. Geannie, here, told me all about you.”

“Pleased to meet you, Mr. Tucker.”

“Ahh, just call me Charles.”

“Thank you for looking after my wife. She tells me that you were a perfect gentleman. It sounds like I’ll have to take dance lessons if I’m going to compete with you.”

“I’m afraid I’m no match for you, Commander.”

Just then the baggage tractor brought in several carts of luggage.

“Katherine and I will be staying at the Royal Hawaiian, separate rooms of course, and taking in the sites for a few days until the ship continues on to Australia. It was a pleasure to meet you Commander. You have a wonderful family; you know, I envy you. Geannie, it was certainly nice sailing with you. Good luck to both of you.”

“Thank you, Mr. Tucker, and God bless you. Goodbye.”

At that, Charles and Katherine went to get their bags. In the meantime, Sandy and Austin had retrieved all of their luggage. Curly took Geannie's bags began walking them to where he had parked.

“So, tell me more about our house. I can't wait to get home.”



Curly told them all about it until they reached his jeep. He had borrowed a small trailer that he and Austin loaded their luggage into. As Curly helped Geannie into the passenger side of the jeep, she said. “We have definitely got to get a car as soon as possible.”

With Sandy and Austin piled into the back seat, Curly drove off. Geannie and the kids soaked in the beauty of the island as Curly pointed out various sights along the way home.

Soon they turned off the Kamehameha Highway onto Halawa Drive and drove through the senior offices neighborhood and into the driveway of Number 31.

“Welcome home, everyone! This is it.”

Geannie gasped, “Oh, Curly. Its lovely.” as she stepped out of the jeep. Sandy and Austin extricated themselves from the back seat and retrieved their luggage. Geannie wandered around the front yard as Curly got her bags and set them by the door. A stately Cook pine stood in the front yard and the front of the house was adorned in low ferns. The grass was still wet with dew in the shaded areas.



Sandy and Austin had already gone inside, but Geannie insisted that he carry her through the door. Once inside Geannie gasped again as looked around. “This is certainly the nicest place we have ever lived! I can't wait until we get moved in. When is our stuff supposed to delivered, Commander?”

“The van should be here at nine o'clock tomorrow morning. I'm afraid we'll have to camp out until then.”

Sandy and Austin had their choice of the two upstairs bedrooms. Geannie surveyed the living room. It was spacious and the furniture was in better shape than she had imagined it to be. There was a couch, a love seat, chair and a coffee table. “The Victrola can go here.” she said pointing to an empty corner, “And the wooden rocker can go over there.”

Come with me into the bedroom.” Curly invited.

“Why Curly you sly fox, I thought you would never ask?” she giggled.

The master bedroom was on the main level, down the hall past the bathroom. Their room featured a nice sized walk-in closet and a small bathroom with a shower stall. "The bed isn't bad." Curly told her. "I've just been sleeping on top of the mattress. It will be nice to have our bedding back. Lay down and try it out."

Geannie plopped onto the bed landing flat on her back, her arms and legs spread out. "Its pretty comfortable. I have missed sleeping with you terribly." She rolled on to her side and gestured for Curly to join her.

Just then, the kids came down from their room. "Mom, have you seen the bathroom?" Sandy asked. "You've got to see this."

"Oh yeah, this is really nice, you're going to love it, sweetheart." Curly said as he got up off the bed and took her hand.

Geannie followed him into the bathroom. "I love it!" she exclaimed gleefully. The thing that excited her so much was a very deep bathtub that stood on four claw feet. "I've got to have a bubble bāth, tonight!"

From the bathroom, Curly took her to see the kitchen and dining room. In the dining room there was

a table with six chairs and a chandelier hanging above it. Through the double glass doors she saw the patio and backyard for the first time.

The backyard was enclosed by a six foot wooden privacy fence. Most of the backyard was shaded by a couple of koa trees. Together they stepped out onto the covered patio where there was an outdoor table with four chairs and two lounge chairs. In one corner was a fire pit and next to it was fireplace with cinder block chimney; a cooking grate covered the open fireplace.



After wandering around the backyard for a few minutes, Curly took them back inside to see kitchen. It featured a refrigerator, gas range and oven, double sinks, spacious cupboards, and a pantry. "I'll put our best china in this one." she said indicating the cupboard doors with glass windows. Geannie opened the cupboards to find them all empty. "What have you been eating, Commander?"

"I've been eating at the base, for the most part."

"We'll definitely have to go grocery shopping tomorrow. In the meantime we'll have to go out for dinner. After all, it is New Years Day!"

"Oh look! My washing machine will fit right there." she said pointing to an empty spot in the corner next to the sink.

"Have you met any of the neighbors yet?"

"Not really. I've seen people coming and going, but I haven't spent much time here."

As Geannie completed her tour and returned to the front room, she noticed the wall phone conveniently located where it can reach both the kitchen and the front room. She lifted the receiver and heard the dial tone. "What's our telephone number?"

"PH5-3274." he replied. Turning to Sandy he teased, "Now don't be giving it to all the boys."

"Speaking of boys, where are the schools?" Geannie wanted to know.

"I don't know."

"When does school start?"

"Umm. I don't know that either." Curly had to admit.

"You went to school district office for me about a job, but you didn't bother to ask about school for the kids. You were supposed to find out those kind of things." Geannie said, a bit exasperated. "I'd be willing to bet that it starts tomorrow. We'll have to figure it out."

"Do you know where the church is?"

"No. I've been attending services on the base."

Finally, Austin came to the rescue. "Dad, I'm getting hungry." He complained.

"Yeah, me too." Sandy chimed in.

"It has been along time since we had breakfast on the ship this morning." Geannie concluded.

"I know a little place, if it will be open today. We passed it coming up the highway. I can take you there if you're not afraid to be seen riding around in 'Little Bertha'. Austin, come help me unhitch the trailer."

"That thing doesn't even have doors." Geannie sighed. "We really need to find a car."

Hunger won out over pride and they all loaded up in the jeep and Curly took them out for dinner. The place he had in mind was closed so they drove on into Honolulu. "That looks, good!" Geannie called over the roar of the motor and the rush of the wind, pointing to a Chinese restaurant. "And its open!" Curly pulled in to the parking lot, hanging on to Geannie so he wouldn't dump her out as he made a quick turn.

The food was extremely good. Unfortunately for Austin, they didn't serve hamburgers. The portions were huge and there was plenty left to take home for supper later in the evening. On the way home, Greannie had Curly stop by an open air market to buy some fruit for breakfast in the morning.

They returned home and were walking up to the door when a car pulled in next door. "Look!"

Geannie exclaimed, "They have kids about the age as ours. I'll bet they'll know about the schools. I think we'd better go over and get acquainted." Not waiting, Geannie lead the way. Curly quickened his pace to catch up with her.

"Howdy, neighbors." a man in civilian clothes called out. "We're the Ownes. Welcome to the neighborhood. I'm Mason. This is my wife, Pat." who was now at his side. As their children, all boys, emerged from the car, Pat introduced them. "This is George. He will be sixteen next month. And this is Wallace, he's fourteen. And this is Myron, he's twelve."

"Its nice to finally meet you." Mason said. "I've noticed someone has been over there."

"Were the Brasons. I'm Sheffield but everyone insists on calling me Curly. This is my lovely wife, Geannie, and our children, Sandy and Austin. Sandy is fifteen and Austin, he's twelve. They just arrived from the States this morning on the Lurline."

"Come on in." Mason invited.

"We'd love to." Geannie agreed. Soon they were all seated in the Owen's living room. Geannie noticed that their home was very similar.

"Would you like something to drink?" Pat asked "Beer, perhaps?"

"Oh, no thank you." Curly politely declined. "Do you have any Coca-Cola?"

"I'm afraid not." Pat replied. "But I could make up some lemonade."

"So what brings you to Pearl Harbor?" Mason asked.

"I came with the Enterprise back in October. I'm the air group commander."

"I saw the Enterprise for the first time about a year ago. It was during Fleet Problem Twenty in the Caribbean. I was flying at about fifteen thousand feet and had been trailing her for several minutes before some hotshot jumped me and put me out of the exercise. But not before I reported her position."

"That was you?" Curly asked in amazement. "That hotshot was me!"

"Well I'll be doggoned. What a small world." Mason exclaimed. "Just after that I was was transferred here to take command of Patrol Twenty Two.

"Let me guess, Curly. If you're the air group commander, you must be a Commander."

"That's right. What are you? Curly asked "It's kind of hard to tell in civilian clothes."

"Mace is a commander, too." Pat interjected as she set down a tray with a picture of lemonade and several glasses.

"Actually, I'm just a lowly Lieutenant Commander, sir." He stood to salute as everyone laughed.

"Why don't we go in the other room and let them talk about their airplanes?" Pat invited. "Boys, why don't you take Sandy and Austin out in the backyard."

The two families spent the afternoon getting acquainted. As evening drew near, Pat invited them to

stay for supper. Geannie was more than happy to accept, explaining that there was nothing in the cupboards until she could go shopping the next day.

They visited until late in the evening. By the time the Brasons returned to their empty home, the two families had bonded as very good friends. Geannie learned all about the neighborhood. There were unspoken boundaries you didn't cross without invitation. Their immediate neighborhood comprised of mostly Commanders and few Lieutenant Commanders, like the Owens. Further down the street was reserved for Captains. Down in the loop is where the Admirals had their homes. She found out about the schools and where they were; and yes, school did start the next day.

Exhausted from their first day in Hawaii, Sandy and Austin were more than happy to go to sleep; after all they did have school tomorrow. Geannie poured herself a nice hot bubble bath and soaked for about a half an hour. After getting out and drying, she went into the bedroom to entice her husband, who she hadn't given herself to for the last three months. Curly didn't need much enticing.

Breakfast the next morning consisted of an assortment of fruit. Pat had offered to take Geannie to get the kids enrolled in school, since Geannie wasn't authorized to drive Little Bertha. Curly, who had given himself the day off, stayed home to wait for the moving van to bring their household belongings.

Geannie enrolled Austin in the Laupele Elementary School about a half a mile away. While there, she talked to the principal about her availability for substituting until she could get a full time position. He looked on the list that he had just received from the school district. Sure enough, her name and telephone number were on the list.

After getting Austin taken care of, Pat took Geannie and Sandy into Honolulu where Sandy enrolled in the ninth grade at Farrington High School. The school bus came through the neighborhood and picked up and dropped off the high school students. It was an adjustment for Sandy. Back in Coronado, she had attended a relatively small junior high school. Now she was in a large high school. There was so much more cultural and ethnic diversity than she had ever been exposed to as well. After all, Hawaii was known as the melting pot.

When Geannie got home, the moving van still hadn't got there. After another hour of waiting, it finally showed up. The driver said that they were running behind due to the holiday. They brought everything in from the truck and left it for Curly and Geannie to unpack and put away. They worked on it the rest of the day and into the evening. By the time they went to bed that night, everything was in order including the bedding on the beds.

Geannie had tried to contact Ramona to let her know that she had arrived but her telephone went unanswered. On Thursday morning on his way to the air station, Curly stopped off at the hospital and

tracked her down. It turned out that she had pulled double shifts to allow a nurse to have the holiday off. Curly invited her to come to their belated holiday celebrations on Friday night. She gladly accepted the invitation.

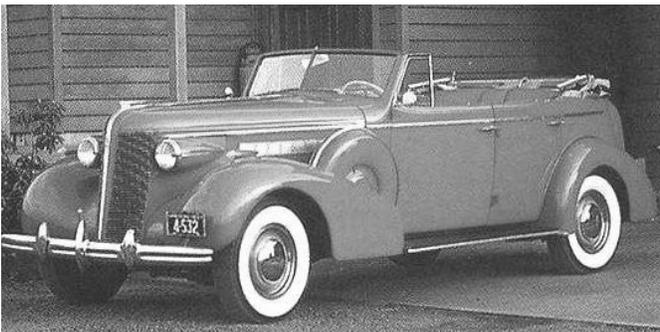
Geannie was left without a way to get around. That was just unacceptable. She asked Pat if she could take her into Honolulu on some errands. Pat had planned on going the the next day, but rearranged her schedule and went that day instead. Geannie had her stop by the bank so she could deposit the check for the car and to put her signature on the account that Curly had opened.

Pat's business took her downtown. There was a car dealership on the other side of the street, just down the block. Geannie decided to go have a look. She knew what she liked in a car; she liked Chevrolets and she liked convertibles. As she looked through the lot, a shrewd salesman approached her. In the back of his mind, he was probably thinking that he could easily take advantage of the gullible woman.

Geannie explained what she was looking for but didn't give him a price range. He showed her several models of Chevrolets but she didn't see anything that she liked. The salesman asked if she would consider another make. He suggested that she look at a couple of Buicks that he had. He first showed her a 1938 Buick Roadmaster Series 80 Convertible Sedan. It really appealed to her. She began asking questions that he had never received from a woman. She wanted to know about things like horsepower and the such. She started the engine and opened the hood to listen. The salesman was surprised at such behavior from a woman. She even pulled out the dipstick and examined the oil for cleanliness.

She sat behind the wheel to get a feel for it. She looked it over for cleanliness and examined the upholstery; things a woman would be more inclined to look at. The salesman asked her if she would like to take it for a drive. Knowing that Pat would be a while, she took it out for a spin. She was impressed with how smooth it drove; a noticeable difference over their previous cars. It had good pick up as she accelerated and it braked smoothly. She was quite impressed.

When she returned to the car lot, she was seriously considering it. She began talking price. The initial price was out of her range, but with some Austin style negotiation she brought the price down to the amount she had from the sale of the old car and what was left after the move.



She was about to close the deal when she happened to ask about a nearly identical car setting next to it. He explained that it was a 1937 model and that they were exactly the same. Geannie turned her attention to it. It was every bit as nice. She gave it the same examination, including a test drive.

When she returned, she began negotiating on it where they had left off on the other one. She brought up the concepts of older inventory and the desirability of newer models among the buying public and its effect on market value. She got carried away threw in a couple of things that she just made up off the top of her head. With each point, the salesman agreed to reduce his asking price, even on the ones she made up.

It was impossible for him to resist her famine wiles. Her father had taught her well in the art of negotiation. But there was one thing that she had that her father never did, a pretty face. She had found over the years that the combination of beauty and brains got her a long ways in doing business with men.

She got the price down to something she was quite happy with and was in the process of closing the deal. She asked if they offered a military discount . That was a secret she had discovered along the way, but you had to ask for it. They did, and she produced her military family ID card. That knocked a little more off the price.

The subject turned to financing. He was ready to start talking about financing arrangements. She informed him that she was prepared to write a check for the full amount. He had given so much leeway already, what would a cash discount hurt. After Geannie wrote out the check, she still had better than half of the amount left from the move.

After taking care of the title arrangements, Geannie drove it off the lot. It was about time that Pat would be through with her bushinesses, so Geannie drove up the street and parked next to her.

When Pat returned to her car, Geannie told her, "Thanks for the ride. As you can see, I can take care of the rest of my errands on my own."

Pat was amazed. "You just bought such a nice car all by yourself? What will Curly say about it?"

Geannie told her, "He'll be pleased. By the way, how I get to the courthouse?"

Pat gave her the directions and the two went their separate ways. Geannie found the courthouse with no problem and got the car registered. She took care of the rest of her errands, including a stop at the market and picked up enough groceries to last until Curly got paid on Friday.

When the kids got home from school, they wanted to know whose car that was setting in the driveway. They were delighted to learn that it was theirs. No more having to ride around in Little Bertha! Geannie, still excited about it herself, took the kids for a ride.

When Curly got home, Sandy and Austin were up in their rooms doing their homework. Curly came through the door and called out,"Hi Sweetheart! I'm home."

Geannie came out from the kitchen, "Flyboy, you're home!" and rushed into his arms.

"Whose car is that in the driveway?"

"Ours."

"Ours? You bought a car?"

"Uh huh," she grinned. "Would you like to go for a ride? Dinner can wait a little while."

"Yeah, I would. Oh by the way, I stopped by the hospital on my way to the air station and found Ramona. She had been working double shifts over the holiday. Anyway I invited her over for our little shindig tomorrow evening."

"That's great. I can't wait to see her again."

"Kids!" she called up the stairs. "Let's take Dad for a ride shall we?"

As they came bounding down the stairs, Curly told her, "She's excited to see you, too. I get the idea that she doesn't socialize much."

As they all got into the car, Geannie went to the passenger side and waited for Curly to open the door for her, as he was accustomed to doing. Once she was seated, he went around and got behind the wheel. She slid over next to him while Curly started the motor. "It purrs like a kitten," he observed.

He backed out onto the street and drove off. As they meandered around aimlessly, Geannie explained all about the car and the deal she had made. As she predicted, he was pleased. He drove past the little place that he wanted to take them to on New Years Day. "How about eating out tonight?" he invited.

"I don't know? I've spent enough today."

"This is my treat. I have enough of my mad money saved up."

"Alright then." Geannie agreed.

"I want a hamburger!" Austin called from the backseat.

"Let's all have hamburgers?" Geannie suggested.

"And milk shakes too?" Curly begged.

After dinner, they meandered around on their way home and enjoyed their new car.

Sandy asked a question that made the blood of any father of a teenager run chill, "So Dad, will you teach me to drive?"

"They don't let little children drive," he teased.

"Daaaad! In case you haven't noticed, I am fifteen."

"I know, I know. I was just kidding. I suppose it is about time that you learned. One of these days real soon, I promise we'll get started."

Then Austin spoke up, "If you're going to teach Sandy to drive, how about teaching me to fly."

That evening as they were getting ready for bed, Geannie got a telephone call from Ramona. She wanted to know what to bring. Geannie told her she was having turkey with an island theme. Ramona assured her that she would be there and they could catch up on the last several years.

Geannie spent all day Friday getting ready for their Thanksgiving, birthaversary, Christmas, and moving to Hawaii celebration. She roasted a turkey and made a potato salad. She got the fixings for a tropical fruit salad and fruit drinks at the market. Being new to islands, she asked for suggestions. She was told that a traditional desert made from coconut milk called haupia was really good. She bought some already made up along with some macadamia nuts.

When Sandy got home from school, they put on their hula gowns and practiced the dances they had learned on the ship. They felt confident enough that they could pull it off one more time.

Curly got home around six and Geannie presented he and Austin with the shirts that she had bought for them on the ship and had them change their cloths, Curly wore his with pair of white trousers. Then he helped with some last minute arrangements and everything was ready. At six thirty, Ramona was at their front door.

Geannie excitedly answered the door and the two friends gave each other a hug to make up for the long years apart. As she did when she greeted Curly, Ramona breathed in Geannie's spirit.

Ramona looked great. She looked pretty much the same as she had the last time Geannie saw her. She wore a flowing ankle length lava-lava, tied around her waist with the loose ends tucked into the waistband, and a matching halter top that tied in the back. The combination left her midriff and back exposed. She was also wearing a white gardenia in her hair, tucked behind her right ear.

She brought with her a tuna coconut casserole made from fresh tuna, coconut milk, grated coconut, and other ingredients including grated almonds. Knowing that Geannie and Curly wouldn't have any, she brought her own beer. She also brought a gardenia for Geannie and Sandy. She tucked Geannie's behind her left ear and Sandy's behind her right. She explained that a flower behind the left ear means you are taken, or married, behind the right ear means you're available. The white gardenias complemented the white floral pattern in their dresses.

With their feast spread out on the patio table, Curly said Grace and everyone dished up. Over dinner they got caught up on what each other been up to. Ramona spent a lot of her time at the hospital lately and would be starting her last two classes on Monday. She told them all about her beach house at Kāhala, on the other side of Diamond Head. In addition to inviting them out, she offered to let Geannie and Curly use it any time they wanted. It sounded fun so they took her up on it.

She told them of all the places to see and the things to do that she had discovered over the years. Some weekend she would take them on their own personal guided tour. The five of them could easily fit in Geannie's new Buick. They all certainly wouldn't fit in her little Dodge coupe. It was decided that they would do it the next Saturday.

She told of how she found herself unexpectedly giving Curly a shot when he had his physical. Curly hadn't told Geannie that part. Geannie thought it was really funny. Sandy barely remembered her but took a liking to her. Ramona promised to come and get her some Saturday and they would spend the day together. She told Austin all about the day he was born.

After dinner it was time for the floor show. Geannie had brought her Victrola out onto the patio and put on the hula record. She and Sandy performed each of the three dances that they had learned on the ship. Geannie did the best she could remember to narrate the meaning as they went. Curly was impressed.

Ramona wanted to do a hula dance that she had learned. She looked through the record and found a track with a fast drum beat and demonstrated how the hula dancers flick their hips so fast. For a woman without much of a figure, she could really shake it. Geannie got up and tried it. She couldn't do it like Ramona could, but Curly really liked the way she shook what she had.

After the entertainment, the food was put away and the the dishes cleaned up. Curly and the kids brought in the dishes while Geannie and Ramona chatted as they washed and dried them. Once the chores were done they retired to the patio to enjoy the warm, starry, January evening and each other's company.

Ramona had been in the islands for so long, she could spend the rest of he life there. She was afraid that some day she would be transferred Stateside. If that happened, she might consider resigning from the Navy. She and Curly talked Navy talk and expressed their opinions and concerns over the world situation and what it might come to mean.

Ramona stayed until late in the evening and they had a wonderful time visiting. They reminisced about how they got acquainted as Red Cross Volunteers and the evening that she came over to meet Tom. They talked about the tragic day that Tom was killed and how they thought that Curly was dead too.

She hid her feelings for Curly well. Having Geannie there helped her to stay focused on their long friendship. It was a secret that she was prepared to take to her grave and no one would ever know. Not Curly, not Geannie, not anyone. Maybe someday she would move past it. Maybe she would find someone. The thought frightened her after being widowed twice. It was safer to love someone she couldn't have.

The hour grew late and it was time to go home to her nice apartment in the nurse's dormitory near the hospital. She gave each a hug as she left. Curly wondered why she always held him so tight.

The celebration of being reunited as family continued into the weekend. Saturday was spent exploring Honolulu. They found the Harris United Methodist Church in downtown Honolulu, were they attended services for the first time as a family on Sunday and became regular members of the congregation.

For three days during the week, Curly went to sea with his air group aboard the Enterprise. On two of the days he was gone, Geannie was called to substitute teach at Austin's school.

As promised, Ramona took them on a guided tour the following Saturday. Geannie and Sandy put together a picnic lunch and Curly had the car loaded by the time Ramona arrived. She told them to bring their bathing suits. The purpose of the days adventures wasn't so much to see all of the places she took them, but rather to show them where they were and tell a little bit about each place. Then on future outings they could visit them.

Sitting in the backseat between Sandy and Austin, Ramona gave Curly directions to the places she planned to take them. The first stop was Sand Island, eight miles from home. Ramona told Geannie that it was the best place for her to come if she wanted to run on the beach but that it wasn't a very good place to swim. Sand Island lies at the entrance to Honolulu Harbor. She explained that it was once known as Quarantine Island during the nineteenth century when it was used to quarantine ships. From there they had a good view of the Honolulu and Waikiki Beach from the harbor all the way to Diamond Head. She said that it was an excellent place to view Oahu's stunning sunsets.

As she took them through downtown, they went past the Hawaii Theater. A movie poster caught Geannie's eye. "Oh look! 'Gone With the Wind' is coming. I've got to see it. Can you drive around the block, Curly? I want to know when it opens." Curly drove around the block and parked in front. "It looks like it opens on the 17th. I read the book and loved it. I just have to see it. Do you and the kids want to see it with me, Curly?"

They all agreed

Next Ramona had him drive to the Aloha Tower. Geannie said that she was impressed with it when the Lurline docked at the pier and wanted to see it sometime. Ramona explained that it was actually a light house. They decided to stop and take a closer look at it right then.

Just around the corner and down the street was the Iolani Palace. Ramona told them that it was a place to come back to when they had plenty of time. She explained that it was the palace of King David Kalākaua and Queen Lili'uokalani after him. After Hawaii was overthrown by the United States in 1893 it became the territorial capitol.

She had him stop at Waikiki Beach where they got out and strolled along the beach. This was the place to come if you wanted to swim in the ocean, but she was going to take them somewhere else to go swimming. After spending a little while there, they got back in the car and she took them past two more places that they would have to come back to see. One was Queen Kapi'olani Park which included the Honolulu Zoo. The other was the Waikiki Aquarium.

From there Ramona had him drive them around the base of Diamond Head as it rose out of the

Pacific. She said that would be an outing for another day as well. She explained that a dirt road went to a trail head. From there it was a three quarter of a mile hike to the edge of the crater's rim. When she went, it was two hour round-trip. They would need to wear sturdy clothes and bring plenty of water. She said that it wasn't a real difficult hike, but that it wasn't an easy one either. The trail winds over uneven rock, ascends seventy four steps, goes through a tunnel and up another steep ninety nine steps. Next she said there was a small tunnel so they'd need a flashlight or a lantern. The tunnel lead to a narrow spiral staircase with about thirty steps to the observation platform that was built built in 1908. She said that it was worth it because from the summit you could look out over Waikiki and Honolulu and out over the ocean. That was definitely something they had to see some time!

She had him drive further east along the shore for a few more miles. Just before Paiko Lagoon, she had him pull into the driveway of a beach house. "This is my place that I was telling you about. We can have lunch here and take a swim in the ocean."

They unloaded the their picnic and their bathing suits and towels out of the car and Ramona had them take it around back on the deck that looked out over the ocean. After lunch, She suggested that they change into their bathing suits. She sent the guys into one room to change and the girls changed in another room. Geannie couldn't help but notice Ramona's tanned body. She was envious, wishing that she could get a tan.

Ramona took them down to the beach. Pointing out a couple of landmarks on the shore she explained, "Between this palm tree and that rock is best place to swim. There are usually a lot of interesting fish and other marine life here."

The five of them waded out into the ocean to swim. Even without goggles they could see a host of multi colored fish in the clear water. They had never seen anything like that at the beach at Coronado. After a while, the three adults came out of the water to visit while Sandy and Austin continued frolicking in the light surf. After spending a few hours at her beach house, They headed home. Along the way Ramona pointed out more places that they might want to come back to.

During the next week, Curly went to sea for another three day cruise. Geannie had to wait for him to come home before they could go see *Gone With the Wind* that she had waited for with great anticipation. On Saturday afternoon they went downtown to the Hawaii Theater. After paying the admission and purchasing some pop corn and Coca-Cola, Geannie selected seats on the first row in the balcony. The Civil War was an integral piece of both of their heritage. Both of Curly's grandfathers had fought on the side of



the South. Gennie' grandfathers, on the other hand, had fought on opposite sides, the Austin's for the South and the Winslow's for the Union. She wasn't sure which side to root for. The movie had romance for Geannie and action for Curly. They all enjoyed the three hour and fifty two minute epic.

During the rest of the month, they became more familiar with their new surroundings, got acquainted with their new friends, the Owens, and got reacquainted with an old friend. Curly went to sea again for two or three days and Geannie picked up a few days of substituting at a couple of different schools.

True to his word, Early one Saturday morning, Curly took Sandy for a driving lesson. They found an empty parking lot for her first lesson. Curly got out and came around to the passenger side as Sandy slid under the steering wheel. The lesson consisted of explaining the foot pedals; the starter knob, the clutch and brake pedals, and the throttle pedal. He found it was much like the beginner lessons he taught in flight school as he explained the gauges on the dashboard and the gear stick.

After going through everything, he asked her to explain it all back to him. She got the brake and clutch mixed up. "Just remember," he explained, "your right foot is for stop and go. You use it on either the throttle or the brake. You can't stop and go at the same time, now can you?"

After getting it straight, he said, "Now start it up."

Sandy called out the steps as she started the car. Once she was ready to go, she let her foot slip off the clutch too fast and the car lunged forward. After she got the hang of steering it around the parking lot, they called it good for the day.

The next Saturday, they went out into the countryside where she could drive on the open roads through the sugar cane plantations where there was plenty of open space and not much traffic. She was really beginning to get the hang of it.

That evening, Curly and Geannie went out for the evening since he was leaving on Monday morning and would be gone for four weeks. On Sunday after church, they spent the rest of the day with Ramona at her beach house. That evening after the kids went to bed, Geannie gave him a send off that would keep him satisfied while he was gone and promised, "There will be more waiting for you when you get back.

* * * * *

The Laupele Elementary School in the story is fictional but Farrington High School is an actual high school that opened in 1936. The King David Kalakaua Intermediate School in the next chapter opened in 1928.

The Hawaii Theatre was built in 1922 as a venue for theatre, popular entertainment, and film. In the mid-1930s, the Hawaii Theatre became predominately a popular grand movie palace.