

Chapter XI

Family Honeymoon Part I

May 31, 1947 – June 3, 1947

Ever since Ramona put forth the idea of a family vacation in Hawaii, it was the object of much anticipation for the kids. They hadn't been much farther than Washington D.C.. Other than that, they had been to the ocean only once when they went to the outer banks of North Carolina a couple of years earlier.

The day after Memorial day was spent packing. Sunday afternoon they boarded the one o'clock train for Washington. At Union Station, Sheffield hailed two taxis to take the five of them and their luggage to the hotel adjacent to the Washington National Airport. They checked into a family suite for the night and had dinner in the restaurant at the hotel. There wasn't time do much else, as the plan was to turn in early. Tomorrow promised to be a very long day.

Monday June 2nd began early. At four o'clock sharp, the telephone in their suite rang. It was their wake up call from the front desk. To save time, Sheffield and Ramona had showered the night before. They set about getting things ready to go while Norma was first into the shower. Experience had taught that she took the longest to get ready. This morning it seemed that she took longer than usual and was compounded by the fact that everyone else needed to have access to the bathroom as well. The steam generated by her shower wasn't the only steam being generated as Craig and Janet were impatient for her to finish so they could have the bathroom. Even with her head start, Craig and Janet were ready and waiting while Norma was putting the finishing touches to her hair. Now that she was fourteen, such things had to be just right.

Once everyone was ready, it was just after five and just starting to get light outside. Together they went downstairs for breakfast. "Make sure you get plenty to eat." Ramona insisted. "It will be a longtime until we can eat again."

That wasn't difficult for Craig, he had a big appetite. Janet, on the other hand, was a picky eater and ate small amounts at a time. After everyone had all they could, or in her case would, eat they went back to their room to finish getting ready for the long day ahead.

Craig helped Sheffield load all of the luggage onto a dolly and take it to the hotel lobby, while Ramona and the girls followed behind. There was a desk manned by airport personnel in the lobby where their luggage could be checked and taken directly to the airport. From the hotel, it was just a short walk to the terminal building. It was just after six when they checked in at the ticket desk, which gave them a half an hour until boarding time.

As they walked out to the big, new American Airlines DC-6 parked on the tarmac, the kids were eager to board the plane. Other than a ride that Sheffield had taken them on, this was their first trip in an airliner. As they boarded the plane, with two rows of cushioned seats on either side of the plane, they quickly found their assigned seats. The kids took the three window seats. Sheffield sat beside Janet,

Ramona sat with Norma, while the seat next to Craig was unassigned. The stewardess, sensing their excitement asked if this was their first time flying and promised to make their experience as pleasant as possible.

Once all of the passengers were aboard, the hatch was closed and the four big propellers spun to life, creating only a low hum inside the plane. The excitement mounted as the kids could feel the plane begin to move. Their eyes were focused through their windows on the scene outside as the big plane taxied to the runway.

It stopped for just a moment and the hum of the propellers increased as the pilot throttled up the engines. When the plane began its take off run, they watched in amazement as the distance to the ground increased. Each kept their eyes peeled out the window as the plane climbed higher into the sky. Soon the nation's capitol was visible from the air, With fascination they picked out all of the famous landmarks; the Capitol Building, the White House, the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial and others.

While the kids were enjoying their areal tour of Washington, Sheffield reflected on how he once thought that he'd like to be at the controls of such a plane. As it turned out, there was another path for him and he was glad that he was smart enough to recognize the path that he was destined to take. In the end, his decision was much weightier than which job to take, for the path he was to take lead him to his children. As it turned out, flying would have lead him far from them.

He watched their enthusiasm as they watched the scenery passing below. It kept them occupied for quite a while. Craig was the only who remained fascinated with the ground fifteen thousand feet below. He had a map of the United States spread out on his lap that he used as he attempted to identify what was passing below, marking their path as they went.

Norma soon tired of it and pulled out the magazines that she brought with her. She started with the current issue of Vogue that she bought at the airport for thirty five cents. Now that she was fourteen, all of a sudden the latest fashions became important to her. While she was engrossed in her magazine, Ramona put her head back and closed her eyes. It had been a hectic morning and she knew how long this day would be. It wasn't long before she was asleep.

What was passing below kept Janet's attention a little longer than it did Norma. When she got bored of it she opened up and talked Sheffield's leg off about all of the things that are important to an eleven year old girl. He learned a lot about his youngest daughter. She likes playing hop scotch, jumping rope, and riding her bike. She didn't like to ride the horses that much, they kind of scared her. She loved to help Ramona bake, especially cookies. Chocolate chip oatmeal cookies were he favorite. Oh and she would like to have a dog some day. He found out that Cindy doesn't like Carmen any more because Carmen invited

Rachel to her birthday party and Cindy doesn't like Rachel, but Janet liked her just fine. And on and on. He didn't mind, he was happy to have her open up to him like that.

Craig had just identified the Missouri River and was straining to find Lincoln, Nebraska up ahead when the stewardess brought them their lunches. It had been a long time since breakfast and they were all hungry, especially Janet who didn't eat that much.

The sky meals, as they were called, consisted of a tray with a serving of beef, chicken, or turkey, a serving of mashed potatoes and gravy, a serving of vegetables, and some fruit. Manufactured in New York by the W.L. Maxson Co., they were frozen and prepared aboard the plane in a 'Whirlwind Oven' that blew hot air over the meals, defrosting and warming six at a time.

The founder of the company and inventor of the Whirlwind Oven was William L. Maxon who had been an Academy classmate of Sheffield's. He resigned his commission in 1935 and went on to become an inventor and businessman. He first provided in flight meals for military transports and after the war, he cornered the airline market. It just goes to show how far a good idea can get you.

For as hungry as she was, Janet only picked at her food. After lunch, Norma got a little nauseated with a touch of air sickness. Ramona introduced her to the little bag in the pouch on the back of the seat directly in front of her. A time or two she thought she would have to use it. How embarrassing would that have been?

During the rest of the flight, Craig remained vigilant in keeping his map updated as he found Denver, Colorado and marveled at the Rocky Mountains looming ahead. He had never seen mountains like that before. Norma had gone through two magazines and was now trying to get some sleep. Ramona was looking through one of Norma's magazines and Sheffield and Janet were on their umpteenth game of hangman, after several rounds of tic-tac-toe.

Finally Janet got sleepy and decided to take a nap. For the first time during the flight Sheffield and Ramona had a chance to visit as Ramona turned around in her seat. Norma was working a crossword puzzle in one of her magazines. Craig dozed off over the desert of Utah and Nevada and woke up in time to see the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the distance as the plane approached California.

At three hundred miles an hour, it wasn't long before the plane began to descend. That revived everyone's excitement. The girls again turned their attention outside the window. The descent gave Norma a queasy stomach and again, she kept the waxed paper bag handy.

Eight hours after leaving Washington, the plane landed in Oakland, California. Despite the duration of the flight, it was only noon on the west coast. Ramona would liked to have called Pat Owen, but there wasn't enough time. There was barely enough time to find the lavatories and get to the gate for the flight to Honolulu.

Again they boarded another American Airlines DC-6. This time they had four seats in the same row. Janet had a window seat on one side and Norma had the one on the other side. For this leg of the trip, Ramona sat with Janet, and Sheffield sat with Norma. Having the aisle between them made it easier for Sheffield and Ramona to talk. Craig sat alone in the window seat directly ahead of Norma. Unfortunately this time their seats were over the wing which made it more difficult to see what was below. A few minutes later, it didn't make much difference as all there was below was the Pacific Ocean.

This time Sheffield listened to what fourteen girls were interested in, clothes, hair, and boys. She thought that Craig's friend Read was kind of cute. But she went deeper than that. Her favorite class was home economics, she liked sewing her own clothes and was glad to have her mother's sewing machine. She also liked to cook and trying new recipes. She wished that she could get back into piano lessons. She liked living on the ranch and enjoyed the horses and calves and was trying to tame the wild cat that was living in the barn. She still missed her mother and believed that she had gone to heaven to be with Jesus. Oh and although she had just barely turned fourteen, she couldn't wait until she turned fifteen and wanted Sheffield to teach her how to drive.

By the time the sky meals were served, the enthusiasm for flying had long since worn off. It had been a long day already and they were still four hours from landing in Honolulu. The time spent cooped up had been well worth it. The honeymoon was off to a great start. During the second half of the this flight, they all dozed off. Sheffield had got to know his daughters better. He couldn't help but reflect on Sandy at those ages. Norma and Janet were as different from Sandy as they were from each other. Although, there were things about Norma that reminded him of Sandy.

As the plane began its decent, everyone woke up and the excitement returned. It wouldn't be long before they would be in the paradise that they had heard so much about ever since they began planning the trip. The excitement increased when Craig said that he could see the island up ahead. Norma plastered her face against the window to have a look. Janet felt cheated because she was on the wrong side of the plane and couldn't see it.

As they drew closer and the plane descended, the mountain ranges took shape and at the southern point of the island was Diamond Head. As the plane descended further, the white capped waves could be seen washing ashore. The sun was getting quite low in the western sky which elongated the shadows being cast by the mountains.

As the plane was about to swing by Diamond Head on the final approach, Sheffield pointed out to Norma the stretch of beach where the house was. Once past Diamond Head, Honolulu was spread out all along the shore and they were now low enough to see the palm trees.

When the wheels touched down, everyone was had forgot how long the day had been. As they

deplaned, it had been almost eighteen hours since they arrived at the airport in Washington that morning. In the course of the day there was a five and half hour difference in time zones. It was only six thirty in Honolulu while it was midnight back in Virginia.

As they left the plane and entered the American Airlines section of the terminal, Sheffield was again faced with the decision that he had made. Had he chose the job that Joe Weinstein offered him, this would have been his world. As nice as it was, what he now had was far, far better. He had no regrets whatsoever.

While Ramona and the girls waited for their luggage, Sheffield and Craig checked out their rental car, a 1947 Chevrolet Fleetmaster Convertible, which was very similar to Sheffield's sedan only a year newer. It was perfect for getting around in the island paradise. Sheffield brought the car around to the front of the terminal building while Craig went to help with the luggage. Craig pulled cart with the luggage and Ramona and the girls followed. They were delighted with the car. Sheffield helped Craig put everything in the trunk. The kids piled into the back seat and Ramona got in the front and slid over next to Sheffield.

The sun was barley above the horizon as the drove off, with the top down of course. Realizing that there wasn't any food at the beech house, Ramona suggested that they off stop for something to eat on their way through town. By the time they got home, it was dark, too dark to for the kids to get a good look at the place.

Everyone was too tired to care anyway. Sheffield and Craig brought in the luggage while Ramona and the girls made the beds. Since there were only two bedrooms, Ramona presented the following options; Sheffield and Craig could have one room and she and the girls could share the other room. Or Sheffield and Ramona could have what she called "her room" and the girls the guest room and Craig could have his choice between the couch or put up the hammock on the patio. He chose the hammock. Everyone got ready for bed and in no time, the sound of the surf lulled the weary travelers to sleep.

Everyone slept well that night. By five o'clock, it began to get light. When the sun came up at twenty minutes after five, it made it difficult to sleep much longer. Sheffield sensed Ramona stirring and pulled her close to him.

"Happy birthday, Sweetheart." He said as he held her in his arms.

"Thank you, Babe. I can't think of a better place to spend it."

Sheffield began to rub her back.

"You can do that some more." she said and then added, "Here let me make it easier for you." and slipped her nightgown off over her head.

As he rubbed her bare back, she said, "It feels much better this way."

After a moment, they got up to get ready for the day and had their showers and were dressed before

the kids began to stir. They set about getting things out of storage to make the house livable and Ramona made a list of things that she would need to get in town that morning.

As conciseness began to set in and kids realized where they were, they were quick to get up and see what paradise looked like. The girls, still in their nightgowns, went out on the patio to have a look. Craig was already dressed, having slept in his clothes. They were excited to see the ocean stretched out before them and the waves washing up on the beach. All three of them rushed down to the waters edge to let the water wash around their bare feet.

In their excitement, they began kicking and splashing. When Ramona called them in, the girls nightgowns were soaked from the knees down. "Why don't you get dressed while I go over to the market and get some fruit and some juice for breakfast."

She headed out the door and closed it behind her. Sheffield said to the kids, "Do you realize what today is?"

"Its Tuesday."

"What else?" he coached.

"The third of June."

"And what's significant about that?"

Norma was the first to catch on. "It's Ramona's birthday."

"Thats right."

"And what are we going to do about it?"

"We haven't got anything for her." Craig said.

"Norma and I can bake her a cake." Janet suggested.

"Here's what we'll do." Sheffield said. "After breakfast, she needs to go into town to get some things. While she's gone, you can walk down to the market and catch the bus into town. I'll give you some money for the bus and not far down the road toward town is little variety store. You can find something for her there."

"What about you Sheffield, do you need to get her something?"

"No. I brought it with me in my suitcase. Now go get ready, she won't be gone long."

By the time she returned with some cereal, milk, fresh fruit and a some juice they were ready for the day. When she came through the door, Sheffield took the bag from her. In unison, the kids called out, "Happy Birthday Ramona."

"Oh you remembered. How sweet of you." She said as she pulled all three of them close for a hug. "I'll bet you're all hungry. I know that I am. After breakfast I need to go into Honolulu to get some things, do any of you want to come?"

Before they could answer, Sheffield said, "I asked them to help me clean things up around the place."

"Yeah," Ramona said, "I noticed debris scattered around. There must have been storm since we were here last year. Oh by the way, Sheffield. When I was at the Market, they told me that someone had been in a couple of months ago and wanted to know who owned the house. They had noticed that it had been empty and were interested in it."

"They told them who I was and said that they expected us to show up some time this summer. The man left his card and asked them to give it to me. What do you think?"

"I think we should enjoy being here for now. That will give you some time to think about what you want to do."

After breakfast, Ramona drove into Honolulu. Sheffield winked and told her to take her time. After she had a chance to get down the road little ways, Sheffield sent Norma and Janet on their errand and kept Craig with him to help with the cleanup project.

Norma and Janet walked the short distance to the Market and waited for the bus. They got off at the corner of 10th and Waialae Avenue in Kaimuki on the inland side of Diamond Head just as Sheffield had told them. They found the variety store and number of other shops. A little jewelry store caught Norma's attention. "Let's look there," she said and took Janet's hand and led her toward it.

Once inside, a nice lady asked in a pleasant voice, "Can I help you?"

"Today is our mother's birthday and we just got here and need to get her something. Do you have something with her birthstone?"

"Let's see. This is June so that would be pearl or moonstone. Are you thinking about a ring, a necklace, a bracelet or some earrings?"

"What do you think, Janet?"

"How about a bracelet?"

"Yeah. I think Ramona would love a bracelet." Norma agreed.

"How much money do you have to spend?" the lady asked.

"We have five dollars." Norma told her.

"I think I can find something nice for five dollars."

The lady proceeded to show show them several bracelets in that price range, then she suggested, "Instead of her birthstone, how about one with yours on it. I could use this plain silver bracelet and attach your birthstones like a charm bracelet. What do you think?"

Janet whispered something in Norma's ear.

"We like that idea." Norma announced. "You see, she and her husband recently adopted us and our

brother after our parents died. Now that she's our mother I think it would show her how much we appreciate what she has done for us."

"I think so too." The lady said. "Tell me what months are your birthdays?"

"Mine is May." Norma said.

"And mine is in January." Janet added.

"And now, what about your brother?"

"His is in August."

"Okay, let me look in my drawer."

After rummaging around for a moment, she laid on the counter a garnet, an emerald, and peridot. Each were small, polished teardrops and had a cap with a hook attached to the top. She laid out the silver bracelet and asked, "Who's the oldest?"

"Our brother."

She laid out the stones in order of their ages and asked, "What do you think?"

"I like it." Norma said.

"Me too." Janet agreed.

Being cautious to not commit just yet, Norma asked "How much will this cost?"

"Lets see." the lady said. "The bracelet is a dollar and half. Each stone is fifty cents. So that would be four dollars. Is that alright?"

"Uh huh." Norma said.

"Okay, let me attach them to the bracelet and you'll be all set."

She reached into the drawer and pulled out a tool and one by one attached the stones to the chain. Each one was evenly spaced.

"How does this look?" she asked.

"Thats swell." Norma said. "Its perfect."

"That will be four dollars."

Norma handed her the five dollar bill and the lady handed her a one dollar bill in change. "Thank you girls. I'm sure your new mother will love it."

"Thank you, ma'am." Norman said as she went to put it in her purse.

"Just a minute." the lady said. "Let me gift wrap it for you. It won't cost anything."

"Okay." Norma said and handed it back to her.

She produced a small thin box and laid it in it and put the lid on it. Next she tied a ribbon around it. "Here you go." she said.

"Thank you again, ma'am." Norma said and put it in he purse and the girls left the store.

A couple of stores down there was a small grocery store. Norma suggested, "We still have a dollar plus some change that I have. Lets get the ingredients to make a cake."

Again Janet tagged along as she led the way into the store. They found the flour aisle and began looking for what they needed. They tried to remember everything they would need. The grocer approached them and asked, "Can I help you, girls?"

"Yes, sir." Norma began. "We want to make a birthday cake for our mother but we don't want to buy a five pound bag of flour. Can we buy just the amount of ingredients that we need?"

The man chuckled with a jolly sort of rolling laugh. "I'm afraid not." he said.

Norma frowned and looked down at the floor.

"But, young lady," he went on, "I do have something that you might be interested in." He reached up on the top shelf and pulled down two tins. "Here's something that has been available on the west coast for about three years now. From time to time I'm able to get some in. Its a ready made cake mix that has all of the ingredients. All you do is add water. I have a devils food cake or a yellow cake." He handed them to Norma to examine.

"Helen's Red-E Devil Food Mix." she read out loud. She went on to read the ingredients, "Enriched wheat flour, oat flour, cocoa, vegetable shortening, sugar, powdered eggs, powdered skim milk, salt, baking powder. Its got everything we need, including the instructions, and its only forty cents." Norma looked up at the grocer with a beaming smile. "This is perfect. We don't have anything like this in Virginia where we're from. We'll take the devils food. Now all we need is some powdered sugar, butter, evaporated milk, some vanilla, and some coco to make the frosting."

"Follow me." the grocer said. They tagged along behind him as he gathered up the items they needed. He took them to the register and rang up the items. "That will be a dollar and sixteen cents."

Norma reached into her purse and got her change. She put down the dollar and a dime and nickel. "I'm sorry." She said, but I'm a penny short, I have two dimes but we'll need that to get on the bus."

"I'll tell you what Missy. The penny's on me." He said as he reached into his pocket and put a penny on the counter."

"Gee thanks, mister." She said with the same beaming smile that she had flashed only moments earlier.

The grocer put the money in the till and the items in a paper bag and handed them to Norma.

"Thank you for your business and I hope that birthday cake turns out."

Norman and Janet hurried back to the street corner to catch the bus back to the market, hoping to get home before Ramona. They only had to wait less than five minute. They boarded the bus, paid their dimes and took their seat. A few minutes later they got off at the market and dashed home.

When they got there, Ramona still had not returned. In the meantime, Sheffield and Craig had been busy cleaning up the debris. With excitement, the girls told them all about what they had done.

They found the hand beater and some mixing bowls and cake pans and with confidence began following the direction on the lid of the tin.

They had plenty of time, as Ramona was gone for quite a while. With the cake in the oven, they turned their attention to the frosting. They made two batches, one chocolate and one vanilla. When the cake came out of the oven, the girls let it cool a while and went outside to help Sheffield and Craig.

The storm, whenever it was, washed a lot of driftwood ashore and blew branches off the trees. The dock had taken a beating and needed some planks nailed down. Sheffield found other things that needed attention as well after setting unattended for year.

Ramona still wasn't back, and the cake had cooled sufficiently. Norma put one half on a plate and covered the top with some chocolate frosting. Next she put the other half on top and set it place. It slipped a little when she frosted the top with chocolate frosting. The vanilla frosting went around the sides. When they were done, it was a bit lopsided, but they were pleased.

"Now if we only had some candles." Norma lamented.

"I know." Janet said. "Use some of the white frosting and put how old she is on top."

"That's a good idea. I think she is forty four. Go ask Sheffield for sure while I start cleaning up."

A moment later Janet returned, "Yep, she's forty four."

Norma took some wax paper, like she had been shown in Home Ec, and spread some frosting on it and rolled it up in a cone with a small opening in the bottom. She gently squeeze the cone forcing frosting through the hole. She put two big fours right in the middle, the white frosting contrasted nicely with the chocolate. Satisfied, they set it aside and cleaned up.

It wasn't long after that that Ramona returned. When they heard the car pull into the driveway, everyone went out to greet her. She loaded them each up with a bag or two and had them help her carry everything into the house. That's when she saw the cake.

She set down the bags and put her hands to her cheeks exclaiming, "You girls made this for me? Where one earth did you get the ingredients?"

"We rode the bus to Kaimuki and went to the grocery store. They had a mix and all we needed to do was to add water."

"I've never heard of such a thing."

"The man said that it is only available on the west coast and sometimes he gets some in. See, here's the tin that it came in." Norma handed her the tin to see for herself.

"Well I'll be. What about the frosting?"

"We bought the stuff to make it with."

"Bless your hearts." she said as she hugged them close. "This is really special. I got something for you too." She reached into one bag and pulled out a flower print hula gown and handed it to Norma. Then she pulled out another for Janet.

The girls held them up to their bodies to have a look. "Thanks Ramona." they sang in unison.

"You're in Hawaii now and you need to look the part. I got you these too." She gave them each a gardenia. "They go in your hair like this." she said pointing to the one in her hair. "You can wear them tonight for our back yard luau. I got a ham and some fixings to go with it. And look at what else I got." she said as she pulled a carton of ice cream out of a sack and put it in the freezer. "It will go good with the cake.

"We're going to have a party!" Janet cheered

"Oh and Craig, I got a shirt for you too." she said as she handed it to him.

"Thanks Ramona."

"Now lets put all of this away and have some lunch. Then lets change into our bathing suits and and go for a swim."

Sheffield, Craig, and Janet had already changed into their bathing suits and were down at the beach. Ramona had changed into hers and went to see what was taking Norma so long. She found her standing in front of the mirror nearly in tears.

"Whats the matter Norma?"

"I hate my body." she blurted as she looked at herself. "I'm so ugly."

"Now, now. What makes you say that?"

"Just look at me."

"I am, and I think you're beautiful."

"No I'm not. I have no shape."

"Oh I see what this is all about." Ramona said. "You're comparing yourself with the models in those fashion magazines, aren't you. For one thing, your only fourteen. You're still growing and developing. Give yourself some time and you'll be as curvy and shapely as any woman, except for me. Just look at me. I never did finish developing and I've been stuck with this body for thirty years."

"You don't look so bad, Ramona. Besides you've got great tan."

"Thats because I'm part Indian. By the time we go home, you'll have a nice tan too. Don't be to concerned Norma, I assure you that you're going to look absolutely gorgeous. I've seen pictures of your mother when she was first married. I think thats a lot how you're going to look. Just be patient, okay."

She put her arms around Norma and continued. "You are a beautiful young woman. Thats what

everyone else sees when they look at you. Now what do you say, lets go join the rest and have some good old island fun in the water and the sun.”

“Thanks, Ramona. I feel better now. You're the best.”

Norma saw herself differently after that and took Ramona's word for it. They spent all afternoon diving off the dock and swimming in the ocean and soaking up the sun. Later, they all changed into their island attire and enjoyed their luau picnic on the patio, overlooking the ocean.

Then came the birthday party with the cake and ice cream and presents. Sheffield had got her a pearl necklace and matching earrings. But when she opened the gift from the kids, she was speechless. She took one look inside the box and realized what it was.

“It has our birthstones on it.” Janet said.

With emotion choking her voice, she finally spoke, “This is the most special thing you could have ever got me.”

She put it on her wrist and than gave each of them a hug. “Thank you for making me your mother.” she said with tears streaming down her cheeks.

“No.” Norma said. “Thank you for being our mother.” She too got emotional. “We wanted to give you something that would say that every time that you wore it.”

About twenty minutes after sunset, a full moon rose over Koko Head as they spent the evening enjoying paradise. Ramona put some Hawaiian music on the phonograph to enhance the mood. At one point, she demonstrated the hula and tried to teach the girls a few moves. It was a perfect day in paradise, it was a happy birthday, and it was a great start to their family honeymoon.

The first week they took the kids to see their favorite places around Honolulu. They really enjoyed the Queen Kapi'olani Park which included the Honolulu Zoo and the Waikiki Aquarium. One day they drove up to the Kualoa Ranch north of Kaneohe and spent the day riding horses. It was nice to have a mount for each of them rather than having to share Red and Roxy. Even Janet, who was a little afraid of horses, enjoyed riding as family.

Another day, they took the kids on a hike to the observation deck on Diamond Head. From the trail head it was three quarters of a mile to the edge of the crater's rim. It wasn't easy for Sheffield with his bum leg but he managed. It wasn't a difficult hike, but that it wasn't an easy one either. The trail wound over rocks and up seventy four steps, then through a tunnel and up another ninety nine steps followed by another small tunnel. The tunnel lead to a narrow spiral staircase with about thirty steps to the observation platform that was built built in 1908. It was worth the effort because from the summit they could look out over Waikiki and Honolulu and out over the ocean.

A trip to Paradise would not be complete without a day at Waikiki Beach, even if they had their own little secluded beach. While getting ready that morning, Ramona gave specific instructions that everyone put on plenty of suntan lotion. She set the example by rubbing down with it first and had Sheffield get the places that she couldn't reach and then she did the same for him. When they were finished she set the bottle of Tartan suntan lotion on the table with an added reminder that it was going to be eighty five degrees later in the day. While going about getting things ready, she noticed the girls helping each other with it. With a picnic lunch, a beach blanket and a change of clothes, they were ready to leave.

They got there early, but for a weekday, the beach was beginning to fill up already. They found a spot and staked it out with their blanket and the other things they brought. The kids were already splashing in the ocean when Sheffield and Ramona got there. The water was refreshing seventy eight degrees and the air temperature about the same with a slight breeze coming off the ocean. Just perfect for a day at the beach.

After a while, Sheffield and Ramona stretched out on the blanket, leaving the kids to frolic in the surf. As they visited, Ramona observed, "I see that Craig's attention has drifted from his sisters and gravitated toward that group of young women."

Sheffield looked in their direction. "They've got to be a quite a bit older than him. I'd say they're in their early twenties."

"Yeah, I'd say." Ramona agreed. "And their bikinis are giving him plenty to look at. He's at that age where his hormones are pumping. I wonder if either Mike or Sam ever had 'the talk' with him? You'd better make sure."

"Why me? You're the expert on that kind of stuff."

"That's true, I am. But he'd take it better from you because you're a man. He'd just get all embarrassed if I talked to him about it. Besides he and Edith are getting pretty serious, I'd hate for him get carried away."

"I guess I'd better talk to him, as long as you handle the girls."

They went back out into the water for a while before coaxing the kids to come and have lunch. Before eating, she made sure every one got another dose of suntan lotion. After handing the bottle to Craig, she began setting out lunch.

Before letting them go back out into the water, she insisted that they stretch out on the blanket for a half an hour. When the time was up, that all went back into the water. Sheffield and the kids ventured out into chest deep water. Craig's hoisted Janet onto his shoulders and Norma climbed onto Sheffield's. Once mounted, they set out to see which one could knock the other off first. The buoyancy of the water took a lot of Norma's weight off his bum leg, but it wasn't enough to keep Janet from scoring first. After a few rounds, Janet was clearly ahead. At that point, they switched off. Since Janet was lighter, Sheffield was able to hold up better and they were more evenly matched. In the end, Norma was the overall winner.

Having had enough, they returned to the beach blanket where Ramona had been watching. As they

drew nearer, she exclaimed, "Craig. I thought I told you to put on some suntan lotion."

"I did." he replied as plopped down on the blanket.

"Well you didn't do a very good job of it. You missed some places."

"How can you tell?"

"Because you have red streaks all over."

"Yeah, you look like a zebra." Janet giggled.

"Sit up and let me help you." Ramona insisted as she began rubbing him down.

Craig's looked in the direction of the girls that he had been watching and the rest of him went as red as his sunburn.

Ramona noticed and asked, "Would you rather have one of them do this?"

That only embarrassed him further.

She continued, "As your mother, its my job to look after you. You do still want me to be your mother don't you."

"Yes of course I do." Craig admitted. "I'm sorry Ramona."

"Well it doesn't look too bad. I've seen much worse. Dose it hurt?"

"It stings just a little."

"You'll just have some stripes for a few days. By then you shouldn't know the difference."

When she was done, she handed the bottle to the girls. "It wouldn't hurt if you put some more on too."

"I'm just glad to see something happen to someone else, instead of it being me all the time." Janet said as she took the bottle and began rubbing some onto her legs.

After going back into the water again for a little while, it was time to get out and get ready for the rest of the days activities. They showered the salt and sand off at some outdoor showers before going into the changing booths to change out of their bathing suits.

From Waikiki Beach, they drove over to the Polynesian Renaissance Amphitheater for a family luau. It was the same place that Sheffield took his staff while passing through on their way home from Japan in September of 45. The late afternoon early evening family luau was geared to families, while the evening event was for adults only.

After a day of swimming and playing with only a light picnic lunch, everyone was hungry. The slow roasted pork was succulent as was everything else that went with it. There was fish of all kinds, tropical fruit, poi, and more. There was plenty to eat, even for picky eaters like Janet.

After the meal was over, it was time for the entertainment which consisted of hula dancers and a small group of musicians. One of the first acts involved the cooperation of all of the women and girls who wanted to participate. With a little coaxing, Norma and Janet joined Ramona with several others. They were given some basic instructions before dancing for the audience. Naturally Ramona, who knew a little about hula dancing, outshone all of the armatures.

As the show got going, Sheffield and Ramona couldn't help but notice that Craig was completely fixated on the women dancers as they swayed their bodies and shook their hips to the strains of the ukuleles and the beat of the drums. Even though it wasn't dark yet, the fire dancers at the end of the program was still quite spectacular.

On the way back to the beach house, they stopped off for some shave ice. After a long day, everyone was tired and turned in relatively early to be rested for the adventure that awaited the next day.

Ramona decided that she wanted a family portrait taken and so the next morning she had everyone put on their island attire, complete with gardenias for her and the girls, and went to the photographer where she had her glamor photo taken before moving to Washington. The pictures would be ready before they went home. The rest of the day was spent going to more of the attractions around Honolulu that they hadn't been to yet.

* * * *

In 1944 three types of cake mixes were available. Two brands of devil's food, two lemon-flavored yellow cakes and a spice cake. All four included vegetable shortening, sugar, powdered egg, powdered skim milk, salt, baking powder (or soda and phosphate) and flavoring in their ingredients. The devil's food types added cocoa, and the spice cake, various spices and cocoa. Helen's Red-E Devil Food Mix, which received the highest rating, was made with enriched wheat flour and oat flour. The Spiced Cake Mix of the same brand, considered fairly good, contained some soya flour. Helen's Red-E Devil Food Mix cost 30 cents for 16 oz. It included enriched wheat flour and oat flour. Excellent flavor. Helen's Red-E Yellow Cake Mix cost 30 cents for 1 lb. It included wheat, cottonseed and oat flour. Excellent flavor, slightly lemon. These mixes were only available in California, Oregon and Nevada. In November 1947 Betty Crocker introduced just add water cake mixes nationwide. www.foodtimeline.org/foodcakes.html

Kaimuki is a thriving community located behind Diamond Head and is one of Honolulu's oldest neighborhoods with a mixture of established businesses and trendy shops and restaurants. The area has managed to retain its historical charm.

Although two piece swimming suits had been around for a long time, an abbreviated more revealing version know as a Bikini was introduced in 1946.

