

Chapter XL

Skaddywhompus

June 9, 1952 – July 2, 1952

After a busy weekend, Sheffield flew back to Washington on Monday morning after having ten days off. Now that the trials aboard the Midway were complete, Sheffield turned his attention toward conducting the same trials aboard an Essex Class carrier. He had some concern about the length of the landing area on the smaller ship.

He requested the use of whatever carrier might be available, preferably one on the east coast. The very next day, he received word that he could use the Crown Point, since she was available, awaiting her shakedown cruise.

Sheffield contacted Captain Donald McLearner, the commander of the Crown Point. Captain Learner had been his chief of staff for a brief period when Sheffield reported for duty as the Commander of Carrier Division One a year earlier. They didn't particularly hit it off as they disagreed in principle on command styles. The rift between them wasn't personal and Sheffield arranged a transfer for him, which resulted in him taking command of the Crown Point while she was still under construction.

Although they hadn't seen eye to eye in the past, the concept of an angled landing area appealed to Captain McLearner and he was more than willing to participate. The order was given and later in the week, the Crown Point would have a temporary landing area, like on the Midway, marked out on her flight deck. The trial was scheduled for the middle of the next week. Next Sheffield contacted the same squadron that had participated before and enlisted their help once again.

While he was gone, Dan and Daphne Kirk had moved into the same apartment building. Between them and the Moncurs, they saw to it that he had a good home cooked meal at least twice a week. Socializing with subordinates was walking a fine line. Commander Kirk and Lieutenant Moncur were well aware of this as well and kept their social relationship with him completely separate from their professional relationship. Even at that, in social settings they always referred to him as Admiral or sir and never by his first name, although he was allowed to call them by their first names. Besides, he was enough older than them to be their fathers, and that is almost how they saw him.

The rules were clear, junior personnel are to recognize and respect the authority inherent in a senior's grade, rank, or position. This recognition of authority is evidenced by observance and enforcement of the military courtesies and customs that have traditionally defined proper senior-subordinate relationships.

On those occasions when they did socialize, they made it a rule to do so dressed in civilian clothes. So, on Tuesday evening Sheffield had dinner with Dan and Daphne Kirk in their apartment. Sheffield had known Commander Kirk ever since he transferred his flag to the Reprisal after the Essex had been

damaged. They met through the Reprisal's serviceman's group when Dan was attending as an investigator. Since then he had gotten to know Dan pretty well, but he had only met Daphne just recently and didn't know her very well. That evening at dinner, Sheffield got to know her better.

Dan had enlisted in the Navy in the summer of 1942 after graduating from the University of Iowa. He went through officer training and then went on to flight school. He saw action as a Corsair pilot flying from the Ticonderoga in 1945. After the war he was discharged and went home to Council Bluffs, Iowa. Shortly after he returned home, he and Daphne were married and he went to work as a certified public accountant. Their first child, Spencer was born in 1947, followed by Carmen in 1950. He was recalled to active duty in early 1951 and eventually deployed with the Reprisal on her second cruise.

Daphne was introduced to the church through the wife of another officer who lived in the same apartment building. Having grown up in Council Bluffs, they were aware of the Mormons because of their history in the area. What impressed her most was that this woman wasn't hesitant to talk about her beliefs, which were reflected in her continence and the way she conducted herself.

She began meeting with the missionaries and found herself drawn to their message. That's when she wrote to Dan and encouraged him to look into it. She went ahead and was baptized in Norfolk, while Dan was baptized soon after in Japan. Now that he was back and they were together again and had moved to Washington, they attended the Arlington Ward for the first time on Sunday.

To make his evenings not as lonely, Sheffield had bought a television set. This was a luxury that they didn't have in Roanoke as there was not a television signal that could reach there. The closest television station was in Richmond. But the radio station that Tim worked for was working on setting up a TV station right there in Roanoke.

In the meantime, Sheffield could take advantage of the programming available on the four stations in the Washington DC area; NBC on WNBW Channel 4, the DuMont Television Network on WTTG Channel 5, ABC on WMAL-TV Channel 7, and CBS on WTOP-TV Channel 9. Being alone, he would watch television a little while each evening before going to bed. He particularly liked the news broadcasts. He tried to make it a point to watch Douglas Edwards and the CBS Television News, a fifteen minute program that was broadcast every evening at seven thirty. Occassionally he would watch a variety show hosted by Aurthur Godfrey. He particularly got a kick out of I Love Lucy.

On Thursday he had dinner with the Moncurs. Later, the missionaries and the Kirks came over for a cottage meeting. They were progressing at a steady pace and were considering baptism. Now that Anita had come to join Phil, their families couldn't hassle them about it.

Meanwhile back at home, on Wednesday while Ramona was out and about on some errands,

including looking at a house that she was considering, she stopped into the BookEnd. She had been thinking a lot about having her own personal bathhouse and wanted to look at some books on Japanese customs.

She found one that went into great detail about bathhouses and the associated customs. This particular book had detailed photographs and details about how they operate. She bought it and after checking in on Ellen, she drove to the house that Ray was in the middle of remodeling for her. She showed the book to him and said, "I want you to build something like this for me."

Ray looked it over and said, "I should be able to do that. Can I keep this?"

"I was hoping you would."

"Let me study it and I'll draw something up and get back to you."

When she got home, Janet had finished with her chores and was out on the front porch reading, something that had become a favorite pastime lately. When she saw Ramona pull in the driveway, she put down her book and went to meet her.

The first thing Ramona said was, "You know how you've been talking about wanting to find a summer job?"

"Yeah" Janet said as they went into the house.

"Well. I may have found the perfect job for for you."

"Really? Where?" Janet asked enthusiastically.

"I was in the BookEnd today and as I was leaving, I noticed a help wanted sign in the window."

"Gee. That would be perfect." she responded. "As soon as Norma gets home, I'm going to go look into it."

Towards late afternoon, when Norma got home, Janet took the car into town and went straight to the BookEnd. It was in a classic older building right in the heart of downtown at 202 Market Street. The thing that made the building unique was that the front door was angled across the corner of the building, with a pillar supporting the corner of the second story.

She went in and spoke with Garth Funkly, the proprietor, who knew who she was. She took an application and filled it out right there and left it with him. Mr. Funkly told her that he'd get back in touch with her.

On Thursday, Ramona was tied up with Relief Society. First she met with her counselors and secretary before the meeting. Afterwards, as a presidency they called on a couple of ladies who needed a visit.

Then on Friday she had to get ready for company. She decided to wash the bedding in the guest room. While it was drying on the line, she ran into Salem to get a few groceries at the market. Once the bed

was made, she turned her attention toward dinner and put a pot roast in the oven.

A little after six, right when she expected them, she heard the Staggewing buzz the house as it circled around to land. Norma hadn't come home from work yet, but she and Janet, who was helping her with dinner went out to greet Sheffield and their guests. They hadn't had much of a chance to have a good visit with Morris and Sheila at the reunion.

During the week since the reunion, they had spent the week in Washington seeing the sites. Then as arranged, on Friday afternoon they met Sheffield at the airport and came home with him. They visited over dinner and long into the evening.

Now that Morris had his masters degree, he had a great job at Utah State University in Logan as the managing director of academic records. With another baby on the way, they had just bought a house just below the university and not far from the temple.

Morris said, "I have you to thank for it all. If you hadn't of taken me on as you personal secretary aboard the ship, I'd probably stayed on the ranch when I got out of the Navy."

On Saturday, they took Morris and Sheila for a ride around the area and later in the afternoon they had a cook out, complete with some barbecued beef. The next day they attended church with them. That happened to be Sheffield's week to teach the lesson in the Elders Quorum. He had prepared it in the evenings during the week. They had a good visit over the weekend and on Monday morning, they flew back to Washington with Sheffield where they caught their flight home.

With their company there, Ramona didn't have a chance to tell Sheffield that she had Ray working up plans for her bathhouse. On Monday after Sheffield left, Ray came over to show the plans to her and how it would be. She liked what she saw and asked him to get back to her with an estimate on the cost.

On Tuesday, Janet got a call from Mr. Funkly at the BookEnd and asked her to come in and meet with him later in the afternoon. She was excited at the possibility that she might be able to work there. She put on one of her nicest dresses and got all fixed up. Fortunately, Norma didn't have anywhere to go and their car was available. Being the youngest put her at the bottom of the pecking order when it came to using the car. If she got the job, she would need to use it more often, so something would have to give.

When she met with Mr. Funkly, he asked her why she wanted to work for him. Her response was that she had a new found love for books and had done a lot of reading.

He asked her to tell him what she had read lately and quizzed her on her knowledge of authors. She didn't know all of the ones that he put to her, but she knew enough to be impressive. Next he asked her if he were a customer and wanted to know where the current affairs section was, could she tell him.

She could and proceeded to demonstrate her knowledge of the layout of the store. At the end of the interview, he offered her a job at seventy five cents a hour, working ten to twelve hours a week and she

could start later in the week. Janet came home all excited and told Ramona and Norma all about it and couldn't wait to tell her Dad.

When Sheffield returned to work on Monday, the day was spent making sure everything was ready for the trials aboard the Crown Point. A call was placed to Captain McLearner who reported that the deck markings had been applied. The developmental squadron was ready as well. With everything ready, Sheffield, Commander Kirk, Lieutenant Moncur and Yeoman Walinsky finalized the trial plan to make sure it covered everything. It was very similar to the trial on the Midway, with the exception of a few minor changes that resulted from some of the lessons that had been learned and some points that hadn't been covered.

On Tuesday morning, they boarded a Douglas C-47 Skytrain, the Air Force's designation for the DC-3. The Navy Air Transport Service had been dissolved in 1948 and became part of the Military Air Transport Service. By the time they landed in Norfolk and were taken to the Crown Point, which had built up steam and was ready to get underway. With Sheffield's two star flag flying from the foremast, the ship was pulled away from the dock and pointed in the direction of Hampton Roads.

The USS Crown Point was laid down July 1, 1944 by the New York Navy Yard. When the war ended, the ship was fifty two percent complete and her construction was canceled on August 12, 1945. The hull was launched without ceremony in 1945 to clear the slipway and was utilized for experimentation in the Chesapeake Bay from 1946 through 1948.

In January 1949 the hull was inspected with the intention of completing her to the redesigned Essex Class standard. The Crown Point was reordered for completion and the hull was towed to the Norfolk Navy Yard where the work began in August 1949.

When completed, she was commissioned on March 18, 1952. The Crown Point differed slightly from the standard, having symmetrical aft five inch gun platforms and a reduction in the number of three inch guns. Noticeably absent were the bow and stern mounts as well as the mounts below the island structure. Other noticeable differences was the enclosed forecastle and the large crane on the flight deck behind the island structure.

A half hour after getting underway, the carrier and one destroyer were passing Cape Henry, headed out to sea. A couple of hours later they were about fifty miles offshore. After lunch, they found a spot in PryFly to observe the trials. This time the squadron flew out from Patuxent River Naval Air Station and Commander Kirk was not scheduled to participate as a pilot.

As before, the first phase of the trials was normal touch and go landings. The first plane on approach was a Douglas Skyraider. The big plane came in normal but pulled up before actually touching the

deck. The next plane, a Corsair, did touch the deck but barely made it back into the air. But when the third plane, a Panther, also pulled up before touching the deck, it was obvious that something was wrong and Sheffield ordered any further approaches aborted and had the planes brought aboard.

The squadron regrouped and went around again to form up in a normal landing pattern. Admiral Brason and his staff watched from PriFly as one by one the planes were recovered. These were the same men who had done this before, so it was obvious the problem wasn't with them. Wanting to see what the problem was, he had the pilots assemble in one of the ready rooms.

The first three pilots who had attempted the touch and go all reported the same problem, the landing area was too narrow at the point where they were to power up. Sheffield had been worried that that might be an issue. He wanted to see for himself and enlisted Commander Kirk to take him up in the squadron's SNJ Texan.

Riding in the back seat, Sheffield observed the approach from astern and slightly to starboard. The landing area itself had an ample length of five hundred twenty feet. As the landing area angled off to port it dropped off the port side at two hundred seventy five feet and became progressively narrower the rest of the way to the midships outboard elevator where the edge of the deck was only fifteen feet from the centerline of the landing area. From the air, it looked worse than it had on paper.

When Commander Kirk touched the deck, the plane was only a few feet from the edge of the deck. Sheffield watched as that distance became narrower before the plane became airborne again. He saw for himself what the problem was and had to figure out how to solve the problem. His first thought was to return to a five and half degree angle, but that had its own problems.

As Commander Kirk came around again on his normal landing approach, Sheffield sized up the marked out area again and began formulating an idea. Once back aboard he met with Captain McLearner. From PriFly where they had a good view of the entire flight deck, Sheffield pointed out the problem and then proposed, "What if there was an angled extension beginning where the landing area dropped off the deck and extended to the elevator. Here let me show you."

He took the diagram of the flight deck markings and drew a line that extended the full width of the landing area all the way to the elevator. "I know that it looks skaddywhompus, but see how it keeps the width of the landing area consistent all the way. What do you think?"

Captain McLearner and others looked at the diagram for a moment. Then the captain, said, "You know Admiral, that will work. Sure it will add some weight to port, but not enough that it can't be compensated for."

Admiral Brason ordered the planes sent back to Patuxent River. Once they had been launched, he ordered the Crown Point and her escort to return to Norfolk. On the return trip, He and his staff met with

Captain McLearner and his air officer and chief engineering officer to figure out what it would take.

Working from Sheffield's diagram, it was determined that a triangular section 190 feet long and 30 wide with a hypotenuse of 193 feet should be adequate. That would add 2,850 square feet to the flight deck. The engineering officer went to work on a structural drawings for adding the extension.

By mid afternoon, the Crown Point was back at her berth and Admiral Brason and Captain McLearner went ashore and submitted their request for the modifications. Sheffield called his boss and got the order expedited. With no other reason to stay in Norfolk, Sheffield and his staff flew back to Washington and where home in time for dinner. He had hoped to see Craig, but he wasn't available.

The rest of the week was spent monitoring the progress of the modifications. The order was approved the next day with work to begin the first of the next week and would take three or four days to complete and would be done at the Norfolk Navy Yard.

Ramona had a construction project of her own in the works. Even though she hadn't talked to Sheffield about it, she had Ray get started on her bathhouse. He came over on Tuesday and setup the forms and the next day had the concrete poured. Since it had to cure for a week, he moved on to the next remodel job that she had for him. She pretty much kept Ray busy full time, however he did have other projects he had going on the side as well.

On Thursday, Janet started her job at the BookEnd, but since her schedule conflicted with Norma's she either had to take the old pickup or have Ramona take her. Since Ramona had enough business and errands to keep her busy for a couple of hours, she took her in and dropped her off. That first day, Mr. Funkly spent two hours showing her the ropes and what was expected of her. When Ramona came by to pick her up, she had somewhat of an idea.

The next day, Norma's schedule was such that Janet could have the car and went in for the entire afternoon. Again Mr. Funkly worked with her and by the end of the afternoon, he turned her loose to assist customers. As she rang up her first sale, Mr. Funkly watched over her shoulder. Satisfied that she knew what to do, he observed from a distance for the rest of the afternoon. When Janet got home, she excitedly told Ramona and Norma all about it.

By the time she got home, Quinn and Sedric were already there, having caught a cab from the train station. They had stopped by on their way back to ship after being home on leave. They didn't have to be back aboard until Monday morning at eight o'clock and had the weekend to spend with Bonnie and Jolene.

Sedric was in the shower when the girls showed up. They had to wait for him to get dressed while Quinn had his shower. In the meantime, Bonnie, Jolene and Norma where chatting away. With a house full and all of the commotion, Ramona hadn't heard the Staggerwing as it circled to land.

Sheffield came through the front door with his duffel bag in one hand. "I didn't know we were having a party."

"Oh high Babe. Welcome home."

"Whats going on?" he asked as he took her in his arms for a hug and a kiss.

"The boys got in a little while ago and the girls are here so they can take them out this evening."

"I had forgotten that that was this weekend."

"Don't worry. I bet we won't see much of them. We're just a pit stop for them while they're here."

"What's this in the back yard?" Sheffield asked as he lead her over to the window.

"Didn't I tell you about it?"

"About what?"

"I guess I didn't mention it to you last weekend when you were home, we got so busy with Morris and Sheila. Anyway, do you remember when we went up to Warm Springs and I said that I bet Ray could build something for me. Well he is. That is going to be my bathhouses."

"I vaguely remember you saying something but I didn't know that you were serious. You could have told me."

"I'm sorry Sheffield, I guess I just got busy and forgot. While you were away in Korea, I just got used to doing things on my own. I hope you're not upset with me."

"No. I could never be upset with you. You just caught me off guard. So show me what you've got going on."

Ramona grabbed the plans and took him out on the deck and showed him what she had envisioned.

When they came back inside, The two sailors were ready and were just leaving with the girls. Being on foot, they went in Bonnie's car. Since she was Quinn's date, she let him drive. She slid over next to him and Sedric and Jolene got in the back seat. Since meeting Bonnie, Quinn had gotten over Norma.

While Ramona and the girls set dinner on the table, Sheffield changed out of his uniform. Over dinner, Janet finally got the opportunity to tell him all about her new job. He was proud of her and assured her that she would do well with it. He then asked Norma about her week. Naturally Wade was coming by later to pick her up to go out.

After dinner, Janet did dishes while Sheffield and Ramona went outside so he could look a around. Hand in hand the walked out to the pasture. "I can't believe how much the calves have grown in a week." Sheffield said as they looked over the fence. Then pointing at the hay field he added, "The hay will be ready to mow again in a couple of weeks. Its a good thing that Craig will be back by then."

Janet got lost in her latest book and Sheffield and Ramona sat out on the porch in the long June

evening. The next day was the first day of summer so the sun didn't set until a quarter to nine. Sheffield told her how the trials had been moved back to the first week in July. In planning ahead, they made plans to go see Harvey for the 4th of July.

Then Sheffield said, "Its going to be kind of slow this week, Why don't you come up and join me later in the week and spend the weekend with me?"

"That sounds like a rendezvous. The girls are old enough to fend for themselves for a few days. I could drive up on Thursday and come home on Monday morning."

It was warm and they talked as darkness gathered and the stars began to come out. Finally around ten they went in to get ready for bed. Janet had already turned in for the night. Around eleven thirty, they heard Norma come in, so they went out to see how her evening went and to say goodnight. About forty five minutes later they heard Quinn and Sedric come in. They rattled a round for a few minutes before they settled in for the night.

Being the first day of summer and therefore the longest day of the year, it began to get light early. Even though it was late when he got to sleep, Sheffield began to stir. He rolled over and snuggled up behind Ramona and put his arm around her.

She rolled over and kissed him. "Good morning, Babe." she said. "Did you sleep good?"

"Yes, I did. How about you?"

"Never better." She said. By the time they had showered and got dressed, it was six thirty and the sun had been up for a good half an hour, but no one else was.

The first one to show themselves was Janet, who came down a few minutes later. After taking care of her chickens, she went to work helping Ramona with breakfast and before long the aroma of bacon wafted throughout the house. They weren't any too quiet as they mixed up a big batch of buttermilk pancakes and had the batter ready to pour onto the griddle.

That got the attention of the rest of those in the house. Norma came downstairs, dressed and ready for the day. Normally she came down in her nightgown, but she didn't want their house guests to catch her in it or with her hair still a mess. Finally Quinn and Sedric came stumbling out. That was the signal to start the pancakes and several fresh eggs that Janet had just gathered.

After breakfast, Quinn and Sedric thanked Ramona for breakfast and complimented her on how good it was. Then first one and then the other took a shower and got ready for the day. Before long, Bonnie and Jolene showed up and after a few minutes, whisked the guys away on an all day outing that they had planned.

Both Norma and Janet had to go to work. Since Norma had to leave first, she took the car. Sheffield drove Janet into town and dropped her off and went to see his mother. That evening, Norma went out with

Wade and Janet went roller skating with Olivia Furness, so Sheffield and Ramona went out to dinner and took in a movie at the Grandin Theater. Janet was already home when Sheffield and Ramona returned and Norma got home soon after that, but Quinn and Sedric didn't come in until quite late again.

Even though they got in late, on Sunday morning they got up and went to Priesthood Meeting with Sheffield. Roger Rowan pulled him aside and asked, "Jolene and Bonnie have been spending a lot of time with these guys and are planning to go spend a weekend in Norfolk with them. How far can I trust them with my daughter and niece?"

"About as far as I trust your boy, Wade, with my daughter." Sheffield answered.

"And how far is that?"

"Completely." Sheffield said. "When Ramona and the girls came to see me in Japan for Christmas, I had them take the girls somewhere to keep them entertained for a while. A couple of ruffians tried to horn in on them. These guys came to rescue of their honor like true gentlemen. I wouldn't worry too much."

"That's good to hear." Roger said, relieved. Jolene seems to really like Sedric. In fact they're having dinner with us and Tom's family this afternoon. Wade is bringing Norma too. Why don't you, Ramona and Janet join us?"

"That sounds good. When I go home to get them, I'll ask them."

When Sheffield went home after the meeting, Quinn and Sedric stayed at the church to wait for Bonnie and Jolene. When Sheffield, Ramona and the girls got there, they were already paired up. It looked like both both girls were completely enamored with the two sailors. It was obvious that the feelings were mutual.

After Sunday School, Quinn and Sedric went home with the Rowans. Sheffield, Ramona and the girls went home first and went out to the Rowans later. The gathering was like a good old fashioned Sunday picnic. They weren't the only Brasons there since Walt's daughter Sylvia was married to Tom's son, Scott. And now it looked like a real possibility that one day, Norma might marry into the Rowan family as well. For now, however, they seemed to be taking time to build their relationship and really get to know each other.

On the other hand, it looked like Sedric and Jolene, in particular, were getting pretty serious after only knowing each other for a month. As it turned out, he actually knew Chantelle's family in Rexburg. He had gone to her parent's home on a number of occasions when Read and Craig were staying with them.

After an enjoyable afternoon, everyone went back to the church for Sacrament Meeting. Everyone in the branch had noticed the Rowan cousins and their sailors by now. After church, they brought them back to the Two Star Ranch to gather their things and take them to the train station for the last train to Norfolk which would get them back to the ship with a few hours to spare. But before leaving, they made

arrangements for the girls to come to Norfolk in two weeks to spend the 4th of July with them.

When Ramona saw Sheffield off on Monday morning, she was excited about the prospect of joining him later in the week. In the meantime she had plenty of things to keep her busy. Ray came back the next day and got started on the bathhouse in earnest. She went into the Austin Brothers Building Supply Store and picked out the tile for the tub. She wanted a mural across the back wall, just like the ones in Japan and looked through some samples of wallpaper murals looking for one of Mount Fuji, but what she found was even better; she found one of Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach.

On Thursday morning she packed her bags for her trip. But first, met with her presidency before Relief Society. After coming home and having lunch, she got ready to go and spend a few days with Sheffield. The girls were alright with being left at home to fend for themselves. Besides they both were scheduled to work Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for a few hours each day. Since Ramona was taking the Roadmaster and the girls were on different schedules, she let Norma drive her car so Janet could have theirs.

After a four and half hour drive, she arrived at Sheffield's apartment at around six o'clock. After bringing in her things and getting settled, they went downstairs to the Moncur's apartment for dinner. The Kirks were also there as were the Elders. Needless to say, their small apartment was crowded as they had a cozy dinner. Ramona had only met Anita once, when the Reprisal returned from overseas and this was the first time that she had met Daphne. She had met both Phil and Dan in Japan.

After dinner and the dishes had been washed and put away, the missionaries held a cottage meeting. Phil had began investigating the church since February when he approached Sheffield and asked if he could attend church with him. Soon after that, Anita began meeting with the missionaries at the disapproval of both their families. They had both progressed independently and were considering being baptized, but they wanted to wait until they could do it together. That night they announced that they were ready to be baptized and the date was set for Saturday.

Sheffield took Friday off since everything was set for the trials the next week. They spent Friday and Saturday visiting some of their favorite places in Washington as well as some new ones they hadn't been to before, as there is so much in the city. On Saturday evening, they attended the baptism for Phil and Anita Moncur at the Washington Tabernacle at 16th and Columbia Road. During all the time that they had lived in the Washington area, they had never been by there.

The tabernacle, completed in 1933, strongly resembled the design of the Salt Lake Temple. It was constructed with granite brought from a quarry in Utah and featured a single spire reminiscent of the main spire on temple. At the top of the spire stood a replica of the angel Moroni. It was also the only meetinghouse in the area that had a baptismal font.

That evening, there were seven other people being baptized and each had a number of people in attendance to show their support. In the case of the Moncurs, Dan and Daphne Kirk were there along with a good number of people from the Arlington Ward. There were so many that the meeting was held in the chapel, with its large, leaded white glass chandelier shaped in the form of a cross. It had a spread of approximately fourteen feet and a drop of four feet.

The entire front row of the chapel was filled with people dressed in white, including Sheffield. The service was a typical baptismal service, with an prayer, a hymn, and a short talk. Then the baptismal candidates were taken in groups of two or three to the font along with those who were there with them. In one case it was a family of four.

When it was time for the Moncurs, they and their company were lead to the font. Sheffield stepped down into water first and then assisted Anita down in to the water. With Dan, a priest, standing as one of the witnesses, Sheffield baptized her. She left the font and stood by as Phil entered the water and he too was baptized by Sheffield.

While Sheffield, Phil, Anita, and the others changed into dry clothes, the rest returned to the chapel where hymns were being softly played on the organ. Eventually they returned and shortly after them, the last group also returned to the chapel. There was another short talk and then the confirmations took place. Again Sheffield had been asked to perform the confirmations, assisted by the two missionaries and the Bishop of the Arlington Ward.

After the service, the three couples, including the two younger couple's children went to a family friendly restaurant for something to eat. On Sunday Sheffield and Ramona attended the Arlington Ward with the Moncurs and Kirks.

That brought an end to their rendezvous in Washington. On Monday morning Ramona took Sheffield to the airport to fly to Norfolk in his Staggerwing and Ramona drove home.

Commander Kirk, Lieutenant Moncur and Yeoman Walinsky flew down on a military transport and when they arrived, Sheffield was already aboard the Crown Point. The modifications looked suitable for the test with a portion of the deck angled to starboard. It looked skaddywhompus, as Sheffield put it, but it looked like it would do the job. The temporary extension was a large triangular steel plate supported by braces protruding from the hull at the hangar deck and topped with wood planking. A seam was all that showed the original edge of the deck.

The Crown Point pulled away from the pier and accompanied by one destroyer and put to sea. The plan was the same as the one that had been aborted two weeks earlier. Once about fifty miles off shore, the the planes from Patuxent River circled around and began making their touch and go landings. Sheffield

and his staff, who observed from PriFly, were quite pleased with the way the angled extension was working. Over the next three days, the same variations of approaches that had been tried on the Midway were used to prove the theory on a smaller ship.

When the carrier returned to Norfolk on Wednesday afternoon, she was released from the trials and the temporary white deck markings were washed off. However the extension was retained, in case there was a need for further testing. If nothing more, it would provide extra parking space on the flight deck. That gave Captain McLearner twelve days to finish preparing for the ship's shakedown cruise, as time was needed to carry out carrier qualifications for her new air group.

Sheffield gave his staff the rest of the week off to celebrate the 4th of July with orders to report back on Monday the 7th. After wrapping up his business, Sheffield flew home to Roanoke that afternoon. When he got home he found that Craig had already mowed and raked the hay. He had arrived home from his month of reserve duty late Sunday evening, but at the last minute, his squadron had been called up for active duty and he had to report back on the 7th as well.

As it turned out, his squadron had been substituted for the attack squadron that was originally slated for the Crown Point. The air group was entirely composed of reserve squadrons as it was. They would sail with the Crown Point on her shakedown cruise in mid July, but first they had to participate in carrier qualifications. After the six week shakedown cruise in the Caribbean, the ship would return to the yard for a period of time before they would begin training for deployment.

With Craig on active duty for the foreseeable future, his plans abruptly changed and he had to defer his senior year at Virginia Tech. All of a sudden he was in a rush to get his affairs at home in order during the few days before he had to report for duty. At least he would be stationed in Norfolk for the time being and would be able to come home from time to time when he returned in late August.

The other thing that was new since he had been home last was Ramona's bathhouse. It sat off the back porch and was at the same level. The ten feet by eight feet room had a door off the deck that opened inward. Above the door on the inside was a sign that read "Bathe Together – Friends Forever" which was in reference to the custom in Japan. To the immediate right was an open shower stall with two shower heads. To the left was the changing area with a bench, hooks for clothes and towels and a full length mirror. Underneath the wooden floor was a high capacity water heater.

Across the back of the room was the tub. It measured seven feet long, five feet wide, three and half feet deep with a six inch wide ledge all the way around with a mural of Diamonds Head and Waikiki Beach across the wall at the far end above the tub. Three steps lead down into the tub and there was a bench seat that went all the way around.

There was a retractable skylight in the ceiling and shuttered windows to either side. A canvas cover

could be pulled over the tub to keep the water clean in between uses. The tub drained through an underground pipe that lead out to the garden.

Ramona posted a set of rules that were very similar to those dictated by Japanese costumes. Namely everyone must shower with soap before entering the tub, no soap was allowed in the tub and no horseplay or monkey business. Bathing suits were required in mixed company except for the case of a married couple, otherwise they were optional if all participants were of the same gender. Ramona and the girls had already tried it out Japanese style, as Ramona called it, and found it very relaxing being unencumbered by their bathing suits, just as they had done at the sentō in Tokyo. Now that Sheffield was home, they too had a relaxing bath that night before going to bed.

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The building at 202 Market Street is as described and currently houses a restaurant. It is very similar to a building I was considering for my bookstore.

The description of the USS Crown Point is actually what was to have been the USS Reprisal, CV-35. The information is accurate up to being reordered. After the inspection of the hull, consideration was given to completing the ship but nothing became of it and the hull was sold for scrap. The name Crown Point was actually first assigned to what became the USS Langley and later what became the USS Leyte. Crown Point was a battle in the Revolutionary War.

The tabernacle in Washington DC was as described. The final service in the Washington chapel was held on August 31, 1975. In September 1977, after the building had stood vacant for two years, it was sold to the Columbia Road Recording Studios, Inc. The next day it was sold again – to the Unification Church. Before the building was turned over to the new owner, the statue of Moroni was taken down.