

Chapter II Transition

August 10, 1953 – September 8, 1953

On Monday morning Sheffield flew back to Washington for the week. Now that they had filed their report, he and his staff had to box up all of their documentation and other material so it could be sent to the archives. Even before meeting with his staff, he called Admiral Ward to decline the offer. Admiral Ward understood and said, "I'll go ahead and authorize your retirement then, it will be effective this Saturday on the fifteenth. Now, in the event that you might decide to decline the job, I did some calling around and we're going to give you that third star anyway as a token of appreciation for your cumulative twenty seven years of service and all that you have done to promote naval aviation."

"Thank you for understanding, sir. And thank you for the promotion."

"You've earned both your retirement and that third star. It's the Navy who says thank you. Can you and your family be here on the fourteenth for a formal award ceremony?"

"Yes sir. We'll be here. Thank you again, sir."

When Sheffield returned to his office, Commander Kirk, Lieutenant Moncur, and Petty Officer Walinsky were busy assembling boxes in preparation for storing everything away. After placing a telephone call to Ramona, he joined them. With a clear mind, the rest of that week Sheffield and his staff boxed everything up and sent it off to be stored and closed down their office.

On Thursday afternoon the entire family, including his mother flew to Washington. Little Geannie was almost immediately lulled to sleep in Edith's arms by the hum and motion of the plane. When they arrived they took a cab to the same hotel where Sheffield was staying. Ramona naturally would stay with Sheffield in his room, while she got another room for Norma, Janet, and his mother, and third room for Craig, Edith and Little Geannie.

That evening the Brasons were joined in a private banquet room by the Kirks and Moncurs and Yeoman Walinsky. Dan and Phil were also retiring from the Navy and Petty Officer Walinskiy had already been reassigned elsewhere and had thirty days off before reporting for duty. Sheffield used the occasion to thank his family for their support over the last two years as well as express his appreciation to the three men who had worked tirelessly in assisting him in his assignment. Like Morris Gover, Phil Moncur had been a trusted aid.

Phil and Anita asked Ramona about the house in Salem and expressed interest in it. Regardless, they had decided to settle in Roanoke and were bringing everything they had with them on Saturday. On the other hand, Dan and Daphne were returning to their home in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The next day was Sheffield's promotion and retirement ceremony. It was held in a conference room at the Pentagon under the direction of Vice Admiral Ward himself. First, Lieutenant Phil Moncur was officially

retired from active service, having completed his six year commitment to the Navy Reserve. Next, Lieutenant Commander Dan Kirk was also officially retired from active duty following his tour of duty in both the Pacific during the Second World War and a during the Korean War.

Then it was Sheffield's turn. First, he was promoted to Vice Admiral. Ramona and Ellen had the privilege of pinning the tree star device on the collars of his shirt. Next he was presented with the Navy Distinguished Service medal, an honor that he wasn't expecting. Admiral Ward read the letter of citation that accompanied the letter.

“The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Distinguished Service Medal to Rear Admiral Sheffield Brason, United States Navy, for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility to the Government of the United States as Commander Carrier Division One and as Commander Task Force Seventy-Seven during operations against hostile North Korean and Chinese Communist Forces from 18 August 1951 to 2 April 1952, Rear Admiral Brason was in command of a striking force of aircraft carriers, heavy support ships and screening vessels. He displayed a high quality of leadership, initiative and professional skill in directing highly effective air and sea operations against communist forces in Korea. He contributed greatly to the planning and advance preparations for a stepped-up aerial assault which materialized in the fall of 1951 with coordinated Navy-Air Force strikes against vital hydro-electric plants in North Korea and against other vital targets. He took full advantage of the mobility of the task force under his command, he conducted successful interdiction operations which resulted in the infliction of heavy casualties upon the enemy, its leadership, and in the destruction of important industrial and supply centers, railway tracks, bridges, transportation junctions and staging points. In addition, he initiated aerial photography of front-line enemy concentrations, resulting in a more effective use of carrier aircraft. Through his outstanding professional skill, sound judgment and tireless devotion to duty, Rear Admiral Brason contributed materially to the success of friendly forces in Korea and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Navy.”

He concluded, “And it is signed, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States.”

The medal was the last of several to be awarded to Admiral Brason during his long career. The rack of ribbons on his chest contained seventeen ribbons in five rows, including a double purple heart. The campaign ribbons bore a total of thirteen battle stars, eleven for the Second World War and two for the Korean War.

Admiral Ward thanked him for his twenty seven years of cumulative service beginning with his commission as an Ensign in June of 1921 through August 1953, with the exception of five years in retirement from 1946 to 1951. He then rendered one final salute to Vice Admiral Sheffield Brason and he was formally retired from the United States Navy.

Following the ceremony, they were driven to the airport where they had lunch before boarding the flight back to Roanoke. When they returned home, Sheffield would never have to leave his home and family again to answer the call of his country. Ramona and the girls accompanied Sheffield in the Staggerwing, while Craig, Edith, Little Geannie and Ellen returned on a commercial flight.

Saturday was a busy day, as they were inundated with company. Quinn and Sedric came for the weekend before continuing home on leave. They wouldn't be much trouble as they just needed a place to sleep. The purpose of their stay was to see Bonnie and Jolene.

About mid afternoon, Phil and Anita and their two children showed up with a small U Haul trailer containing all of their possessions. They unhooked the trailer and left it parked in driveway, while Ramona took them to see the house. It was just right for them and they decided on the spot to buy it from her. In the meantime they stayed in the guest room until they could make the necessary arrangements.

Later, towards evening, Quinn and Sedric showed up with Bonnie and Jolene, each sporting a diamond engagement ring. Congratulations were definitely in order. When asked about wedding dates, Quinn and Bonnie planned on being married in the Logan Temple at Christmastime. Sedric and Jolene wanted to get married in the Idaho Falls Temple next June after he was discharged from the Navy.

With the announcements, with which no one was surprised, everyone turned to Wade and Norma and wanted to know when they were going to make an announcement.

"We've talked about it." Norma admitted. "We're thinking sometime after Wade graduates from Roanoke College."

On Sunday morning, after Priesthood Meeting, President Claude Nalder, the Mission President, asked Sheffield and Ramona to meet with him after Sunday School in the district president's office. Without knowing why, Sheffield naturally agreed to the meeting. When he went home to pick up Ramona and the girls, he told Ramona about the appointment and wondered what it was all about.

After Sunday School, Norma and Janet waited while Sheffield and Ramona went into meet with President Nalder. He had only been the Mission President for a year and had met Sheffield but hadn't gotten to know him, but he knew Ramona from her position as the Branch Relief Society President.

President Nalder spent a few minutes visiting with Sheffield and asked about his future plans now that he was permanently retiring from the military. Sheffield told him that he was going to return to his coaching and teaching position at Jefferson High School.

"I'm glad to finally get to know you, Brother Brason. I have heard so much about you. But the reason I wanted to meet with you is more than just getting acquainted. As you know, for the last almost two years,

your brother Walt has been serving as the First Counselor in the Branch Presidency. He has done an outstanding job there, but we have extended a call to him to serve in another calling. President Brown has recommended your name and you have been approved to fill that position. Therefore, Brother Brason, I extend to you a call to serve as the First Counselor in the Roanoke Branch Presidency with President Brown and Brother Preston. Will you accept the call?"

"You know, its kind of interesting, but while I was struggling with the decision of accepting a promotion and another three years in the Navy, I had made it matter of serious and fasting and prayer. Last Sunday morning when Walt stood up to conduct Priesthood Meeting, the Lord told me that I was needed here. I took that to mean to return to coaching, Now I can see that He had something else in store for me. So to answer your question, yes. I will accept the call."

Then President Nalder turned to Ramona and asked, "Will you support your husband in this new calling?"

"Yes, of course." She answered.

Turning his attention back to Sheffield, President Nalder asked, "Do you know what it entails?"

"From knowing Walt, I think I have an idea. I'm no where near as qualified for the job as he was, but I'm sure he'll do well wherever he serves."

"Just so you understand, your first and foremost responsibility is to support and offer counsel to President Brown. In addition you will be the point of contact for the Young Men's President and the Teacher's Quorum. In addition you'll be the point of contact for he Sunday School President. It will involve some extra Sunday meetings as well as on Tuesday night. Do you have any questions?"

"No, sir." Sheffield said. "I'm, sure Jack will fill me in on what he wants me to do."

"Excellent. You will be presented for a sustaining vote this afternoon in Sacrament Meeting. Then immediately after the meeting we'll set you apart."

When Sheffield and Ramona left the President's office, he had plenty on his mind, feeling a little overwhelmed. "You'll do a great job, Babe. You've been a leader all of your life. This will be no different." She squeezed his arm and added, "I'm so proud of you."

"I suppose your right. It's just that this is a little out of my element."

"Nonsense. I've seen how you were with the guys in your serviceman's group and your wrestling team. You have a natural ability to be a leader. Now I know why your answer was that you are needed here."

"Again, I suppose you're right. It will take some getting used to."

That afternoon during the business portion of Sacrament Meeting, President Nalder conducted the business. First he released Ralph Anderson from the District Council and Brother Walt Brason as the First

Counselor in the Branch Presidency and asked for a vote of thanks.

Next he proposed that Brother Brother Walt Brason be sustained as member of the District Council and called for a sustaining vote, which was unanimous. Then he asked for Sheffield to stand and said, "It is proposed that Brother Sheffield Brason be sustained to serve as the First Counselor in the Branch Presidency. All in favor please manifest it." Again the sustaining vote was unanimous. President Nalder then invited Sheffield to come and take a seat on the stand with the branch presidency. Following the meeting, the entire Brason Clan assembled in the council room where President Nalder set the Brason brothers apart in their respective callings.

On Tuesday night, Sheffield attended his first presidency meeting and learned what his responsibilities were and settled into the business at hand. He came home not quite so overwhelmed by his new assignment. After relinquishing his old responsibilities, he now had to transition to his new ones.

Sheffield took it easy all that week. He said that he was on vacation without ever leaving home. Oh there was a little work involved as the hay needed taken care of. He mowed it on Monday and baled it on Saturday. While he was baling, Craig and Wade with help from Janet and Ramona hauled it in out of the field and put it in the stack.

During the week while the hay was drying, the entire family spent a couple of days and one night at the cabin. Wade came up and joined them for the evening and went back down the mountain after dark. Other than that, Sheffield and Ramona went out on Red and Roxy early one morning and to a drive in movie one evening.

On Sunday morning while getting ready to go to his presidency meeting, Sheffield asked Ramona, "What would you think if I were to shave off my mustache?"

Ramona raised her eyebrows at the question as she tried to picture him without it. "I don't know. I've never seen you without it." she said. "Why?"

"I guess you haven't, have you. I grew it to show up another pilot in my squadron who always had to be better than anyone else, especially me. He has the scraggiest mustache that you've ever seen. He was gone for a week and I figured that in that amount of time, I could out do him. Geannie let me do it an when he came back, he never said a word, but showed up the next day without his. I kind of liked it and wanted to keep it. Geannie said that it had to pass the kissing test first. She kissed me several times, I'm not sure if she was trying to decide or if she just liked kissing me. Anyway she said I could keep it so I did. That was probably twenty eight years ago."

"So why all of a sudden do you want to shave it off now? It's just a part of you."

"I was thinking that now I'm retired from the navy, it would be a way to have a fresh start."

"I suppose, if you want to."

"Okay, but don't say anything. I want to see how long it takes for anyone to notice."

A few minutes later he returned with a clean-shaven upper lip. "What do you think?" he asked.

"I'm not sure. I always thought it made you look rather dashing. I remember the first time I met you when Geannie had me come over to meet Tom. When I walked in and saw the two of you, I hoped that you were him." She looked at him closer and said, "Come here. Let me see if it passes the kissing test."

After one kiss, she said. "I'm not sure, Babe. Let me kiss you again."

She kissed him again, and again, and again. "I think I could get used to it. What do you think?"

To be honest with you, it's going to take some getting used to myself."

Sheffield finished getting ready for the day, and left before anyone else had a chance to see him. Ramona saw him next just when they arrived at the church just before Sunday School. "So has anyone noticed?" she asked.

"If they have no one has said anything."

Janet took one look at him and noticed right off. She thought that he should have kept it. He kept getting looks from people, particularly his family and close friends. They were trying to figure out what was different. His mother asked if he'd lost weight. One by one one people caught on and commented about it, some one way and some the other.

That afternoon as Sheffield sat on the stand with the branch presidency during sacrament meeting, he got a whole new perspective on the size of the branch. In the seven years since they first began attending the branch as investigators, it had grown considerably. A good share of that growth was the addition of the Brasons and the Austins. In the two years since Sheffield returned to active duty, it had continued to grow and he didn't know many of the newer members, but they seemed to know who he was. There was now close to five hundred names on the rolls, the size of an actual ward, with about sixty percent of them regular attenders. On any given week there were close to two hundred fifty in attendance. All ready the new chapel was getting a little crowded. The Roanoke Branch was by far the largest branch in the district and the mission for that matter. That Sunday, one more family, the Moncurs were added to the branch.

By the end of the day, Sheffield's secret was out, with mixed reviews. Of those willing to comment, the opinion was about evenly split between those who thought he looked better without it and those who thought he should have kept it.

On Monday Quinn and Sedric left as they continued on their way home, taking their fiancées with them. Phil and Anita went to the bank and made arrangements to buy Ramona's house and went ahead and

moved in while the deal went to closing. They seemed quite happy with their new home, both with the house and its location. Now he had to find a job.

Knowing that he would need a job, Ramona had kept her eyes open and had identified a few leads that he would qualify for. One was for the parks and recreation department for the City of Roanoke. Another was for the local field office director for newly elected Representative Richard Poff. Yet another was a position for a recruiter at Roanoke College. Phil called on all of those places and others during that first week.

Meanwhile Sheffield was busy getting ready to go back to school. He had a new textbook to review and hire a new assistant coach. Since he missed the back to school day for teachers earlier in the month, he went in and made up the session. Not much had changed and it was as if he hadn't taken those two years off. Ramona was a little disappointed that she wouldn't be there during Janet's senior year, but her time was now free to pursue her own business.

When Sheffield came home that afternoon, he had a proposition for his family. "While I was at school today, I found out that there is a foreign exchange student without a host family. She is all set to come, but at the last minute the family had some sort of an emergency that wouldn't let them go through with it. What would you say if we were to do it?"

"Are you serious?"

"Sure. When he gets back from his drill weekend, Craig and Edith will be moving back to Blacksburg so he can finish school and his room would be free."

"What do you girls think of the idea?" Ramona asked. "After all, you'll be sharing the upstairs with them."

"It might be kind of fun." was Janet's reply.

"Do you know anything about them?" Ramona asked.

"As a matter of fact, I just happen to have a copy of her profile right her."

"So its a girl." Janet said with even more enthusiasm, having missed that fact a moment earlier.

Sheffield continued, "Her name is Takara Yamashita form Nagoya, Japan. She is an eighteen year old orphan and is quite good at the piano. She speaks English and is a very good student. Here's a picture of her."

"She's quite lovely." Ramona observed. "But Sheffield, how do you feel about having a Japanese girl living in our home? After all it was the Japanese who killed Geannie and the kids. Then you were responsible for sending air attacks against their homeland. Might there be a conflict here?"

"This girl didn't kill them. Early on I learned to separate the people from those in their government who were responsible for the war."

“But what if it was one of the planes that you sent in on a bombing mission that made her an orphan?”

“Obviously she must have considered these things before she decided to come to the United States. Her profile goes on to say that she wants to spend her senior year immersed in American culture. If the fact that I bombed her city doesn't bother her, I'd be happy to have her in our home. You were there at Pearl Harbor, do you have any animosity toward the Japanese?”

“I did until we went to Tokyo for Christmas. Talking to that woman in the bathhouse removed any feelings that I was holding on to. I found her to be a woman first and foremost, not all that much different from me. If Takara is comfortable with us, I'm alright with it. It would be nice to have another girl in the house. That way we can gang up on you even more.”

“Alright then, it's settled. Tomorrow we can go fill out the paper work at the district office.”

When they contacted the lady responsible for finding homes for the foreign exchange students, no one had yet come forward to offer their home to Takara. Since the need was urgent, their application was expedited and they were approved. Craig and Edith had found an apartment in Blacksburg and moved out, so their bedroom was fixed up and made ready for Takara.

There was excitement and anticipation as they waited for Takara's arrival. During that time, Phil and Anita stopped by with some exciting news of their own. Phil had received a job offer as the assistant city manager for the City of Salem. Sheffield had narrowed down the field of candidates for an assistant coach and had recommended Guy Warfman. Coach Warfman had been the coach at Bedford, but wanted to move up to a larger school and a better salary. He was glad to accept the job and Sheffield had already begun working with him in preparing for the upcoming season.

Takara arrived in Roanoke on Thursday the 3rd of September which gave her a few days before school started to settle in and get acquainted with the Brasons and they with her. Takara was quite small in stature, about five feet three inches tall and weighed approximately one hundred twenty pounds. She had all of the typical Japanese features. She had a longer oval shaped face with medium features including dark eyes that slanted upwards a little. Her nose was more pronounced with a low bridge. Her short black hair was styled much like that of Elizabeth Taylor. Her frame had good posture and her figure was that of a mature woman, in proportion to her height. When she first spoke, it was obvious that she spoke excellent English and had very polite mannerisms.

After the initial introductions, they took her home to get her settled. The rest of the day was spent getting to know her, and she had a very tragic story to tell. “There were three children in our family,” she began, “along with my father and mother and my grandparents who lived with us. My brother was five years

older than me and my sister was seven years older.

“We were a happy family before the war. My father worked at the Mitsubishi airplane factory not far from our home in Nagoya where he worked on the engine assembly line while my mother took care of the family. Just before the war began, he was drafted into the army at thirty four. In order to get by, my mother took his job at factory and my grandmother took care of us.

“Then one day in April when I was six, everything changed. It was a Saturday so we weren't in school but my mother had to work. I remember my grandmother pushing me in a swing when two big green airplanes flew right over the factory. In an instant there were explosions and a fire. My mother never came home from work that day.”

Sheffield cocked up with emotion. “I'm so sorry, Takara.” he said. “I have to tell you something and you might hate me for it. If so we'll find a new home for you. But those planes that bombed the factory in Nagoya, I was involved in the planning of that mission. At the time, I was on the ship that those planes took off from.”

Takara didn't say anything for a moment. “No, Mr. Brason, I don't hate you. It wasn't your fault. It wasn't the fault of the men in those airplanes. I'll explain later how I feel about it.”

“I'm glad that that you don't hate me. I need you to know something else. When your people attacked us in Hawaii on the first day of the war, my wife and children died.”

“I'm so sorry, Mr. Brason. I hope you don't hate me for that.”

“No, Takara, I don't hate you either. It wasn't you who did it. It was the Japanese government. It was my job to fight to defend our country and the attack on Japan that day was just part of the business of war.”

“So what happened after your mother died?” Ramona asked.

“My grandparents took care of us. My father came home to visit us from time to time when he could leave the army camp. Then one day he said goodbye to us because he was going off to fight in the war. We got a few letters from him after that but then we didn't here from him for a long time. One day, someone from the army came to our house and told us that he had died fighting and that we should be proud of him.”

“Oh my poor child.” Ramona interjected. “You lost both of your parents. Its a good thing that you had your grandparents. What happened to them?”

“For the next year or so, we were fine. Then one day in December, the bombers returned. This time there were many of them. Again they bombed the factory. After that, from time to time the bombers came back again and again. At school we had to hide under our desks when the sirens went off. By the time I was ten, my brother who was fifteen was forced to join the army and my sister who was seventeen was forced by the government to become what they called comfort women. Their job was to live close to the army camps so the soldiers could have women for sex.”

“Oh my.” Ramona gasped. “They forced her into prostitution. How awful. So what happened to your brother and sister.”

“I never saw either one of them again. The last I knew of my brother, he was being sent to Okinawa. And I never knew what happened to my sister. So now you see, that's why I blame the government for destroying our family, it wasn't the Americans. I don't hate the United States, I hate my own country.”

“What about your grandparents?”

“The city was being bombed quite often at the time. They were mostly after the factories but it wasn't safe anymore so the government moved all of the students and their teachers out of the cities and moved us into the countryside where we were safer. After the war was over and we could come home, our home and most of the city had been destroyed by fire. My grandparents weren't there, they must have died in the bombings. So I was all alone. I was only ten turning eleven but I hid in what was left of our house, forging for what food I could find. When the American soldiers came, they would give me food. This went on all through the winter.

“In the spring some American missionaries found me and brought me to their orphanage. It became my home and they became my family. There were many children who lived there and the missionaries started a school. I had missed an entire year of school so that is why I'm already eighteen and haven't graduated yet.

“That's where I learned to speak English. They told us what really went on in the war. I was so ashamed to be Japanese and I wanted to be like the American missionaries. They taught us all about America and what it was like. It sounded like the most wonderful place in the world. They even taught me about Jesus and I became a Christian.

“I have lived at the orphanage ever since and went to school there. When the opportunity came along to come to America as an exchange student for my senior year, I volunteered. I went through the process and got my visa and everything I needed. And now here I am.

“Thank you for being here for me when the other family canceled. I'm so happy to be in a real home with a real family after all of these years. I want to live like an American and do the things that Americans do. I promise I won't be any trouble for you.”

“You're no trouble at all.” Ramona assured her. “We're happy to make our home available to you. In fact it was all Sheffield's idea.”

With tears in her eyes, Takara threw her arms around Sheffield. “Thank you. Mr. Brason. Thank you.”

“Your certainly welcome, Takara. If your going to live here, please call me Sheffield.”

After listening to Takara's heart wrenching story, they told her about themselves and how they came to be a family. As they showed her around the house, her eyes lit up when she saw Geannie's old piano. "May I." she asked, gesturing toward the piano.

"By all means." Ramona nodded. "This is your home too."

Takara sat down and played a piece of music from memory. When she was finished, Norma sat down beside her on the piano bench and began playing. That connection formed an instant bond between them.

They took her outside to show her around the ranch. She was impressed by the cows and wanted to ride one of the horses sometime. After showing her around and were heading back into the house, Ramona showed her the bathhouse.

Takara was surprised. "Why do you have a sentō?"

Ramona told her about how it came to be.

"We had a sentō at the orphanage." Takara said. "All of the girls bathed together on one side while all of the boys bathed together on the other side."

"Well then, maybe after dinner, we girls can put it to good use."

Janet helped Takara get settled into her room while Ramona and Norma fixed super. By the time it was ready, Wade had come over. Upon meeting Takara, he began speaking to her in Japanese. No one really knew what they were talking about, but they carried on a conversation for several minutes. Wade hadn't had much opportunity to use the language since returning home from his mission. He had been looking forward to talking to her ever since he found out that she was coming. Another instant bond was formed.

After dinner, the bonding continued in Ramona's bathhouse as Ramona, Norma, Janet, and Takara shut and locked the door behind them, removed their clothes and hung them up, showered, and settled into a nice long soak in the hot water. Sitting next to Ramona, Takara's skin was just a little more tan, with a slightly lighter undertone. They talked for more than an hour about all kinds of things, mostly what she could expect at school and the things they wanted to do together. By the time they got out and got dressed, they had got to know each other even better. The sign above the door proved to be true, "Bathe together, Friends forever". That night before going to bed, Takara joined the family for prayer and went to bed feeling very much at home in her new home, for the time being anyway.

The next afternoon, Sheffield, Ramona, and Janet showed Takara around the area and showed her where the school was and the various attractions around Roanoke and Salem. The tour included a stop at the Pizza Joint. Takara had never had pizza before and she loved it. Then in the evening, Takara experienced another American pastime – the drive in theater. In Japan she came to love American movies, but watching

it from a car was something she had never imagined. That night, they saw "Roman Holiday" starring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn.

The next step in getting Takara acclimated to her new surroundings was to involve her with Janet's friends. Janet and Takara picked up Olivia and Beverly and went roller skating. That was another new experience for Takara. The girls were patient with her and taught her how to stand up on skates. At first she could move as long as she was holding Janet's hand. Before long she was confident enough to let go. After falling on her bottom a number of times, she began to get the hang of it.

After the roller rink, they went to the new A&W drive in for something to eat. The drive in restaurant began catching on across the country after the Second World War and was yet another way in which Americans bonded with their cars. They pulled in and parked under the awning and a carhop came out to the car and took their order.

Takara had been introduced to hamburgers by the missionaries at the orphanage, but french fries were something new to her and she wanted to try them. A few minutes later, the carhop returned with their order and hooked the tray to the driver's side window, which was rolled up only a couple of inches. The hamburger was better than anything she had eaten in Japan, and she really liked the french fries. The only American soft drink she had been exposed to was Coca-Cola, which she really didn't care for; but the frosty mug of A&W root beer was something else. She was really loving being in America, with all that it had to offer.

Next they introduced her to miniature golf. Here too, she had to be shown what to do. On the first few holes she didn't do very well, as she was still learning. Toward the end she was able to get the ball to go into the cup with a stroke or two over par.

All the while she was getting to know Janet better. She realized that she would have to lean on her to learn her way around. Janet was so kind and patient with her. She really felt included by Olivia and Beverly as well and got to know them too.

The real bonding occurred when they came home and spent an hour in or so in Ramona's bathhouse. Olivia and Beverly had already been brought into the sisterhood and were comfortable with and actually enjoyed "Japanese style". (Neither one of them had told their mothers about it.) After talking and laughing, when they got out Takara now had two more new friends who she could rely on.

Growing up in the orphanage, Takara was accustomed to attending church on Sunday. It was run by a nondenominational organization, so she hadn't been introduced to any particular religion. She had been taught from and was familiar with the Bible and believed in Jesus. When the Brasons got ready for church that day, they invited her to come with them. She didn't have to think twice and accepted the invitation and went to Sunday School. There she met the rest of the young people her age that Janet associated with.

Without exception, they were all friendly to her and made her feel welcome.

Later in the afternoon she went with them to Sacrament Meeting. It happened to be Sheffield first opportunity to conduct the meeting. He wanted to make sure he didn't flub up and had written everything down so he would do it right. Even at that, he stumbled once or twice. The congregation was forgiving and hardly noticed.

When the Sacrament was passed, Takara was accustomed to taking communion, so she wasn't hesitant when the tray was passed to her to take the Sacrament. Being the first Sunday in September, it was Fast Sunday. That meant that Sheffield was to lead out in being the first one to bear his testimony. He had done so rather infrequently over the years that he had been a member of the Church.

As the meeting progressed, Janet who on the other hand bore her testimony frequently, went up to the pulpit. She expressed her gratitude to and appreciation for her new friend from Japan. She went on to express gratitude for her family, the Church and what she believed in to be true.

Through out the day, Takara listened intently, but didn't say what she thought about it all. So much of it was new to her and she didn't understand much of it. That fact was overpowered by how she had a feeling unlike anything she had ever experienced before.

Takara had been introduced to the rest of the Brason's at church on Sunday, but it was on Monday when she really got to know them at the Labor Day picnic. As usual it was held in the trees in the pasture along the river. There were plenty of opportunities to interact over the food and while playing games. Takara was familiar with softball and when teams were chosen, she ended up on the opposite teams as Janet. She demonstrated her skill both at bat and in the outfield. Someone suggested that she tryout for the girls softball team at school.

As always, Sheffield had Red and Roxy saddled up for anyone who wanted to go for a ride. Takara really wanted to but felt intimidated by the big animals. She asked Sheffield to help her so he broke away from watching a game of horseshoes between Wade and Tim to help her.

He began by bringing Roxy to her. He told her, "First get to know her by gently stroking her face and talk softly to her."

"What do I say to her?"

"Anything. She's a good listener."

"Hello, Roxy. My name is Takara. Will you let me ride you?"

Sheffield encouraged her to pet her neck and shoulders too. Once she was comfortable he showed her how to mount up. She grabbed the saddle horn and placed her foot in the stirrup and pulled her self up and swung her leg around and planted herself in the saddle. Roxy just stood there while Takara got used to sitting on her back. When she was ready, Sheffield told her to hang on to the saddle horn and he began

leading the horse around.

After a few minutes of that, he dropped the reins, which told Roxy to stay put. Sheffield mounted up on Red and rode up alongside. He reached down for the reins and handed them to Takara and told her what to do. She nervously nudged Roxy with inside of her shins and the horse began to move. Riding along side, Sheffield showed her how to use the reins to turn, speed up, slow down, and stop.

Kind of like it was with rollerskating, it took some time to get the hang of it. As she got more accustomed to it, she got brave enough to bring Roxie up to a trot as they rode around the pasture. Takara thoroughly enjoyed yet another new experience. When she was ready to get off, Sheffield said, pointing across the river at the hills to the south, "Next time, we'll go for a ride through the hills."

By the end of the day, Takara had learned all of the names of the members of the Brason family and had most of the relationships figured out. Everyone had taken the opportunity to talk to her and got to know her.

On Tuesday, Ramona took Janet and Takara into town to do a little shopping and to get some last minute school supplies. The clothes that Takara brought with her were adequate, but not very stylish. Together Ramona and Janet helped her pick out some clothes to try on. She found several outfits that she liked and thought it was fun to try them on, but she told Ramona that she didn't have the money to pay for them. She was taken back at Ramona's generosity when she told her that she was buying them for.

That night when she got ready for bed, she set out what she wanted to wear the next day. She choose the red poodle skirt with the black treble clef and the black knit top.

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Promotions are a fairly common practice upon retirement from the military.

President Claude Wyatt Nalder was the President of the Central Atlantic States mission from 1952 to 1955.

U Haul was founded in 1945.

Two of the planes in the Doolittle Raid bombed the Mitsubishi factory in Nagoya. The next was a precision bombing on December 13, 1944, the target of which was the Mitsubishi military factory. On January 3, 1945 there was a general firebombing of the city. On January 14, 1945 Mitsubishi plants were attacked again. On March 11 or 12 (sources vary) and March 19, 1945 there were large air raids and widespread firebombing. On April 7, 1945, another precision bombing hit and destroyed most of the Mitsubishi Aircraft Engine Works. On May 14 and 16, 1945 there were large air raids and widespread firebombing that targeted the Mitsubishi factories and other war industries, the arsenal, railroad freight yards, and the seaport.

Comfort women were women and girls forced into the prostitution corps created by the Empire of Japan to serve the Japanese Armed Forces to provide "comfort" to soldiers.