

Chapter IX

A Very Good Year

July 9, 1955 – July 8, 1956

Later in the afternoon, when Sheffield and Ramona were alone, she made the comment, “Janet really seems to be smitten by Jerry, doesn't she.”

“I'd say. He's a good young man from a good family. She couldn't do much better.”

“I agree. The only thing is if they were to get married someday, he'd most likely cart her off to Utah.”

“Well that's the chance you take when you raise kids. They eventually go out on their own, wherever that may take them.”

“At least Craig and Norma are close.”

“For now.” Sheffield concluded. “Who knows where any of them might end up.”

“I'm afraid your right. For right now they're all here. Even Takara.”

Ever since Janet was given a clean bill of health from Dr. Mendon and he lifted the restriction of competing in track, she decided the tryout for the Ricks College track team in the fall. After missing two seasons, it was a long shot, but she was demerited to try. Every day, she went running to work on rebuilding her stamina and endurance.

While Janet had her heart set on trying out for the track team, Ramona had her mind set on something else. When Taraka announced that she was going to transfer to the Church College of Hawaii, she had been working on the idea of taking her over there and getting her settled. It had been a while since they had been to Paradise and she missed it and had been wanting to go back. Besides, they hadn't had a real vacation for a while. Sure they had been to a lot of places, but they were all for a reason. Yes, she admitted to herself, there was a reason for this trip too but it was the opportunity to go back that she had been looking for.

Her real estate investments had been brining in tremendous returns ever since she began buying and selling land, so she took some of the profit and set it aside for the trip. It wasn't hard to convince Janet and Takara, but Sheffield questioned the need at first.

After discussing it in her bath house, beneath the mural of Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach, he agreed that they should go. Once she had conquered his hesitation, she began making preparations for the trip which would culminate with dropping Janet off in Rexburg.

Meanwhile, Geoffrey and Teresa were growing like little weeds. They still looked alike and had similar temperaments. Anyone who didn't know any different would swear that they were twins. When placed in contact with each other, they even interacted as twins would react. At seven weeks old, the twin cousins were blessed in fast and testimony meeting by their respective fathers.

With summer slipping away, they did a lot as a family. Before long July was over too. At the end of

the month Sheffield and Ramona took Janet and Takara to the drive in to see "Mister Roberts". Ever since seeing the Mister Roberts Tribute on The Talk of the Town he wanted to see it. The movie was about an officer who yearns to go to battle but is stuck in the backwaters on a cargo ship.

From the very first moment that the Brasons met Takara, she was instantly part of their family. It was to be only for the nine months of the school year, but lasted for two years. In those two years, Takara had become completely Americanized and she hoped to never return to Japan and to one day become an American citizen. When she first arrived she was eighteen years old and now at twenty she would be leaving their home, but not their hearts. They still had her until they dropped her off in Hawaii.

Takara was particularly close to Janet. They had been like sisters right from the very beginning and she was instantly included into her circle of friends. On Sunday evening the 14th after Sacrament Meeting, the Brason family and the Roanoke Branch, where the war orphan from Japan had found a home, got to say goodbye. Many went out of their way to wish her well and many gave her going away gifts, mostly in the form of money.

On Monday morning Beverly and Olivia came for one last meeting of the sisterhood before going back to school. The sign above the door proved to be true, "Bathe Together – Friends for Ever". Following proper Japanese custom, they removed their clothes and hung them up on the hooks. After stepping into the shower, they got into the tub where they sat and talked for nearly two hours.

They reminisced about the good times that they had had. Ramona was right, they even looked back and laughed about the bat incident. They talked of their dreams and hopes and yes even their fears for the future, uncertain of what lay in store for any of them and where life might take them. They vowed that wherever they may end up that they were friends – no, sisters – forever and promised to stay in touch.

After getting out and getting dressed, some cake and ice cream was waiting for them. When it came time for Beverly and Olivia to leave, their eyes were filled with tears as they hugged their sister from Japan, not knowing if they would ever see her again. Takara vowed that somehow, someday, someday she would return to Roanoke to visit the Brasons and hoped that Beverly and Olivia would still be around.

Then it was time to leave. Sarah came and picked up Ellen to take her to stay with them for part of the time that Sheffield and Ramona would be gone. Then she would stay with Shenan and Emily for the other part. Wade broke away from the ranch and came over to drive them to the airport and drop them off. He was going to miss having someone to speak Japanese with. Thanks to her, he had managed to maintain his command of the language. Craig took his lunch break early and came and found them before they boarded their twelve o'clock flight for Washington.



It only took the twin engined American Airlines Convair CV-240 less than an hour to cover the distance between Woodrum Field and the Washington National airport. As arranged, Mace and Pat met them and took them to their home for the afternoon and evening for a good visit. Later in the evening, they took them back to the airport for their overnight flight to Los Angeles.

With their luggage already checked through to Honolulu, they simply had to go directly to the gate and wait for the boarding call. Waiting on the tarmac was one of the newer Douglas DC-7s, which was faster than its predecessor, the DC-6. The flight left Washington at ten fifteen p.m. and seven hours later landed in Los Angeles at three thirty a.m. Pacific Time. There was a forty five minute lay over, long enough to stretch their legs while the plane was refueled, before taking off again at four o'clock in the morning. What sleep they didn't get on the first leg of their flight, they had a chance to make up for it on the seven hour and twenty minute flight to Honolulu, which landed at eight thirty a.m. on the Tuesday morning.



Ramona had made her way back to Paradise. The last time she was there was with Norma and Janet on their way to and from Tokyo just over a year and a half earlier. At that time Ramona had arranged for an eight hour lay over. Janet was only twelve when Sheffield and Ramona had brought them on their family honeymoon after adopting them. Now at nineteen, she was bound to enjoy it even more. As for Takara, this was her first time in the Islands. Her flight from Tokyo had taken her by way of Anchorage, Alaska.

They stepped off the plane into a very beautiful Hawaiian morning where the greeters met them with "Alohas" and flower leis. The Brasons knew to breathe in the spirits of their greeters. Properly welcomed, they collected their luggage and checked out a rental car and drove through downtown Honolulu to Waikiki and the Halekulani Hotel and checked in.

The excitement of being there made up for what sleep they might not of had on the overnight flight. After putting away their clothes and having breakfast, the first order of business was to change into their bathing suits and step out of the hotel onto the beach.

For Takara, it was if she was in a dream world. Although there were some nice beaches near Nagoya, growing up in the orphanage she never had a chance to go. She had a vague memory of going to the beach with her family as a little girl. Janet and Takara raced headlong into the ocean and began playing

like a couple a children. Sheffield and Ramona joined them for a while before staking out a spot on the beach to watch the girls, enjoy the sun and surf, and talk.

It didn't take long for Janet and Takara to attract the attention of a couple of young men, but they quickly moved on when a couple of bikini clad girls came along.

The first three days were spent in Honolulu taking Takara to all of their favorite places and doing all of their favorite things. Ramona had to drive past where her beach house once stood. No visit to Hawaii for Sheffield and Ramona would be complete with out going to Pearl Harbor where they both endured the tragedy, devastation, and loss of that day. At the main gate, Sheffield showed his credentials that identified him as Vice Admiral Sheffield Brason, USN retired. If that wasn't enough, Ramona showed hers as well that identified her as a retired commander.

Once inside the base, Sheffield was provided a guide and complete access to anywhere he wanted to go. They took a barge across the harbor and passed close aboard the hulk of what was left of the Arizona visible just beneath the surface. Sheffield and Ramona stood in silence as they glided past the solemn reminder of the Day of Infamy that they had both been a part of. They remembered. They remembered not only those who were entombed in the sunken wreck and and all of the other hundreds who died that day, but they especially remembered Geannie, Sandy, and Austin.

For Janet, it brought to life the reality of the what she had learned in school and more importantly from her mom and dad. For Takara it brought a sense of shame for what her country had done and increased her resolve to become an American and never return to the land that had caused such suffering and carnage and in the process the destruction of her own family.

Tied up at the pier next to the Ford Island Naval Air Station was the Crown Point, which was in the area conducting training exercises. She was the carrier that Sheffield had used to conduct the angled deck trials and to which Craig's squadron had later been assigned. Sheffield requested permission to come aboard to have a look around. His request was granted and he and his family went aboard. In Sheffield's final recommendation, he had called for her temporary angled deck to be made permanent. That was done fairly immediately and she had since been fitted with the new more powerful steam catapults and her aft elevator had been moved outboard of the flight deck, behind the superstructure. He was told that the Reprisal had also received a similar refit.

While on the base Ramona wanted to take a look around the hospital where she had worked for so many years. Upon leaving the base, they passed the very spot where Geannie's car had been shot up.

On Friday they checked out of the Halekulani Hotel and took the coastal route up to Laie. They found the temporary administrative office and got Takara checked in. The office was located in the Laie Social Hall, which had been a gathering place for the Saints since 1913. It was constructed to hold activities



The girls dormitory was in what was known as The Lanihuli House, an impressive Victorian mansion built in 1893. The first permanent building on the campus was still under construction, so in the meantime some temporary facilities that had been purchased from the nearby U.S. Army base for use as classrooms.

Classes had been originally scheduled to begin after Labor day, but delays had pushed the opening day back. They were glad to have Takara there and offered her a job in the office to help get things ready. A job they said she could keep once school started. She was happy to accept the offer.

Sheffield, Ramona, and Janet helped her move into her dorm room and get settled. There were a few things that she still needed which they were able to get for her at the Laie Plantation Store, which served the community. That night, she and Janet stayed in her room while Sheffield and Ramona stayed at a nearby seaside inn.

With the opportunity to go to the temple always such a distant proposition, on Friday morning, Sheffield and Ramona attended a session in the Hawaiian Temple, which was adjacent to the campus. They spent the rest of the day showing Takara around the community and the surrounding areas. As they showed the girls around the temple grounds, Sheffield told about the experience that he and Geannie had there that eventually led them to finding the Church.

Late that afternoon, it was time to say goodbye. Ramona took Takara into her arms and with emotion in her voice said, "I'm going to miss you. You are an incredible young woman and you'll go far in life. You sure did find your way into our hearts."

Takara also had emotion in her voice as she responded. "Thank you Ramona for everything that you

such as dances, plays, and movies. After the Laie Chapel was destroyed by fire in 1940, the Social Hall also served as the chapel until the new meetinghouse was completed in 1950.

They were expecting her, even though she was early. In fact she was the first of the one hundred fifty three students to arrive. She was shown to her dorm room and was permitted to move in and get settled.



have done for me. I have learned so much from you and I'll never forget you."

"I'll never forget you either. Now if you ever need anything, wherever you may be, just let me know."

Ramona let her go and Sheffield took hold of her hands. "That's right. If you need a place after you graduate, you're always welcome to in our home while you figure things out."

"I appreciate that. But like I told you before, by then I'll be twenty one and its time to make my own way in life. Besides, my visa will be up and as much as I don't want to, I'll probably have to go back to Japan, unless I can figure out a way to stay in America. I would love to go on and get my bachelors degree."

"I'm sure that something will work out. They always do."

Takara let go of Sheffield hand and threw her arms around him. "I don't think I ever thanked you for chasing off that bat. Thank you for everything. For taking me in, for teaching me to drive, and especially for introducing me to the Church. "

"It has all been my pleasure. You know, your just like one of the family."

"I know. I hadn't been part of a family for a long time. I love you."

"I love you too. Be sure to stay in touch. I want to know when you get married and have children and all about the good things in life that are in store for you."

"I will. I promise."

"You're in good hands here. You will be just fine." He assured her.

Takara let go and she turned to Janet. They threw their arms around each other and cried so hard that they couldn't speak. Finally, Takara said, "I'm going to miss you the most of all. Thank you for being my best friend and my sister."

"I'm going to miss you too." Janet sobbed. "I hope we'll meet again someday."

"You were so good to me to include me in everything and sharing your friends with me."

First Ramona and then Sheffield put there arms around her and joined Janet in one final embrace and then it was time to go. Takara watched as they walked to the car and got in. She waved back as they gave one last wave goodbye as they drove off.

From Laie, they drove back down to Honolulu and to the airport for the evening flight back to Los Angeles. The flight left at eight o'clock and because of the difference in time zones, it was was six a.m. Saturday morning when they landed. After a two hour lay over and something to eat they caught their flight to Salt Lake City where they had another lay over before flying on to Idaho Falls.

When they arrived, Janet's old Chrysler was waiting for them. Rocky Ricks had brought it down and left it there for them. All they had to do was to ask for the keys at the service desk. It was toward late afternoon when they arrived in Rexburg. Rather than taking Janet to her apartment, they got a room at the Idamont and rested from the long day of travel.

On Sunday morning they got ready for church and attended the Rexburg 1st Ward where they met up with Roger and Chantelle who were there on their annual visit to her family. Janet was reunited with Beverley and Olivia and told them all about getting Takara settled in Hawaii. That afternoon before Sacrament Meeting they had dinner with the Ricks and after the meeting they went back to the hotel.

Monday was the day to get Janet settled back in to her apartment and checked into school. What few things she needed were acquired and she was all set. Tuesday they free to enjoy the area. Sheffield and Ramona took Janet and Jerry Gover, who was also back, up to Mesa Falls and Big Springs for a picnic.

They said goodbye to Janet and left her with the car on Wednesday morning, which was the first day of classes. Leaving her wasn't as difficult as it was to leave Takara. They knew that she would be home for Christmas and in the spring when she graduated, she would be coming home for good while she finished her education at Hollins. They didn't know if or when they would ever see Takara again.

Roger and Chanetlle drove them back to Idaho Falls where they all attended the Idaho Falls Temple together before dropping them off at the airport to catch their flight back to Salt Lake City. They were picked up at the airport by Chet and Debra Mayfield and spent the rest of the day and the night with them before flying all the way home to Roanoke on Thursday. In all, they had been gone for ten days. It might seem backwards to have dropped of Takara first, but that way, Janet got the benefit of being able to go to Hawaii.

Now that they were home, the upstairs was quite again and Ellen didn't make much noise. At least Craig and Norma and their families were close by. When they came over to hear all about the trip, Little Geannie, Geoffrey, and Teresa brought a different kind of excitement into the house.

Over the next several days Sheffield and Ramona got ready to return to their classrooms and the other things they were involved in. Sandwiched in between was Labor Day and all that went along with that. School started two days later for both Sheffield and Ramona.

As Sheffield met with the prospective wrestling team, he and Coach Warfman were excited about their potential. At the end of the wrestling tryouts, he felt that they had a superb team. All but two of the juniors that were on the team the year before were back as seniors. One had been sidelined by an injury and the other had moved away. They were replaced by two juniors who had been on the team the year before as freshmen. In addition, a number of juniors rounded out the varsity team.

Janet had written to say that all of her effort during the summer had paid off as she had made the track team, although she wasn't the strongest runner on the team. They also got a letter from Takara saying that she was enjoying Hawaii and liked her job in the office. School was set to begin the last week in September, once the last minute pieces fell into place.

The girls wrote home often. Takara still considered it her home. In one of her letters she told of

meeting a young man at church. She must have been quite impressed with him because she went into great detail to describe him. His name was Teancum Morley, who had been born and raised in Laie and had served a mission to Tonga. His father's father had been a Mormon missionary in the Islands from 1904 to 1906 and had returned to marry a Hawaiian girl he had met and settled in Laie. Having worked at a sugar factory in Lehi, Utah before his mission, he was hired on by the Church operated sugar mill in Laie where he later worked his way up to plant manager, as his son did after him. Teanucm was working at the mill when he was given the opportunity to attend the Church College of Hawaii.

His mother was Japanese, whose great grandparents had immigrated to Hawaii in the 1860s. She met Teancum's father when she came over from the central valley to work in the cane harvest. They were married and she later converted to Mormonism. Because she was married to an American citizen and signed a loyalty pledge to the United States, she was not sent to an internment camp after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, although her parents were forced to live in the internment camp on Oahu, even though they were American citizens.

When the wrestling season began, Sheffield found out just what a powerhouse team he had. They blew away the Hilltoppers at Lynchburg in their season opener. They went on to beat the Staunton Military Academy the following week. Both of which were historically tough teams to beat.

Fall passed quickly and soon it was Thanksgiving and the Magicians were undefeated when school let out on Wednesday the 23rd. On Thanksgiving Day, the family gathered for dinner; Craig and Edith came with little Geannie and Geoffrey, Wade and Norma brought Teresa, and naturally Ellen was there as well. The only ones who were missing were Janet, who was spending Thanksgiving with the Govers in Clarkston and Takara who spent it with the Morleys. On Friday, in keeping with tradition, everyone caravaned up to the cabin to spend the night and get their Christmas trees. By Saturday evening the house was decorated, inside and out for the holidays.

Sheffield celebrated his fifty seventh birthday fifteen days later. By the time the semester was over, the Magicians had only lost one match. Sheffield had Ramona substitute for him Friday on the 23rd while he flew out to Idaho to bring Janet and her friends home for the holidays. It was an uneventful flight, with the usual stops. When he landed at the airport, Janet was waiting for him.

The next morning, everyone loaded their things into the Staggerwing for the trip home. Since it was only for a couple of weeks, they didn't have nearly as much to bring. Beverley got in the front seat while Janet, Jerry, and Olivia got in the back seat. Ever since Thanksgiving Janet had been talking about Jerry coming home with her for Christmas.

It was cozy, but there was room for everyone. Beverly and Olivia had long since gotten over the bat incident and were once again comfortable being around Sheffield. On the return trip, Sheffield had to detour

to the south over Utah and across Colorado to avoid bad weather. On the way back, they stopped off in Pueblo, Colorado and Carbondale, Illinois for fuel and something to eat.

It was dusk when they arrived home. Roger was there too pick up Beverly and a few minutes later, Wendy Furness came to get Olivia to take her home. Ramona knew that Jerry was a good young man and she thought highly of him, but she wasn't about to put him up in Craig's old room upstairs. She just didn't want the two of them upstairs alone, so as with the last time he was there for the 4th of July, he got the couch in the living room.

Now that Janet was there, Christmas could proceed. Later that evening Craig and Norma and their families came over for Christmas eve, after having dinner with their respective in laws. For Wade, it meant seeing his little sister, Beverly, for the first time since she went to Idaho in the fall. With the twin cousins only six months old, they didn't stay long and left fairly early so they could be put down for the night.

While Janet and Jerry amused themselves with a game of Ten Q at the kitchen table Sheffield, Ramona, and Ellen watched "A Christmas Sing with Bing" on WLSL Chanel 10. The program, hosted by Bing Crosby, featured Christmas music from around world, the first number being "Joy To The World." The broadcast included the St. Louis Carol Association with four hundred high school singers, The Mormon Tabernacle Choir from Salt Lake City, Les Brown and his orchestra from the Los Angeles Children's Hospital, and reports on Christmas celebrations from around the world from David Schoenbrun in Paris, Bill Downs from Rome, and Howard K. Smith from Dedham, England.

On Christmas morning, it was just Sheffield, Ramona, Janet, Jerry and Ellen. Since it was Sunday, all meetings except for Sacrament Meeting had been suspended. After opening gifts, they retired to Ramona's bathhouse for a relaxing soak. At Janet's urging, Jerry brought his swimming trunks with him. Later in the afternoon, Craig and Norma came back with their families for Christmas dinner before attending Church together.

The week between the holidays was pretty laid back with a lot of time to spend together, except Craig had to work. The grandchildren were too little to be able to do some of their favorite family activities. Relaxing in Ramona's bathhouse seemed to be one of favorite past times. It was interesting watching Janet and Jerry interact. They were obviously very fond of each other, except he seemed to be holding back.

On New Year's Eve Janet and Jerry met up with Beverly and Olivia at a district M Men and Gleaner dance, while Sheffield and Ramona went to a movie. There wasn't much playing that interested Ramona, but Sheffield on the other hand wanted to see "The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell" which starred Gary Cooper as Colonel Billy Mitchel, who was an early proponent of military aviation. They got home in time to bring in the 1956 by watching Perry Como's New Year's Eve special on television. Janet and Jerry came home a little after midnight since the dance ended as not to carry over into Sunday.

Looking back on 1955, it was a very good year. There were two new grandchildren. The Magicians were at the top of their game. Perhaps the highlight of the year had to have been taking Takara to Hawaii, although saying goodbye was difficult. In looking ahead, 1956 also promised to be a good very good year with a lot to look forward too. A state championship for the Magicians was a real possibility. Janet would be graduating from Ricks College and Craig's enlistment in the Navy Reserve would be up.

After attending Church on Sunday, Sheffield took Janet and her friends back to Idaho on Monday the 2nd and returned home the next day in time to go back to school on Wednesday. The new year saw the Magicians winning streak continue right up to the district tournament. They ended their season with the one regular season lose and went on to win both the district and state championships.

During the winter, Ellen came down with pneumonia and had to spend a few days in the hospital. She recovered enough to come home to recuperate but suffered some long-term effects such as coughing, shortness of breath, and fatigue. As a result, her health was compromised and she was left weakened and susceptible illness. Fortunately, she was right there for Ramona to look after her.

Just in time for the round up, the area saw a cold spell settle in around the middle of March with temperatures well below normal. The day long round up went on regardless of having to wear jackets. Ellen was well enough to watch the children so Edith and Norma could man the gates. Admiral had long since been weaned and as a yearling he was full of energy and quite unpredictable. Even though not fully mature, he was a good sized animal. At the same time the calves were being castrated, Admiral was gelded—in part to improve his behavior.

Easter fell on the 1st of April, just four days before Little Geannie's third birthday. The Easter egg hunt was much more fun for her than it had been the year before. At just over nine months old, Geoffrey and Teresa were still too little to appreciate it. They had grown a lot and had learned to get around on their own, but by different means. Geoffrey opted for the standard method of crawling while Teresa preferred to scoot on her bottom.

Janet had a reasonably successful track season with the Ricks College Vikings as she competed against other junior colleges in the intermountain region. Missing two seasons had taken its toll on her abilities. She worked hard to regain her speed and endurance but she had fallen behind her peers. She did win the hundred hard dash once or twice but typically finished third or fourth. However, her relay team did win a good share of their relay races thanks to a tall lanky girl with long legs.

Janet was approaching her graduation from Ricks College as were her friends, Beverly, Olivia, and Jerry. Janet and Jerry had maintained a relationship as boyfriend and girlfriend all through college. Now that graduation was approaching, Jerry had turned his attention to the next phase of his life and already had a mission call to the Northern States Mission headquartered in Chicago. Every time Janet had written home,

she included the progress of his plans. She told of a long heart felt and tearful conversation that they had. She had hoped that he would propose to her before he left, what happened was not what she was expecting.

He told her that he loved her very much, but that he felt it best to go on his mission with no strings attached and asked her not to wait for him. She said that she loved him very much and was prepared to wait for him. It must have broke his heart to tell her that, it certainly broke her heart. After getting over the initial shock they remained very good friends and promised to stay in touch. Jerry did tell her that if she was still available when he returned, that he would like to see where things were between them and maybe pick up where they left off.

On the other hand, Takara had written home to tell them that she and Teancum were becoming quite serious. She had never had a serious boyfriend before and at twenty one, she was more than ready for such a relationship. His family had accepted her and made her feel loved. Being Japanese herself, his mother in particular had developed a close, loving relationship with her.

As she was looking ahead to graduation in June, she was working on getting approval to remain in Hawaii to work. The school had offered to make her job in the office permanent, which she hoped would allow her to get a change of status for her visa. To help the process, she asked for a letter of reference from the Brasons.

Janet's graduation was set for Friday, May 19th. Sheffield had to arrange for a substitute teacher or Thursday and Friday so they could fly out to Idaho. They left in the Staggerwing on Thursday morning and Janet picked them up at the airport in her old Chrysler and took them to the Idamont so they could get checked in. That evening they attended a barbecue/graduation party in the park across the street from the Ricks home. Roger and Chantelle were there for Beverly as were John and Wendy Furness for Olivia. Still very good friends with Jerry, he was there also with Wayne and Gale who had come up for his graduation.

Graduation was a day of mixed emotions for Janet. She had thoroughly enjoyed Ricks College and the atmosphere that it afforded and all of the good friends she had made, most of which she knew that she would probably never see again, including Jerry.

She looked forward to spending the summer with Beverly and Olivia. All three of them would be attending Hollins in the fall. Beverly and Olivia planned to get an apartment and be roommates. They had invited Janet to join them, but she was leaning towards living at home to save money. Finally the moment arrived. Her name was called and she proudly walked across the gymnasium floor in cap and gown and received her associates degree in English Composition.

After the graduation, Sheffield and Ramona took her out for something to eat. That afternoon, while she celebrated with her friends, Sheffield and Ramona drove down to Idaho Falls to attend the temple since

they weren't sure when the next time they would have the opportunity.

There was one more matter. Sheffield needed to find something to do with the Chrysler as he had no further need for it. Fortunately, Rocky Ricks offered to take it off of his hands since he needed an old car for one of his kids. The deal was made and Rocky handed over the cash. Sheffield promised to send him the title as soon as he got home, a promise that Rocky knew he was good for. With everything settled, Rocky drove them to the airport and Saturday morning. After loading everything into the plane, they took off for home. As they circled around the town to gain altitude, they wondered if they would ever be back. It was such a nice area that they had come to enjoy during the time that both Craig and Janet had attended Ricks College. Late in the afternoon, they were back at home in Roanoke.

School let out for both Sheffield and Ramona the following Wednesday, giving them the summer off. The next day was Norma's twenty second birthday. On Friday, Craig took the Staggerwing to Norfolk for his very last weekend drill. When he returned on Sunday evening, he had his discharge papers in hand after completing his six year commitment to the Navy Reserve, which included a year of active duty. The following Wednesday was the annual Barson Memorial Day picnic. Two days later, the world entered the magical month of June.

Now that she was back home again, Janet returned to her job at the BookEnd. She was still a little broken up over Jerry and felt a let down. Her inclination was to wait for him anyway because she loved him and knew that he loved her too. At a meeting of the sisterhood in Ramona's bathhouse, Beverly and Olivia tried to convince her to let him go move on. They might have made a little progress to that end, but on another subject they did talk her into moving into an apartment with them.

She talked it over with her parents and they told her that it would be good for her to be on her own, she had already been on her own for the last two years at Ricks anyway. After all she would only be ten miles away from home rather than way out west.

The girls went apartment shopping and found a two bedroom apartment just down the road from Hollins. There was actually room for four girls, so they decided to invite Beverly's cousin, Linda Rowan to join them. Linda had been a year behind them in high school and had completed one year at Hollins already. Janet loaded up everything that she wanted to take with her into her old green Ford and moved in. She and Olivia took one room while Beverly and Linda took the other.

She still came home frequently, especially for Sunday dinner and to do her laundry. Often her roommates came out for meetings of the sisterhood, to which Linda was now a member. At first she didn't know what to think of the idea, but it only took one nice relaxing soak to convince her.

Since coming home, Janet resumed her pen pal relationship with Jerry while on his mission. She had got used to the idea and adopted the attitude of, "we'll see what happens." She began attending the M

Men and Gleaner socials and other functions and soon began to draw attention from the young men and was agreeable to dating, if asked out.

Geoffrey and Teresa celebrated their first birthday with the family getting together on the 19th. Even though Teresa was born on the 20th, Norma did all the work on the 19th and only missed it by two minutes. They had grown and developed so much in a year. As it was in the beginning, so it was now for the twin cousins. It was obvious that there was and always would be a strong bond between the two of them.

Toward the end of the month, Sheffield and Ramona received a letter from Takara, thanking themselves for the money that they sent her for her graduation. She told them that she had been granted a work visa and was able to stay and work in the office at the college and began working toward citizenship. She said that she was able to continue living in the dormitory as long as she was working for the school. She indicated that she and Teancum were becoming more serious in their feelings for each other. She went as far as to say that she believed that she had found her one and only. Although he was two years older than her, he still had another year before he could graduate with his associates degree. In the meantime he was still working with his father at sugar mill.

June was over and it was the 4th of July again. After missing the Austin/Brason celebration the previous year, all of Sheffield's family made it this time. In the past few years, Sheffield and Ramona hadn't used their share in the cabin very often. Now that they had grandchildren, they decided that they had better start taking advantage of it again. Geoffrey and Teresa weren't big enough to enjoy it yet, but it wouldn't be long. Little Geannie was at the age of discovery and everything was a wonder to her.

Ramona was by no means a big player in the arena of real estate, but it was enough for her to receive a good return on her investment. She mainly was interested in smaller parcels of forty acres or less. She left the large parcels of land to the big time operators, besides they weren't interested in small tracts of land. Because of the demand for land, property values increased fast enough that she could turn around and sell a piece of property quickly and at a profit.

The seventy acres directly across the river came available so Ramona bought it that summer, which was incorporated into the Two Star Ranch and provided extra pasture land for grazing. It began where Keagy Road intersected Highway 11 just two tenths of a mile east of their driveway and followed Keagy Road, also known as State Highway 685, as it bent around paralleling the river to Electric Road. Craig and Edith expressed an interest in one day building a house just down the road, across the bridge.

Both she and Sheffield were interested in the property to separate them from any development that was certain to crowd them. Both Roanoke and Salem had annexed additional property and were moving ever closer. One day they were bound to be annexed by one or the other. The area known as South County had seen a lot of development recently. It was even encroaching on the Rowan's ranch at the foot of the

hills. In the years since the end of the Second World War, the population had really exploded, particularly in the last few years. A new high school was under construction in Cave Spring and would be open in the fall, relieving the pressure placed on Jefferson High.

As the population grew, so did the size of the Roanoke Branch. Some of the growth was due to recent converts, some of it was due to the next generation, like Craig and Norma, marrying and having their own families, but a good share of the growth came from families moving into the branch from other places. There was a large number of children under ten who were part of what was being called the baby boom generation. The branch had grown to the size of a large ward with just over six hundred members, with about sixty percent of them regular attenders. The meetinghouse, as new and big as it was, became congested and overcrowded.

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Mister Roberts was released on July 30, 1955.

The information about the Church College of Hawaii and the Laie Sugar Mill are factual
The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell was released on December 22, 1955