

## Chapter XI

### Hawaiian Wedding

December 26, 1956 – June 22, 1957

After enjoying the week between Christmas and New Years, Sheffield and Ramona spent New Years Eve babysitting. Both Craig and Edith and Norma and Wade brought the grandchildren over for Grandma and Grandpa to watch while they went out for the evening. They dropped off everything they would need from diapers to baby food.

Geoffrey and Teresa went down fairly early in the evening, but Little Geannie wanted to stay up a little longer. Finally she fell asleep on Grandpa's lap while watching television. He got up with her in his arms and took her upstairs and put her down as well.

Not long after that, Ellen had had enough. "1957 will get here all on its own whether I stay up and wait for it or not."

"Thats alright Mom. Why don't you go to bed. We'll make sure that it gets here alright."

She went off to bed leaving Sheffield and Ramona to welcome in the new year. At eleven o'clock, CBS began broadcasting a live program hosted by Guy Lombardo featuring his orchestra, The Royal Canadians, direct from the "Roosevelt Grill" in the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City.

As they played songs from the 1930s right up to the latest hits of 1956, Sheffield and Romona danced around the family room in front of the television. From time they would sit out a few songs and simply enjoy the music and each others company. From time to time the program broke away to correspondent Robert Trout, who was reporting on the festivities in Times Square.

At five minutes before midnight, the program cut back to Mr. Trout in Times Square where revelers anxiously anticipated the drop of the New Years ball. At precisely one minute before midnight, the ball began its decent. With ten seconds left, the crowd joined in on the countdown. At midnight the program switched back to the ballroom and the orchestra began playing *Auld Lang Syne*. Just as the couples on television, Sheffield and Ramona greeted the new year with a kiss.

Now that the new year had safely arrived, there wasn't much to do but go to bed. The grandchildren spent the night, since their parents had intended to stay out later than midnight. The next morning the kids all came over for a New Years brunch and to watch the Rose Parade from Pasadena, California. Little Geannie was totally enthralled by each float as it glided across the television screen. It was too bad that it wasn't in color. The little ones didn't seem to find it interesting and sat in the middle of the floor playing. The next day was Wednesday and everyone went back to school and work.

Janet celebrated a special birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January; her twenty first. It was hard to believe, even Janet was now twenty one. She had just turned eleven when she and Craig and Norma had come to live with Sheffield and Ramona. Had it been ten years already?

Her birthday was on a Sunday, so after Sunday School, she and Jerry came out for dinner and to celebrate her birthday. They made a handsome couple. Jerry always treated her with the utmost respect and was such a gentleman. The way they interacted with each other suggested that perhaps they were falling in love. Only time would tell. They sure spent a lot of time together.

At the same time Olivia, his sister and Janet's roommate and best friend, was dating Ammon Fielding. Jerry and Ammon had been best friends even though in high school they had competed for Norma's affection. Janet and Jerry and Olivia and Ammon double dated a lot and always had a good time together. The four of them had come out on several occasions. In fact that evening, they were attending an M Men and Gleaner fireside as foursome. But recently they had begun to pair off more to spend time alone as couples. Ramona said, "Love is in the air. Just watch come springtime, there are bound to be some blossoms."

Ramona's investments continued to pay off for her. After one particularly profitable transaction, she decided to trade in her 1952 Ford Crestline Victoria. It was five years old and had a lot of miles on it from all of her running around. In its place she got a 1957 Mercury Turnpike Cruiser two door coupe. This car featured the luxury of power windows, including the rear window that rolled down, creating what was termed a "breezeway" for better ventilation. It also had air conditioning and power seats.



Sheffield's Roadmaster was getting older too but it was in good shape and didn't have as many miles as Ramona's car and he was content to keep it a while longer. Ramona wanted to stay current with cars for her business. Not only did it give her the air of successful business woman when she went to conduct business, but she could also depreciate it as a business expense.

One day in February they received yet another letter from Takara. Ramona was eager for Sheffield to get home from school so she could share it with him. After exchanging greetings and "how was your day", she said, "We got a letter from Takara in the mail today."

"Oh yeah, how's she doing."

"Very well, I'd say. We have another reason to go to Hawaii."

"Really, what for this time? You don't need much of an excuse."

"This is a really good one. She said that Teancum asked her to marry him."

"Really. That doesn't surprise me. When and where are they getting married?"

"On June fifteenth in the Hawaiian Temple, and she would really like us to be there."

“June fifteenth? That's just a week after the ship's reunion in Los Angeles.”

“I know, it's perfect. We'll already be half way there. Do you know what I really want to do this time?”

“Whatever it is, I'm sure it's good.”

“Oh it is. You'll love it too. How long has it been since you've been to sea Admiral?”

The way she said it, it reminded him of how Geannie always used to use his rank as term of endearment. “Since I got home from the Mediterranean in the summer of fifty three.”

“Well then it's about time that you went to sea again, then isn't it? Besides, the last time I was at sea was when I first went to Hawaii all those years ago and that was on a boring old troop ship. I want to go over on an ocean liner this time, then we can fly back. What do you say? Or do I need to convince you.”

“Well since you put it that way, maybe you better convince me.”

The next thing he knew, she was sitting on his lap beneath the mural of Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach making plans.

“Of course Janet will want to go.” She added at one point. “After all they are piratically sisters.”

After planning it all out, that evening Ramona called Janet. She too got a letter with the news. When Ramona told her of their plans to go to the wedding and take her with them, she was ecstatic.

A few days later, Janet approached her parents with a proposal. She wanted to know, “Can Olivia come with us to Takara's wedding? After all they were really close friends too.” Before they could respond she continued, “Before you answer, hear me out. First, she has enough money saved up from working at the furniture store. Second of all, I'll have someone to do things with and can stay out of your hair.” she winked.

Ramona said, “Now that you put it that way, while were at your dad's reunion, you could go off together. What do you think Sheffield?”

“Please, Dad.”

“Well I guess I don't see why not. Why would you want to hang around a couple of old folks like us all the time. How much fun would that be?”

“Oh thank you, thank you. I can't wait to tell her. She'll be so excited.”

The round up was the same weekend in March that it always was. Now that they had the pasture across the river, they could have more cows. This time Sheffield kept all of the heifers from the year before as breeding stock and didn't cull out any of the older cows. Having the extra pasture also cut down on having to start feeding them hay so early in the season so he could feed more cattle through the winter on the same amount of hay.

Admiral was now two years old, but still too young to break. That would have to wait another year. Sheffield had Roger bring over the same stud that had breed Roxie before to turn in with her in anticipation

of her having another foal.

The week before the round up had been the district tournament. The week after was the state tournament in Richmond. The Magicians had finished the regular season with a respectable seven wins and five losses and they finished second at both district and state.

In April, Wade had finished the house and they moved in. It was so much nicer than their trailer. It had served them well when they were first married but it wouldn't accommodate a growing family. Teresa would soon be two years old and now that they had the room to grow, they turned their attention to having another child.

Ramona's prediction seemed to be accurate. Janet and Jerry were seeing a lot of each other, almost to the point of distraction. She wasn't sure about her other classes, but Janet wasn't doing all that well in her health class. When they came out to the house, they were almost so completely focused on each other that they were oblivious to what was going on around them. They were always within reach of each other, usually touching in one way or another. They hardly went a day without seeing each other. Ramona wondered how she would be able to be apart from him on their trip to Takara's wedding.

Plans for the trip were falling into place. Romona had all of the transportation booked as well as the hotel accommodations. She was the most excited of anyone. She loved the islands, they were home to her because of all the places that she had lived, she had lived there the longest. But now she had been in Virginia almost as long.

School let out for the summer on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May with Memorial Day eight days later. All of the Barsons managed to be there for the picnic that year. Harvey and Marcella flew up to bring Anna and Paul to spend the summer with Shenan and Emily and were included in the picnic. Harvey was impressed to see that the Two Star Ranch had more than tripled in size with the addition of the land across the river. He was particularly impressed with Admiral, the fine looking animal that he was.

Anna and Paul were now ten and eight years old respectively. They loved spending the summer with their grandparents. They particularly looked forward to being able to attend primary and church, something that they didn't get at home.

Another thing they looked forward too was that they got a lot of individual attention, something else that they didn't get much of at home. Rhonda's children seemed to get a disproportionate share. Now that she was pregnant with Joseph's baby, it was getting worse. Rhonda was a good woman and all, but she just didn't have the love for Anna and Paul that they needed. To complicate matters, their father was too busy to make up for it. Harvey and Marcella were good to them but their daughter Winnie who was now twelve was the focus of their attention,

They weren't neglected, but they lacked the love and attention they needed. Their mother had been missing for so long that they barely remembered her and rarely ever thought about her. When they were with Shenan and Emily, they received the love and attention that they craved. They had their aunts and uncles and a lot of cousins, not to mention the extended Brason Family.

Harvey, Marcella, and Winnie stayed with Sheffield and Ramona for three days while they were there. They had a good chance to catch during a long relaxing soak in Ramoan's bathhouse. While there, Sheffield took them up in the Staggerwing. They had another picnic just with them aside from the Memorial Day picnic. Sheffield grilled up some Angus tenderloin which lead to a debate. Harvey swore that it just didn't have the flavor that Herefords had to offer.

They found it interesting that Sheffield was now a minister. They didn't quite understand the concept of a lay minister and how he had time to do that and be a teacher and a coach too. In fact, the whole concept of church and religion was foreign to them. After a good visit, they invited Ramona and Sheffield down for visit again sometime and he'd show them what real tenderloin tasted like. They flew home on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sheffield and Ramona turned their attention to getting ready for their trip. First there was church on Sunday and all that went with it. Monday was Ramoan's fifty fourth birthday and the next couple of days were spent packing. Norma and Teresa stopped by on Wednesday morning to get them and take them to the airport for the twelve o'clock flight Washington. Janet and Olivia met them there with their bags and Craig took a break from work to see them off.

When they landed in Washington, Mace and Pat met them and took them home to spend the night. They had a good visit and got caught up. They were excited for the Brasons trip to Hawaii. They hadn't been back since they moved away. Pat said that of all the places that they had lived, she liked Nice and hoped to return to France someday.

Early the next morning Mace took them to the airport to catch their flight. They too were going to the reunion, but were flying out the next day. They would have more time to visit then. With eagerness, they boarded the DC-7 for the flight to Los Angeles. Janet and Olivia were particularly excited. So much so that they hardly missed their boyfriends. Olivia had flown across the country to and from Idaho in Sheffield's Staggerwing, but this was her first time to fly commercial.

Upon arrival at Los Angeles International Airport, they claimed their luggage and checked out their rental car and drove down California Highway 1 to Long Beach where they would be staying in the fourteen story luxury oceanfront Wilton Hotel located at 200–220 East Ocean Boulevard. The hotel originally opened in 1926 with 330 guest rooms and 232 feet of prime ocean frontage.

They checked in and went to their rooms. Janet and Olivia had their own room which was connected

to Sheffield and Ramona's. After getting settled, Sheffield had a meeting with Paul Cameron and the reunion committee while Ramona and the girls went exploring downtown, which was within walking distance for the hotel.

The reunion was all set and all of the pieces had fallen into place beginning with check in on Friday morning. Most of the activities were to be held just across the street in the eight thousand seat Municipal Auditorium.

In all, nearly five thousand former crewman had committed to attend, most of them with their wives. That was almost twelve hundred more than had come to the last reunion five years earlier in Norfolk.

Many of the attendees were staying at the Wilton and Sheffield was constantly running into former crewmen, some he remembered from when he was the captain of the Reprisal or from one of the three different times that she served as his flagship.

Later in the afternoon, Ramona and the girls returned from "exploring" with several shopping bags between them. At least they had new clothes to wear to the small banquet for the reunion committee that evening.

With Friday morning free, Sheffield and Ramona wanted to take advantage of attending the new Los Angeles Temple that had been dedicated a little over a year earlier. Whenever they were near one, they took the opportunity because the were so far and few between.

Rather than suffering through the reunion, Janet and Olivia had their own plans. On Friday morning they got on a bus and rode it clear up to Universal Studios to spend the day.

The reunion got underway at noon with the opening ceremony, welcoming all of the attendees and to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the Reprisal's commissioning. Mace Owen and Hank Terry who served as his executive officers were there with their wives as were there as were many of those who had been the senior officers. Those who Sheffield was particularly glad to see were Morris Gover and Regge Jackson.

Not all of those in attendance had served aboard the ship during the Second World War. Many who served aboard during Korean War were also there. Quinn and Bonnie and Sedric and Jolene were there as were many who were in the serviceman's group, who all lived in the west. It was nice to Bonnie and Jolene again. Married life seemed to be treating them well. However, neither Dan Kirk or Phil Moncur were able to come for one reason or another.

The afternoon activities allowed a lot of time for the attendees to mingle and get reacquainted. Sheffield was not only glad to see so many people that he knew well, but he was happy to observe the



crewmembers interact with one another. During both days, the theater in the Municipal Auditorium was showing "Neptune's Realm" and "Mediterranean Summer".

The next day, Janet and Olivia spent the entire day at the Disneyland theme park, which had only opened two years earlier, while Sheffield and Ramona attended the reunion. Sheffield had a chance to visit with a lot of people, some of whom he had never known. That evening at the formal banquet, during the business portion of the meeting, Mace Owen was elected as the association president for the next five years. The next reunion was set for June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 1962 in Washington, D.C.. Before dinner was served, Sheffield briefly addressed the attendees, as did the subsequent commanding officers who were in attendance. Following dinner, the rest of the evening featured a variety of talent acts from various former officers and crew.

The reunion had been an overall success and Sheffield was glad that he had gone. The Reprisal, the time he served aboard her, and the men that he had served with were an important part of his life, a part that he wanted to keep alive.

While getting ready for bed, they heard the girls in the next room come in. It was hard to say who was the most tired. This was only the first phase of the trip. The next phase would begin the next day, but first there was a good nights rest.

With great excitement, Sheffield, Ramona and the girls packed their bags the next morning after having breakfast. They loaded their luggage into the trunk of the rental and drove the short distance to the Port of Los Angeles. After returning the car, they checked in at the Matson Lines counter.

It was eight thirty when they went aboard the S.S. Mariposa and went to find their cabins on the Promenade Deck. Sheffield and Ramona were in 114 which was outboard to port with two portholes. Janet and Olivia were in 112 which was an inboard room next to it. Both rooms had two twin beds, closet space, a couch and two chairs with a small table, and a small bathroom. The two rooms were connected by an inside



door that opened into either room. When they got to their cabins, their luggage was waiting for them.

After unpacking. They went a short distance down the corridor and out onto the outboard walkway on the Promenade Deck to join the other three hundred sixty one passengers and found a place at the rail to participate in the festivities as the ship prepared to get underway. This time, instead of Ramona watching

from the dock as he sailed away, she was at his side.

At precisely ten o'clock, the ship's whistle blew long and shrill as confetti rained down from above. The ship moved under their feet as it was pulled away from the pier and slowly began making its way out to sea. Once past the seawall, the ship began to pickup speed and the passengers broke up and went their separate ways. Janet and Olivia returned to the cabin and changed into to the bathing suits and headed for the pool on the Boat Deck, one deck up. Sheffield wanted to see the ship so he and Ramona joined a tour group.

The S.S. Mariposa II was originally built as the S.S. Pine Tree Mariner by Bethlehem Steel in Quincy, Massachusetts and completed in early 1953 as a cargo ship. She, along with one sister ship, was purchased in 1955 by Matson Lines and was converted into an attractive first class passenger liner by Williamette Iron and Steel Corporation in Portland, Oregon. The superstructure was considerably enlarged to accommodate 365 passengers, all first class, in superior grade accommodations, with each stateroom having private facilities that could be converted into comfortable sitting rooms by day. In addition to the 365 passengers, the ship was manned by a crew of 264, including the staff. The handsome white ship displaced 14,812 gross tons and was 563 feet long with a beam of 76 feet and draft of 29 feet. Powered by two steam turbines and a single screw, she was capable of 20 knots.

The tour began on the upper most deck, known as the Bridge Deck. This deck began at the bridge and stretched aft, back alongside the funnel casing to the large full width sports deck.

One deck down, the Boat Deck had a full walk-around deck, lined with lifeboats. Amidships portside were nine single cabins, each having two portholes, which were set high giving full privacy. Aft was the spacious Pool Terrace overlooking the pool, the perfect venue for buffets and relaxing.

On the forward Promenade Deck were eighteen cabins. The aft section to port and starboard were two magnificent Lanai Suites. Each of these had a separate bedroom and lounge, a full sized bath and separate toilet. The rest of the accommodations included two outside deluxe double bedrooms overlooking the bow, six outside double rooms, three on each side, as well as two outside two berth cabins, five inside twin bedded cabins and one inside single cabin. The accommodations were followed by the forward foyer which led to the writing room to port and the ship's library to starboard. The center double doors led into the delightful Polynesian themed Southern Cross Lounge. Behind the lounge, the large passage way, seperating the card room to starboard and the galley to port, led into the amidships foyer. The next room was the most popular Polynesian Club, the ship's ballroom, featuring the bandstand located forward portside of the oval dance floor. This room continued the Hawaiian feel with a multitude of plants and exotic carvings. The last public room was the delightful Outrigger Bar. The covered promenade on both sides were particularly spacious ending with a full width aft deck.



The next deck down was the Upper Deck: This deck was fully dedicated to accommodations including twin berth cabins and some three and four berth cabins. During the day all cabins could be converted into sitting rooms. Two deluxe double bedrooms were located forward overlooking the fore deck, and two amidships. The children's playroom was located aft.

On the Main Deck, all cabins, located forward, were twin berth cabins, except for three inside three berth cabins. Just aft of the forward foyer was the ship's shopping center, followed by the barber shop, photo shop, Elizabeth Arden Salon, and the ship's doctor's office. The amidships main foyer and entrance hall contained the Purser's and Chief Steward's Offices, followed by the elegant split level dining room.

Located one deck below was the spacious but plush theatre, decorated much like the rest of the ship in Polynesian style with carvings along the blue walls. It had a spacious stage, and a cinemascope screen, which was covered by a deep yellow curtain.

The rest of the ship was dedicated to spacious cargo holds, crew quarters, store and supply rooms, and engineering spaces.

Following the tour, Sheffield and Ramona found Janet and Olivia sun bathing by the pool. They pulled up a couple of lounge chairs and sat beside them. Looking astern, the coast line grew smaller the farther they went out to sea. They talked about what they wanted to do over the next five days. Ramona had a brochure that listed all of the activities and scheduled events. The first thing they decided to do was to have lunch.

Ramona talked Janet and Olivia into joining her for hula lessons at one thirty. Sheffield wandered up to the bridge and introduced himself and asked for permission to come onto the bridge. Captain Stefan Kostas was gracious enough to grant the former sea captain's request and showed him around the bridge. Sheffield learned that Captain Kostas, who was of Greek decent, had served in the Merchant Marine during the Second World War as an engineering officer on various freighters, one of which had been torpedoed out from under him by a German U-boat. Before Sheffield left the bridge, he had an invitation for his company to dine at the Captain's table.

After their hula lesson, Ramona took the girls shopping and they both bought a hula gown. Ramona had brought hers with her. The girls wanted to go back to the pool and Sheffield and Ramona ended up strolling the Promenade deck.

"I see why you loved being at sea." Ramona observed. "The smell of salt in the air and the breeze is so soothing."

"Yeah." Sheffield agreed. "Its the next best thing to being in the air. Just look out there." he said gesturing at the horizon. "The sea is never the same and is always changing. Sometimes its calm and serene. Other times its a merry dance of swells. Then there are the times when its down right threatening.

Sometimes the water reflects the blue of the sky, other times its green. When the moon is full and bright its reflection comes straight at you no matter what direction you're heading. Since the moon is waning it won't up up until way early in the morning, come out here after dark and you'll see the stars like you've never seen them before.

Sheffield continued, "Notice how the coast line had all but disappeared into the haze. I love being out here with no land in sight. To some, it's unnerving to not have a point of reference as to where you are. Its always fascinated me that with the right tools, a good seaman knows exactly where he is at all times."

"I wouldn't have a clue how to figure it out." Ramona said. "I just trust the captain to get us where we're going."

"Yes. Its nice to let someone else worry about that for once. I'm just along for the ride this time."

At dinnertime. Sheffield, Ramona, Janet, and Olivia found themselves seated at the Captain's table for the most scrumptious meal ever. Captain Kostas engaged each of his dinner guests in conversation to learn a little about each of them. They were from all walks of life, each with a different story to tell and each had their own reasons for being aboard the Mariposa on that occasion. Dessert was out of this world. Everything was so good that it would be easy to overindulge.

After dinner, they found themselves in the audience of a game of "What's My Line" in Polynesian Club. Just as on television, three people selected from the audience sat at a table, each claiming to be the same thing, when only one was what he or she claimed to be. They each tried to convince a panel of four judges, also selected from the audience that they who the claimed to be by answering the questions that the panel put to them. After each round, seven more people were selected for the next round. At one point, Ramona found herself on the panel of judges trying to figure out who was the real stock broker.

Everyday there was something different to do. Once while Ramona and the girls were at their hula lesson, Sheffield did some skeet shooting from the sport deck. One night they saw "Island in the Sun" in the ship's theater. Another popular television game show that was a lot of fun was "Truth or Consequences" which was also played in the lounge. The contestants were asked a trivia question, usually so off the wall that no one could answer it. If they failed to answer the question that had to perform some sort of a stunt.

They spent a lot of time at the pool and the terrace. Janet and Olivia didn't hide the fact that they had boy friends back home but they didn't let it stop them from socializing with other young people either, especially the guys.

Each day the Mariposa drew closer to their destination as it forged ahead at eighteen knots. Each day was enjoyed to its fullest as Sheffield, Ramona, and the girls took advantage of all of the activities, food, and the time that there was to enjoy. Often Janet and Olivia were off doing what they wanted, leaving Sheffield and Ramona to do what they wanted. The only thing they didn't indulge in was the booze that

flowed as freely as the ocean they were sailing through. The final night at sea, they had dinner at the Captain's table one last time.

Finally five days and 2,230 nautical miles later, the Mariposa was eased into her berth in Honolulu Harbor at ten o'clock on Thursday morning. The cruise had been everything that they hoped it would be. They checked out of the rooms and had their luggage sent ashore. The Mariposa would remain in port for three days before continuing on to the South Pacific.

After collecting their things, they checked out a rental car and drove up to Laie. There would be plenty of time to see Honolulu and Waikiki Beach before going home. But first, there was Takara's wedding. They arrived in Laie around noon and found Takara at her dorm room. It was a tearful and joyous reunion as she was so happy to see Sheffield and Ramona and her friends Janet and Olivia.

After the brief reunion, Takara got into the car with them and directed them to the Morley's home to meet Teancum and his family. She had them drive on up the Kamehameha Highway past Laie Point, a prominent dune jutting out into the ocean, and Hale Laa Boulevard and turn into the driveway of a modest home by most standards, but considerably nicer than those most in the area.

Before Sheffield even shut off the engine, a handsome, stocky young man came out of the house to greet them. He had bronze skin and the features of his mixed race. Takara practically leaped out of the car and dashed to him. Holding hands they walked out to the driveway while the rest of them were getting out of the car.

"This is Teancum," she introduced. "Teancum, this is Sheffield, Ramona, and Janet Brason, and this is Olivia Furness."

"Aloha." Teancum said as he let go of Takara's hand and extended it to Sheffield. "I'm glad to finally meet you. Takara has told me so much about you."

He shook hands with Sheffield and went to do the same with Ramona, but she threw her arms around him and pulled him close and breathed in his spirit.

"Takara has told us so much about you, Teancum," she said as she let go of him so he could greet Janet and Olivia."

"I hope you're hungry." He said. "My mother has lunch waiting for you. Come on in."

Once inside the house, they were greeted by a lovely Japanese woman about forty five years old. lolani (pronounced EE oh lah nee) was wearing and traditional Hawaiian moo moo and spoke perfect English as she greeted them. Her home was very tidy and nicely decorated, with no evidence of anything Japanese. After the introductions, she led them out onto the back patio where lunch was waiting. As they stepped through the double screened door her husband greeted them and there was another round of

introductions.

Upon meeting Manti Morley, it was obvious where Teacnum got his good looks from. Manti was half white and half Hawaiian and very handsome and distinguished looking. If it wasn't for Teacnum having his mother's eyes, he was younger version of Manti. Manti was the manager of the local sugar mill and was quite well off. He was also the bishop of the Laie Ward.

"Your name is very interesting, Manti. Is it Hawaiian?" Ramona asked.

"No," he explained. "I was actually named after the town in Utah where my father came from and which was settled by my great grandfather."

They sat down to lunch on the patio that looked out over their back yard with a narrow strip of beach between it and the ocean. Over lunch, the two families became better acquainted. The Morleys had five children; Teacnum was the oldest followed by another son who was the same age as Takara who was serving a mission in Japan, and three younger daughters.

Takara told them all about the wedding plans and asked Sheffield and Ramona to represent her family in the reception line.

"It would be an honor." Ramona replied with emotion choking her voice.

As soon as she found out that they were coming for the wedding, Takara had already invited Janet and Olivia to be her bridesmaids.

"Where are you staying while you're here?" Manti asked.

"We're planning on staying at the little place down the highway with the bungalows where we stayed when we brought Takara here." Sheffield answered.

"I can't let you do that." Manti protested. "You'll stay here with us. We have our own little bungalow guest house right over there." He pointed down toward the beach and sure enough there obscured in the trees and brush was a small house.

"We don't want to impose." Ramona counter protested.

"We'd be offended if you didn't." Manti bluffed.

"Alright then." Sheffield agreed. "We certainly wouldn't want to do that."

The Brasons and the Morleys spent the rest afternoon visiting and getting acquainted. Later, Janet and Olivia took Takara, and disappeared someplace for one last girls night before her wedding day. Laie was a small, isolated community, so there wasn't really very many places that they could go. They ended up at a the local diner where they each had a milkshake and talked like they had many times back in Roanoke or while they were at Ricks College.

They didn't stay out too late as Takara had a big day the next day. When they returned, lolani got them set up in the guest house. It was basically just a detached bedroom with two double beds and a small

bathroom with a sink, toilet, and a shower stall. Sheffield and Ramona took one and Janet and Olivia slept together in the other one.

Sheffield and Ramona got up early and got ready to join Takara and the Morleys at the Temple. Janet and Olivia came along later with the Morley girls and some of their cousins to wait outside on the temple grounds for them to come out. While they waited, Janet and Olivia talked of the day that it would be their turn. At one time, Janet really thought that it would be with Jerry Gover. Now she wondered if it might be Jerry Furness. She and Olivia talked of how fun it would be to be sisters in law.



Finally, Takara and Teancum came out of the temple followed by the rest of their wedding party. Takara was radiant in her classical, long white Hawaiian print cotton dress. The floor length, A-line dress was fitted to accentuate her figure and had a round neckline highlighted by a stylish white piping, six-layer-ruffle short sleeves with an elastic line at both the top and the end of the sleeves, and a double-layer-ruffle bottom, also elegantly finished by white piping. The dress was darted in both the front and the back and had an easy to reach back zipper. Instead of a veil or a bouquet, she wore a headband of white gardenias that made a lovely contrast against her jet black hair. Teancum on the other hand wore a black suit with a white shirt and black bow tie.

They lingered on the temple grounds while pictures were taken. Sheffield related the experience that he and Geannie had on that very spot some sixteen years earlier that eventually lead him to the Church. Sheffield and Romona pulled the newlyweds aside to offer their congratulations and best wishes.

“I hope you can put this to good use.” Sheffield said as he reached into the inside breast pocket of his suit coat and handed an envelope to Takara.

She opened the envelope to find a wedding card. She held one hand to her mouth as the other trembling hand held the open card with five one hundred dollar bills inside.

Takara cried as she handed the card to the dumbfounded groom and threw her arms around Sheffield and Ramona. “Thank you. Thank you.” She sobbed. “Thank you for everything you've done for me.”

“Thank you so much Brother and Sister Brason.” Teancum said as he shook Sheffield's hand. “We'll put it to good use.”

“Be sure to come and see us some day.” Ramona asked.

“Someway, someday we will.” Takara promised.

After a while, the wedding party retired to the cafeteria at the college where they were served a catered luncheon. It wasn't fancy, but it was the only place in town that could provide such a service. The

wedding party included the Morley's, Manti's extended family along with a few close family friends from the Laie Ward, and the Brasons.

In addition to some very good food, the luncheon was a forum for the guests to pay tribute to the newlyweds. The first to stand up was Teancum's grandfather, Heber Morely, who was the sealer who had performed their wedding. Several others also had something to say as well. Teancum and Takara went last and expressed their appreciation for everyone who had been a part of this special occasion. Takara was epically grateful that her surrogate family from Virginia had come all that way to be with her and how she didn't feel all alone like the orphan that she was on such a special occasion. After all, it was they who had introduced her to the Church, which eventually led her to attend the Church College of Hawaii where she had met Teancum.

Following the luncheon, Teancum and Takara got into his car and drove down the coast to Kaneohe to spend their wedding night and would be back the next day to get ready for their reception. The Brasons went back to the Morleys to change their clothes. For the rest of the afternoon, Manti and lolani showed them around the area. They showed them how the campus had grown and what was under construction. It was located on part of the Church's sugarcane plantation. He showed them around the plantation and the sugar mill that he managed. He took them to some of the out of the way, less known places around Laie and explained the history of the area.

That evening, both families dined on some leftovers from the luncheon on their patio overlooking the ocean. While Sheffield and Ramona sat around visiting with their new friends, Janet and Olivia and the Morley girls donned their bathing suits and went for a swim in the ocean.

It was interesting to learn that although lolani was Japanese, she was raised without being taught Japanese customs and she never learned to speak the language. When her family immigrated to Hawaii, they adopted the customs of their new home, the Kingdom of Hawaii, even her name was Hawaiian. After becoming a territory of the United States, they began to adapt to the American way along with the rest of Hawaii. Having been raised a Christian, it was not too difficult to convert to Mormonism, although she was the only one in her family to do so.

Ramona woke up Sheffield early the next morning and took him out on to the beach where they sat down in the sand to watch the sun rise out of the ocean. "This is what I love about the Islands." Ramona said as she leaned against Sheffield with her head resting against his shoulder. "I can't think of any other word than paradise to describe it. Thank you for bringing us. This is medicine for my soul. I just want to sit here and drink it all in."

Sheffield didn't say a word as he listened to her.

"I feel so at home here. Don't get me wrong, I love our home in Virginia too, but these islands keep

drawing me back. I hope someday we can come back again. At least we have most of next week to enjoy it. There is so much I want to see and do, but at the same time I want to just let the world pass us by. Dose that make any sense?"

They talked as the sun rose above the horizon, its rays warming the cool sea air. They talked on. Well, Ramona talked and Sheffield listened. Finally he said, "Shut up and kiss me."

Ramona turned her face away from the sun and looked into Sheffield's face for a moment. The look in his eyes told her that he loved her dearly. He leaned down and kissed her. Their lips parted momentarily as they made eye contact again. Sheffield put his lips to hers again and laid her back on the sand and took her in his arms for a some serious kissing while the surf lapped at their bare feet. The moment of passion was doused as good wave washed over them, drenching their clothes.

Gasping, they jumped up and moved a little farther up the beach as the tide was coming in. They found a log to sit on and talked some more while the sun and the breeze dried their clothes. Before long, one of the Morley girls came and found them to tell them that breakfast was ready. Still somewhat damp, they joined the girls and the Morley's on the patio for breakfast.

Manti and lolani had a busy day ahead of as they had to set up the cultural hall at the meetinghouse for the reception that evening. Sheffield and Ramona and the girls offered to help. An offer that was gladly accepted. With everyone's help, things came together quite quickly. In early afternoon, Teancum and Takara returned from their wedding night, still basking in the afterglow.

Once everything was ready, everyone went home to change and get ready for the reception and returned to the church. Everyone took their places. First in the reception line was lolani and Manti, followed by the best man. The central focus of the reception line were the radiant newlyweds, first Teancum and then Takara. At Takara's side were Janet and Olivia and lastly, Ramona and Sheffield.

A continuous string a of people flowed through the reception line, as the Morleys were a prominent family in the community, both in business and the church. As the manager of the Church's sugar mill Manti had a lot of business connections in the community, especially with the plantation. In addition, he was the Bishop of the Laie Ward. As a leading citizen in area, he also knew most of the faculty and administration at the college. lolani's family had come over from Wahiawa for they reception as well.

When the reception was over, it took a lot less time to take things down as it had to put them up. Several people stayed to help until it was all down and the meetinghouse was ready for church the next morning. Teancum and Takara went home to the little honeymoon cottage that they had rented.

On Sunday, the Brasons accompanied the Morley's and Teancum and Takara to church and attended all the meetings with them. They had a better opportunity to get to know many of the people who had only met briefly the previous evening. Sheffield and Ramona had had the opportunity on a few

occasions to attend an actual ward before. But now that Sheffield was the branch president, he observed more closely from that perspective to see what he could learn.

They also joined the Morley's for Sunday dinner which also included Teancum and Takara. The Morley's had been such gracious hosts and went out of their way for their guests. After a long evening of visiting, Sheffield, Ramona and the girls retired to the guest house.

On Monday morning Teancum and Takara left for their week long honeymoon at the Morley's vacation home on Kauai and Manti waited until after seeing their guest off before going to work. While they were packing their things, lolani made breakfast.

It had been a wonderful time and was well worth the trip to have been there. But their vacation wasn't over. After coming all that way, their plans were to spend the rest of the week. After leaving Laie, they drove down the coast to Kaneohe to see the sights in that area and to spend the night.

The rest of their time was spent in Honolulu where they stayed at the Halekulani Hotel. A lot of time was spent on the beach at Waikiki, but there was so much more to see and do. For the Brasons, it was revisiting their favorite places, but for Olivia it was all new. The pleasure of revisiting favorite places was just as exciting as was the joy of discovering them for the first time.

After all of the excitement of anticipating the trip, after attending the ship's reunion, after the cruise, after the wedding, and after the vacation, it was all too soon time to leave. Early Friday morning the 21<sup>st</sup> they checked out of the hotel, returned the rental car, and boarded the DC-7 for the long flight home. The day seemed even longer because of all of the time zone changes between Hawaii and Virginia. Fortunately it was the longest day of the year and the sun was just setting when they arrived back in Roanoke.

Craig meet them at the airport late in the evening and brought them home. All they wanted to do was to go to bed, the unpacking could until tomorrow. Janet and Olivia decided to spend the night since it was so late and went home to their apartment the next day. While Sheffield went to get his mother and brought her home, Ramona unpacked and put everything away wondering what other excuse she could find to return to the islands.

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New Year's Eve 1956 was the first broadcast of Guy Lombardo's New Year's Eve broadcasts that became a New Year's Tradition for the next twenty years. Beginning in 1958 the location switched to the Waldorf-Astoria. The New Year's ball drop in Times Square is a tradition that dates back to 1907.

The description of the S.S. Mariposa is factual, but Captain Kostas is fictional.

The description of Takara's wedding dress and the picture are from [http://www.da808style.com/store/product\\_info.php/classical-cotton-hawaiian-wedding-dress-p-105](http://www.da808style.com/store/product_info.php/classical-cotton-hawaiian-wedding-dress-p-105)