

## Chapter XXVI

### The Big Island

September 1, 1964 – September 6, 1964

The stack of mail that Elder Bateman delivered seemed to be bigger than normal. There was a letter from Janet with more snapshots of Wesley and Andrea. She told how her arm was healing, but she still had a ways to go. She also mentioned that Norma and Wade had stayed with them on their way home after the Ricks Family reunion in Rexburg. Craig's letter contained the details for the upcoming Labor Day picnic. In Sheffield's absences, the responsibility fell to him. The plans were much the same as in past years, the only difference was that Sheffield and Ramona wouldn't be there. Both of their letters sent a twinge of homesickness through Ramona.

There was also a letter from Shenan. He wasn't known as much of a letter writer so it must have something important. With all of the mail in hand, she went into Sheffield's office and handed the letter to him to let him open it. He hadn't read very far when he shook his head and uttered, "This isn't good."

"Why, what's the matter, Babe?"

"Shenan has pancreatic cancer."

"Oh, no." she gasped. "That's not good. What does he have to say about it?"

"Let me read what he says. 'Dear Sheffield and Ramona.' Then he gets right to the point. 'I'm afraid that I have some bad news. The rest of the family already knows about it, but I asked them to let me tell you myself. I went to see Doctor Weston last week because lately I have lost a lot of weight and have been having some abdominal pain. I haven't been able to keep anything down because it all comes back out one end or the other.

"I ignored it for quite a while, but it has been worse the last month or six weeks. Emily finally convinced me to go see the doctor. I thought it was the stomach flu or something like that. We were both shocked when he told me that I have pancreatic cancer and he gave me a year to live. I just turned seventy last Monday. I had hoped that I'd at least live a little longer than that.

"I had several things that I wanted to do before I kicked the bucket. I guess I'll have to pare down the list somewhat now. I never got to see much of the world like you did and there is one place I'd like to go. I've heard you and Ramona talk about Hawaii so much that I'd like to see it. Perhaps we can come and see you sometime this winter. The thing at the top of my list is to find Ruth Ann. Perhaps we could spend a little time in LA to look for her.

"You were the last ones to actually see her and that was thirteen years ago. Other than that we've only seen her in the background of a movie now and then, and we haven't even seen her there for several years now. According to what she told you, she goes by Ann Ruthridge. Who knows, she may have changed her name again. It would take a miracle to find her.

“So brother, remember me in your prayers. I'm going to need all of the help that I can get. And pray for that miracle too.

“I've always been proud of you, and somewhat envious. All of those years that you were in the Navy, folks asked me what you were up to and I was happy to tell them of your latest adventure. I always secretly wished that I would have had the courage to have been in your shoes. But I've been content to live my life in my own shoes. It looks like those shoes are about worn out now and I won't be getting a new pair.

“Thank you for the example that you have always been to me. Thank you for finding the Church for me. I doubt I would have found it on my own, and if I had, I probably wouldn't have had the courage to embrace it on my own. Its usually the little brother who looks up to his big brother. Let me assure you Little Brother, I look up to you.' And he signs it, 'Love Shenan.’”

Ramona was in tears as he concluded reading Shenan's letter. “We've got to arrange for them to come sometime. We need to see him once more before he's gone.”

“I agree. I didn't know that he felt that way about me. He had never been one to express himself.”

“Well I happen to know that a lot of people look to you. I sure do, and so does the rest of the family. All of the people who served under you in the Navy did, your wrestlers did, and now all of our missionaries do.”

“Gosh, that gives me a lot to live up to. I just feel so bad for him and poor Emily and their family.”

“Me too.”

“What else came in the mail?”

“There's a letter from Harvey.”

“He hasn't written before either. What does he have to say?”

“Let me open it and see.”

Ramona carefully opened the envelope, pulled out the letter, unfolded it and began reading. “Dear Ramona and Sheffield. I appreciate hearing from you. Its about time that I wrote to you. A lot has happened since you were here before you went to Hawaii. We given a lot of thought to what you had to say back then. As you recall, Joesph gave Anna and Paul his permission to be baptized and the missionaries have been teaching them the lessons. At first we sat in on them to monitor what they being taught. They already knew it all and believed it. It turned out that the missionaries were actually teaching us. We started taking them to Church over in Sherman and found ourselves drawn in by the people in the branch. Now we finally see what you have had all of these years. I just wish that we'd of taken an interest sooner.

“With the kids going back to school next week, we will be taking them back to Roanoke to Shenan and Emily. Can you believe little Anna will be a senior in high school and Paul will be a sophomore. Anyway while we are there, they are going to be baptized by Shenan. Joseph and Rhonda are considering joining

the Church as well, but they still have a little ways to go. As for me and Marcella, we're ready. Sheffield, we want you to baptize us, if its alright with you.

"As you know, I'll be sixty five on the twenty seventh of this month. At that time I plan to retire and turn the operation of the ranch over to Joesph. The first thing on our agenda is to take a trip to Hawaii and have ourselves a good vacation around the middle of October.

"I hope that will fit into your busy schedule. Write back and let us know. We look forward to seeing you and have you take care of this little matter for us. Love Harvey and Marcella.'

"Wow. What do you think of that?" Ramona asked.

"I never thought I'd see the day. Write back and tell them that we'd love to see them and that I'd be honored."

"Let me look at the calendar." She reached over and flipped it to October. "It looks like we don't have any conferences scheduled for the middle of October. That ought to work out fine. I'd love to see him again. See, there's someone else who looks up to you, you know. He could just be baptized by the missionaries there, but he wants to come all this way just so you can do it."

"I'd be honored." Sheffield said with gratitude. "He's been my friend for a lot longer than you ever knew him, let alone that he was your cousin."

"It didn't sound like they knew about Shenan yet." Ramona concluded. "Oh before I forget, here's a couple things for you from Salt Lake."

"Let me have them. I hope one of them is the approval for the new district."

As she stood up, she concluded, "Here you go. There's some other stuff here for you as well." As she handed him the mail, she bent over and kissed him. It didn't matter that the door to his office was wide open, the office staff were accustomed to seeing little displays of affection by then. Holding hands, hugs, and yes even kissing from time to time.

Ramona left Sheffield's office and he opened the rest of his mail, beginning with one of the letters from Church headquarters. As anticipated, he had received the approval for dividing the district as well as the creation of the two new branches. All of the names were approved as well as two new buildings for the new branches.

Sheffield wanted to act on it as soon as possible. He had Elder Wallace check to see if the plane was available. It wasn't, it was in for maintenance. Rather than schedule another plane, it occurred to him that he could probably catch a ride back to the Big Island with President Kaaloa.

That evening when Dick arrived with President Galloway, he had brought Connie with him. During their presidency meeting, they made plans for the divisions. Sheffield and Ramona would ride back with them the next day and on Wednesday evening, he would extend the calls to the new Kona District President

and the new branch president. Then on Thursday, he would make his way to Hilo to do the same thing there. Then once they had chose their counselors, the calls would be extended to them. There would first be a meeting in Hilo on Sunday morning and one in Kona that afternoon. After discussing this and other matters, they wrapped up their meeting and Richard and Connie spent the night. Before going to bed, he placed some phone calls to set up the interviews for Sheffield.

The next morning, Brother Hanami drove the two couples to the marina where Dick's boat was tided up. "She's not your carrier," he said, "but she's the best in my fleet. Welcome aboard the Kona Klipper."

"Thank you, Captain. She's a fine craft."

They boarded the forty one foot sport fishing boat and stowed their luggage and cast off. Soon they had made their way out into the open water for the one hundred forty five nautical mile trip back to Kona. At her cruising speed of twenty four knots, the trip would take six hours.



That gave them time to visit. About two hours out, Dick asked, "Would you like to do a little fishing?"

"Sure." Sheffield replied. "We did some deep sea fishing off Rio while we were on vacation back in forty nine. It was a lot of fun."

"I'd love to try it again." Ramona added.

"Do you see those frigatebirds over that debris floating off the port bow?"

"Yeah."

"We're likely to catch some Mahi-mahi over there. They often feed near debris such as floating wood, palm trees and fronds. Why don't you take the helm Admiral and take us over there while Connie and I break out the fishing gear."

Soon the lines were set and the Kona Klipper made way at six knots while trolling for Mahi-mahi.

"This way," Dick said, "I can not only write off the trip as deduction, but maybe I'll have a catch to sell when we get back."

"This must be the life." Sheffield said.

"It's the only way I know how to make a living. With my six boats, chartering sportsmen sure pays a lot better than selling a catch. But it has its drawbacks. More times than not they bring a cooler full of beer and other booze and they always end up drunk. I hate being around drunks."

"I'm sure it tries your patients."

"And there's another thing that I've noticed lately. We get a lot of couples that come out. In the last

little while the women are a lot more bold in what they wear, or should I say don't wear. A couple of weeks ago I had a gal take off her top and she didn't seem to care."

"You know, I've had complaints along those lines from some of the Elders in resort areas."

All of a sudden, Ramona interrupted their conversation. "Hey! I've got something."

Dick left his line and rushed to her side and helped her haul in a twenty pound Mahi-mahi.

"She's a beauty." Dick said. "You can always tell the females, they have more of a rounded head while the males have a prominent forehead. They mate for life and are often seen together. If one of the pair is caught, its mate will stay in the same location waiting for its mate to reappear. If we were patient, we might catch him too."

"That's sad." Ramona commented.

"That's life." Connie replied.

"And its business." Dick added.

The fish flopped around for a moment in the bottom of the boat. It was a rather odd looking creature, yet at the same time it was strikingly beautiful with its dazzling colors: golden on the sides, and bright blues and greens on the sides and back. It had a compressed body with a long dorsal fin that extended nearly the entire length of its body. The caudal and anal fins were sharply curved inward.

"I'll have this cut up for you and when I come next week, I'll bring it back with me for Sister `Auli`i's freezer."

About then Sheffield hooked another one. When it was reeled in, it was twenty seven pound male. Dick figured that it was probably the mate to the one that Ramona caught. It too would go into the freezer.

A little further along, the four of them began reeling in mackerel one after another. Again, Dick reasoned that they were passing through the school of mackerel that the mahi-mahi were following. The mackerel they caught went into the boats catch that Dick would take to the fish market.

After pulling in the lines and moving on, Ramona and Connie broke out the picnic lunch that Sister `Auli`i had packed for them. As they made their way back to Kona, Richard and Sheffield got back to their conversation.

"I wish all of my customers were like you. My crew can handle the the others."

"You probably don't know who you're getting until you get out to sea, do you."

"Sometimes. But most of the time, I can spot them as they come up the pier. I'm looking at expanding my business in another direction. I'm negotiating with a gentleman to buy his whale watching tour business. He has a fifty foot Huckins Corinthian yacht that he has converted into a passenger boat that seats up to forty people."

"That seems like a good fit for you." Sheffield encouraged.

“Yeah we think so. I'd turn the charter boats over to my crew and I'd take out the tourists.”

As they continued back to Kona, Richard described what he hoped from his new venture. From there, the conversation meandered through a number of topics. It was mid afternoon when they arrived back in Kona. Richard secured his boat and charged one of his employees to take the catch to market and see to it that the Brason's fish were cut up and packaged.

With that taken care of, they took them home where they visited some more. Richard took Sheffield to see the new boat he was talking about while Ramona helped Connie put together something for supper.

When they got back from seeing the boat, they all sat down together and had supper on their deck that over looked the ocean while the sun set. After all of the time they had spent in the islands, it took a while to get used to the shorter summer days of the lower latitudes again, as that evening the sun set at twenty minutes to seven.

Then in the evening, Richard loaned Sheffield a car so he could go over to the Kona Branch meetinghouse to keep his appointments.

First he met with Garland Drayton and his wife. Brother Drayton was currently the first counselor in Hawaii District Presidency. Sheffield extended the call to him to serve as the president of the new Kona District. He didn't seem too surprised by the call. Sheffield asked him to select his counselors and get the names to President Kaaloo in the next couple of days for approval by the district council.

After meeting with Brother and Sister Drayton, he met with David Chin and his wife Patti from Honaunau, just south of Kona and called him to serve as the president on the new branch that was being created. He too accepted and Sheffield instructed him the same in regard to his counselors. Following those interviews, he had a few others scheduled as well, mostly for temple recommends.

After his interviews, Sheffield went back over to the Kaaloo's where he and Ramona spent the night. Their bedroom was upstairs, facing the ocean. They left their window open to take advantage of the sea breeze and to hear the roar of the surf as it crashed against the rocky shore below.

The next morning they awoke to the same sounds and got ready for the day. After breakfast, they set out across the island to Hilo in the same borrowed car, a 1962 Chevrolet Suburban with four wheel drive. They planned to make a day trip out of what should be a two hours to drive. They had never driven across the Big Island so this was an adventure.

They headed out of Kona, traveling north through the upland neighborhoods of Kona and through Kalaoa. The highway followed the contour of the slopes of Hualalai, a dormant volcano, at the two thousand foot level of the 8,271 foot mountain across the windswept rangelands and lava fields covered with fountain grass from which they had a terrific panoramic view of the coast to the west and north. Further around the bend, they passed the Puu Waawaa cinder cone.

Eventually they came to the turn off for Saddle Road, the shortcut across the island. Although it only cut off eight miles, it didn't save much time. Richard suggested it for the scenery but cautioned them to be on the lookout for wild pigs, goats, and sheep that roam the open range. He said that they could dart out onto the road at any place.

The road consisted of narrow ribbon of poorly maintained pavement with crumbling edges. They encountered several one lane bridges, blind curves and hills as they began ascending the slopes of Mauna Kea, and yes, a couple of pigs. The road passed Bradshaw Army Airfield and through the military reservation and the main gate of the Army's Pohakuloa Training Area. Dick told them that they may encounter military vehicles through that stretch. Sure enough they had to wait for a column of armored personnel carriers that were crossing the highway. That morning, the Army happened to be conducting live fire artillery exercises from a battery of 105MM howitzers that were set up along the roadway, firing towards Mauna Loa several miles to the south.

Just beyond the military reservation, they came to the Mauna Kea State Park. Connie told them to stop there to use the restroom, which was a pair of outhouses, whether they needed to or not since it was the only one they would encounter. Besides the outhouses, the park consisted of some picnic tables and a few campsites. From there, they could hear the booming of the howitzers.

After getting back on the road, they encountered a one way bridge followed by a sharp, blind curve. As they came around the curve, they had to swerve to miss another pig. Richard had warned them that that was the worst section of the road. A little ways farther, they came to the turn off to the Mauna Kea Summit Road.

Richard told them that the road, which only opened in July, led to the summit. They had been to the top once in that very vehicle and recommended they try it, since they were out for adventure. Sheffield turned off and started up the gravel road.

The narrow, winding road with grades averaging seventeen percent lead to the summit 13,803 feet above sea level. The higher they went, it got kind of chilly. They hadn't brought a sweater with them so Dick and Connie loaned them theirs. At about ten thousand feet, they were actually above the clouds.

Once they finally made it to the top, they had the most incredible view. They could clearly see Mauna Loa thirty miles off to the south. Eighty miles to the northwest, they could even see the ten thousand foot Haleakala on Maui.

For some people, that elevation caused altitude sickness, but Sheffield and Ramona were not affected since they were accustomed to flying. Dick also told them that the government had plans to construct an observatory at the summit.

He also related the story from Hawaiian mythology about Poli'ahu, one of the four goddesses of

snow, who was said to reside on Mauna Kea. The four goddesses were defined by their otherworldly beauty, with Poli'ahu the most beautiful of all.

According to the legend, Poli'ahu mingled with humans on the east slope of Mauna Kea. One day, while holua sledding with mortals. At that point in the story, Ramona had to ask, "What is holua sledding?"

He explained that it was a native sport similar to surfing. It involved the use of a narrow wooden sled called a papa holua. The sled was used standing up, lying down, or kneeling, to ride down man-made or naturally occurring courses of rock, often reaching speeds of fifty miles and hour or greater. To the ancient Hawaiians, lava sledding was considered both a sport and a religious ritual for honoring the gods.

Anyway, One day while holua sledding, Poli'ahu was joined by a beautiful stranger who challenged her. The stranger had no sled, so she borrowed one to run against Poli'ahu. In the first run, Poli'ahu easily passed the stranger. Graciously, Poli'ahu exchanged sleds with the stranger, before winning again. On the third run, the stranger tried to prevent Poli'ahu from winning by opening lava streams in front of her, revealing herself as volcano goddess Pele.

Poli'ahu ran toward the top of the mountain, reeling from Pele's attack. Once she regained her composure, Poli'ahu threw snow at the lava and froze it, confining it to the island's Southern end. To this day, Pele is said to rule Kilauea and Mauna Loa, but must submit to Poli'ahu on the northern end of the island.

After spending a little while at the summit they had their lunch and started back down. Even in low gear and four wheel drive, the brakes got a little hot. The trip took quite a while but was worth it. Once back down to the main road, they continued on their way across the high lava desert with many rises and curves that limited visibility. Despite the barren landscape that resembled what you might find on the moon, they saw a number of wild goats along the side of the road. As they continued on, they began dropping in elevation and eventually encountered scarce vegetation.

Abruptly Ramona announced, "I've got to pee."

"But there's no place to stop." Sheffield protested.

"That's alright. I'll go behind a bush." she said urgently. "Up there's a wide spot to turn out."

Sheffield complied and Ramona hopped out and dashed off the road a short distance and disappeared behind a bush. A moment later she came back and got back in the car. "Thanks. I feel much better."

A little further along, as the road decreased in elevation the vegetation became more lush and dense as they entered the rain forest for several miles, stopping off along the way. When they emerged into the canyon, they could see Hilo below and the ocean beyond. By then it was mid afternoon. There was one last stop, at Rainbow Falls at the base of the canyon.

At Rainbow Falls, the Wailuku River rushes eighty feet over a natural lava cave, the mythological home to Hina, another ancient Hawaiian goddess, into a large pool below. The gorge is blanketed by lush, dense tropical foliage and the turquoise colored pool is bordered by beautiful wild ginger. The waterfall derives its name from the fact that on sunny mornings around ten o'clock, a rainbow can be seen in the mist thrown up by the waterfall. This is a real feat for Hilo since the sun is scarce due to cloud cover.

With their sightseeing tour concluded, they drove to the home of Max Mahaulu, the district president. His wife, Aloha, was expecting them although Max wasn't home yet. She called him at work to let him know that the Brasons were there. While waiting for him to come home, Sheffield and Ramona cleaned up and changed their clothes. When Max got there it was still a ways from supper time, so the time was spent visiting and getting better acquainted. About the same time, their teen age daughter, Tami, came come from school. She was their youngest and the only one of their children still living at home. They had another daughter attending the Church College of Hawaii, a son serving a mission in New Zealand, and another son who was married.

Ramona helped Aloha fix supper while Sheffield and Max talked and Tami practiced her clarinet. After dinner, Sheffield drove to the meetinghouse to conduct the interviews that were scheduled for him. First he had a number of temple recommend interviews, then the ones that were the reason for the trip. First he met formally with Max and Aloha and extended the call to him to serve as the president of the new Hilo District. He wasn't surprised by the call and already had his counselors identified. Sheffield asked him to call President Kaaloo and give them to him.

Next he met with Jeffrey and Britt Rodgers and extended a call to him to serve as the president of the new branch that was being created. Brother Rodgers accepted the call and Sheffield asked him to select his counselors and get the names to President Kaaloo as quickly as possible. With is interviews complete, Sheffield returned to the Mahaulus home where he and Ramona spent the night.

While waiting for the names of the counselors to be submitted and approved, Sheffield and Ramona had all day Friday and Saturday to themselves. On Friday they drove down to Volcanoes National Park and spent the day. The park was the home of two active volcanoes: Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, and Mauna Loa, the world's most massive volcano.

Though not as impressive in size, Kilauea's recent volcanic activity was evident. After going dormant in 1934, it came alive again in 1952 sending a spectacular lava fountain eight hundred feet into the sky. The eruption continued for the next four or five months with multiple lava fountains reaching between fifty and one hundred feet. More eruptions occurred in 1954, 1955, and 1959, followed by another large eruption in 1960 that produced a lava flow that overran nearby communities and resorts, forcing them to be evacuated.

The most recent eruption occurred only eleven moths earlier on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 1963, just forty

three days after its previous eruption. At that time, Kilauea spewed out nine million cubic yards of lava from thirty fissures. Fortunately the lava flow was in a remote area, away from populated areas.

After looking around, they spent the night at the Volcano House Hotel within the park boundaries. Their room overlooked the summit of Kilauea, which was venting steam. After dinner they found the hotel's swimming pool and spa. The spa wasn't as roomy as Ramona's bathhouse back home, but the soak sure felt good.

Before long, they were joined by another couple and struck up a conversation. They were John and Jacquelin Hammer from Terre Haute, Indiana. They appeared to be about twenty years younger than Sheffield and Ramona. They learned that John was an insurance adjuster and Jacquie was housewife and homemaker. They had three teenage children who they left at home with Jacquie's mother who stayed with them while they came on vacation to celebrate their twentieth anniversary, since they never did have a honeymoon.

Jacquie explained that they got married while John was home on leave from the Navy in September of 1944. That naturally led to a discussion between Sheffield and John about the Navy and the war, while Ramona and Jacquie talked about their kids. Naturally Ramona had to brag about her nine grandchildren.

It turned out that John had joined the navy about six weeks after Pearl Harbor. After boot camp he was assigned to the light cruiser Helena while she was undergoing repairs at Mare Island for damage received at Pearl Harbor. He had got to know some of her crew who had been aboard her during the attack. After serving aboard the Helena for a year and a half, she was sunk out from under him at the Battle Kula Gulf.

After being rescued, he was returned to the states for a tour of shore duty. A year after that, he was assigned to the light cruiser Montpelier which was being overhauled on the west coast. Just before reporting aboard the Montpelier is when he came home on leave and he and Jacquie were married. When he went back to sea, his ship was attached to the Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific during the same time that Sheffield and the Reprisal were. John told of seeing the Reprisal once when both ships were in port at San Pedro in Leyte Gulf. They discovered that they had been involved in a lot of the same campaigns during the last year of the war, although his ship never actually operated directly with the Reprisal.

The question inevitably came up, "So what are you doing here in Hawaii."

Sheffield's answer was, "I preside over the the Hawaii Mission for the Mormon Church."

The answer of took John and Jacquie by surprise.

"Really." Jacquie said. "Our next door neighbors are Mormon. Their about the nicest people we've ever known. They're about ten years younger than us with a sweet little family. They're always going out of their way to do kind deeds for us and others in the neighborhood."

"Yeah." John added. "I didn't have a very favorable impression of Mormons until they moved in next door."

"Every once in a while," Jacquie continued, "the conversation turns to what they're doing in their church or something about their beliefs. She even gave me a copy of your Mormon Bible. After one such visit, she asked if we'd like to meet with the missionaries. We declined but that didn't deter their friendship. I've seen the missionaries come and go from their home from time to time. I think they have them over for dinner quite often. They seem to be nice young men."

"So, Have you always been Mormon?" John asked.

"No." Ramona replied. "We didn't join the church until forty seven."

"If you don't mind me asking," John asked, "what was there about it that lead you join the church?"

"Thats a long story." Sheffield answered, "But to put it in a nut shell, its the fact that families can be together forever in the eternities."

A light came on in Jacquie's eyes as she visibly shivered. "Is that a fact." she said. "I've never considered such a notion, but when you just said that, it somehow rang true."

"That's because it is true." Sheffield assured them.

"Shelia, my neighbor, never mentioned that before. When I get back, I'll have to ask her about that."

"You do that." Ramona encouraged. "If you'd like, we can explain it to you."

"We'd love for you to, but I'm afraid that we have a reservation and need be going. But we'll be sure to ask Sheila and Mike."

"You do that, and ask her to have the missionaries come and teach you about it."

"I think I will, that is if its alright with John." Jacquie said as she stood up.

"After meeting you, Admiral Brason, its fine by me. It was sure nice meeting you."

"The same here." Ramona said. "And enjoy the rest of your honeymoon."

"We will." Jacquie said as she and John got out of the spa.

They wrapped up in their towels and John said, "Take it easy." as the couple walked off with their arms around each other.

Sheffield and Ramona waved goodbye as they left the spa room. "That was interesting." Ramona said. "That just goes to show that you can be a missionary anywhere, even dressed in your swimming suit setting in a tub of hot water."

They stayed a few minutes longer before they got out and returned to their room and got ready for bed, he in his pajamas and she in her nightgown. They each said their own prayers before praying together and climbed into bed and went to sleep.

The next morning at breakfast, they hoped that they would run into John and Jacquie again, but it

didn't happen. They were left hoping that having crossed paths with them would make a difference when they returned to Terre Haute. They would always wonder whatever became of their brief encounter.

After breakfast they checked out of the hotel and drove back to Hilo where they explored the area. The first time they visited Hilo during their family honeymoon with the kids back in 1947. At the time the destruction caused by the 1946 tsunami was everywhere. Since then the area was devastated by another tidal wave in 1960 that was caused by a 8.5 magnitude earthquake in Chile. Thirty five foot waves destroyed the bay, swept away many of the buildings in the town and killed sixty one people. In the four years since then, most of the damage had been repaired and the town rebuilt. Some of the low-lying waterfront areas of the city on the Waiakea peninsula and along Hilo Bay were never rebuilt and were replaced by parks and memorials. The only other time they were in Hilo was when they were there with Elder Hinckley.

That afternoon, they went back to the Mahauluas and Sheffield was informed that all of the names had been cleared and interviews had been scheduled. That evening, they treated Max and Aloha to dinner at a restaurant in downtown Hilo, in appreciation for their hospitality.

Early the next morning on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, Sheffield went to the meetinghouse to extend the calls to those who were to serve as counselors and clerks in the new district and branch presidencies. At the same time across the island in Kona, President Kaaloo was doing the same thing.

During the morning, President Galloway flew in from Honolulu and joined Sheffield for the nine o'clock meeting, in which the new Hilo District was created and the leadership was sustained. Then those who resided in the new branch were asked to stand and sustain the branch presidency. Following the meeting, Sheffield and President Galloway set apart those just sustained.

After setting apart the new district presidency and branch presidency, Sheffield, Ramona and Dwight left Hilo and drove back to Kona. This time they took the main route on the Hawaii Belt Road. Part of it was actually built on the railroad bed after the tracks were washed away in the 1946 tsunami. The route took them north up the coast to Honokaa, around the north side of Mauna Kea over to Waimea and back down to Kona.

They arrived at the Kaaloo's around one o'clock, with time to have lunch before attending the Kona meeting at two o'clock. As with the meeting in Hilo, with all of the branches on the west side of the island in attendance, the new district was created and the district presidency was sustained. Then the members of the new branch were asked to stand and sustain the branch presidency. After the meeting, they set apart the new leaders. Once everything was taken care of, they still needed to find a new president for the Kona Branch since he was now the second counselor in the district presidency. Late in the afternoon Sheffield, Ramona, and President Galloway flew back to Honolulu on a Hawaiian Airlines DC-6.

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