

Chapter XXXVI

Paradise Hawaiian Style

August 1, 1965 – August 31, 1965

As busy as July had been, August promised to be almost as busy with Elder Harold B. Lee scheduled to tour the mission later in the month. Even though the general authority tour would take them to each zone in the mission, Sheffield decided to keep the regularly scheduled conferences for two reasons. First the the tour would cover two zones a day, he wanted to have the time to conduct the training that he had in mind and second to make himself available in the districts. The only change that he made to the schedule for the month was to postpone both the Maui and Hilo district conferences by one week each.

The month started off busy. On Wednesday the 4th, Roy took Sheffield, Ramona, Elder Davis, and Elder Wallace to the airport so they could fly out to their first zone conference of the month in Hilo. This was the first time that Ramona had left the island since being stung. Her scar was nearly healed, but she hadn't noticed much difference in her voice. Fortunately her energy level was almost back to normal. The week ended with the Kauai District Conference in Lihue on Saturday and Sunday. While in Lihue, they stayed with Frank and Olina Alapai. Sandwiched in between were the Kona and Maui zone conferences. Ramona was a little more tired than usual, and thankfully the following week they had a light schedule.

During that week, they got a letter from Emily saying that Shenan was failing fast and was in a bad way. Also during that week, Sheffield received a call from Ronald Murray, the director of the Polynesian Cultural Center with a special invitation for them to come and participate in some unusual excitement that was going on up there.

On Monday of the next week, Sheffield and Ramona drove up to Laie to get in on it. For most of the previous week, Elvis Presley and a Hollywood film crew had been in Laie filming Elvis' third movie set in Hawaii. The Polynesian Cultural Center was being used to film some of the sequences. That day, filming was to take place in the banquet hall and they needed extras to be seated at the tables.

When they arrived at the center, Manti had been waiting for them and invited them to come and join him, Iolani, Teancum. The children were too small for such an event so Takara had to stay home with them. They had a good place right up front, Manti, Iolani and Teancum sat on one side of the table and Sheffield and Ramona sat across from them.

Once everyone was in place the director, Michael Moore, walked out into the performance area to greet the extras. "Ladies and gentlemen," he began, "thank you for being here today and helping us out. All we really need you to do is sit there and enjoy the show and the food and don't worry about the cameras.

"Let me give you a little background on the story line and introduce the cast. Come one out everyone."

The extras cheered and clapped as the actors came out and stood behind Mr. Moore. When they

were in place and the applause settled down, he continued, "The star of the movie of course is none other than the one and only Elvis Presley."

Again there was applause.

"He plays the part of Rick Richards, who has just returned to his home in here Hawaii after being fired from his job as an airline pilot. He and his buddy, Danny Kohana, played by James Shigeta," who stepped forward and took a bow, "go into the helicopter charter business together. But Rick's reckless flying and his careless negotiations with local women may cost them their business and Danny his home. Now, lets give a hand to these lovely ladies."

After the applause he introduced each of them, "Here we have Miss Suzanna Leigh as Judy Hudson, Miss Marianna Hill as Lani, Miss Irene Tsu as Pua, Miss Julia Parish as Jonna, and Miss Linda Wong as Lehua. And finally, Hawaii's own nine year old singing sensation, the talented Donna Butterworth as Jan Kohana."

As each was introduced, they stepped forward and took a bow, to the applause of the audience.

"All of you represent a gathering of the Polynesian Welcoming Festival, held here at the Polynesian Cultural Center. I would like to again recognize and thank Mister Ronald Murray, the director, and his staff for letting us use this marvelous facility over he last several days. Where are you Ron? Stand up please."

Ronald, who was just behind Sheffield on the the next table over, stood up to be recognized.

"We've already shot some fantastic footage and today we should wrap up our work here. So if everyone is ready, let's get to work."

The first sequence to be filmed was little Donna Butterworth singing "Bill Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home". At one point she left the performing area and danced down the isle, right behind Sheffield and Ramona. That scene took only two takes.

Once that scene wrapped up, while the performing area was transformed into a dance floor, Rick and Judy were are at the buffet table filling their plates. Rick saw one of the other girls that he had been consorting with enter the dining to hall. In an attempt to hide, Rick takes their plates and set them aside and led her to the dance floor and mixed in with the other couples, only to see another of his cohorts.

Again seeking to escape, he led Judy off the floor only see the four girls that he had conned into sending him customers for his business coming directly toward him. He was rescued when one of the Center's dancers grabbed him and pulled him into a number being performed by a group of women, in which Elvis sang "Stop Where You Are."



After that number, he could no longer avoid the angry women who confronted him. Rick diffused the situation by offering them all a percentage of what he made from the business they sent him.

It took several takes to get the various elements of these scenes. Probably as entertaining as the scenes they were trying to get was the clowning around between and even during the takes. During a break, Elvis took the opportunity to put on a mini show for the extras by singing "Blue Hawaii" and "The Hawaiian Wedding Song" that he performed in "Blue Hawaii", one of his previous movies.

Elvis was also quite personable as he mingled with the extras. As he shook Sheffield's hand, Sheffield said, "I'd like to thank you for your contributions to the Arizona Memorial."

"Why thank you. Thank you very much. I wanted to do something to honor those who gave their lives that day, and those who survived as well."

"That's why it means so much to me. You see, my wife and I were there."

"Then it is I who thank you, sir. Thank you for your service."

After the brief conversation, Elvis moved on.

"I like him." Sheffield said to Ramona.

"That's a switch. I remember a number of years ago when Norma brought home one of his albums from the record store, you couldn't stand him."

"What can I say. He's grown on me over the years."

When the filming was wrapped up, the extras were all dismissed, so Sheffield and Ramona went over to the Morleys for a while before driving back to Honolulu.

The next couple of days were spent figuring out the August transfers and the mission tour the following week. Then on Thursday there was a zone conference for the Honolulu Zone and the Pearl Harbor Zone on Friday.

On Saturday morning while they were getting ready to go to Laie for the Oahu Zone Conference, Sheffield had the television on to watch the morning news to see the replay of the launch of Gemini V which had blasted off that morning at four o'clock Hawaiian time. Just before they were ready to leave at eight thirty, Walter Cronkite came on the air with news that the space capsule had lost pressure in one of the fuel cells which had to be shut down, putting the entire mission in jeopardy. Sheffield would just have to wait for the ten o'clock news that night to find out what happened.

Their day in Laie went like most of their conferences in Laie. That was their one day a month to attend the temple. After their meetings, rather than spend the night with the Morleys, they hurried back to Honolulu to attend the evening session of the Honolulu Stake Conference to which Elder Lee and his traveling Companion, Elder Paul H. Dunn of the First Council of the Seventy were in attendance. They had arrived in Honolulu earlier that day for the conference, to be followed by the tour of the Hawaii Mission

before continuing on to Samoa and Australian.

That evening, Sheffield was able to catch the news and learned that the problem with Gemini V's fuel cell had been solved and the planned eight day mission had been salvaged.

Sunday was spent attending the general session of stake conference. During the meeting, Elder Lee called on Sheffield to take a few minutes. Afterward, they were invited to have dinner at the home of the stake president with the counselors in the stake presidency and their wives and the visiting authorities.

This was the third time that they had been in the company of Elder Lee. The first was when he was assigned to a stake conference in Richmond. They got acquainted with him when they gave him a ride back to Roanoke. The second time was when they flew to New York City to meet with President Brown at the Mormon Pavilion at the World's Fair when Sheffield was called to serve as the mission president.

With their business with the Honolulu Stake concluded, Elder Lee and Elder Dunn arrived at Mililani early Monday morning to begin their mission tour. But first, they met for about an hour with Sheffield, Ramona, and the Assistants.

Despite the fact that it was P-day, the Elders in the Honolulu Zone forfeited their morning to attend a special zone conference, in which they were instructed by the Apostle and the Seventy. Each missionary in turn had a personal interview. Then in the afternoon, they had a similar meeting with the Pearl Harbor Zone. That evening, Elder Lee and Elder Dunn had dinner at the mission home and spent the night.

Early the next morning Roy drove Sheffield, Ramona, the Assistants, Elder Lee and Elder Dunn up to Laie in the mission van for a ten o'clock meeting their, which followed the same format as the day before. Once the meeting and lunch was over, Roy drove everyone, except Elder Lee and Elder Dunn, back to the mission home. They had business with the temple, college, and Polynesian Cultural Center that kept them in Laie.

Meanwhile, that afternoon missionaries affected by the transfers began arriving at the mission home. That evening, Elder Wallace, who had only been an assistant since the last transfer and four other Elders reported on their mission before going home the next day.

On Wednesday Sheffield conducted his final interview with them before they left for the airport. In their place, five brand new Elders arrived from Salt Lake. Sheffield interviewed each of them and assigned them to their areas. In all thirty one missionaries were affected by this transfer. Elder Ben Carlson, a former mission secretary, was the new assistant. The only other change that affected the office staff was that Elder Mark Bowers from Cody, Wyoming replaced Elder Hillard as the mission secretary. With their business in Laie completed, the visiting authorities returned to Mililani that evening.

Early Thursday morning, Roy took Sheffield, the Assistants, Elder Lee, and Elder Dunn to the airport when the chartered Cessna was waiting to take them Hilo. It didn't take much for Sheffield to convince

Ramona to stay behind this time. He felt that four conferences on three islands in two days would be a little too much for her.

As the five men boarded the plane, Sheffield invited Elder Lee to sit up front with him. When they landed in Hilo, they were met by two sets of Elders and driven to the newly completed chapel where the meeting was to be held. After the missionary meeting, the members of the branch that attended meetings in the chapel, who could be there, gathered for a special meeting in which Elder Lee dedicated the building. Then they flew off to Kona for a repeat of the morning, complete with the dedication of the the new chapel in Honaunau that evening. That night, the Kaaola's put up Sheffield and the two general authorities, while the assistants stayed with the Zone Leaders in Kona.

Ramona decided that Sheffield was right about her needing to stay home. She was almost back to where she needed to be as far as her energy level. The rushed schedule of the trip might have set her back. Besides, it turned out that she was needed at the mission home. Just after lunch on Thursday she received a call from Elder Martin Peterson from Honolulu Central.

"Sister Brason," he said frantically, "Elder Bryant has been hurt."

"Calm down Elder, and tell me what's the matter."

"When we were coming home for lunch, there was a basketball just sitting there on ground. He picked it up and went in for a lay up. When he came down, he collapsed to the ground holding the back of his ankle."

"Alright, here's what I need you to do. First wrap it in ice and then give him a blessing. Is Elder Weeks there?"

"Yes."

"Good. Have him take him to the hospital. I'll be right there."

A few minutes later she arrived at The Queen's Hospital about the same time as the Elders. Elder Bryant was in a great deal of pain as they helped him in. They only had to wait a few minutes before a doctor was able to take a look.

"I'm afraid that he has torn his Achilles Tendon." The doctor reported. "He will need to have surgery to repair the damage."

"That's what I was afraid of." Ramona said. With no way to contact Sheffield at the moment, she assumed the responsibility. "Alright. How soon."

"I can get him in later this afternoon."

Ramona looked at Elder Bryant and asked, "Are you alright with this?"

"I guess I'll have to be."

She turned to Elder Weeks, the district leader, and said, "Why don't you and Elder Foreman take

Elder Peterson with you. I'll stay here with him.”

The three missionaries left to go back to work and Ramona took care of getting Elder Bryant admitted to the hospital. Once he was settled and resting from the sedative that he had been given, Ramona returned to the mission home. She knew that Sheffield would be in Kona, but she didn't have the telephone number for the new building. So she did the next best thing, she called Connie Kaaola and asked her to get a message to Sheffield.

Next she called his parents in Layton, Utah and talked to his mother and told her what had happened and that he needed surgery. She assured her that he would be alright and promised to keep her updated.

Ramona returned to the hospital to wait with Elder Bryant for the surgery. While waiting, a call from Sheffield was put through to his room. After being told what had happened, he told Ramona, “I'm glad that you're there with him. I know that he is in good hands. Keep me posted.”

As it turned out, the surgery had to be postponed until the next morning. Ramona stayed with him a while longer before returning to mission home. She called his parents again and updated them on their son's condition and that his surgery had been postponed. Later in the evening, Sheffield called back for an update. Before going to bed, she called the hospital just to see how he was doing. Knowing that he was sedated and resting comfortably, she went to bed.

Around five forty on Friday while she was still bed, their private telephone rang. Ramona stumbled out into the other room to answer it, worried that it was the hospital. Instead a woman's voice on the other end sounded frantic as she asked or Elder Lee.

Ramona explained that he was in Kona. The woman identified herself as his wife and said that there was a family emergency.

“Just a moment.” Ramona said, “Let me give you the number where he can be reached.” She looked it up and read it off to her. Sister Lee thanked her and quickly hung up.

A few minutes later over in Kona, the Kaaola's telephone rang. Dick was already up and in the process of getting ready for the day. It was Sister Lee frantically asking to speak to her husband.

Dick put down the phone and went and knocked on Elder Lee's door. He came to the door and Dick told him that he had a telephone call from his wife.

Elder Lee went to the telephone to take the call and was given the news that his expectant daughter was in critical condition at the Utah Valley Hospital in Provo. He immediately dialed the hospital and was put through to his son in law. He told Elder Lee that the doctors were fighting for her life, but didn't offer much hope. The news was devastating to Elder Lee. It had only been a little under three years since his first wife died.

By the time that Elder Lee had talked to his son in law, Sheffield and Elder Dunn were up as well. Elder Lee shared the horrible news with them and said that he must go home immediately. Elder Dunn told him go a head and not worry, he would go on alone and complete their assignment.

Elder Lee spent the next several minutes on the telephone making arrangements for a flight back to Salt Lake. Sheffield told him that he would personally fly him back to Honolulu as soon as he was ready to go.

After making the arrangements, he and Sheffield were about to leave for the flight back to Honolulu when his son in law called back with the news that she didn't make it. At age thirty nine, she had died from a pulmonary embolism, leaving their four children without a mother. In the process, the baby died too.

Elder Lee didn't have much to say on the trip back to Honolulu. Sheffield emphasized with him over his loss, but for the most part left the apostle to his private thoughts. Once back in Honolulu, Sheffield stayed with him while he waited for his flight to the mainland. To complicate Elder Lee's anxiety, his flight to Los Angeles was delayed for forty five minutes, causing him to worry that he would miss his connection to Salt Lake City. Sheffield stayed with him until he had boarded his flight.

With Elder Lee on his way, Sheffield called the mission home to talk to Ramona. Elder Bowers told him that she was at the hospital. He next called the hospital and was put through to Ramona. She explained that they were preparing him for the surgery at that very moment.

Sheffield took off again and flew to Kahalului, Maui. While he was gone, Dick Kaaola pulled his fastest boat from its scheduled assignment and instructed that it be made ready for immediate departure. A few minutes later he and Elder Dunn left the house and picked up the assistants and drove to the marina where the boat was ready to go.

Dick personally piloted the boat as they dashed out into the open sea. With the throttle wide open, it took just under three hours to make the one hundred twenty mile trip through the Alenuihaha Chanel between Hawaii and Maui and round the norther coast of Maui to Kahalului. They got there just a little before the meeting was to start. Sheffield had landed at the airport just a few minutes earlier.

After the mad dash to get there, the meeting went on without Elder Lee. Elder Dunn took over and interviewed the missionaries and presented the same material that had been presented in the other five zones. Despite the rush that morning, the rest of the day went as scheduled.

After Sheffield left for Maui, Elder Bryant was ready to be taken to surgery. Ramona waited with him until he was taken away. She stayed there so she would be there when he came out and would be available in the event that she was needed for some unforeseen reason. She left the waiting room long enough to go the cafeteria for lunch.

After their meeting and lunch, Sheffield flew Elder Dunn and the two missionaries to Lihue on Kauai

for the last the meeting of the tour.

Ramona was back by the time Elder Bryant came out of surgery. The doctor told her that everything went well, and that he should be waking up in about an hour. She decided to run back to the mission home real quick and call Elder Bryant's parents. They had been anxious to get a report and were relieved that it had gone well. Next Ramona tried calling Sheffield at the meetinghouse in Lihue, but no one answered. Not wanting Elder Bryant to be alone when he woke up, she decided to go back to the hospital.

Just as she was ready to leave, Elder Bowers brought her the mail. There was a letter from Emily. She opened it to read that Shenan had slipped into a coma the day after his birthday and didn't have much time left.

Ramona arrived at the hospital and was allowed into the room before he woke up. When he did, he was in a great deal of pain so the doctor instructed the nurse to give him a shot of morphine. Almost instantly, he had a severe and unexpected reaction to the drug and went into cardiac arrest. With some fast work on the part of the doctor and nurses, they got his heart going again, but he had gone into a coma.

Once his condition was stabilized, the doctor attempted to figure out what had gone wrong. As near as he could tell, he had a previously undetected problem with the rhythm of his heart.

While the doctor was working to determine the cause of the problem, Ramona returned to the mission home, since there was nothing more she could do there. When she got back, the first thing she did was to dial the now familiar telephone number of the Bryant Family in Utah with the bad news. Nancy Bryant, his mother said that she and her husband would be on the next flight to Hawaii.

Next she tried to get a hold of Sheffield again. After the telephone rang several times, one of the Relief Society sisters who was preparing the luncheon heard it ringing and answered it. She went and pulled Sheffield out of the meeting to come to the phone.

She told him about what had happened to Elder Bryant, about his current condition, and that his parents were on their way to be with him. "And by the way, we got a letter from Emily today. Shenan has gone into coma."

"You're full of all kinds of good news aren't you." he said sarcastically.

"Its just another day in Paradise. So how did are your meetings going?"

"You know, about like all of the others. I'll hurry back as soon as I can."

Just as with the other meetings the Relief Society provided a light meal. Afterwards, there was enough day left to fly back to Honolulu. Elder Dunn was impressed with Sheffield's piloting skills and commented that they could have never covered as much ground as they had in such a short amount of time without the plane. The rest of the way back to Honolulu, Elder Dunn entertained Sheffield, Elder Davis and Elder Carlson with some of the his stories that Elder Dunn was becoming known for since call as general

authority less than a year and half earlier. To Sheffield, some of his war stories seemed a little far fetched.

When they landed, Ramona was there to meet Sheffield and Elder Dunn, while one of the office staff came to pick up the assistants. From the airport, they drove to the hospital to see Elder Bryant. His condition hadn't changed much. Sheffield and Elder Dunn administered to him. In the blessing, Elder Dunn promised him that he would recover completely and finish his mission.

From there they returned to the mission home. In telling him about the events of the day, he was glad that she had stayed home. It had been a long day for Sheffield as well.

Later in the evening, Sheffield, Ramona, and Elder Dunn returned to the hospital to check on Elder Bryant. While they were there, Robert and Nancy Bryant arrived to be by their son's side. They had caught a taxi directly from the airport. Ramona rehearsed the events of the day to them. The doctor stopped in on his rounds and assured them that once he regained consciousness, he expected him to make a full recovery. "In fact," he added, "the fact that he is unconscious is a good thing. He's not in pain and all of his strength can go to healing his injury."

"How long will he be this way?" the missionary's father asked.

"I would think that he should wake up tomorrow or the next day. If it goes much beyond that, I'd be concerned."

Sheffield offered a room at Mililani to them.

They thanked him but opted to stay at the hotel around the corner so they could be close to their son.

Elder Dunn gave them the same assurance that he had pronounced in the blessing. Knowing that, their faith was bolstered and they took courage.

With nothing more they could do there, they returned to the mission home. It had been a long eventful day. If the travel and meetings weren't enough, there had been two major crises to deal with, plus the news about Shenan. They were tired and got ready for bed.

The next morning, which was Saturday, they saw Elder Dunn off for his flight to Apia, Samoa. Now that the mission tour was over, the schedule was free from any travel until the following Saturday when they had a district conference on Maui.

After seeing Elder Dunn off, they went by the hospital to see how Elder Bryant was doing. His parents reported that there hadn't been any change. Sheffield took the time to talk to them and told them what a good missionary their son was. Before leaving, he gave them the number of the mission home and said, "If there are any changes, or you need anything at all, call us."

They thanked Sheffield and particularly Ramona for all that they had done for their son.

The next day, Sheffield and Ramona went by the hospital on their way home from their early Sunday

meetings. They found Elder Bryant awake and alert. While there, the doctor stopped in checked him over. In conferring with his patient, his parents, and Sheffield and Ramona, it was determined that Elder Bryant would go home to Utah to recuperate. He felt that in three months he should be fully mended.

Before going to bed on Sunday evening, Sheffield caught the ten o'clock news to get a report on the splash down of Gemini V and to get a recap of its eight day mission. During the busy week, he was able to get bits and snippets of information mostly from the newspaper.

On Monday, Sheffield and Ramona left the mission home to go out and about on some errands. While out, they stopped by to check on Elder Bryant. The doctor wanted to keep him one more day before releasing him to go home.

When they got back to Mililani, they found a note that Elder Bowers had left them that said, "Call your brother Walt."

"That can't be good news." Sheffield said as he picked up the telephone and dialed the number.

After three rings Walt picked up in Roanoke. "Hello." he said.

"Hello Walt. This is Sheffield."

"Sheffield, where've you been? I've been trying to call for the last three hours. I finally got a hold of someone who said that you'd gone out for a while."

"Yeah, we had some errands to run. What's up?" he asked already knowing the answer.

"Shenan died about three hours ago."

"I was afraid of that." Sheffield said.

"He had been in a coma for the last six days and was unresponsive and this afternoon around three forty five he passed away. Of course Emily was with him as were all of their kids. Its as if he sensed when Ruth Ann got there, because he went just a few minutes later.

"Good, I'm glad that Ruth Ann was there."

"Yeah, that was nice. Sarah and I were there too. Everyone but you."

"You know I would have been there if I could."

"I know. I think Shenan did too."

"So when's the funeral?"

"Saturday at one o'clock. Will you be able to come?"

"Let me see what we can work out and I'll call you back. Say is Emily at home? I need to call her."

"Yeah, she'd be home now. I know she'd love to hear from you."

"Okay then. Thanks Walt. Let me see what I can do. I'll let you know what I find out."

After saying goodbye, Sheffield called Elder Hinckley in Salt Lake to ask if he could leave the mission for a few days to attend his brother's funeral. Elder Hinckley told him that he could be gone for up to

a week.

Since none of the office staff were working that day, rather than have Elder Phillips make the arrangements, Ramona did it herself. She booked a flight that would leave on Wednesday the 1st and return on Tuesday the 7th. That would give them the rest of Monday and Tuesday to get ready and put things in order and be back in time for the round of zone conferences beginning on Wednesday of the next week.

With the arrangements made, Sheffield called Emily. When she answered he said, "Hello Emily, this is Sheffield."

"Oh hi, Sheffield I'm so glad that you called. I take it that Walt finally got a hold of you."

"Yes he did. I'm so sorry to hear about Shenan."

"Thank you. It's for the best. He was so sick toward the end. Now he's finally at peace."

"But its still got to be hard for you. How are you doing?"

"Yes, its hard even though I was prepared for it. But I'm doing all right. The whole family is here and everyone is really rallying around."

"Walt told me that Ruth Ann is there. I'm glad that she made it."

"Yeah me too. She got here just in time. So the funeral is Saturday, will you be able to come?"

"Yes. We'll fly in the day after tomorrow and will have to come back on Tuesday."

"Oh good, I'm glad that you can come. Shenan had time to plan out the funeral and he wants you to speak."

"I can do that."

"He also wants Ramona to sing."

"You'll have to talk to her about that. Here, I'll let her talk to you."

Sheffield handed the telephone to Ramona. "Hi Emily. I'm sorry to hear about Shenan."

"Thanks Ramona, but its like I told Sheffield. Its for the best. He wanted you to sing at his funeral, would you be able to do that?"

Ramona gulped as her face went white. After a brief pause, she replied, "I'm honored that he wanted me to. The only reason I'm hesitant is because of my voice. Ever since my little episode a while back, it just hasn't been the same."

"Oh I'm sure you'll do fine." Emily pressed her, not really understanding.

"I'll do my best." Ramona gave in.

"Thank you. Shenan always loved to hear you sing. I'd better let you go now but I'll see you when you get here."

After hanging up, Ramona looked at Sheffield and said, "What did I just get myself into? I can't sing. It would take a miracle."

“We've seen our share of those. Just do the best you can.”

“Maybe I could do something simple, if I worked real hard at it.”

Later, he called Craig when he knew that he'd be home from work to tell him that they were coming. When he told him that they'd leave on Tuesday, Craig said, “Good, you'll be here for the Labor Day picnic.”

“I hadn't thought of that.” Sheffield said. “Are you still having it?”

“Everyone agreed to go ahead with it anyway. Now that you'll be home, all the more reason.”

“Let your sisters know that we'll be there.”

“I will. I know Janet and Jerry are planning on coming too. So we'll all be here.”

“Thats good to know. We'll see you on Wednesday.”

Sheffield and Ramona spent the rest of that day and the next getting ready for their trip. On Tuesday they saw Elder Bryant and his parents off and wished him well. The airline made special arrangements to accommodate his hospital bed.

Sheffield called Elder Weeks, Elder Foreman, and Elder Peterson and told them that he was making their threesome permanent and to cover both areas for the time being. The arrangement actually worked out well since these areas were adjacent and were in the same ward. Besides, both companionships had already been sharing an apartment that was centrally located to both areas.

Next Sheffield met with the assistants and assigned them to handle things while he was gone and gave them their home telephone number in Roanoke if they needed to reach him. That evening in their presidency meeting he did the same with his counselors. In addition, in his absence he assigned Dick Kaaola to preside at the Maui District conference on Sunday. Before going to bed that night, they had most of what they needed to take with them packed and ready to go.

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Ronald Murray, the director of the Polynesian Cultural Center is fictional.

The director and cast of “Paradise Hawaiian Style” are the actual people. The scenes are the actual scenes from the film, however all that went on before and during the shooting of the scenes are purely conjecture. According to an Elvis Presley website, the actual filming at the Polynesian Cultural Center took place between August 5th and the 19th.

The story about Elder Lee is actual and comes from Harold B. Lee: Prophet and Seer, by L. Brent Goates, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1985], 351. According to the source, he and Elder Dunn arrived in Hawaii on the 21st and were in Hawaii for six days before receiving the news. Other than the stake conference in the Honolulu Stake which the Church News placed him at, the rest of what he did is conjecture to fit the story. The part about his flight being delayed is also true.