

## Chapter XXXVIII

### One Thing or Another

September 7, 1965 – December 24, 1965

On Wednesday morning, Sheffield and Ramona got up early to get ready to return to Hawaii. While Janet and Jerry were getting the kids ready, they enjoyed the bathhouse one last time. There was just enough cereal and milk left to go around for breakfast. Janet and Jerry drove Sheffield's car to the airport. After looking around one last time, making sure everything was secure, Craig stopped by to give them a ride on his way to work. The plan was that he would bring his car home later.

Not only were Janet and Jerry flying out on the same flight to Washington DC, but so were Anna and her friend Chrysanthemum Furness, who naturally went by Chrysty. They were on their way to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Together, they all boarded the plane for the short flight to Washington. Sheffield and Ramona saw them off on their flight to Salt Lake City, since they had a longer lay over. Mace and Pat Owen came to see them off while they waited for the boarding call for their flight to Los Angeles.

This time they had the time zones working in their favor, although it would make for a long day. On the transcontinental flight, the third seat on the aisle was empty so there was no one to talk to. That gave Sheffield time to work on his zone conference presentation. The first one was the very next day and he had not had time to do any preparation.

During their lay over in Los Angeles they had enough time for lunch, before boarding their flight to Honolulu which departed at one thirty. This flight did provide them the opportunity to visit with the woman next to them who was on her way to Australia to join her husband. When the subject of what Sheffield and Ramona were doing came up, she quickly changed the subject and they visited about other topics.

Despite the long day, it was only mid afternoon when they landed in Honolulu. When they got off the plane, Roy Hanami was waiting for them to take them back to Mililani. It was almost as if they hadn't been away. The unfinished business that they had left behind was still there waiting for them when they returned.

The first item of business was to meet with Elder Davis and Elder Carlson for an update of what went on while they were gone. Fortunately it had been a routine week with nothing out of the ordinary going on. After that meeting, they had dinner and later on, Sheffield met with his presidency. One of the items of business was signing the paperwork requesting two new meetinghouses in the Hilo District in anticipation of creating two new branches when they were completed.

The rest of the week was back into the routine of zone conferences. After only one day back, they were off to Lihue, Kauia on Wednesday, Kahului, Maui on Thursday, Kona on Friday, and Hilo on Saturday and Sunday, which concluded the week with a district conference. Manti Morley and Richard Kaaola met Sheffield in Hilo to look at potential property for the new meetinghouses.

Finally, they had a week to stay put at Mililani. During the second week in September, Sheffield and

Lloyd Crane, who had since been promoted to Major and was now the senior military chaplain in Hawaii, began preparing for the serviceman's conference set for October 24<sup>th</sup>. Another item requiring attention was the next round of transfers.

When the dust settled on transfer day, twenty seven missionaries were affected. Three Elders and one Sister went home. Those who left the mission were Elder Jeremy Davis, one of the Assistants; Elder Blake Masters, a former travel coordinator; Elder Daniel Sorenson; and Sister Brenda Draper.

New to the mission home were Elder Michael Westlake, a former mission recorder, who was the new assistant, and Elder Wylie Hendricks, the new mission recorder replacing Frank Michaels. Also new to the mission home was Sister Hillary Angel who had replaced Sister Carlene Hansen.

To replace those going home, five Elders and three Sisters arrived from Salt Lake. With a net gain of four missionaries, Sheffield was able to open two new areas in the Hilo District as part of his strategic long range plans for creating the two new branches a year from then.

Following the transfers, Sheffield and Ramona spent the rest of the week in zone conferences in the three zones on Oahu, the last being in Laie on Saturday. As usual, that was their day to attend the temple.

When they returned to Mililani that Saturday evening, there was a letter from the First Presidency that would most certainly affect the mission, all of the missions around the world for that matter. Although disappointing, Sheffield wasn't surprised. The letter said that effective October 1<sup>st</sup> there would be a quota on the number of missionaries called to comply with a request from the Selective Service in providing manpower for the Vietnam war. The new policy stated that only one male missionary could be called per wards and branches in the United States in a six month period. Young men deemed unfit for military service would not count against the quota. This was very similar to the restrictions in place during the Korean War that had kept Craig from serving a mission.

Undoubtedly, during the coming months Sheffield could expect to see a decline in the number of areas that he would be able to keep open. The only thing that would make a difference would be for more lady missionaries, senior couples and young men from areas outside of the United States to take up the slack. Only time would tell. Over the next couple of months he could at least expect to receive those who already had their mission calls.

The month of October was pretty much routine. There was the regular scheduled conferences to attend and the usual day to day business and issues that arise. The main event in October was the serviceman's conference on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Rather than hold it in the park as had been done the previous year, it was held in the Halawa Chapel, which was close to both Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base. It had to be scheduled between the morning and afternoon meetings of the Halawa Ward, which gave them from one until four o'clock.

With the buildup in military personnel since the last conference, there were considerably more LDS servicemen than before. With the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk in port that weekend, there were even more men in attendance.

The men gathered at the Halawa Community Park a short distance away at noon for a sack lunch social that had been prepared the day before by the Pearl Harbor Stake Relief Society. When lunch was over, the servicemen migrated to the chapel for the actual meeting.

The chapel quickly filled up with sailors, marines, soldiers, and airman and spilled over into the overflow. They were mostly enlisted men with a few officers. There were also a number of women and children who were fortunate enough to live with their husbands and fathers while stationed in Hawaii.

There were also a good number of nonmembers in attendance as well. They either came with their buddies, or were actively being taught by the missionaries. In addition to the servicemen, there were some missionaries there as well.

Major Crane conducted the meeting, while Sheffield presided. The format of the meeting was the same as it was the year before. It began as any sacrament meeting would. Following the administration of the sacrament, Major Crane had some brief remarks and then introduced President and Sister Brason.

Even the talks were the same as before, since only a handful of the men had been there the previous year. If they were, it wouldn't hurt them to hear it again. Ramona gave her talk on missionary opportunities within the military and Sheffield gave his "In the Military but Not of the Military" talk. Following their talks, a small choir composed of men from the various services sang "It May Not be on the Mountain's Height" and then the meeting was opened to the bearing of testimonies. For the next hour there was a steady stream of men who came forward. Major Crane finally had to cut it off and close the meeting as they were bumping up against the Halawa Ward's sacrament meeting.

From the attendance and the comments received after the meeting, it had definitely been worth it. Not only were the members of the church uplifted, but many of those who were not had been touched by the Spirit and asked to have the missionary lessons.

On Monday the 25<sup>th</sup>, Sheffield thought he'd be able to watch the launch of Gemini VI live on television. All of the other launches had been too early for Hawaiian time. The main purpose of this mission was to rendezvous with the Agena target vehicle. Sheffield turned on the television to learn that six minutes after lift off the Agena spacecraft exploded. NASA was trying to figure out what to do and decided to cancel the mission.

Transfer day came with all of its flurry of activity around Mililani. Despite the new missionary quotas put in place, there were still three new elders to replace the three going home. On this transfer they said goodbye Elder Carlson. In his place Elder Garth Simmons, who Ramona had nursed back to health when

they first arrived, became the new Assistant to the President.

At the end of the week, on Saturday, there was another flurry of comings and goings at Mililani. Since Halloween was on Sunday, the trick or treaters were out in force on Saturday. Ramona stepped it up somewhat over the year before. When she saw how many trick or treaters came to their door, she decided to make it more entertaining. In addition to the decorations and Jack O Lanterns, she dressed up as Granny from the Beverly Hillbillies. Her small stature and the crackle in her voice made her very convincing. She tried to persuade Sheffield to dress up as Jed Clampett, but he wouldn't go along with her.

October seemed to have passed quickly and it was November already. Another month and another set of challenges to contend with. It seemed like there was always one thing or another to deal with.

In early November, Sheffield received an early morning telephone call from the president of the Washington Stake in Washington D.C. with the tragic news that Elder Ralph Wren's father had been killed in a car accident. It was then up to Sheffield to pass the information along the unsuspecting missionary.

At the time, Elder Wren, who had once worked in the office as the financial secretary, was serving as a district leader of the Honolulu District. Sheffield called him personally before he and his companion left their apartment for the day.

"Elder Wren," he began, "Would you be able to come up to the mission home first thing this morning."

"Well, President, I have a district meeting scheduled for this morning."

"I need you to postpone it. There is something urgent that I need to talk to you about."

"Alright President," Elder Wren said with puzzlement. "We'll leave in just a few minutes and we'll be right there."

Sheffield hung up the telephone and took a deep breath wondering how he was going to tell this fine young man that that his father was dead. He poked his head out of the door and told Elder Bowers. "Please hold all of my calls and see that I'm not disturbed, unless of course its Sister Brason. In fact will you find her and ask her to join me. I'm expecting, Elder Wren, when he comes, send him right in."

Sheffield closed the door and returned to his desk. He sat down and took a deep breath, as if to clear his mind so he could think. He bowed his head and uttered a simple prayer for guidance.

A moment later, Ramona quietly slipped in. "You wanted to see me, Babe." Before he could respond, the look on Sheffield face told her that there was something wrong.

He explained the situation to her and asked her to be with him when he delivered news.

It wasn't long, before the intercom line on the telephone rang. Sheffield picked it up to hear Elder Bowers say, "President, Elder Wren is here."

"Very good. Send him in."

Sheffield got up and walked to the door and opened it to let him in. Sheffield shook his hand and

gestured for him to sit down. But first, Ramona also shook his hand. The look on his face asked, "Am in trouble?" as he took his seat.

Sheffield moved a chair around in front of him and sat down, practically knees to knees; Ramona stood beside him. "Elder Wren, I'm afraid that I have some horrible news for you." He paused to allow Elder Wren to prepare for the blow that he was about to receive. Then he continued, "Just before I called you this morning, I received a call from your stake president back home with word that your father had been killed in a car accident on his way to work this morning." Sheffield and Ramona watched as the young Elder's face went white. Then he continued, "Believe me, I know how you must be feeling right now. Why don't we leave you alone for a moment and you can use the telephone to call home and talk to your mother."

Elder Wren just shook his head.

"Are you alright?" Ramona asked.

Again he just shook his head.

"Feel free to talk as long as you need to." Sheffield told him as he and Ramona left the room and stepped out into the office area.

His companions, Elder Peterson and Elder Foreman, were waiting in the office while he went into meet with President Brason. The they were the threesome that was created when Elder Bryant had to go home. They were wondering what was so important, that he had been called into see the mission president on such short notice.

To ease their concern, Sheffield told them that there had been a family emergency and that his father had been killed.

After about twenty minutes, the door to the office opened slowly indicating that he had finished his conversation and was ready to talk. They went back into the office and sat down with Elder Wren. "Are you alright?" Sheffield asked.

"Yeah, I'm alright. At least I will be. That was quite a shock."

"I'll say it was. What do you want to do?"

"Well, my dad always regretted that he didn't get to serve a mission. You see he had to go and fight in the war instead. More than anything else, he wanted me to go for the both of us. He worked and saved so I could be here. I know what he would want me to do and that is to stay and finish, because now he can come and be my companion. I only have six months left, then I can go home and deal with his loss."

"That's commendable, Elder. Is your mother alright with your decision?"

"Yes, we talked it over and she's okay with it."

"Do you want some time to yourself? You can stay here the rest of the day if you'd like. I'm sure Elder Peterson and Elder Foreman can cover your appointments."

“Yes I think I'd like that.”

Elder Wren spent the rest of the day by himself in the mission library while his companions went back to work. That evening, Sheffield personally drove him back to their apartment to rejoin his companions.

With that crisis taken care of, it was only a matter of time before the next problem arose. There was always something needing attention. Because of Thanksgiving later in the month, the conferences typically held during the fourth week of the month were moved up on week. That meant that they had the off island conferences followed by the Maui district conference the second week and the three zone conferences on Oahu the third week without a break in between.

During the Oahu Zone conference, Sheffield noticed that Sister Georgene Rogerson was making goo goo eyes at Elder Daniel England, her district leader. She was so enamored with him that she wasn't paying any attention to what was going on in the meeting. Sister Rogerson was from Caldwell, Idaho and had only been out for about six weeks. She seemed to be off to a slow start. She hadn't progressed very far and seemed rather immature for being twenty one years old.

Elder England on the other hand had always been a hard working Elder with two and a half months left of his mission and had always followed the rules. Sheffield couldn't imagine him having a mission romance. Just to be sure, he pulled him aside after the meeting, although he had already interviewed him.

“Elder England,” he said, “I have to ask you something. Do you have something going on with Sister Rogerson?”

“No President, I don't.” He was almost offended that President Brason even asked such a question.

“I didn't think so, but when I saw how she was looking at you all during the meeting, I just had to ask.”

“I was trying not to notice. She's been doing that for the last two or three weeks now. To be honest she gives me the heebie geebies. She's always getting too close to me and it makes me very uncomfortable. I don't know what her problem is.”

“Its obvious to me that she has feelings for you. Let me talk to her, I'll see what I can do to get her to leave you alone. Go tell her that I want to talk to her.”

A moment later Sister Rogerson approached him. “Elder England said that you wanted to see me President.”

“Yes I do, Sister Rogerson. I couldn't help notice how you were looking at him all during the meeting. Would you mind telling me what that was all about?”

She stammered and stuttered for a minute and finally admitted, “I sort of have a crush on him.”

“I kind of thought so. You know that its completely inappropriate don't you?”

“Yes, but I can't help it. He's so spiritual.”

“Yes he is, but he finds your behavior toward him very distracting and unsettling. I hope you didn't come out on your mission to find a boyfriend.”

That did it. That was all it took for Sister Rogerson break into tears. Any explanation that she attempted to give was completely unintelligible through her sobbing. Sheffield was completely frustrated and didn't know how to handle the situation. He instinctively slipped into military mode, something he rarely ever did, even when he was in the military.

That only made matters worse.

Sheffield left her alone in the room and came out and called Sister Wheeler over and asked, “Is she always like this.”

“All the time, President. She's about worn me out. I don't know how much more of her I can take.”

“Take her back to your apartment. And when you do, check your mail, there's a transfer notice waiting for her.”

“Oh, thank you. Thank you.” she sighed.

Sister Wheeler took her home, but from Saturday until Tuesday, she couldn't get anything out of Sister Rogerson. On Tuesday, Sister Wheeler had to report to the mission home for her transfer. Sister Rogerson had no choice but to come along. Sheffield had regretted the way he handled the situation and called her into his office and this time, they were able to discuss the problem calmly. The whole time, he was wishing that Walt would drop in unexpectedly. He would know how to handle her.

Later in the day, Sister Rock, who was going home, and her companion, Sister Angela Clark who was going to be Sister Rogerson's new companion arrived at the mission home. Sheffield called Sister Clark into his office and explained what she was going to be up against. Even though this was her first time as senior companion, Sister Clark' who had been out for eight months, felt that she was up to the challenge. She put her luggage into the car and drove to Laie with Sister Rogerson.

To help matters, it just so happened that Elder England was transferred to Kauai to finish out his mission as a zone leader, so hopefully Sister Rogerson could get a fresh start. Looking back, Sheffield was amazed at the inspiration behind those two transfers.

That evening after dinner, those going home reported their missions. In all there were six Elders, two Sisters, Sister Halley Williams and Sister Dora Rock, and one couple who where going home. In reporting her mission, Sister Rock said that one of the highlights of her mission was the time that she spent with Sister Brason.

Sheffield interviewed all those going home one last time before they left for the airport. In their place, there was an equal number replacing those going home. In addition, Elder Bryant returned from his medical leave. To ease him back in to the mission, he was assigned to the office as the travel coordinator. One other

footnote to this transfer was that Elder Wren's threesome in Honolulu East/Central was put back into two areas. Sheffield was surprised at how well Elder Wren was doing. It was as if he had added determination and capacity for the work. When Sheffield asked him about it, his reply was that he had an unseen companion, his father.

By Wednesday evening, the dust had settled from the transfers and all was quiet at Mililani once again. The next day was Thanksgiving. Sheffield and Ramona enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving feast with the office staff, the assistants, the lady missionaries, and Sister `Auli`i. As with the year before, the Hanami's spent Thanksgiving with their own family. Later in the week, Sheffield and Ramona flew to Maui for a district conference on Saturday and Sunday. By the time they got back, Roy had Mililani all lit up for the holidays, complete with the life sized nativity and a Christmas tree for the office. A tree for the their apartment was stored in the garage.

The first part of December promised to be relatively quite, barring any unforeseen circumstances that always seem to arise. The only travel off the the Island was the Hilo District Conference on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>. The later part of the month, on the other hand, did promise to be busy with transfer day, the mission conference, and a visit from the kids and grandkids.

On the Monday after returning from Maui, Sheffield and Ramona spent a good share of their p-day putting up their Christmas tree. They used what spare time they could squeeze in writing out Christmas cards. Since it was fairly slow week, they had them all in the mail by the end of the week.

On Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup>, Sheffield had the rare opportunity to watch the live telecast of the launch of Gemini VII on its two week mission into orbit. On Tuesday of the following week, Sheffield observed his sixty seventh birthday by going out for the evening.

Just as everything seemed to be going well, the next day Sheffield received a call from Jake Moanalaua, a member up in Waialua. He was concerned that the Elders had been spending too much time at his home when they should be out working. The thing was, Brother Moanalaua had three teenage daughters and they seemed to be the attraction. He brushed it off, until the day before when they had the Elders over for dinner.

Brother Moanalaua said that after dinner, Elder Richards, a brand new Elder, joined in to help clear away, but that his companion, Elder Coleman, and their seventeen year old daughter came up missing. Jake got concerned and went looking for them. He was still upset when he told Sheffield that he found them in his daughter's bedroom sitting next to each other on her bed. They were just talking, but still, it was inappropriate.

Sheffield said that he would deal with it.

He called Elder Coleman during the lunch hour when he knew they would be at their apartment and



made an appointment to meet with him that afternoon. Sheffield and Ramona drove up to Waialua and met them at the meetinghouse. He took Elder Coleman in a room and sat him down for a talking to.

“I can't tell you how disappointed I am with you, Elder.” he said rather sternly as the naval officer in him was coming out. “I had a lot of confidence and such high hopes in you. I even moved you up to senior companion after only five months, ahead of others who had been out longer. And now I see that you weren't ready for it after all.”

Sheffield went on to re-explain the rules of conduct with the opposite sex to him and the reasons for them. When he was finished, Elder Coleman was very much humbled, but Sheffield wondered if it was sufficient.

Next he took his companion aside to talk to him, and found out that the problem ran much deeper. Elder Richards had only been out for two weeks and from talking to him, he learned that Elder Coleman had been taking advantage of the fact in order to get away with breaking other mission rules. It was as if he was purposely holding him back. Elder Coleman's behavior shook his confidence in Idaho farm boys just a little. He was one of three who had arrived in April. Sheffield made a quick decision and instructed the Elders to return to their apartment and for Elder Coleman to pack up for an impromptu transfer and report to the mission home.

As Sheffield and Ramona drove back to the mission home, he still wasn't quite sure what he was going to do. When they got back, he went into his office and looked at the area board. Then in either a stroke of inspiration or desperation, he wasn't quite sure which, his eyes fell on the picture of Elder James Ashby, a junior companion in Waimea in the Kona Zone. Elder Ashby was another of those Idaho farm boys who came out in April. Sheffield had Elder Bryant make the travel arrangements for the very next day, before he had even had a chance to inform Elder Ashby of the transfer.

When Elder Coleman arrived at the mission home with all of his gear later in the afternoon, he said to him, “Now Elder, this is your chance to redeem yourself. I'm sending you to Waimea over on Hawaii where you will be the junior companion to Elder Phillips. I just want you to know that I'll be watching you very closely. It all depends on you as to when you'll get to be senior companion again. If I hear of any more problems with you, your next transfer will be home. And just to be clear, you are not to attempt contact this young lady. Do I make myself clear, Elder?”

The conversation reminded him of a similar conversation that he had with Murry Puchesky more than twenty years earlier. Although Murry eventually straightened up, he hoped that Elder Coleman would do it sooner than later. But if not, Sheffield was prepared to send him home.

It wasn't until after nine thirty that evening that Sheffield was able to contact Elder Ashby about the transfer, all he told him that he had an unexpected opportunity to move him up to senior companion. He

barely had enough time the next morning to get his things together before catching his flight to Honolulu.

Brother Hanami took Elder Coleman to the airport for his flight to Waimea on the Big Island. Since Elder Ashby's flight arrived forty five minutes later, he waited at the airport. After he picked him up, he brought him to the mission home where he was paired up with Elder Richards and they were sent on their way back to Waialua.

The only time they left the island that month was to go to the Hilo district conference that weekend. They flew out in the chartered Cessna on Saturday morning and returned the next afternoon.

There was a rather large delivery that was dropped off at the mission home on Monday. It was a large crate from Craig that had been sent via air freight from Roanoke. It was full of Christmas presents for his and Norma's kids when they came to spend the holiday.

Sheffield and Ramona were receiving Christmas cards in the mail nearly every day as well. For many of the people they corresponded with, it was the only time during the year that they had any contact. In a card from Wilma Short, they learned that their old friend, Shorty had died about four months earlier.

The first few days of the third week of December was spent working on transfers and preparing for the mission conference the next week. On Wednesday, Sheffield delayed going down to office so he could watch the replay of the the launch of Gemini VI which finally went into space after the original mission had been canceled when the Agena target vehicle was lost. The mission had been modified to include a rendezvous with Gemini VII which had been in orbit for nine days. Sheffield delayed going down to his office until after the two spacecraft were in formation. That night on the news, he got a recap of the mission's progress before going to bed. The next morning he turned on the news for a report of the splash down and recovery of Gemini VI. Gemini VII still had four days left of its mission. Likewise, on Saturday morning, he watched the news to get a report on the splash down and recovery of Gemini VII at the end of its two week mission. Before lift off, the two astronauts were clean-shaven, but when they emerged from the space capsule, they both had full beards.

The mission conference held at the Honolulu Tabernacle was much like the one the year before and coincided with the transfers. The morning of the conference, missionaries from all over the mission began arriving. Sheffield's interview schedule began early as he had to interview all of the missionaries in just two days.

He found Sister Rogerson to be doing a little better. There was still hope for her. Sister Clark reported that Sister Rogerson still had occasional moments of drama, but they weren't too bad. Sheffield felt that Sister Clark just had a knack for handling her. He couldn't help but wonder what he was going to do when it came time to transfer one or the other of them. He also found Elder Wren to still be doing well, after the death of his father.

The conference began at two o'clock and went until three thirty. After a half an hour break, the meeting reconvened at four for the testimony meeting, which was to end at five, but went over by twenty minutes.

After the meeting, Sheffield and Ramona returned to Mililani for dinner. In addition to those who usually joined them for dinner, the four senior couples were invited to dine with them and stay the night. As many of the missionaries as could be accommodated stayed at Mililani as well, while the rest bunked with nearby missionaries or in the homes of church members. That evening after dinner, the four Elders and one sister who were going home the next day reported their missions. They included Elder Michael Westlake and Sister Janet Moody.

The next morning, Sheffield resumed his interviews in order to meet with everyone. Roy took those going home to the airport and returned with four brand new Elders and one Sister. In his interviews with them, he assigned them to their first areas. Since it was also transfer day, the twenty four missionaries affected hooked up with their new companions. New to the mission home were Elder Frank Michaels as the new assistant. It seemed that many of the assistants had once been assigned to the office. Also new to the mission home was Elder Edward Lewis who became the new mission secretary.

As with the year before, that day of the mission conference was all about food and entertainment. Once again the talent came from among the missionaries. Except, Ramona did not make a return performance. Her voice was healing and had become more breathy and less crackly. Even at that, she just couldn't control her voice to produce the desired notes that once came so clearly. After the entertainment, the missionaries were treated to a traditional home cooked Christmas dinner, courtesy of the Relief Society sisters of the Honolulu and Pearl Harbor Stakes. After dinner, the missionaries all returned to their respective areas.

Now that the transfers and the mission conference was over, they turned their attention to getting ready for the kids and grandkids to arrive. The bedding had to be changed and Ramona had some last minute baking that she wanted to do to go with what she had already done. The Christmas shopping and wrapping was finished up on p-day, before the mission conference.

Around eleven o'clock on Christmas Eve morning, Sheffield was in his office while Ramona was upstairs in their apartment when he heard someone come through the door. He didn't pay much attention and left it to Elder Lewis or someone else in the office handle it.

He heard Elder Lewis ask, "Can I help you."

That's when Sheffield heard a voice he recognize reply, "Yeah. Were the Govers. Were here to see my parents."

Sheffield jumped up and grabbed his cane and hurried out into the outer office. "Well, well. What a

surprise. We weren't expecting you for another four hours." he said as he received a hug from Janet. "Gosh it's good to see you. Let em call your mother down here."

She let go of him and he had a hug for Jerry, who had Andrea in his arms. Two hugs for the price of one. Then he got down on one knee and gave Wesley a hug.

Sheffield picked up the telephone on Elder Lewis' desk and punched the button that rang the line upstairs. When Ramona answered, he said, "You'd better get down here. We have company."

When he hung up he turned back to Janet and her family and asked, "So, how'd you get here so fast?"

Before they could answer, Ramona came flying down the stairs and there was another round of hugs and greetings.

Finally, Janet was able to answer his question. "Well as you know, we had plans to meet up with Craig and Norma and their families in LA. But the weather report yesterday called for a big storm to move into Northern Utah this morning. Jerry called and got our tickets exchanged for an earlier flight. I called Norma and told her of our change of plans, then we drove down to Salt Lake where we spent the night. Sure enough, it was beginning to snow pretty heavy when we went to the airport. Ours was the last flight out before they closed the airport."

"Why didn't you call us?" Ramona asked.

"Because we wanted to surprise you."

"You sure did." Ramona replied. "Come on upstairs and let's get you settled."

Sheffield left what he was working on right where it was and with the assistance of Elder Lewis, helped Jerry take their luggage upstairs.

The grandkids quickly warmed up to them and their surroundings. They were especially excited by the Christmas tree and all of the wrapped presents beneath it.

When Sister `Auli`i learned that they were there, she quickly added more to what she had planned to prepare for lunch and four extra places were set at the table.

It was ready by the time they had settled in upstairs and they came down and all had lunch together. Sister Lovell, one of the lady missionaries particularly fussed over Wesley and Andrea. She said that she had a lot of nieces and nephews back home in Utah that she was missing at Christmas.

After a while, they all went back to the airport to meet the rest of the family as their flight arrived from the mainland. That Christmas Eve, they were all together again as the magic of Christmas settled over Mililani.

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