

Chapter XXXIX

Over the Hump

December 24, 1965 – February 26, 1966

As the evening progressed, the excitement grew and was reflected in the wide eyes of the children. With the exception of twelve year old Gean, the belief was strong. Ten year old Geoff and Teresa had their doubts, but held on tightly to what belief they still had, for perhaps the last time.

As with the year before they put on a short Christmas pageant for their parents and grandparents. The entire family joined in singing Christmas carols from “Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer” to “Silent Night”. To cap off the evening, the grandchildren all gathered around as Grandpa read “Twas the Night Before Christmas” and the Nativity from Luke.

Then the children were sent off to bed. For the most part, they went willingly since it had been a very long day of travel. Once it was certain that they were sound asleep, Santa came. The rest of the items that had been shipped in the crate were placed under the tree, as were the things that Janet and Jerry had brought for Wesley and Andrea. By the time the stockings had been filled, everyone went off to bed. The adults were also weary from a long day of travel.

On Christmas morning, some of the kids awoke early to the excitement of Christmas morning. Not wanting to have to wait, they made sure everyone else was awake as well. Once they were all up, they were allowed to go see what waited for them under the Christmas tree and in their stockings. Then each in turn, they opened the gifts from each other. The thrill of playing with their new toys overshadowed any hunger the kids might have experienced. When they did get hungry, the candy and goodies sufficed.

Ramona, Norma, Janet, and Edith left the kids to their treasures and slipped downstairs to help Sister `Auli`i with dinner, while the men visited on the balcony. Before long Miliani was filled from top to bottom with a combination of savory aromas. The long dining table was set and the food was set out. With the entire Brason Family and the office missionaries and the assistants gathered around, Sheffield asked the blessing on the food. At the amen, the feasting began. There was more than enough for the twenty four people at the table. What the smaller children couldn't eat, someone else did.

Since Ramona and the girls had helped prepare dinner, Sister `Auli`i pressed the men into service for clean up. When the last of it was put away, Sheffield presented Sister `Auli`i with an envelope containing cash, as a token of their appreciation for all that she had done for them throughout the year. The day before, he did the same with the Hanamis before they went home for the day.

While dinner was being cleaned up, Ramona managed to coax the kids to leave their new toys and come out to enjoy the beautiful warm Hawaiian Christmas day for a while. After the sun set, they all drove into Honolulu to see the Christmas lights. When they got home, there was plenty of left overs for supper. It was one of those magical days with the whole family together. And it was only the beginning of an entire

week together.

On Sunday, they all attended church together. On Monday, they spent the entire day at the beach. On Tuesday they went up to Laie. Sheffield and Ramona and their children and their spouses all attended the temple together while Takara and Lolani watched the kids. The rest of the day was spent at the Polynesian Cultural Center including a luau in the evening. Wednesday was spent at the zoo and the aquarium. On Thursday, they all just enjoyed each others company without having to go anywhere or do anything. Craig and his family went out on their own for a little while, while Norma took advantage of the washer and dryer in the basement. Sheffield had a little business that required his attention, but he had the matter resolved in a short amount of time.

The week seemed to fly by and it was already Friday again and New Years Eve. During the afternoon, the entire family went to a matinee of the new Disney movie, "That Darn Cat". After the movie they went out to dinner and came home to greet the new year.

New Years Day 1966 marked what the missionaries referred to as hump day for Sheffield and Ramona. They had been in the mission for exactly a year and half with a year and a half left. Sheffield and Ramona paused to look back over the last eighteen months and marveled at all that had taken place. They looked forward to the next eighteen months and all that was still ahead. Then maybe they could take that cross country vacation that they had planned on after retiring.

During the morning, they watched a tape delay broadcast of the Pasadena Rose Parade. Around one o'clock they had dinner and in the evening, Romona and Sheffield took on all of the grandkids to let the Craig and Edith, Norma and Wade, and Janet and Jerry go out for the evening.

Early Sunday morning it all came to an end as they saw all except for Janet and her kids off at the airport so they could get home for work and school the next day. As with the year before, Janet stayed for an extended visit since her kids weren't in school yet and had the time. After seeing everyone off, they went to church. Janet was happy to see the Garcias at Church and to know that they were doing well. They told her how grateful they were that she had been with Sister Ricks that day when they knocked on their door. If it hadn't been for the fact that Janet knew what they were dealing with, they probably wouldn't have been willing to agree to the discussions.

On Monday, Sheffield and Ramona used the the day to switch gears from the holidays and get back to work as later in the week, they were scheduled to travel off the island for the first round of zone conferences of the month. Sheffield spent Tuesday working on the message that he wanted to deliver.

That night in their presidency meeting, Dick Kaaola reported that President Collins of the Maui District had uncovered a major discrepancy in the year end financial report and suspected that either the branch president or the clerk in one of the branches had been helping themselves to church funds. Since

Sheffield was going to be on Maui on Thursday he called President Collins and had him schedule an meeting with the branch president.

On Wednesday morning, Janet packed up the kids and left to go spend the rest of the week with Takara while Sheffield and Ramona were off to their conferences. After seeing her off, Roy drove them and the assistants to the airport for their flight to Lihue for the Kauai zone conference. After the meetings, they spent the night with Frank and Olina Alapai.

The next day, they flew to Kahului for the Maui zone conference. As soon as the meetings were over, they flew over to Lanai for Sheffield's appointment with Ray Kaulamuka, the president of the branch to investigate the allocations of misused church funds. While he went to the meetinghouse, Ramona stayed with Elder and Sister Cottle, the senior missionary couple assigned to Lanai, while a member family took the Assistants for the night.

Sheffield was met by President Syllas Collins and together they went to meetinghouse for the meeting with President Kaulamuka. The issue in question were checks drawn from fast offering funds made out to John Fisher over the last ten months that were to pay the rent for a elderly widow in the branch.

On the surface, everything looked alright, but Syllas pointed out the discrepancy that had been uncovered during an audit of the records. For starters, the the checks should have been made out to Jon Fischer since that was the name of the widow's landlord. The other red flag was they were cashed in odd places at odd times.

These questions lead Sheffield to ask Ray to produce the bank statements, with the canceled checks. Upon further examination, the endorsement signature looked very much like Ray's handwriting. None of them were deposited into an account, like a rent check would be, but rather for cash. That, plus the fact none of them were cashed anywhere near where he was well known, but rather at various locations around the island.

The evidence was rather damning. Sheffield asked Syllas to leave him alone with Ray. When he had left the office, Sheffield said, "This doesn't look good. You can either tell me or we can turn it over to the authorities for investigation."

Ray knew that he had been caught red handed with his hand in the cookie jar. The color drained out of his face as he just sat there.

"Well," Sheffield asked, "Which will it be?"

"Alright. I confess, I took the money."

Sheffield didn't say a word, but rather nodded his head for him to elaborate.

"I was desperate and didn't know what to do. I was in deep with a loan shark and had to either start making payments or he would do harm to my family."

“How much did you owe?”

“Twenty five hundred dollars. I repaid a thousand of that.”

“I see.” Sheffield said. “What did you need that kind of money for that you couldn't of got a loan from legitimate sources?”

“It all began with a friendly wager that I thought was a sure thing. The thing was I didn't have all of the facts and I lost bet. I couldn't pay up, so the man I lost the bet to recommended someone who I could work out a deal with. I had nowhere else to turn because I couldn't let my wife or anyone else find out what I had done. So I meet with this guy and he loaned me the money and I payed off the debt. When he started breathing down my neck, I had to find a way to start making payments. Then one Sunday while depositing the fast offering funds, I hatched a plan that I thought would work, so I had the clerk make out a check for what I told him was Sister Haulua's rent. I cashed the checks myself to pay my loan.”

“You do understand how seriously the church looks on embezzling church funds, don't you?”

“Yes. But I didn't think I'd get caught with such a small amount each month.”

“You'll always get caught, sooner or later. I don't know what to tell you about the fix you're in, but now you're in another as well. How are you going to pay back the church on top of loan shark?”

“I don't know.”

“Here's what I'm going to tell you. First, as soon as you go home, tell your wife everything. Second, as of right now, you are released as the branch president. Then I'd recommend that you find a second job. I need you to hand over your keys to the building right now.”

Ray reached into his pocket and handed him a set of keys.

“Thank you. And lastly, as soon as can be arranged I'm going to have convene a church court to determine what course of action to pursue. I have a pretty good idea how it will turn out. Now, go home and talk to your wife and begin figuring out what you're going to do.”

In shame, Ray left the branch president's office. Sheffield followed him to the door and said, “Good luck.” as he shook his hand.

Then he invited Syllas in to the office and told him everything that has transpired. Then he asked, “Who is there in the branch that we can call as the president on such a short notice in the wake of all of this?”

“I'm afraid there isn't much to select from. Its a pretty small branch.”

“Then here's what I'm going to do. “I'm going to call Elder Cottle for now. He and Sister Cottle have until the end of May before they go home. That ought to give enough time for the Lord to groom someone to step in.” Then he asked, “Can you get the district council together for a court on Sunday evening here in Lanai?”

"I'm sure that can be arranged."

"Good. I have to go on to Hilo tomorrow and will be in Kona on Saturday and Sunday. I'll return as soon as my last meeting is over."

From the meetinghouse, Sheffield returned to the Cottle's home, a small two bedroom house that they were renting. He sent Ramona out of the room so he could talk to the Cottles alone and without explanation, he called Elder Cottle to serve as the branch president for the rest of their mission and instructed him to select his counselors as soon as possible.

When he and Ramona retired to their room to get ready for bed, Ramona, who had no clue of the purpose of their detour to Lanai, didn't ask for an explanation.

The next day, they flew on to the Big Island to conduct two zone conferences and a district conference in Kona. After the zone conference, he sent the Assistants back to Honolulu on a Hawaiian Air flight, while he and Ramona remained for the district conference. As soon as it was over, they flew back to Lanai in the Cessna and arrived in time to extend the calls to Elder Cottle's counselors, who had both been counselors to President Kaulamuka, and presented the new branch presidency for a sustaining vote in sacrament meeting, after releasing President Kaulamuka.

Following the meeting, Sheffield set apart the new branch presidency and then met with the district presidency and district council in the Relief Society Room of the small meetinghouse to consider the case against Ray Kaulamuka. Then he was invited in to listen as his fate was deliberated. Finally he was permitted to speak for himself, in which he confessed to the charge against him and asked for forgiveness.

He was excused while Sheffield called for one last round of comments. When there was nothing more to be said, He and the district presidency went into another room to seek guidance from the Lord in making their decision. It was quick incoming. They returned to the Relief Society room and invited Ray in to hear the verdict.

Sheffield looked at Ray and said, "Your last comment was a plea of forgiveness. I assure you that is completely possible through the Savior's atonement. But it isn't free or easy. As you know, our agency makes us accountable for our actions. That accountability demands that we accept the consequences and that is that you are at this time excommunicated from the church."

Sheffield went on to explain what that entailed and added, "Now there is another choice before you. You can begin the repentance process to work your way back by first repaying that which you have taken, and free yourself of the rest of your obligation that lead to this. Then after you have demonstrated your repentance and faithfulness, you can be considered for re-admittance into full fellowship into the Church, or you are free to walk away. But keep in mind, if you are not willing to work with us, I'll have no choice but to turn you over for prosecution under the law."

That evening, Sheffield and Ramona again stayed with the Cottles in Lanai before flying back to Honolulu on Monday as was originally planned. Its just that the trip included a lot more than usual. Not long after they returned, later in the morning Janet came back from her stay with Takara in Laie.

And so the new year and the second half of their mission began with yet another challenging issue to deal with. There were bound to be more before they were through, but hopefully not for a little while, at least.

During the second week of January, Sheffield and Ramona spent the entire week at Mililani. Even though there was the day to day routine, such as working out the next round of transfers, they were able to spend a lot of time with Janet and her kids. At times they were able to break away and go do something.

There was one little matter of excitement, however. It was time to exchange the older cars in the fleet for the new 1966 models. As with the year before, Sheffield received a new Chevy Impala. Sheffield cleared his schedule on Saturday to spend the weekend and Monday with Janet and kids. That day, they celebrated her birthday two days early before seeing them off on Tuesday the eighteenth.

Thursday through Saturday of that week was spent in missionary meetings on Oahu. On Saturday, which was their twenty second anniversary, they drove up to Laie for meetings there. It was their typical monthly trip to Laie, including attending the temple in the morning. That night, they stayed with Manti and lolani in their beach front guest room. They remained in Laie on Sunday and attended church there before returning home that evening.

The only major event during the last full week of January was transfer day, and it was pretty light with Elder England and Elder Wright going home and two new Elders coming out to replace them. In all only fourteen missionaries were affected. The only change in the mission home was that Elder Grant Edwards from Delta, Utah replaced Elder Hendricks as the mission recorded.

In looking forward to the next month, Elder Simmons and a lady missionary were going home, but because of the new quotas, there wasn't an Elder coming to replace him. Sheffield was faced with closing an area and creating a threesome. In an attempt to delay the inevitable by one month, he contacted the missionary department in Salt Lake and requested a one month extension to Elder Simmon's mission. A few days later he received notification that it had been approved.

During the second week of the February, about the time Sheffield began to think about transfers, Elder Simmons' extension became irrelevant. On Tuesday, Sheffield received a telephone call from Elder Aaron Baker over in Kahaluu in the Windward South District that his companion, Elder Winston North from Cedar City, Utah had as he put it, "Flipped out."

Elder North, who had been just barely observed his hump day, had been a hard working, successful missionary. But Elder Baker reported that ever since he had received a dear john letter two days earlier, he

hadn't eaten or left the apartment. Elder Baker became very worried on the third day when he wouldn't get even get out of bed. From the way Elder Baker described him, he was delirious and irrational.

It sounded serious enough so Sheffield and Ramona drove over to Kahaluu to see what they could do. Ramona had a little psychological training as nurse and had seen symptoms like this with sailors who simply couldn't cope any longer and basically shut down. What they found when they got there was a young man in serious trouble in the middle of a mental break down.

"Come on." Sheffield said to her in frustration, "it was only a dear John letter. Missionaries get them all the time. After moping around for a day or two they go on to be even better missionaries."

"Not this time, Babe." Ramona gently corrected him. "The letter was only the trigger. There's something far more serious going on here. We need to get him to a hospital."

"Alright dear, you're the expert here. I trust your judgment."

Sheffield called Elder Forrest, the district leader in Kaneohe, and had him and his companion come and get Elder Baker and directed that the three of them cover both areas. Once Elder Baker was taken care of, Sheffield and Ramona gathered a few of Elder North's things and with the help of the three missionaries, they loaded him into the car and took him to The Queen's hospital in Honolulu.

They waited while he was checked out by a doctor. The report wasn't good. Elder North had slipped into a very deep depression that would require psychiatric help and a very long time to recover from, and when he did, he would most likely not be quite the same. In talking to the doctor, it was determined that he should go home for treatment. They would keep him there in the hospital until he stabilized and arrangements could be made to send him home.

Sheffield and Ramona went back to the mission home and Sheffield had one of those difficult telephone calls to place. When he reached the North family in Cedar City, it was dinner time. At first, Elder North's father's reaction was similar to Sheffield's initial reaction.

"That's what I thought at first." Sheffield assured him. "But my wife has had some experience in treating this sort of a problem. She felt that he was in serious trouble and that we should get him to the hospital for an evaluation. The doctor who examined him said that he is going to need some serious help and that it would be best to send him home for treatment."

There was a long pause on the other end of the line. Finally Elder North's father said, "I understand. We'll figure out a way and we'll be there tomorrow."

"I think that's best. Call me when you have your itinerary so we can meet you at the airport."

After the need to send Elder North home, Sheffield called Elder Simmons in to tell him that because of this development he would be going home as scheduled after all. After their conversation, Sheffield invited Elder Michaels and Ramona in to work out the transfers.

The transfer meeting continued the next morning. They hadn't got very far when Elder Lewis announced a call for President Brason. Sheffield picked it up to find Elder North's father on the other end to say that they would be arriving in Honolulu at two thirty that afternoon. They resumed work on the transfers and broke for lunch. After lunch, Sheffield and Ramona drove to the airport to meet the the anxious parents.

As they watched the passengers disembark from the aircraft, they noticed a worried looking couple scanning the crowd. They obviously weren't tourist. Sheffield and Ramona began to move in their direction. When the couple noticed them, they recognized who they were by their missionary name tags, they made a beeline toward them.

"Are you President and Sister Brason?"

"Yes. You must be Elder North's parents."

"We are. I'm Dan and this is my wife, Twila. How do you do?"

"Fine thank you. I called the hospital this morning and Elder North was resting comfortably, but still not responding. Let me help you with your bags, and we'll go see him."

"Thank you President. We appreciate all that you've done for him."

"Do you folks have a place to stay?"

"No. We thought we'd check on Winston first and see how long it would be before he can leave."

"You're more than welcome to stay at the mission home. We have plenty of room for you."

"Thank you. I think we'll take you up on that."

Sheffield picked up one of their bags and showed them out to the car. After placing all of their luggage in the trunk, they drove to the hospital.

"We've always wanted to come to Hawaii." Twila said as she watched the scenery as they drove to the hospital. "But not under these circumstances."

Sheffield assured them that their son was a great missionary and what an asset he had been to the mission.

Ramona asked, "Has your son ever displayed any symptoms of depression before?"

"No, never." his mother said. "He's always been so positive and upbeat. I can't believe that being jilted by his girl would do this to him."

"That's not necessarily the reason." Ramona said. "In all my years as nurse, I've seen cases like this before. Even the slightest event can trigger something to snap. It can even happen to over achievers and perfectionists."

"That's our Winston." Twila sighed.

About then, they pulled into a parking space at The Queen's Hospital. Sheffield and Ramona led the way to his room. As they entered, Sheffield and Ramona held back as his parents rushed to his side. He just

stared blankly straight ahead, oblivious to their presence. It broke their hearts to see them like that. After a moment, Dan asked Sheffield to join him in administering to his son.

After a few minutes, the doctor caring for him came into the room. He explained what he thought was going on. "He has had a mental breakdown, sometimes called a nervous breakdown. It's an acute psychiatric disorder that manifests in a previously functional individual as severe stress-induced depression, anxiety and/or physical and emotional detachment, to the extent that they are no longer able to function on a day-to-day basis until the disorder is resolved. Its often closely tied to psychological burnout, severe overwork, sleep deprivation and similar stress factors, which combine to temporarily overwhelm an individual with otherwise sound mental faculties. Mister Brason told me that your son just got a dear john letter from his girlfriend. That most likely was just the straw that broke the camels back, so to speak. Thats not unlike divorce which is often a major trigger in such cases. The good news is that its a temporary condition and can be resolved with the proper attention."

He went on to ask them a number of questions about his history.

After getting a brief explanation to his personality and characteristics, he asked, "Has anyone in your family every had issues with depression?"

"Yes." Twila said. "During the war, something happened to my brother. He was a lot like Winston, but he came home a completely different person. But we always attributed it to some horrific experience he must have gone through."

"What was he like when he came home?"

"Depressed and moody."

"Did he get any help for it?"

"Not that we know of."

"It doesn't surprise me. Even today, mental illness gets overlooked. I understand that you are from Utah. I have checked with the Utah State Hospital in Provo, is that anywhere near you?"

"Its about two hundred miles north of us. Why? Is that where you want to send him?" Dan asked.

"Yes, as a matter of fact. They would be the best equipped to help him."

That really set Dan back. His face went flush and he took a deep breath before responding. "I'm not sending my son to the nut house."

"Shame on you Dan." Twila scolded. "If thats where he can get the best help, thats where he should go. This is about him, not what someone may think of you. I wish my brother could of got that kind of help."

"I'm sorry." Dan said. "You're right Twila."

"Alright, doctor. How do we get him there? He doesn't seem to be fit to travel."

"We can make arrangements with the airlines for cases such as this. But I would like to keep him

here for another day or two to see if he becomes responsive. Having you here will probably be the best thing for that. Do you have a place to stay?"

"Yes we do."

At that Sheffield said, "If you like, we can take your luggage to the mission home and put it in the guest room for you. When your ready, you can call us. Do you still have the number?"

"Yeah."

"Or," Sheffield continued, "there is a bus that stops outside the front of the hospital. Look for route four or sixty five, either one will bring you directly to the mission home. It takes less than twenty minutes. If you're alright to stay here, we'll go on back."

"Thank you President Brason." Twila said. "Go ahead. I'm sure that you have other business to attend to. Thanks for all you have done."

"Yeah. Thanks, President. We'll see you sometime this evening."

At that Sheffield and Ramona left to return to the mission home. Once they got there, they resumed their transfer meeting with the assistants.

The North's didn't arrive until after eight o'clock in the evening. Sheffield and Ramona had already gone upstairs to their apartment. They heard the buzzer at the front door and Sheffield went down to let them in. First he showed them to the guest room, where their luggage was waiting for them. They spent a while visiting with the Brasons, but it had been a long difficult day for them, made even longer by the difference in the time zones. Before long, they went to bed.

The next day, Thursday, the Norths spent all day at the hospital with their son. When they returned in the evening, they reported that without saying anything, he had acknowledged their presence. The doctor felt that was very good sign, but he still wasn't ready to release him to travel home. He had recommended that they take some time for themselves and at least spend some time at the beach to relax. They decided to take him up on that and on Friday they took the bus to the hospital and spent a little while there, then went to the beach as the doctor had prescribed. They found the four hours they spent there very relaxing. When they returned to the hospital later in the afternoon, they had a much more optimistic outlook. Their optometrist was spurred on by ever so slight improvements in Elder North's condition.

Through the weekend he continued to come out of whatever dark place he was in. On Sunday, the Norths left him long enough to attend the morning church meetings with the Brasons. They were gratified that their son was mentioned in every prayer that was offered. Sheffield assured him that he was being remembered in every ward and branch throughout the mission that day.

The faith and prayers in his behalf were heard and answered. When they returned to his bedside, he sat up, turned his head, and looked directly at them and simply said, "Mom, Dad." As they talked to him, he

responded with short two or three word sentences. That was enough for the doctor to be encouraged enough to discuss releasing him to go home. On Monday, the arrangements were made with the airlines and the hospital in Provo for him to be transferred the next day.

On Tuesday, Sheffield and Ramona accompanied the Norths to the hospital, their luggage in the trunk. Elder North was responsive enough to understand that he was going home. He was taken to the airport by an ambulance where a special team of airline personnel trained in transferring patients took him onto the plane and would remain with him all the way to Salt Lake City. Dan and Twilia thanked Sheffield and Ramona for their hospitality and all that they done for them and for their son. They said goodbye and boarded the plane.

Sheffield and Ramona waited until they were aboard the plane before they turned to leave. Sheffield commented, "Unlike Elder Bryant, Elder North won't be coming back."

"He'll be alright." Ramona assured him. "It will take some time, but he will be alright. He'll be able to go on with his life and get along just fine."

Once they had seen Elder North and his parents off, they returned to Mililani to receive the transient missionaries who would be arriving for an overnight stay. The first to arrive were Sister Carlene Hansen and Sister Melissa Shirley from Honokaa, along with others who came over from Hawaii with Richard Kaaola. Sister Hansen, from Rockland, Idaho, was one of the first missionaries to come out soon after Sheffield and Ramona arrived in the islands. Now here she was going home.

Next to arrive were Elder and Sister Cartwright from Guam. They arrived in the mission the same day as Sister Hansen. Sheffield had felt impressed to send them to Guam, only to discover that they had unfinished business there from when they had lived there some years earlier while he was in the Air Force. They spent the entire eighteen months of their mission there and had been very successful. Because of the distance, no one would be taking their place.

Also going home was Elder Simmons, who Ramona had nursed back to health when they first arrived. She had got to know him very well and if she were to have any favorite missionaries, he would rank right at the top, along with Sister Dora Rock.

Others who were in transit to and from distant areas arrived through out the afternoon as well. This wasn't a very big transfer, only affecting fourteen missionaries, so there weren't very many who were staying overnight. All who were, gathered around the long dining table with the rest. After dinner, those going home reported their missions. Later in the evening, Sheffield met with Dick Kaaola and Dwight Galloway in their Presidency meeting.

On Wednesday, transfer day, most of the rest who where either going to new areas or receiving a new companion came and went. In some cases, when transferring from one area to another on the same

island didn't necessarily come to the mission home.

After one final interview, they bid farewell to those going home. Roy drove them to the airport and returned with the one lone Sister missionary who was coming out. The new quotas were beginning to have an impact on the number of new missionaries. This transfer resulted in a net loss of four missionaries. In addition to Guam, Sheffield also had to close Kahaluu where Elder North and Elder Baker had been. The area would be covered by Elder Forrest and Elder Curtis in Kaneohe for the time being.

It was interesting how differently people reacted to bad news. For Elder North, a dear John letter tipped him over the edge. It was completely the opposite for Elder Wren when he got the news that his father had been killed. For him, he found a renewed determination to work harder. Because of that, he took Elder Simmons place as one of the Assistants to the President. Also new to the mission home was Elder Oliver Coggins who became the new financial secretary.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of that week was spent in zone conferences in the Honolulu, Pearl Harbor, and Oahu Zones. On Saturday, they left early and drove up to Laie to attend the temple before the conference. Rather than stay with the Morleys that evening, they drove back to Honolulu. On their way they discussed the meeting and the missionaries.

"And how's our problem child doing?" Ramona asked.

"Who? Oh you mean Sister Rogerson."

"Yeah. She seems to be doing alright." Ramona observed.

"I don't know how Sister Clark does it, but she seems to be able to keep her in line. Oh she still has her little emotional outbursts, but nothing serious."

"It's too bad that you can't just leave them together." Ramona commented. "But in the long run, that wouldn't be good for either one of them."

"No, but I'd like to leave them together for as long as possible. By then Sister Clark might have her trained."

"Don't you mean house broken?" Ramona quipped.

When they arrived home, they had the next ten days without any travel and without any new problems to deal with. They realized that it was only a matter of time before something else came up. Something always did.

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