

Chapter XLVII

Down to the Wire

March 19, 1967 – July 1, 1967

On Sunday, Elder Randall and Elder Harper accompanied the office staff, the assistants, and President Brason as they went to Priesthood meeting. Understandably, Elder Randall and Elder Harper didn't have much to say. Later in the morning, they were joined by Sister Brason and the lady missionaries for Sunday School.

As usual when they attended the ward, they went to the Gospel Essentials Sunday School Class. That day there were a number of investigators who the Sisters were working with. Among them were Rodney and Brenda Gateway, a young couple with a little three year old daughter, who was off in the Junior Sunday School. The sisters had been working with the Gateways for quite sometime, but something was holding them back.

That day the lesson was about tithing. As part of the discussion, Sheffield volunteered, "Even back when I was a Methodist, my late wife always insisted that we give ten percent of our income to the church and we were always blessed for it. When Ramona and I were investigating the Church and we were taught about tithing, it was just the natural thing for us to do."

Brenda had a look on her face that said she had something on her mind, but wasn't sure if she wanted to express herself or not. With an encouraging look from Brother Lau, the ward mission leader and class instructor, she explained, "All this time that we have been meeting with the Sisters, the only thing that has held us back is tithing. We accept and believe everything else, but with Rod's salary and our cost of living, I just don't see how we can do it."

Sister Handy, one of the lady missionaries added, "Like President Brason said, I too have always been blessed for paying tithing. Over the years I learned that tithing is about faith, not money. When my late husband and I were raising our family during the depression, we always had what we needed. Even when it seemed impossible, ways were opened that were nothing short of miracles."

"But how?" Brenda asked.

"Before the blessings come, you have to exercise faith." Sister Handy concluded.

Sheffield told her, "The only way to prove it is to muster the faith to try it. I promise you that you'll be blessed for it." Then out of nowhere, Sheffield heard himself saying. "If you don't see the blessing, I'll personally reimburse you out of my own pocket."

No one was more stunned by what he said than he was himself. Now that he said it, he had to stand by it. Brenda and Rod, just looked at him without saying a word. What he said had caught them off guard as well. Now it was up to them.

On the way home Ramona said, "That was a pretty bold promise that you made."

"I know. It just came out before I thought about what I was saying. But you know what, I'm not worried. If they do accept the challenge, they will be blessed."

"I just hope that they recognize the blessing."

That afternoon when they went back to Sacrament meeting, Sheffield and Ramona were in the foyer

greeting people when the Gateways entered the building. They stopped by the rack where the tithing envelopes were kept and took one. She filled out the slip and put a check in the enveloped. She turned around to see a member of the bishopric and handed it to him.

Having observed it, Sheffield whispered to Ramona, "Okay, now maybe I'm a little bit worried."

On Monday, Sheffield called around and found a psychologist and made an appointment for both Elder Randall and Elder Harper for Thursday. Elder Harper seemed anxious to be doing something, but Elder Randall had become reserved and withdrawn. Sheffield worried about him. He couldn't imagine the trauma that he had been through. On Tuesday he spent most of the day in the library, while Elder Harper asked the office staff if there was something he could do to help.

It was obvious to Sheffield that Elder Randall needed to go home, regardless what the psychologist might have to say, but he was confident that Elder Harper would probably be alright. One thing was obvious, he couldn't send either one of them back to Koloa. He made a decision to amend the transfers at the last minute. He decided to send Elder Bennett, the mission secretary to Koloa and have Elder Harper serve as the mission secretary. That way he could keep an eye on him and give him a chance to work through whatever issues that he may have. As for a companion for Elder Bennett, Sheffield had just received notification that Elder Cliff Fitzgerald who was to have come out earlier was now coming with this batch of new missionaries. The timing couldn't have been any better so he paired him up with Elder Bennett.

Later in the afternoon, when the mission home began filling up with transient missionaries, Elder Randall withdrew even more. Everyone knew that they had been kidnapped, but no one knew what he actually endured. Typically it was a time that the missionaries look forward to, especially for one of Sister `Auli`i's fabulous home cooked dinners. Elder Randall sat through dinner, mostly picking at his food. Then later when those going home reported their missions, he seemed completely disengaged. The strong probability that he would be going home weighed heavily on his mind, compounding the trauma that he had experienced. That evening, with several Elders bunked out in the barracks, he was withdrawn and didn't interact, not even with his friends, only with Elder Harper.

On Wednesday morning, Sheffield was busy interviewing the three Elders and three Sisters who were going home. Of all the missionaries who had come and gone, Sister Rogerson had probably grown the most. After getting off to a rocky start, she had overcome and worked through her behavior challenges and matured into a good missionary with the adequate life skills that she would need when she got home. In the beginning, Sheffield was inclined to send her home, but keeping her at the mission home for eleven months and just the right companions proved to be a stroke of inspiration.

After interviewing all six, they saw them off as Brother Hanami took them to the airport. When he returned, he had four new Elders and three new Sisters. In addition to Elder Fitzgerald, among the new arrivals was a missionary who they had awaited with great anticipation ever since they learned that he was coming. That was Elder Mark Brown from the Salem Branch. Elder Brown was the grandson of Jack Brown who had been the

President of the Roanoke Branch. Sheffield had served as his first counselor. After interviewing each of the new missionaries, they went off to their first areas with their trainers. For those going to the other islands, it meant another trip to the airport.

Compared to the last two transfers, this was closer to the usual size as it affected twenty two missionaries. New to the mission home was Elder Allred, who took Elder Mason's place as an Assistant. It was Elder Allred who's brother had been killed in action in Viet Nam three months earlier. In addition to Elder Harper becoming the new mission secretary, Elder Robert Williams became the new travel coordinator. In the place of Sister Rogerson, Sister Cheryl Murphy, who was brand new, was put with Sister Handy in the apartment upstairs.

Thursday was the Honolulu Zone Conference. In order to go with Elder Randall and Elder Harper to their appointment with the psychologist, Sheffield rearranged the schedule. Rather than meeting with the missionaries at the tabernacle just prior to the meeting, he had them come to the mission home, beginning at eight o'clock, with the meeting moved back two hours.

After completing his interviews, he took the two Elders downtown for their appointments. Each evaluation took one hour, then the psychologist met with Sheffield. He wasn't surprised at the outcome. He was okay with Elder Harper staying, especially with the assignment that Sheffield had given him. In four months he should be ready to go back out in the field, but he wanted to see him once a month during that time. Elder Randall, on the other hand, was so traumatized that he was unable to function and was slipping into depression. He directed that he return home to Utah and begin receiving comprehensive therapy.

When they returned to the mission home, Elder Williams got a first hand lesson in scheduling a flight and arranged for Elder Randall to go home the next day. Sheffield called his stake president to let him know when he would be arriving.

Sheffield gave him the option of attending the conference that afternoon, which he accepted since Elder Harper was going, since the office staff were included in the Honolulu Zone. At the end of the meeting, during the testimony portion of the conference, Elder Randall did stand and was quite emotional as he expressed himself and said goodbye to the mission.

The next morning, Sheffield had him in for his final interview and on their way to the Pearl Harbor Zone Conference, they personally saw him off at the airport. The conference that day and the one for the Oahu Zone in Laie on Saturday followed the usual schedule, complete with attending the temple on Saturday morning.

There was more news from home. Craig wrote to tell about the round up at the Two Star Ranch and that the Magicians had done well at the district tournament and were going to the State Championships. He also told them that he had just been called to serve as the Elders Quorum President in the Salem Branch and was to be sustained and set apart on Sunday, along with his counselors.

On Sunday, which happened to be Easter, they thought of Craig as they went to their church meetings. As the ward was gathering for Sunday School, Brenda Gateway made a beeline for Sheffield. All of a sudden, he remembered the promise that he had made to her the week before. Before he could prepare himself for the

encounter, she threw her arms around him, and with tears in her eyes, she said, "It worked, President Brason. It worked."

She released him from the embrace, Rod who was right beside her said, "We went home after Sunday School last week and talked about what you had said. I had been paid on Friday so we decided to exercise our faith and put it to the test. Brenda wrote out a check for our tithing and when we came back to Sacramento meeting, we turned it in. It put a real strain on our budget and we didn't know how we were going to pay the rent at the end of the month.

"Then the very next day, my boss called me in and told me that he wanted to move me up to make room for someone he wanted to bring in to our organization. It meant more responsibility for me along with a significant raise. The thing is, he was considering someone else for it, but during the night, he decided to give it to me instead."

Brenda concluded, "When Rod called me to tell me about it, I got the strongest feeling that it was direct result of having paid our tithing. We'll never not pay it from now on. Oh there's Sister Handy. We have to go tell her that we're ready to be baptized. I just wish that Sister Rogerson was still here."

They left Sheffield and Ramona as quickly as they rushed to him as they went to talk to Sister Handy and Sister Murphy. He looked down at his companion and said, "Well, what do you know?"

All of that next week was spent at Mililani attending to business. As March slipped away, they got a letter from Salt Lake addressed to them personally, rather than to the mission. As they opened it and read it, the reality of time was staring them in the face from off the sheet of paper with the letterhead of the First Presidency and their signatures at the bottom. The letter informed them that their calling was coming to an end and their release would be effective on June 30th. That gave them April, May, and June to finish up. Before, it was something off in the not too distant future, but now with the letter in their hands, the finality of it was in black and white.

"What are we going to do now?" Ramona asked.

"Finish what we came here to do?" Sheffield said with determination.

"You're right, Babe. Let's not worry about what we're going to do when we go home, until we get home."

Instead of turning their attention to going home, they turned it toward the business at hand, the next round of zone conferences. In preparing for his presentation, Sheffield included a warning of listening to the Spirit and being aware of potentially dangerous circumstances. Sandwiched in between the zone conferences was a mission tour by Elder Mark E. Petersen. With the busy schedule for the month, they got an early start on the transfers as well. So they didn't have much time during April to dwell on going home.

On Wednesday morning, Roy took Sheffield, Ramona, Elder Wood, and Elder Allred to the airport and dropped them off. After stashing their luggage into the storage compartment of the Cessna, they took off for their five day, four island trip. Their first stop was in Lihue for the Kauai Zone conference. During his interviews with the missionaries, Elder Bennet reported that they found everything in order when they arrived in Koloa. After what had happened to Elder Randall and Elder Harper, the members of the branch had rallied around them and

welcomed them. The story had spread through the community as well and many had been touched by their ordeal and wanted to hear the lessons. They almost had more contacts than they could handle.

After the interviews and before the meeting, Sheffield told Ramona what he had said. Her comment was, "Isn't interesting how good things can come from bad situations."

"I think I'm going to write to Elder Randall and tell him that his sacrifice was not in vain."

After the meeting and the luncheon, Sheffield's turned his attention to the members of the district, as he had a number of interviews to conduct. That night they stayed with Frank and Olina Alapai. As Sheffield and Ramona got ready for bed, he commented, "I don't know who I'm going to miss the most, the missionaries or the members."

"What would happen if we didn't go home?" Ramona mused. "You know how I have always loved these islands."

"But where would we live?"

"Oh I don't know. Maybe we could get a boat and just sail around the islands." Ramona said as they climbed into bed and she snuggled up next to Sheffield.

"But what about the kids and grandkids?"

"You're right. On second thought, I think I'll be ready to go home, but not until very last minute."

On Thursday they flew to Kahului on Maui for another zone conference and on Friday to Hilo on the Big Island and then over to Kona on Saturday for a zone conference and a district conference there on Saturday and Sunday, their last one in the Kona District. They stayed with the Dick and Connie Kaalooa both Saturday and Sunday night and flew back to Honolulu on Monday morning.

While they were gone, the mail had piled up. Norma wrote to say that they had an offer on their house. And there was a letter with information on the upcoming Reprisal reunion in Denver on the 9th and 10th of June. Sheffield wished that he could attend, but the timing just wasn't right. He did the next best thing, he wrote a letter of greeting to have read at the reunion.

They only had Monday to get ready for Elder Petersen's arrival. He spent the weekend with the Honolulu Stake for their stake conference. He arrived at Mililani on Tuesday morning, which was spent meeting with Sheffield. After lunch, they drove to the Honolulu Tabernacle and met with the Honolulu Zone. Elder Peterson interviewed each missionary and then spent an hour and half instructing the entire zone. That was followed by a testimony meeting and a luncheon. That evening, he met with Sheffield and his counselors in their presidency meeting. That night he stayed in the guest room.

The next day, Sheffield, Ramona, the Assistants, and Elder Petersen flew to Lihue for a similar meeting with the Kauai zone in the morning and then on to Kahului in the afternoon to meet with the Maui Zone. Then on Thursday they flew to Hawaii and did the same thing in Hilo and Kona. After the meeting in Kona, they flew back to Honolulu and spent the night at the mission home.

Friday morning was spent with the Pearl Harbor Zone before driving to Laie to meet with the Oahu Zone

in the afternoon. Following the last meeting, he again met with Sheffield once more.

During their four days together, they got to know Elder Petersen. He was two years younger than Sheffield and was born and raised in Salt Lake City where as a boy he delivered newspapers and worked in his father's construction business. He served a mission in Nova Scotia and attended the University of Utah. After working a number of jobs, he became a reporter for the Deseret News and at the time of his call to the Quorum of Twelve in 1944, he was the general manager of the newspaper. He and his wife, Emma, had five children; two daughters and three sons. Likewise, he got to know the Brasons.

Sheffield and Ramona remained in Laie over the weekend to attend the Oahu Stake conference and returned to the mission home on Sunday evening. That gave them Monday to take care of their personal business and Tuesday and Wednesday to finish up the transfers, before the Honolulu, Pearl Harbor, and Oahu zone conferences on Thursday through Saturday. As usual, they attended the temple in Laie on Saturday morning.

April seemed to have gone extremely fast and it was the last week of the month, with yet another transfer day and all of its hub bub. This time, nearly a little better than a quarter of the mission was affected with three Elders and one Sister going home, and the same amount coming out to take their place. New to the office staff Elder Riley Larson who replaced Elder Aniston as the financial secretary.

On Saturday, Sheffield and Ramona drove to the airport in the mission car and flew to Lihue for their last conference in the Kauai District. That night after the conference, they stayed with Frank and Olina and attended the Sunday session of the conference, in which Sheffield presided. Since it would be their last, the members of the Kauai District turned out in record numbers. They came to say farewell to Oia Kauoha ke Moana, He Who Commands the Sea, the great man of God who they say saved them and their homes from the being swallowed by the ocean more than two years earlier. After the general session, the members held a feast to show their love and appreciation. Even after the meal was over, they thronged about Sheffield as they said their goodbyes. Eventually the crowd dwindled so they could fly back to Honolulu, arriving just before dusk.

When they arrived, they drove back to the mission home to spend what was left of the day. Since they had a big meal in Lihue, neither one was hungry. They sat out on the balcony to watch the lights and talked about what they might do when they got home.

"Although I've been able to use the Cessna to get around in," Sheffield said, "one of the first things I want to do is to take the Staggerwing up just to get lost in the thrill of flying."

"I can't wait to use the bathhouse." Ramona said longingly. "I could go for a nice soak right now."

"I wouldn't mind joining you for that." Sheffield agreed.

"Its about time to get ready for bed, would you like a glass of lemonade?" Ramona asked.

"That sounds great."

That night while they slept, April faded into May. In just two months, they would be home to do the things they had talked about the evening before. But first, there was still more to do. The ever so familial routine started all over again for the thirty fifth time; with conferences, transfers, and the day to day affairs of running the mission.

The month of May also passed quickly, thankfully without any major crisis or problems to solve. The big excitement was going on back home in Roanoke. Wade and Norma sold their house and moved into the upstairs of Sheffield and Ramona's house. Their plans were to go out to Idaho as soon as the kids were out of school to look for a home.

One of the highlights of the month was their last district conference with the Maui saints. They too had big send off for them as well. During the fourth week of the month, they bid farewell to three Elders, including Elder Wood one of the assistants, two Sisters, and one couple. In their place they welcomed the same number of new missionaries. New to the mission home was Elder Kieth Grant as an assistant, Elder Alanzo Bell as the mission recorder replacing Elder Robert Williams, and Sister Edna Willis who replaced Sister Handy after serving for nine months in Naaunu.

The rest of that week was taken up with conferences in the three zones on Oahu, concluding with a trip to Laie on Saturday. The following week was spent at the mission home. Tuesday was Memorial Day, the last time they would have to miss the annual Brason reunion and picnic. As always, it was held at the Two Star Ranch. It went on each of the three years even though Sheffield and Ramona were not there.

The last day of May brought them right down to the wire, with only one month left. June promised to be anything but routine. But, first they took time out on Saturday to celebrate Ramona's sixty fourth birthday. That evening they went out to dinner and then to the Hawaii Theater to see "Barefoot in the Park", a romantic comedy starring Jane Fonda and Robert Redford, about newlyweds Paul Bratter, a hard-working young attorney just starting his practice and his spontaneous bride Corie, and their adventures living in a tiny sixth floor walk-up apartment in Greenwich Village where she is determined to create a romantic environment in one room with no heat, a hole in the skylight, and oddball neighbors.

On Wednesday of the next week, Sheffield, Ramona, and the Assistants flew to Lihu for the first of their last round of zone conferences. It was Sheffield's last interview with the missionaries so he took a little extra time with each one. As always he talked about how they were doing and expressed his appreciation to them. He also shared with them some of the counsel and advise that he gave those who were going home. For most of the missionaries, this would be the last time they would see them before they went home.

In planning for this round of conferences, Sheffield wanted to do something different so he dispensed with the usual format. He allowed time for he and a Ramona to say a few words in parting. As for

the rest of the time, he had arranged for a projector and a screen and showed "Mediterranean Summer." All of the missionaries who got to see it the first time he showed it had all gone home. Seeing the movie gave them a new appreciation for their beloved mission president and his companion and how they came together. Rather than the usual luncheon, Sheffield had the stake or district Relief Society in each zone provide a picnic. It was the same in Maui on Thursday, Kona on Friday, and Hilo on Saturday. The missionaries seemed to enjoy a little break in the routine as well.

While they were away, Sheffield couldn't help but wonder how the ship's reunion went in Denver. He felt bad that he missed it, leaving his crew without a captain. But at the time, he was the captain of a different crew that needed him more.

Then on Saturday and Sunday they went to their very last district conference. As with the each of the other districts, the members of the Hilo District came to say goodbye. While in Hilo, they stayed with Max and Aloha Mahaulu for the last time. As with all of the people they had served with and got to know, they became good friends. Friends that they wouldn't see again until they returned one day for a visit.

On the flight back on Monday morning, it was the last time that Sheffield would use the Cessna from the charter service. It had been a good plane, but he preferred his Staggerwing. When he turned it in after landing, he thanked them for its use. In return, they thanked him for his business over the last three years.

Waiting for them at the mission home were letters from Craig and Norma. Craig told about the Brason Reunion. In her letter, Norma said they were leaving at the end of the week to go to Rexburg to look for house. In reading Norma's letter, she realized that going home to the kids and grandkids wouldn't be what she had envisioned. Now not only would Janet and her family be clear across the country, but now so would Norma and her family. She made Sheffield promise that they would go out west at least twice a year.

The next ten days were spent at Mililani. There was a lot to do. They had a lot of things that needed to be wrapped up, including their travel plans. They packed up what they didn't absolutely need and shipped it home. Not only did they have their personal affairs to get in order, but also some mission business as well. Sheffield wanted to make sure that the records were in order so his replacement could come right in and pick up and go forward in whatever manner he saw fit, just like he had done three years earlier. One of those items was figuring out the last transfer.

The time passed quickly. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of third week in June, they held their last three zone conferences in the Honolulu, Pearl Harbor, and Oahu zones, which followed the same format as the off island conferences two weeks earlier.

On Saturday in Laie they attended the temple one last time. It had been nice to be so close to a temple that they could attend once a month. Once they went home, they wouldn't have that privilege. The only opportunities they would have would be when they went out west to see the girls and their families.

They stayed with the Morleys that night for the last time. Of all of their friends in Hawaii, the Morleys were probably their closest, because of their connection with Takara. Her three children had been Ramona's surrogate grandchildren while they were away from home. To them, she would always be affectionately known as Gramona.

Manti treated them to a backyard luau, to which many of their friends came to say goodbye to the Brasons. Sheffield and Ramona promised that they would be back for a visit some day and extended an invitation for them to come see them in Virginia some time. That evening Sheffield and Ramona stayed in the Morely's guest house on the beach with the sound of the surf through the open windows. After all, when would they get a chance to sleep on the beach again?

On Sunday, morning Sheffield and Ramona attended the morning meetings with the Morleys before driving back to Honolulu. That afternoon, they attended Sacrament Meeting in the Nuuanu Ward for the very last time. In recognition of that fact, the bishop called on them to say a few words and to bear their testimonies. In three years, they had made a lot of friends in the ward, most of who stayed after the meeting to say goodbye. Everywhere they went during that last month, they were touched by the out pouring of love, making it hard to leave.

During the last three years and all of the other years that Sheffield and especially Ramona had been in the Islands, there wasn't much they hadn't seen. Whenever they had the chance, they revisited their favorite places. On their last Monday, they decided to visit Pearl Harbor once more, with a trip out to the Arizona Memorial. The Oriskany just happened to be in port at the time, on her way back to Southeast Asia. As much as he loved carriers and the part they had played in his life, Sheffield was content to admire her from a distance. As with anytime they went to Pearl Harbor, Geannie was in their thoughts.

Sheffield couldn't help but think about how much she would have to loved to have the spent the last three years there with him. She had loved the Islands as much as he had. Then Sheffield squoze Ramona's hand, grateful that she had been at his side through it all. This mission had been hers as much as it had been his. If anyone loved the Islands, it was her. He understood her mixed emotions about going home, thats why he promised that they would come back sometime.

After their brief visit to Pearl Harbor, the rest of the day was spent at Waikiki Beach, enjoying the sand, surf, and sun. Before returning to the mission home, they went out to dinner.

With just three days left, on Tuesday Sheffield was satisfied that everything was in order for his replacement. That afternoon, the mission home began to fill up with missionaries as they were off to their new areas or going home as was the case with five Elders and one Sister. Sheffield and Ramona couldn't help but reminisce over two hundred three missionaries that had served in the Hawaii Mission under their direction. Most of them had been exceptional, some of them had some problems, but only a relatively few

had to leave the mission because of them.

That evening Sheffield had invited President Kaaloo and President Galloway to bring their wives and join them for dinner. Following a lovely meal, they listened to those going home report their missions, including Elder Allred. Neither Sheffield nor Ramona had planned on it, but since they too were going home, Dick Kaaloo suggested that they report their missions.

With great emotion, Ramona went first. She talked about all of the wonderful missionaries and members that they had got to know. Sheffield mentioned a few statistics that in part measured their success, but as he said, "Our true success is not measured in numbers, but in the lives the converts that have been blessed by finding the gospel, and in the lives of the members who's faith has been strengthened. On behalf of Ramona and I, we are grateful to have had a hand in it. But it is the missionaries and the leadership of the stakes and districts who have made the difference. Again, I'm sure I speak for my companion when I say, this has been one of the greatest experiences of my life."

After the mission reports, rather than go right into their presidency meeting, the three couples spent the evening visiting. Both Richard and Dwight had served for a time with the previous mission president and had stayed on with Sheffield for the entire duration of his presidency, and were willing to stay on with the next one for as long as he saw fit.

On Wednesday morning, Sheffield had his final interviews with the six missionaries who were going home, as he had the one hundred fifty six before them. Then it occurred to him, that he had already had his final interview with Elder Petersen back in April. The ever faithful Roy Hanami took them all to the airport and returned with six more, five Elders and one Sister. His initial interview with them would be the only time that he would meet them. He wouldn't really get to know them. Of the new Elders, Elder Patrick Rock from Ventura, California was a decorated Viet Nam veteran.

As the missionaries came and went, Sheffield and Ramona had one last opportunity to visit with some of them. One was Elder Rose, who was on his way from Hawaii Kai to Hakuku to be a district leader. With a lot of help from Ramona, he had blossomed from a unkempt cowboy into one of the sharpest looking Elders in the entire mission. His newfound confidence, coupled with his humility and powerful testimony had made him into a very effective and successful missionary. Each missionary was a story unto themselves. Sheffield and Ramona had so many choice stories and memories to take home with them.

In all, this was an average transfer, affecting twenty seven missionaries. The only change to the mission home was the addition of Elder Foreman as the new Assistant. Sheffield didn't make any changes to the office staff this time around so the new mission president would have a trained and functioning staff to start off with.

On Thursday and Friday, Sheffield and Ramona's time was pretty much taken up in getting ready to

leave. Any matters of concern at that point would have to wait for the new mission president. By Friday evening, they had everything ready. Sister `Auli`i had prepared a special dinner for them on their last night. She and the Hanami's joined them and the office staff for dinner and said their goodbyes. Sister `Auli`i became very emotional but the Hanamis who never showed any excitement kept their emotions in check. While Sister `Auli`i smothered them with hugs and tears, the Hanamis politely shook their hands and bowed respectfully as they said goodbye.

With their luggage setting beside the door, Sheffield and Ramona retired to their apartment and sat out on the balcony looking over the city lights. Each was lost in their own thoughts and didn't have much to say. Finally it was time to turn in. Everything was packed, except for what they needed that night and the next morning. Once they were ready for bed, they knelt beside the bed for their evening prayers. They simply climbed into bed and turned off the lights.

Early the next morning, they got up and got ready for the very long day ahead of them. Sheffield called for a taxi and without having breakfast, they came downstairs to the empty office. A moment later the cab pulled into the driveway and came to a stop under the porte cochère. They stepped outside with their luggage and while the driver put their things into the trunk, Sheffield and Ramona took one last look at the grand mansion that had been their home away from home for the last three years. They got into the cab and took one last look back as it pulled out of the driveway onto the street as they left Mililani for the very last time.

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The part about the Gateways and tithing is based on an experience from my mission. In that case it was a stake missionary who made the promise to reimburse them.

The account of Elder Mark E. Petersen's tour of the Hawaiian Mission is completely fictional. I couldn't find anything in the Church News about who might have been to the stake conferences in Hawaii at that time. I used him as the visiting Apostle because he does enter into the time line of the story later and I wanted to establish a connection with him.

For the story of He Who Commands the Sea, see chapter 33.

Barefoot in the Park was released on May 25, 1967.

The USS Oriskany was in Pearl Harbor for a few days during the latter part of June 1967.

