

# 100<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS CLUB



PUKA-PUKA

# PARADE

MAY 1990

**SPARK MASAYUKI MATSUNAGA (1916-1990): A spark is gone! Nay ... rekindled!**

by Ben Tamashiro



**SPARK MASAYUKI MATSUNAGA**

The seventh grade English students at St. Andrew's Priory School for Girls had read and discussed "The Diary of Anne Frank." To help them better understand the ordeals that the young German-Jewish girl had written about, they were told to conduct an interview with a family member who had experienced some facet of war or who had been involved in combat, and submit a paper on it.

Darcy Nishimura interviewed a member of the 100th and this is how she closed out her paper: "(He) said something very important. He said, 'It is the way in which you serve your country that tells what kind of person you are.'"

Spark Matsunaga, 73, died Saturday, April 14, in Toronto where he had gone to seek treatment for the cancer that was ravaging his body. Born in Koloa, Kauai, he grew up in Hanapepe, attended the public schools on Kauai, then went on to the University of Hawaii. When war became imminent for America, he volunteered for the Army in June 1941.

He was executive officer and acting company commander of Company K, 299th Infantry Regiment, Hawaii National Guard, on Molokai at the time of Pearl Harbor. Subsequently he became part of the order that recalled the soldiers of Japanese ancestry from their various posts around the islands to Schofield Barracks where in June 1942 they were banded into the Hawaiian Infantry Provisional Battalion. The name implied that the unit was a transitory thing; surely, to give authorities time to figure out what to do with the Japanese boys in uniform. The newly created outfit did however sail out of Hawaii that same month, to Oakland. There it shed its temporary status when, as with all regular army outfits, it was given a numerical designation - 100. And so it was that Spark along with thirteen hundred others became an original member of the nonpareil 100th Infantry Battalion - the first all-Nisei combat unit in the history of the United States Army.

One could say of Sparky that he himself was par excellence. His military career spanned the gamut from university ROTC, service with the 100th where he was twice wounded in action, training officer for replacement depot commands in North Africa and Italy, instructor in combat infantry tactics and public relations officer for the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Ft. Snelling, to reserve officer (Lt Col) in the Judge Advocate General Corps, U.S. Army.

Besides the University of Hawaii where he graduated with a degree in education in 1941, he graduated with distinction (Juris Doctor) from Harvard Law School in 1951, then went on to Northwestern University Traffic Institute for the ABA course for judge and prosecutor in 1957, and the Lawyers Post Graduate Clinics in Chicago the following year.

SPARK MATSUNAGA (continued)

As for his legal experiences, he was admitted to the Hawaii Bar in 1952, served as assistant public prosecutor for the City and County of Honolulu, 1952-54, and was in the private practice of law until 1962.

His non-legal work experiences began on Kauai while he was still going to high school. He was a stevedore and warehouseman during the early 1930s, then bookkeeper and sales clerk in a general merchandise store in Hanapepe. He was a public school teacher but only for six months inasmuch as the war soon caught up with him. Immediately after the war, he worked in the Surplus Property Office of the Department of Interior and in the claimants' division, War Assets Administration.

His political experience began with his election to the Territorial House of Representatives in 1954, then election to the U.S. House of Representatives for seven consecutive terms beginning 1962. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1976, he had been there ever since.

His list of civic and community activities fills two pages. With respect to veterans' affairs, a special love of his, he has served with the DAV, AJA Veterans Council, MIS Veterans Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Order of the Purple Heart. He was president of Club 100, 1953-54. It was during this period that the club adopted the motto, "For Continuing Service."

On this score, Andrew Matsunaga, Sparky's younger brother by four years who runs his congressional office in the Prince Kuhio Building, says that the motto reflects, in a way, Sparky's sincere effort at trying to live out his ideals. Andrew remembers that Sparky pushed hard for the adoption of the motto; in fact, he was its leading advocate.

"His mind was full of idealistic thoughts," says Andy. "But in truth, a man cannot do everything he wants to do in his lifetime. Maybe he tried to spread himself a little more than he actually should have. Man's hopes and wants are insatiable. He was a workaholic.

"I had hoped that he would have a little more time to himself; time just to lean back and relax, to look back, to see his own record of accomplishments - at least get some satisfaction out of the things he tried to do during his lifetime."

This brief interview with Andy was held in his office in the Prince Kuhio Building on Tuesday morning, April 17, the day that Sparky's body was flown to Hawaii on Air Force Two. Even though his mind must have been preoccupied with the ceremonies that were upcoming at the State Capitol rotunda that afternoon where Sparky's body was to lie in state for twenty-four hours, he found time to reminisce some about the family at Hanapepe.

"Our father was a remarkable man himself. As an immigrant without any formal education, he used to practice the art of massage, acupuncture and yaito, and reset bones. He had training in the old ways, something our younger generation don't even know about. He used to worship many gods.

"In his day, plantations had no medical, no compensation or anything like that. There was this widow with four kids. He married this hapless widow and while supporting the family raised three of his own - Sparky, a daughter, then me. He was so elated when Sparky was born. All the neighbors knew about his great love for his first-born. He carried him around, threw him in the air, played with him on the long verandah that was part of several houses joined together. The whole neighborhood used to talk about it. He was a special child. Somehow he got his father's spirit of love in him."

Coming back to the present - "Hawaii lost a wonderful representative of the Hawaiian lifestyle; he really loved the Hawaiian style of life." This was evident in the Change of Guard Ceremony which began at 1:30 p.m., the start of the 24-hour vigil in the rotunda of the State Capitol. It had a distinctly Hawaiian flavor - the Hawaiian chanter waving his ti leaf as he led the casket to its place in the rotunda, the remarks by Kamaki Kanahale, the blessing by the Reverend Abraham Akaka, the presence of the Hawaiian societies in their Hawaiian regalia.

SPARK MATSUNAGA (continued)

"He lived it in his personality. And I think that the nation has lost a high caliber legislator. What he believed in was justice. Without justice, what else matters? Peace on earth, the pursuit of happiness for everyone - I think these are fundamental American assets."

Despite his seriousness about things, there was a flip side to Sparky's demeanor. He loved life for the joys he received out of it. Mixing it up with people, he used to crack them up with his legendary tales. The one he told, for instance, at our recent anniversary party held at the Pagoda Hotel, about the process of growing old. First, one forgets names, then faces. Soon, during visits to the urinal, one forgets to zip up the trousers. But the clincher - the one that really gives us away, that we are growing old - is when we visit the urinal and forget to unzip our trousers.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Sparky began an effort in 1981 to establish the United States Academy of Peace. As to the status of the idea, the following is quoted from the flyer distributed at the State Capitol: "The MATSUNAGA PEACE FOUNDTION, recently incorporated and made possible through the inspiration of United States Senator Spark Matsunaga, is a nonprofit public charity devoted to the support of institutions and scholars pursuing peace studies, research, and the application of conflict resolution techniques." It goes on to ask that the Senator's memory be honored by sending donations to the foundation at P.O. Box 1038, Honolulu 96808.

But perhaps Sparky's greatest legacy to all of us are the thoughts outlined in his book, "The Mars Project - Journey Beyond The Cold War", the idea of cooperation and a joint venture with the Russians into space, rather than the confrontation explicit in the pursuit of such things as Star Wars which he says are "incapable of mobilizing American ideals as a force for progressive change." That is Sparky's forte - mobilizing American ideals.

He backs up his ideals with the moral force of religion. He's an Episcopalian. Andrew tells of the time early this year when Sparky was really hurting. He asked his kid brother to come to D.C. Then began a period with the three of them - Sparky, his wife, Helene, and Andrew - in vigil prayer. As they prayed together, at Walter Reed Hospital, then at home around the dinner table and at almost every waking moment, Sparky gradually regained his strength, to the point that he was finally able to return to the Senate and to vote for the first time in almost a year - not once, but four times. "And after I came back," says Andrew, "he went back to vote three more times; seven votes altogether this year. It was a certain miracle that the Lord performed for us because we prayed together."

The way in which one serves his country tells us what kind of a person he is, Darcy Nishimura reminds us. Sparky has served his country with exceptional vigor, foresight, and distinction; his ideals will continue to carry us forward. And it is Andrew's hope that the young people especially will come to find inspiration in those ideals.

War and peace are ends of the same rainbow. Having tasted the dregs of war, Sparky has been more than ever seeking the means to peace. There are no vague injunctions about his search; "The Mars Project" attests to that. So, as we come to a judgement of Sparky, we could say that in death his spark has been rekindled. Aloha pumehana, Sparky.

EDITOR'S PUKA: GIVE THE BREAD AND GET THE CRUMBS?? Ray Nosaka

As an opponent of giving our property away, I have been asked to write what my true feelings are regarding the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) transfer. I, hereby speak only for myself and must ask your indulgence as I seem to get carried away with my feelings.

I have always been proud to say that I am a member of the 100th Infantry Battalion and that pride still exists, now possibly more than ever. This clubhouse is a part of me -- something I always felt that no one could take away from me. I'm sure most of the men feel the same way. This belongs to all of us equally and we can come and go as we please, just like our own home.

And now we are threatened with losing this part of our lives. Sure, the majority of the members signed to turn this clubhouse over to the JCCH last year. But, I think I can honestly state that many of those who signed "yes" didn't really know what they were signing away. If we were given another

EDITOR'S PUKA (continued)

chance to vote today, I'm sure the members would be asking more questions and really think twice before voting.

At present, we have a developer's proposal offering us \$2,500,000.00 for the air rights to our property. This means that we will still retain our property. In addition, the developer will rebuild our clubhouse to our specifications with parking facilities at no cost to us.

I have always had a dream of someday helping to build a clubhouse into an AJA Veterans Memorial Building. That would enable us to join hands with the 442nd, 1399th Engineers, and MIS. Movies have been made and many books have been written about us veterans from Hawaii. Why can't we leave a Memorial Building to honor those who died and to remind the world how we fought for justice, peace, liberty, and dignity. I can just envision a bronze statue of an AJA soldier, representing all of us, and the names of all those killed in action inscribed on the base. I can envision a Memorial Building where all AJA veterans would be welcomed to meet or socialize just as our club is open today for its members. But, I am afraid all of this will remain just a dream should we negotiate the transfer in favor of the JCCH.

Listed below is part of the the JCCH proposal and my recommended proposal:

JCCH Proposal

Recommend Proposal

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Only 1,000 sq. ft. exclusive space*   | 1. 5,000 sq. ft. exclusive space* |
| 2. Rental fee, based on sq. footage      | 2. Free rent                      |
| 3. \$25.00 annual dues (JCCH) per member | 3. Waiver of JCCH dues            |

\* exclusive space for Club 100. The office, lounge, meeting rooms, etc. would have to fit in this space.

As it stands now, until we ratify the agreement, we are in no way legally bound (attorney's opinion). I just pray that the negotiating committee will keep in mind the future benefits of these men of the 100th who deserve so much more. There are still many years ahead for these members. So why deprive them of this clubhouse where they can continue to meet in comradeship without having to make reservations for use of the hall. If we were to consider the developer's offer and proposal for \$2.5 million, we could still make a very generous donation to the JCCH and also donate to the California Memorial Monument Fund. We would also be able to financially assist some of our own members who are in need. We can also perpetuate our membership by having our wives, sons and daughters inherit the legacy upon our death by adopting a "Transfer of Membership" form, similar to the one the 442nd Veterans Club has been using. The form reads as follows:

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_, Life Member of the 442nd Veterans Club, hereby designate \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ as his "Transferee" of his rights and privileges as a Life Member of the 442nd Veterans Club. If for any reason my said designee cannot is is unable to accept the Life Membership, I hereby designate the following alternates in priority order:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, Hawaii \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Life Member  
442nd Veterans Club

I had written several more pages of how I feel and of my dreams, but my co-editor feels enough is enough -- for this time. I have just learned that the club's Board of Directors, at the April 12, 1990 meeting, voted to go along with the JCCH proposal and that saddens me very much. But, I must put my trust and hope in the wisdom of the consenting Board and the negotiating committee.

EDITOR'S PUKA (continued)

I think that the motion passed by the Board of Directors to accept the JCCH Participation Agreement was not fair. The president was not able to attend the board meeting due to being treated for a pancreas infection at Kaiser Hospital. With due respect to President Hagiwara, the motion should have been tabled on this important matter.

The deadline for submitting news articles for the June issue of the Puka Puka Parade is Tuesday, May 15, 1990. The June Parade is scheduled for collating on Thursday, May 24 at 8:30 a.m. in Turner Hall. Team 2: Able & Charlie Chapters are responsible for the manpower, but all are welcome.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT... Aki Nosaka

It is quite common for adult children, with elderly parents, to look through their parent's papers stashed away somewhere in the closet and be shocked to find assets they knew nothing about. Most people don't talk about what they own or what they are leaving to their children simply because they all feel uncomfortable talking about death.

We are coming to that stage in life where we will be considered "elderly parents". Most of us have drafted wills and feel that is sufficient. But, an article in "Bottom Line" magazine, recommends that parents and children should open up a discussion about finances. This is not to reveal what the children will inherit but, in cases of emergency hospitalization or long term illnesses, inform them of what the financial situation is and where to find the necessary papers. The article also recommends that the parents make a comprehensive list of all their assets and let someone close, possibly with a power of attorney, know where the list is kept.

In doing this, you might surprise yourself by finding a couple of bonds, stock certificates, or a safety deposit key that you have long forgotten about, who knows???

We are indeed very saddened by the loss of our Senator, wartime Buddy, and Friend, Sparky Matsunaga. Our sincerest condolences to Helene and the children.

SPECIAL GET WELL WISHES to President George Hagiwara, who is confined in Kaiser Hospital for the second time around within the past month. At this time, it is unknown what is causing the infection in his pancreas. ... And to our good friend in Japan, Takeshi Teshima, who was hospitalized earlier this month. We are all hoping and praying that Teshima-san regains his health and strength real quick.

MINI-REUNION: Pacific Gateway reports that the response is good and for those who haven't signed up yet, please do so as soon as possible.

SPECIAL THANKS to the Company B and Rural gang, besides the regulars who turned out on PPP day, March 22. Those signed in were: Bernard Akamine, Akira Akimoto, Kunio Fujimoto, Ralph Fukunaga, Chester Hada, Michael Hamamoto, Mitsuo Hamasu, Tokuichi Hayashi, Kenneth Higa, Jesse Hirata, James Inafuku, Isamu Inouye, Walter Iwasa, Fred Kanemura, Gladys Kawakami, Arthur Komiyama, William Komoda, Richard Miyashiro, Kaneichi Morimoto, Yoshikiyo Mugitani, Ken Muroshige, Isao Nadamoto, Sonsei Nakamura, Vivian Nakamura, Roy Nakayama, Ray & Aki Nosaka, Seie & Evelyn Oshiro, Kazuto Shimizu, Namie Takaki, Robert Takashige, Sakae & Stella Tanigawa, Tom & Miyako Tsubota, Masasuke Toma, Rikio Tsuda, Marie Yoneshige, and Rudy Yoshida. Stanley Nakamoto intended to come, but came down with the flu and called to say he couldn't make it. Thanks, anyhow, Stanley. Next time!

A PUKA IN THE "PUKA PUKA" Evelyn Oshiro

There are nine silent, unrecognized people who are the backbone of the circulation part of the Puka Puka Parade. Each month, they faithfully prepare the Parade to be sent to the post office. Of the nine, five were born of the original 'Donald "Blue" Nagasaki Group'. They are Ralph Fukunaga, Tommy Nishioka, Isamu "Isham" Inouye, Richard "Pluto" Arakaki, and Kunio "Kuni" Fujimoto.

When Ray Nosaka called me one day, after Donald passed away, and asked me to fill in as head of circulation, I took up the offer just to prove to

A PUKA IN THE "PUKA PUKA" (continued)

myself that I could do it. I have a background position of Chief Filing Clerk at the Senate Print Shop (thanks to Sakae Takahashi, who sponsored me) and I also had an opportunity to tour the main post office to learn of their functions in my line of work.

After asking the "Five Musketeers" to support me as they did "Blue", I knew we could do it with no problems. Since then, Bernard Akamine, Richard Miyashiro, and Arthur Komiyama have joined us. Gladys Kawakami has volunteered her services with the Aiko-Sensei Karaoke Class. These four people serve as section chiefs. Ray and Aki Nosaka, beyond their call of duty, are always with us.

After the collating, stapling, folding, and labeling are done by the various companies that come out each month, and after they are released, the nitty gritty, finishing work begins. This is the point where "too many cooks spoil the broth". We count and bundle the Bulletins/Parades, which are first separated by zip codes, label them by categories ("D", "C", or "3"), following post office regulations, put postage on those being mailed to the U.S. Mainland, Japan, and Guam, place all the mailings in postal bags, again by postal regulations.

Our executive secretary, Paul, the "head over the head", observes us closely and assures that we do everything correctly, according to post office regulations. If the Post Office finds a mistake in the mailing, they will not process the mailing until it is corrected. They will not correct it for us. Finally, Paul fills out the delivery slip in detail and delivers the bags to the Main Post Office at the airport.

Lastly, I must say that my husband, Seie, is the one who suggested that I "fill the puka" in the Puka Puka by writing and thanking my crew for all to see their part of the work, not realizing that I have been verbally thanking them repeatedly because I am no writer. If I had to write, I'd be a nervous wreck and I can't afford to be in that condition. I'd like to see him do it. It's easier said than done. But, he is so right ... it must be done (and I am a nervous wreck). Thanks, again, loads!!!! Without you ... nevah happen.

ABLE CHAPTER NEWS: Tom Fujise

As usual, let's start the news with our secretary Ed Kobata's monthly meeting report for those who were unable to attend our morning meeting and yard cleaning chore. Meeting was called to order by President Bob Sato. The treasurer reported a balance of \$2,176.96. Our Clubhouse Clean-Up Day will be on June 2 at 7:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served. Bento lunches will be catered from Suehiro. Stan Nakamoto has asked for one or two volunteers from each chapter to help with the cleaning of the air conditioner. The keynote speaker for our Anniversary Banquet has still not been selected. The committee has been trying to contact Pat Morita to do the honor but no one has been able to locate him. "A" Chapter has the most members attending the monthly meetings but also has the highest number who has not paid their 1990 dues. Paul requests that members bring the exact amount when making a payment of any kind. The Board of Directors, on behalf of Club 100, had sent a get well card to Sparky on March 5 praying for a speedy recovery. On the Cultural Center controversy, the Board is divided 50-50 on the issue and will need more time to sort things out.

Club 100's Anniversary Party will be held on June 7. Reservation deadline is May 19 ... At our annual Memorial Service, gravesite flower laying, a few of our deceased members are not listed on the roster. To avoid any embarrassment, and possibly controversy, members are asked to come forward with the names of anybody whom we may have missed.

August 25, 1990, Saturday, will be "A" Chapter Family Night. It will be a night of bingo and karaoke singing. Richard Ishimoto promises not only a variety of pupus, but lots of it. Richard, our perpetual entertainment boss for "A" Chapter has graciously submitted a calendar of events. So, please refer to this schedule for 1990:

ABLE CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

BINGO & KARAOKE NITE  
August 25, 1990 (Saturday)

Co-chairmen: Tommy Nishioka  
Tsugio Tsuru  
Goro Sumida

CHRISTMAS PARTY  
December 15, 1990 (Saturday)

Co-chairmen: Tommy Nishioka  
Tom Fujise  
Seie Oshiro

BACHELORS' PARTY  
February 16, 1991 (Saturday)

Chairman: Isamu Inouye  
Committee: Kunio Fujimoto  
Walter Moriguchi

At the December 23, 1989 meeting, 17 people showed interest in attending the party. We reserved for 20 to 25 members and we must recruit at least 8 more people. Call Chairman Isamu Inouye, Walter Moriguchi, or Kunio Fujimoto if interested.

There were two empty spaces in the ranks of Able Chapter members last month instead of one. The late Koichi Fukuda's name was missing. "Ko", as he was popularly known, was a well liked person. We will sorely miss him at our gathering. Our heartfelt condolence to the Fukuda family from all the Able members. A donation of \$50.00 was received by Treasurer Kunishige from Mrs. Rachel S. Fukuda, in memory of the late "Ko" Fukuda.

His battle with cancer was well documented by the news media so we were all well aware of his progress. He gave his best over there in Europe. There on Capitol Hill, he did his duty for Hawaii and the nation as a whole. On April 14, on the 10 o'clock news, it came over the TV set that Spark Matsunaga had passed away. Club 100 has lost another friend and comrade.

CHARLIE CHAPTER NEWS: Kazuto Shimizu

Remember when Jimmy Oshiro was the life of the party and Kay was in the background quietly supporting her husband in his antics? Remember him bringing down the house as the "Mad Greek"? Now that Jimmy is gone, how is Kay getting along? You can stop wondering because Kay is doing fine as the article written by her son, Bert, for the Hawaii Fishing News. I thought it was a timely and interesting article, so I'm having it reprinted in the PPP, courtesy of Chuck Johnston of the Hawaii Fishing News. Keep up the good fun, Kay.

Other "C" Chapter members getting in their fun and well deserved vacation are Roy & Maisie Nakamura and Warren & Betty Iwai. They are off to Japan on separate tours. Roy and Maisie finally got themselves far enough from their work to relax during "tax season". Betty is getting a breather from "grandchild".

George Hagiwara was under the weather at Kaiser Hospital, but is out now and looking forward to greater things. Wish you well, George.

I would like to include more "over the backyard fence" time information about our club members, but I would need a call from you to fill me in. Give me any kind of gossip and I will decide what is appropriate. Thank you very much.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article, taken from the Hawaii Fishing News (April 1990, volume 15, #3), is reprinted here as a Mother's Day Tribute to all the mothers in our Club 100 family. Guys, don't forget her on Sunday, May 13 - Mother's Day.)

MY MOM, THE RECORD HOLDER: Bert Oshiro

It's bragging time again. No, it's not time for me to brag about a fish I caught, but to brag about someone else's accomplishment. In this case it happens to be my mom, Kay Oshiro. No, I'm not going to say that she's a great cook or that she'll bend over backward for her kids or grandkids, but that she's been a great fishing partner throughout my years of fishing.

MY MOM (continued)

Moms, and wives, of fishing families know that it's tough having the yard look like it should have been mowed three weeks ago or the dog smell a little more fragrant than they'd like or the house paint look a little duller than a fresh coat would; but they know that things won't stay that way for long. The boys will get to it right after the fish stop running, they hope.

And it's often the mom who will cook and pack the bento, make a thermos of coffee and cook breakfast at 3 o'clock in the morning for her still groggy-eyed fishermen who are only thinking of fish, fish, fish.

Besides doing all of those things, my mom is a world-class angler. And she has the papers to prove it. She is now holding the record for the 20-lb line class in the women's category for bluefin trevally, better known to Hawai'i residents as 'omilu. We noticed that the women's 20-lb class was vacant and I mentioned to Mom that it would be a great time to try for a world record. She kind of laughed because she's not really concerned with that kind of serious commitment when it comes to fishing. All she wants to do is go out and have fun. Of course, whenever she catches something, her love for the sport always shows on her face.

Ever since I can remember, Mom has always caught more fish than the rest of the family combined, even when we were using more sophisticated equipment. Her favorite setup when I was a kid was a bamboo pole and a straight line with a hook attached on one end and a little sinker for a weight. I always waited for my gleaming baitcasting spinning pole to heave over and the noisy drag to squeal as line was pulled by a furious fish. And while I waited and waited, there was Mom standing on a rock with her bamboo pole in hand hauling in moana, papio, kupipi and scads of other shoreline creatures. I figured if she could do it, so could I. Soon I'd be on a rock pretty close to hers, and I'd still watch her catch scads of fish while I waited for my dull, crooked bamboo pole to even twinge.

Mom still uses a bamboo pole when it's appropriate (although places where you can use one on O'ahu are pretty scarce now). These days she prefers spinning outfits. She has a 6-lb class outfit she uses to ship for papio, weke, 'o'io and anything cruising the shoreline and she also has a 20-lb class spinning outfit that she uses for larger game.

Mom's caught her share of fish and has always filled the dinner table with a choice of fish. She never looked at the fish and thought about a world record; all they meant to her was fun and food for the family. Now with fish getting scarcer, she's into catch-and-release. She's released more fish than a lot of people catch and I admire her for that, too. But, when she got the



Left: Kay Oshiro poses with an early morning kagami that weighed in at a hefty 9 lbs. Above: World-class angler Kay Oshiro's IGFA world record 'omilu for the 20-lb test line class. It's not her biggest, and it certainly won't be her last! Kay's entry is a modest start for the line class and it belongs to a deserving angler. However, there are bigger fish in the sea. Go get 'em ladies!

**MY MOM** (continued)

letter from the people at the IGFA congratulating her on a fine catch and a certificate to acknowledge her as a world-record holder, well, I was darn proud of her. Yeah, OK, I wish I could get a world record, too; but I still can say, "I'm the son of a world-record holder." At 70 years old, my mom got a world record. Incredible.

The 'omilu Mom caught was by no means a huge fish. In fact she's caught much larger 'omilu before, but she just never thought of submitting a claim. Weighing in at 2 lbs 11 oz, the fish was a modest start for the line class. Mom's proud of her recognition, but she still keeps the framed certificate hidden in a display case that doesn't show it very well. If I had such a certificate, I'd modestly fly an enlarged copy of it from the antenna of my truck and distribute a few press releases to all the newspapers, TV and radio stations in town to announce the fact that I was indeed a world-record holder.

Mom said she'll be out there fishing as usual, looking for a bite; but as usual she won't really be concerned if she catches the largest fish in the world. And if she does catch it, I'll probably be on the rock next to her waiting for a nehu sized fish to swim my way.

**DOG CHAPTER NEWS:** Helen Nikaido

The deadline for hotel reservations at the Pagoda Hotel for the Dog Company Reunion is May 15, 1990. Robert Yoshioka has 25 rooms reserved. Cost for the Friday night get-together (clubhouse), Saturday night teahouse party (Rainbow Gardens) and Sunday brunch (clubhouse) is \$40.00 per person.

Charlie and Rhoda Kawamata were off on a nine-day trip to Disneyland and Las Vegas. Accompanying them were their children and grandchildren.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Martin and Dorothy Tohara whose beloved mother, Mae Nabe Tohara, passed away on March 25 at the age of 100.

Recently, Joe Mishima, of Pacific Gateway Travel, took a group to Las Vegas. Club members joining this group were Ken Suehiro (Hq), James Miyano (B), Ernest "Candy" Tanaka (B), Yoshio & Priscilla Hirose (B), Kiyoshi & Alice Kami (A), Tommy & Barbara Nishioka (A), Eddie & Kay Harada (D), Kenji & Helen Nikaido (D). It seems that Las Vegas is a popular place to bump into club members. We met Margaret Morikawa (A) and her sisters, "Curly" Nakae (A), Yasu Takata, Sonsei & Elaine Nakamura (B). It was like a mini, mini reunion. Win or lose, it's nice to get away and relax.

We are deeply shocked that our beloved friend, "Sparky", had passed away. We will always remember Sparky when he attended our Club 100's 45th Anniversary Celebration and we'll never forget his friendly smile and love for his comrades; that he took time out of his busy schedule to chat with us, especially to our Dog Chapter members and wives. Soon after, he flew back to Washington. We extend our deepest sympathy to Helene and family. Thank you, "Sparky" and rest in peace as you join your fallen comrades.

**BAKER CHAPTER NEWS:** Yasuo Takata

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bob Sakoki on the loss of his mother. One of the pioneers of Hawaii, she was 90 years old at the time of her death.

Baker Company members, who were praying that Senator Sparky Matsunaga would recover and serve his term out, were shocked by the news. He was such a nice guy, a smile for everybody, but a persistent, lobbying force in Congress. Baker Chapter extends our heartfelt sympathy to his family. We lost a great man.

BAKER CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

Retrospect of the Anzio breakthrough: On June 3, 1944, Company B led an attack toward a road junction south of Genzano. There were three tanks that were racing through the roads that swept up the hill on our left. They suddenly returned to us for these were being shelled by 155 long Toms. The artillery fire must have been directed by the pilot of the Piper Cub flying above. The commander of the tanks told us to get under cover. He called Division Hq to have the artillery fire stopped. Half an hour passed. Division replied, "No artillery is being fired your way." However, the artillery was still coming in. Our company commander came up to ask why we were not moving up. I told him the crossroads were being shelled by our own artillery. He didn't believe me and said it was the enemy's shells. I told him no, it was firing from our left rear. The tank commander verified me and told our captain that it was a 155 Artillery Battalion. They were trying to get to the observer in the Piper Cub flying overhead to stop the fire. Message was sent to Hq, who ordered "A" Company to take it from the right.

Meanwhile, the artillery slackened. One platoon of "A" Company moved in to take the road junction. We were asked to move through. Just then, the friendly artillery opened up again and the Company A platoon caught hell. After that, the tank commander finally received word that the artillery fire was from the 45th Division on our left rear. The firing would be stopped. I saved my platoon from destruction. When we moved up through the crossroad, we saw four dead and many casualties in the woods to, the right.

Although Dr. Thomas Murphy states in his book, Ambassadors in Arms, that the 100th suffered the following casualties: 15 killed, 3 wounded, 1 missing in action, most of these were from the 45th Artillery Division. These mistakes were due to lack of communication between divisions and the failure of the 45th Division to fire within their sector when the front was so fluid.

That night, we rested to the west of Lanuvio. The next day we started on the long walk to Rome. We skirted Lake Nemi, went through Genzano, Arricia, then Abano. From the slopes of Albano, we could see Rome. We were the first outfit on Highway 7, the road to Rome. There, I was stopped by a jeep. My eyes popped, for there was a two-star general right at the front. He was Major General Harmon of the 1st Armored Division. He informed me that there was an anti-tank gun down the road that he wanted cleared out.

While we were waiting, Captain Pye and Captain Kim came rushing up. "Takata, what are you waiting for?", they wanted to know. I pointed to MG Harmon. Their eyes widened.

After the anti-tank gun was knocked out, we continued down Highway 7. The tanks with 2nd Battalion of 135 ON, went rushing by. Every vehicle on wheels were rushing by at a great speed. It seemed we were in greater danger from the traffic than the enemy. Finally, they pulled us off Highway 7 to go to Valtersuello. When we reached there, we saw the sign "10 miles to Rome". Beyond Highway 6, another stream of tanks were rushing to Rome. Alas, we were not to see Rome itself, but only the outskirts.

"F" COMPANY NEWS: Kenneth M. Higa

For the "F" Company members, the Garden Island will be the place to be during the weekend of September 14-16, 1990. It will be that time of again the the "F" troopers and their wives to get together for the annual statewide reunion. Remember the last reunion held on Kauai? Plenty of everything food, drinks, entertainment, and fellowship. It seems like it was held only about three or four years ago, but would you believe, er, seven? It was held during the weekend of October 28-30, 1983. Yup, time certainly seems to pass by faster as one grows older. Former Garden Islander Abraham Alapai and his wife came all the way from Tomah, Wisconsin for the 1983 reunion. We hope they will be able to join us again for this year's reunion.

The Hamamuras, of Highland, California, were in the news again. This time, Ronald, "F" Company's strawberry king, and his wife, Doris, got five star billing in the Inland Empire area newspaper, the Sun. The large print heading above the beautiful colored 8½ x 12½ picture of Doris manning their strawberry stand read, "Oh, those beautiful berries." The strawberries look so real - large, colorful, and sweet - that you just feel like snitching some right out of the picture and gobbling them up.

**"F" COMPANY NEWS** (continued)

Ronald, we we're glad to learn that you were able to save about 75% of your crop during the "freeze weather" in early February. By the way, hope both of you can make it to our reunion.

Yasuto and Helen Furusho returned home on April 12 from a two-week tour of Japan. They covered Kyushu from north, Hakata, to south, Kagoshima: part of Shikoku; and Hiroshima, Kurashiki, and Osaka in Honshu. Yasuto said they had a wonderful time and he has already signed up with the same travel agency to go on the Cherry Blossom Festival tour next year.

Richard Fujita is now at the Rehab Center after a four month stay at Kuakini Hospital. He is looking and feeling better now and is diligently keeping up with his daily therapy exercises.

Micheal Enga was recently hospitalized for about a week at the Kaiser Hospital. He is feeling better now and is presently undergoing some tests. Hope everything will turn out okay for you. Mike, you have to knock off some pounds.

Koichi Fukuda passed away on March 12, 1990 at the Pali Momi Hospital. His sudden death came as a great shock to all of us because he was not the sickly and ailing type like some of us. We shall miss him, especially at our annual statewide reunions. Ko hardly ever missed a reunion. We extend our deepest condolence to his wife, Rachel, and children.

**"ARE YA KORE YA" from RURAL CHAPTER: Ted Hamasu**

The Rural Chapter, in a joint effort with Baker and others, helped in the collating of the April issue of the PPP. Walter Iwasa, Jesse Hirata, Rudy Yoshida, Kenneth Higa, and Michael Hamamoto were there to assist. It was fun doing the collating with many members and ladies. I enjoyed watching Evelyn Oshiro moving a person here, placing a person there, like a good "Honcho", until it ran smoothly then put it in automatic and watch the sheets flow smoothly and flawlessly to become the PPP that you have received. A big job ... very labor intensive, too. I guess it took about one and a half hours until it was all pau.

We thank our Editors, Ray and Aki Nosaka, and the many ladies present for their untiring effort and assistance. A BIG MAHALO NUI LOA goes to Evelyn for her superb management of the production line. Without all of your help it will surely take us much longer.

Our next commitment is in June. So, Ruralites, keep watching for the date. We need your KOKUA!

We missed Lefty Mizusawa and the Shimizu's at our last meeting. I was informed that the Shimizu's went to Vegas to reclaim the monies left there on previous visits. Lefty may have tried too hard to beat the house on his visit there and was recuperating from over exertion and exhaustion after returning home.

Our get well wishes goes to Tatsumi Yamauchi, Robert Ikei, Mike Enga, and Richard Fujita. Richard was transferred to the Rehab Clinic at Kuakini for further treatment of his back. We wish all of you a speedy recovery.

"ACTUNG": This notice may be a bit late. However, all members should have had a call through our "hot line" about the special meeting on the 27th of April at 11:00 a.m. in the Westgate Center, 94-366 Pupupane St., Suite 106 (Jerry Yamaki's office) in Waipahu to discuss matters that are important to all. (LUNCH WILL BE SERVED BY THE CHAPTER.) We will also have a guest speaker and he will speak on estate planning, wills, probate and methods used to transfer your estates to your heirs with a minimum of cost and delay to you. SAYOONARA (until next month).

**KAUAI CHAPTER NEWS: Ben Morimoto**

Our second meeting was held at the Tip Tpo Cafe on February 8. At the last meeting, held in February, it was passed that for all future meetings, the Club will take the tab not exceeding the ceiling of \$8.00. The attendance was 18 members and 12 wives. It was reported that this year's Memorial

**KAUAI CHAPTER NEWS** (continued)

Service will be held on May 27, 10:30 a.m., at the Veterans Cemetery. After the service, there will be a luncheon at the Hanapepe Neighborhood Center. The expenses for all the day's events will be prorated among all the Veterans Clubs. Wally Takemoto reported that Amfac/JMB has donated to the veterans a plot on the Ahukuni Road going to the airport. Also, there is an appropriation bill in the legislature for \$1,000,000.00 for buildings. The Veterans Council is now in the process of fund raising plans.

Mrs. Chizue Teshima reported that the Mother's Day Luncheon will be at Conrad & Wong in Hanapepe. Cost will be \$18.00 per head, tax and tip included. A Chinese menu and, for a treat, a Mother's Day cake donated by the restaurant. Members can bring their own drinks and cups. Ice will be furnished.

The latest news concerning Kenneth Zaima (D) is that he is at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, somewhere near Kuakini Hospital.

Mr. & Mrs. Mako Takiguchi will miss this Mother's Day Luncheon. They will be on a Bon-Voyage cruise of the Caribbean and a happy landing at Las Vegas. Lucky Bonanza at the casino.

**MAUI CHAPTER NEWS:** Tom Nagata

Maui Chapter members and wives enjoyed a delicious chicken hekka dinner at the Kahului Community Parks and Recreation Center on the evening of April 13. Satoji "Butch" Arisumi and his group of hard working chefs, such as, Mrs. Ann Arisumi, the Kaneshinas, Hottas, Gushikens, Omuros, Michiokas, Hanadas, and Shinyamas, prepared this outstanding dinner. About 50 members and their wives were on hand as chapter president William Nakahara opened the festivities with a short meeting. He mentioned that Maui Chapter will be in charge of this year's Memorial Day Service to be held at the Makawao Maui Veterans Cemetery on Monday, May 28 at 10 a.m. Performing at the service will be the 50 member Le Jardin Academy Choir of Kailua, Oahu. They will be provided lunch by Club 100. Nakahara requested that members attend the service in their club shirts. He next called on Wataru Kaneshina to offer grace. It was ladies first at the buffet table, which was laden with all sorts of delicious side dishes and desserts donated by the members and their hardworking wives. Thank you very much for a very ono dinner. As usual, bingo games were played after dinner, with Masao Sato in charge. He was assisted by Arthur Shinyama, Katsumi Hanada, and Haruo Ikeuchi.

There will be a Mother's Day Dinner at the Red Dragon Chinese Restaurant on Wednesday evening, May 9, 1990. You will be contacted before this date.

We extend our get well wishes to Kaoru Moto, who has been confined and released from the hospital several times during this past month.

**HAWAII CHAPTER NEWS:** Jimmy Maeda

The annual Spring Social is scheduled for Thursday night, April 26 at the AJA Veterans Hall on Haihai Street from 6:00 p.m. Lady guests and men can leave their wallets since the membership, at the last club meeting, appropriated enough funds to host all attending. George Taketa, president of the club, will host the happy hour. The report is that George went to Kauai to participate in the annual 442nd Golf Tournament and was the big winner. He walked off with the jackpot and plenty of prizes. His winning score was his age - 72 strokes. Our congratulation and best wishes to George Taketa.

**WANTED:** A member of the Club 100 to assume the position of treasurer of the AJA Veterans Council. This year, the treasurer's job is the responsibility of the Club 100. Please contact George Taketa if you can help.

Mr. Usaki Morihara, gold star parent of Honaunau, Kona, recently died at the age of 105 years. He was the father of Arthur Morihara (Company A), who dies during the battle of Cassino, Italy. Our prayers of condolence go to the family members of Mr. Morihara. For a long time, Mr. Morihara

HAWAII CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

operated the general merchandise store on the junction of the road going down to the City of Refuge, Honaunau, Kona. It is the store with the sausage tree in the front.

Senator Spark Matsunaga: A Samurai and a Man of Peace

The members of the Club 100 Hawaii Chapter, wives and friends extend their heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Spark Matsunaga, her children, and relatives for the passing of U.S. Senator Spark Matsunaga. The late senator leaves many former comrades of the 100th Infantry Battalion and friends on the Island of Hawaii. We extend our sincere thanks, mahalo, arigato, etc. to Spark Matsunaga for his dedicated and unselfish service to our country and Hawai'i Nei.

As our governor, John Waihee, said, "Sparky warmed our state and country with his humanitarianism. He will be remembered most for his vision of peace and his faith in the human heart."

When I consider life and its few years --  
 A wisp of fog betwixt us and the sun;  
 A call to battle, and the battle done  
 Ere the late echo dies within our ears;  
 A rose choked in the grass; and the hour of fears;  
 The gusts that past a darkening shore to beat;  
 The burst of music down an unlistening street --  
 I wonder at the idleness of tears  
 Yea old, old dead, and ye of yesternight,  
 Chieftains and bards, and keepers of the sheep,  
 By every cup of sorrow that you had,  
 Loose me from tears, and make me see aright  
 How each hath back what once he stayed to weep  
 Homes his sight, David his little lad!

Lizette Woodworth Reese

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWS: Tad Hashimoto

To many of us who may not live in the Torrance, California area, I would like to mention that there is a King's Hawaiian Bakery Restaurant at 2808 W. Sepulveda Blvd. in Torrance 90505. They are open from 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday and from 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Phone (213) 530-0050 or (213) 775-1011.

King's Hawaiian Bakery's owners have helped financially and have donated merchandise and baked goods over the past years for a lot of our functions which involve the 100th Infantry veterans, their families and friends.

Not all soldiers got into combat. In fact, relatively few did. At the end of World War II, there were 11 million men in the U.S. Army. Only 2 million of them were in the 90 combat divisions and fewer than 700,000 of them were infantrymen, who did the dirty work of fighting the war and were ones most likely to get shot or blown up.

Most of the nisei in the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were infantrymen. They seldom numbered more than 3,000, but many more than that served in the unit because casualties had to be replaced. The 100th/442nd was bloodied to the extent that more than 9,500 Purple Heart medals were awarded for wounds received in combat. In the Pacific and China-Burma-India theaters, nisei intelligence specialists were also infantrymen who, in addition to gunfire, faced malaria, other fevers, and dysentery. In Burma, American and British troops suffered so regularly from dysentery that they cut large holes in the seat of their trousers to simplify things.

Buddy Mamiya was hospitalized recently and is now back home recuperating. Harry Fukasawa had a heart problem with a previous heart operation. To both veterans, take care and our wishes for a speedy recovery.

Our thanks to Tom Kasai who donated one of our bingo equipment which is used at our 100th Family Nights and other activities.

## ***Iro-Iro***

*According to Business Tokyo: ■ In 1989 Tokyo's most expensive residential land cost \$8,165 per square foot; the most expensive commercial real estate was \$23,433 a square foot. ■ Japan is the only country in the world that sells alcohol in vending machines. ■ The Japanese appliance industry is trying to boost sales by proclaiming May 30 as Vacuum Cleaner Day, June 21 as Refrigerator Day and August 1 as Washing Machine Day. ■ And finally, according to Sudo Chiharu, a junior high school girl who actually counted, there are 3,583 kernels in the average bowl of rice.*

- The first toothbrush, which was invented in 1498 according to a Chinese encyclopedia, was made of hog bristles and horse hair.
- A Thai hotel owner recently hosted a 12-course meal — with napkins and menus — for hundreds of monkeys from a nearby temple to thank them for the success of his inn; monkeys, symbols of good luck, are a sure-fire tourist attraction. The vast spread, which featured noodles, salad, fried rice, soup, cake and candy, was used however as ammunition by the saucy simians, who hurled the food at each other and at curious onlookers.
- Japan's birth rate may be dropping, but try telling that to the Fujimura family of Yamaguchi Prefecture. With the December birth of twins, Mr. and Mrs. F. now boast 17 children — nine boys, eight girls — and a Japanese record for progeny. The family consumes over eight pounds of rice a day, and it takes four hours to do the laundry — even with two washing machines (and a cheap labor source).
- This year's Loud Voice Contest, sponsored by Hall's, the cough drop people, was won by Hiroyuki Saito of Tokyo, who shouted the Japanese equivalent of, "Hey, landlord! Wait three more days for the rent!" His decibel level won him about \$350.
- And speaking of awards, a young couple recently won Taiwan's first kissing contest with a four-hour smooch. Although romantically uninvolved prior to the event, they are now engaged to be wed.
- And speaking of busy lips, it is now illegal to chew gum on Singapore's Mass Rapid Transit system, even if you have no plans to stick it under your seat. Gum chewing carries a fine of about US\$250.
- Even if every available parking space in the Tokyo area were filled, there would still be more than 160,000 cars left with no alternative than to park illegally on the streets of the capital, according to a police survey.
- Residents of Tokyo dump 3.3 pounds of trash every day, 1.1 pounds more than the worldwide average.

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