

KOGA REPORT

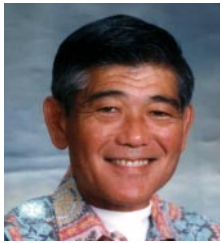
We dig . . . Hawaii!

Volume 14, Number 4, October 2003



The Newsletter of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc.

Keeping Up With Mal



Talk about getting your bubble burst! It happened to me earlier this month (October) when I found out that after 63 years believing I was born in the year of the Dragon, that I was wrong. The year 1940, the day January 21, I appeared on this earth early in the morning. The year 1940 has great significance because it is the year of the metal dragon, which is one of the strongest signs in the Zodiac or Lunar calendar. To refresh

your memory, I quote from the internet:

"According to the legend, the order of the twelve signs was determined by Buddha upon celebration of the Chinese New Year. It is believed that Buddha invited all of the animals of the kingdom for a meeting, but only twelve creatures attended.

As a reward he named a year after each other one in the order that they arrived. First came the Rat, then the Ox, the Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig."

Another version tells the story thusly, "According to Chinese legend, the twelve animals quarreled one day as to who was to head the cycle of years. The gods were asked to decide and they held a contest: whoever was to reach the opposite bank of the river would be first, and the rest of the animals would receive their years according to their finish.

All the twelve animals gathered at the river bank and jumped in. Unknown to the ox, the rat had jumped upon his back. As the ox was about to jump ashore, the rat jumped off the ox's back, and won the race. The pig, who was very lazy, ended up last. That is why the rat is the first year of the animal cycle, the ox the second and the pig last."

In addition, the five elements, (wood, fire, earth, metal, and water) in combination with the twelve animals gave greater strength to ones sign. Anyway, as previously noted, 1940 was the year of the metal dragon-a good strong combination. However, I was corrected by a Feng Shui Master (when he provided an evaluation on our residence) that I was wrong. **So now, here's the rest of the story.....**

According to the Feng Shui Master, the Chinese New Year usually begins in early February. In the year 1940, the lunar New Year started on February 18th. Since I was born on January 21, my birth date was still in the year of the Rabbit 1939. So now instead of being a metal dragon, I am now an earth rabbit.

So instead of being one with monetary successes and great power, as a metal dragon, I now am blessed with a tender and harmonious personality. Instead of being born with the likes of Fats Domino, Gregory Peck and Bing Crosby, I now am associated persons born in the rabbit year, like Albert Einstein, Gina Lollabrigida and **Frank Sinatra?**

Well, maybe it's not so bad being a rabbit after all!

All pau for this edition of "Keeping up with Mal". Aloha



From "Da Boss"

By Glenn Nohara

First off, let me assure Mal (please read Mal's article, above) that life as a rabbit is not all that bad. I have been living a rabbit's life for the past 52 years.

Last quarter we reported that our employees were so impressed with Gary Shimabukuro of Laulima Hawaii's "ice" presentation, that we had several requests to have him share his program with our families. On September 20, Gary made a presentation in Kapoho on the Big Island and another one on October 18 at our Sand Island facility on Oahu. A third presentation will be held on Kauai in the very near future. Gary appeared in Edgy Lee's documentary "Ice: Hawai'i's Crystal Meth Epidemic" which was simulcast on 11 television stations in Hawaii on September 24, 2003. Many of us came away from Gary's presentation with even more graphic details and awareness of this growing epidemic.

On September 6, 2003, management, staff and supervisors of Koga Engineering completed the OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety & Health Course conducted by Cliff Maeda of Safety First Management Group, Inc. Congratulations to all who completed this course and received their certificates.

As we end this year, it is turning out to be one of our lower volume years in recent history. However, in terms of the bottom line, it is better than expected, thanks to the efforts of our people who worked efficiently, safely and stuck with us during this slow period. Thank you very much. In the past two months, we picked up quite a bit of work, with still much more to bid, and the construction outlook for the State continues to look robust going into next year. So, we expect to make a strong comeback in 2004.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 7 for our company Christmas Party (see the Bits & Pieces article on page 4 for more details). We hope to see all of you and your families there. Until then, remember to always Plan-Act-Study and work safely.

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News from Kaua'i

By Garrett Ichimura



At what age does the body start falling apart?? It must be 42 because the body of Andy Ragasa, our fearless leader of Kauai, is finally giving out. If not his elbow, it's the finger and now his leg. It also explains the downfall of his beloved Raiders as I think the average age of the team is forty-something. I hope this is the last of it because all the king's horses and all the king's men can't put Andy back together again.

Projects completed this past quarter include Kuhio Highway Resurfacing – Hardy to Kuene Road (Glover) and Launch Facilities @ PMRF (TOMCO Corp). Ongoing projects include Marriott's Waiohai Beach Club (Unlimited/Maryl JV), Kapa'a Homesteads Well No. 2



Launch Facilities at PMRF project with TOMCO Corp.

(DOW), Kaua'i Judiciary Complex (Unlimited). Other projects soon to start include the Puako Subdivision (Grove Farms), Port Allen Fire Line Replacement (DOT-Harbors), Kaumuali'i Highway Resurfacing – Lawa'i Bridge to Halewili Road (Glover), and Kaumuali'i Highway Resurfacing – Vicinity of Lalea Street to Halewili Road (Glover), and Nawiliwili Pier 2 Bollard Relocation (Ideal).

Similar to the fisherman of Kauai catching Aweoweo, we have been catching the small jobs to stay busy but are on the lookout for the big fish. There are a few out there and hopefully we catch one. Thanks to our employees for sticking with us through this time. Be patient and things will turn around.

Until next time, *'a hui hou malama pono....*



Kuhio Highway Resurfacing Hardy St. to Kuene St. with Jas. W. Glover



News from the Big Island

By Kyle Sakaitani

We would like to thank Gary Shimabukuro of Laulima Hawaii for coming down to our September 20th camp-out at Kapoho and sharing his wisdom with our friends and families on the devastating effects that crystal methamphetamines ("ice") has on our community and most importantly, our children. He did an especially terrific job in keeping the kids tuned in despite the constant beckoning of the ocean. It is now our job to continue to educate and rid this problem from our communities, for the sake of the children.

Work safe and remember, there's always a better way.



Willie and Kyle checking out our new Kona Baseyard site.



Gary Shimabukuro's "Ice" presentation in Kapoho.

News from Oahu

By Alvin Fujioka



Aloha!

The Oahu crews have been busy with the ongoing Honolulu Advertiser Production Facility (Dick Pacific), Schofield WBR Quad Phase 4A (Ocean House Builders), Hale Koa Hotel Pantry Renovation and P467 Pearl Harbor BEQ (Dick Pacific) projects. Upcomming projects include Hokua (AC Kobayashi), Wahiawa-Whitmore Village Waterline (BWS), Atterbury Circle (Grace Pacific), Base OPS Facility (Grace Pacific), O'Mally Boulevard (Grace Pacific), Mililani Recreation Center No. 7 (S&M Sakamoto), and Lyon Arboretum (U.H.).

With the prospects of all the upcoming military renovation projects slated to



Henry and Gil at Hale Koa Hotel Pantry Renovation



Honolulu Advertiser Production & Distribution Facility with Dick Pacific Construction.

begin soon, opportunities will be abundant for a prosperous construction industry. We will be in a good position to handle this new workload with the Demming tools and training in the OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety & Health Course.

As we approach the Holiday season, be safe and God bless.



Hale Koa Hotel Pantry Renovation with Kiewit Pacific

Crunching Out The Numbers

By Keun Pak



Well, it's a new quarter and everything has picked up a bit on the estimating side, but you know how the saying goes, "you're never satisfied with what you've got." We wish we could get more jobs and we assure you we are doing everything we can in the estimating department to pick up the pace.

On a personal note, I just moved in to my new place in Salt Lake and am enjoying it a lot, except for the cleaning, cooking, and constant laundry that I didn't have to do at home. I already messed up two pots of rice, one was too soggy and the other was too hard. I learned the system of dipping your finger in the pot and making sure the water is exactly "one line" up. How cool is that method?! Also, the drive to work is a lot better to Sand Island from Salt Lake than from Kaneohe where I used to live. However, I still go home to see my family everyday and also eat dinner. On Sundays I do some shopping at HOME. You know for tooth paste, toilet paper, salt, pepper, and other small things. Don't laugh, I know everyone went through it and the price is always right! So as far as not being able to clean, cook, or pay bills, I'm doing alright. Hahahaha

Here are some of the bids that we acquired in the past quarter: Lyons Arboretum - Repair Wastewater System, Mililani Mauka Rec. Center No. 7 as a sub to S&M Sakamoto, Repair Pavement at Hickam AFB as a sub to Grace Pacific, Hokua at 1288 Ala Moana as a sub to A.C.

Kobayashi, and the Puako II Subdivision on Kauai working with Grove Farm.

Our upcoming bids include Dual Food Facility at Schofield Barracks, Kalihi Water System Improvements, Ko' Olina Parcel 33 Subdivision and the Kawaihae 1.0 Million Gallon Tank, Phase 1.



Spotted at the City Bank / American Lung Association of Hawaii Fundraiser Golf Tournament front row: Carol Koga, Wendy Nohara, Jan Wuerfel, Lori Isara; back row: Kazuhiro Sasaki (of the Seattle Mariners) & Russell Inouye.

Bits & Pieces

By Yolanda Anderson

On Saturday October 18, 2003, Gary Shimabukuro of Laulima Hawaii educated the Koga Engineering families on Oahu about drug awareness. We learned more details about the ice epidemic; it is helpful to understand what is happening, and what to expect if someone you know is using drugs. We were made aware of the symptoms to look for in the early stages of drug use. Our children saw what the adverse affects drug use can cause.

This year our Aloha United Way Campaign's motto is **"You're Stronger Than You Think"**. How true that is! When we really think about some of the hard times and how we struggled to pull through, maybe we needed some help along the way to overcome our obstacles. You could provide the assistance someone else might need to overcome their obstacles by giving to AUW. Each of our donations helps to fund programs that touch many lives, young and old. Last year we increased our donations by more than 13%, together we contributed over \$9,500. **Thank You!** Let's continue to support AUW and always remember **"You're Stronger Than You Think"!!**

Christmas is right around the corner and so is our annual Christmas Party. Don't you just look forward to our song contest each year? Can anyone top last year's winners from the Big Island with their rendition of Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer??? We'll see... better start practicing! This year our Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2003, at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort. We will be attaching sign up forms to your paychecks in November. Don't want to rush around Sunday morning? Make reservations for your hotel room now. Kamaaina rates start at \$125.00 a night with only a limited number of rooms available. Hope to see you there.

Congratulations to Peter Morishige and Jennifer Almeida, they were married on August 23, 2003. Peter is an operating engineer on Kauai. Best wishes to you and your family.

The Foster family has a new addition to their family. Proud parents Robert and Shannon Foster had a precious baby girl on September 11, 2003. Ku'ukamaleihi'ipoikealoha Shayane Foster weighed in at 5 lbs 11 ounces, and was 18 1/2 inches long.

As the holidays are approaching, you may begin to feel overwhelmed with all that needs to be done. Try taking time out for yourself and think of all the things you're thankful for. This will help you relax and remember what is important. Until next time, **have a safe holiday season!**



Final session of the OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety & Health Course conducted by Cliff Maeda.

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We dig...Hawaii!



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