



A Message From Our President

by Glenn Nohara

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) held their 89th Annual Convention on March 10-14, 2008 in Las Vegas. The AGC is the national "parent" of our local General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA). Every three years the AGC holds its annual convention to coincide with the ConExpo-Con/Agg show in Las Vegas. Keun Pak, one of several Koga Engineering employees who attended ConExpo-Con/Agg, has written an article about his experience on Page 4 of this newsletter. So "what happens in Las Vegas does not necessarily stay in Las Vegas."

This year, one of the AGC Convention's notable speakers was Retired General Tommy Franks who led Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. General Franks shared many of his thoughts on politics and the war in Iraq. After being spellbound by this great and modest man for an hour and from questions and remarks from the audience, many of which were veterans who served under the General, one easily concludes that this is a soldier's soldier, a fine example of how a leader needs to act in front of and in support of his troops. A lesson we can all bring home to our workplaces.

The second notable speaker was Sugar Ray Leonard, Olympic Gold Medalist and professional boxing champion in five different weight classes (Welterweight, Light Middleweight, Middleweight, Light Heavyweight and Super Middleweight). Watching Sugar Ray Leonard on television during the 1976 Olympics and during the heyday of his professional boxing career during the 1980's, I always thought of him as a very intelligent man. After hearing his story, it only reinforced my perception of him. The way Sugar Ray would prepare for a fight was very much like

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Project Highlight

Dolphin Quest Village at the Hilton Waikoloa

by Kyle Sakaitani



In its 20th year at the Hilton Waikoloa Village, Dolphin Quest Hawaii will be opening the new "Dolphin Quest Village". This "Hawaiian Style" village will bring all the operational functions together to enhance the guest's experience when visiting these highly intelligent Atlantic bottlenose dolphins.

The general contractor, **Swinerton Builders**, began construction on The Village in late August 2007, working a tight schedule in a confined location towards a scheduled March 2008 opening. Koga Engineering was responsible for the sight clearing, grading and utility installations. There were many challenges faced by the project team managed by Swinerton's superintendent, **Chas Allen**, and project manager, **Derek Maurer**. Limited access in the form of an active winding walkway around the perimeter of the resort grounds, a lagoon habitat which required to be in working operation through-



Finishing touches on the Dolphin Quest Village

out the project and a project site that was squeezed in between the dolphin's pristine lagoon habitat on one side and the "human element" on the other side in the form of guest rooms and the children's pool. To accomplish this challenging project successfully meant teamwork and close communication between Swinerton, all subcontractors, the Hilton Waikoloa management and staff and the Dolphin Quest team. Mahalo again to Chas Allen for his promotion of a harmonious working environment.

The project was completed on time and with the minimal conflicts and stress that are usually inherent in most construction projects. The Koga crew led by project superintendent **William Azevedo**, and assisted by **Blaine Ahsing**, must also be recognized for making a difficult project look effortless. They were able to work together with all the trades and coordinate closely with the Hilton Waikoloa landscaping and maintenance staff, to accomplish the

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Hali'a, the newest addition to the Dolphin Quest family

Keeping Up With Mal

Dateline - Sunday, March 16, 2008 - California, USA

This edition of Keeping up with Mal finds us in a berg about twenty-five miles east of Oakland, California in a berg appropriately named Pleasanton, because it is indeed a PLEASANT TOWN. We're here hanging out at daughter Kimberly Kubo's place with her hubby, Jason and son, Tyler. Out in this area, it's Oakland A's baseball and Raider's football country and you wouldn't want to be caught dead in a Giant's or 49er's t-shirt! Speaking of the Oakland A's, we now have two Hawaii connections with this team. Daughter Kim works in Human Resources for the Front Office and local boy Kurt Suzuki is the starting catcher. So let's call out a cheer for the A's this season. But on with my story...



It has always bothered me at this time of the year when most of the USA goes on daylight savings time. For your info, this event took place on March 9, when most of the country's clocks were turned forward by one hour. So, now instead of Hawaii being two hours behind of the west coast we are now three hours behind. Worse yet, we are now six hours behind cities on the east coast! Now I really don't appreciate getting a

phone call at 4:00 am from someone in New York (10:00 am their time), and they ask you, "what time is it there?" That really jams up a good sleep. So getting to the point, I propose that our State Legislature consider passing a bill that would put Hawaii on daylight savings time, not necessarily to save daylight hours, but so that we can be in tune with the rest of our nation. It's bad enough being two hours behind the west coast and five hours behind the east coast, but three and six make it difficult for us to conduct business.

Enough said and I will end this article before I get myself into trouble. So for now, this is keeping up with Mal. Three hours ahead of you. 🔄



Jason, Kim and Tyler Kubo

How Does Document Imaging Improve a Safety Program?

By Kristi Koga

When the Koga Accounting Team decided to delve into the world of document imaging it was a large threshold to cross. Years of training on efficiencies in stamping, routing, approving and filing were eliminated in an instant. Like any big change in an organization, it took time and patience to put the new processes in place. However, anyone at Koga who approves an invoice now will tell you that the benefits have been astounding. When looking back at the old invoice approval system, it can be likened to mail being delivered by horse and carriage!

An auxiliary benefit to the document imaging module was the ability to store safety documents within the accounting package. Little did we know at the time how this feature could greatly improve and impact the Koga Safety Program. The Spectrum's Document Imaging module (in conjunction with the HR module) streamlines processes by making documents available with a simple click of the mouse. Safety documents such as training certifications, policy acknowledgements, drug testing results and accident reports are scanned into each employee "file". These scanned documents become a permanent record that is indexed and can be retrieved instantly. Images can also be printed, faxed, or e-mailed directly from the system. Triggers within the system can notify the office staff when items like training certifications or driver's licenses are expiring. Employee confidentiality is of utmost importance and only those with authorization will have access to certain protected documents.

One of the biggest challenges prior to document imaging was finding out if an employee was certified in a specific safety area. To find this

information, we previously had to walk to the storage room and rifle through the employee safety records to find this information. Managing the actual documents in this antiquated system meant that the original training certificates went to the employee, a copy went into the employee file, and another copy was filed by training in each particular year. It was a logistical nightmare! Now, with a few simple clicks you can find from your office desk or from the field office a training certificate in an instant. Pulling reports from the system for the General Contractors upon start of a job on who is certified in each safety area has never been easier. Reports can also be pulled to tell the Koga Safety Team right away who has missed a safety training or who needs a follow up drug test. And lastly, who cannot feel good about saving the company time and money as well as "staying green" with this efficient document management system.

Information on saving time and money with document imaging:

- Every year 7.5 billion documents are created and 15 trillion copies are made.
- 7% of documents are permanently lost.
- The average document is copied 18 times.
- Misfiled documents cost \$120 each.
- 4-drawer file cabinets cost \$25,000 to fill and \$2,000 per year to maintain.

(Source: Coopers & Lybrand 2004) 🔄

Koga Jobs

- Oahu Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Kaiser Moanalua Medical Center McCarthy / Kiewit JV
 Capitol Place Condominium
 and Offsite Sewer Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc.
 Chaminade University Library S & M Sakamoto, Inc.
 Hilton Hawaiian Village
 Waikikian Tower. Dick Pacific Construction Co., Ltd.
 Trump International Hotel & Tower Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc / Kiewit JV
 DHHL Kapolei Office Facility. Kiewit Building Group
 Waipio Business Center. Nordic Construction, Ltd.
 Nuuanu Stream Emergency Repair City and County of Honolulu
 Pier 51 Waterline Hawaiian Dredging Construction
 Company, Inc.
 Valkenburgh Road Widening MSC LLC
 Hawaii Regional Security Operations. Dick Pacific Construction Co., Ltd.
- Kaua'i Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Kapa'a Homesteads Well No. 3
 Development State of Hawai'i, DLNR
 Ka'iulani of Princeville. Shioi Construction, Inc.
 Westin Princeville Ocean Resort Unlimited Construction Services, Inc.
- Big Island Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Hilo Judiciary Building. Swinerton / Pacific JV
 Kealakehe Intermediate School
 Administration and Library Summit Construction, Inc.
 Dolphin Quest Waikoloa Village Swinerton Builders
- Maui Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Honua Kai Lot 4 Kaanapali. Ledcor Construction, Inc.
 Honua Kai Ph II Ledcor Construction, Inc.



Ken Grote conducting Confined Space training at the Westin Princeville jobsite



Honua Kai job in progress

Koga Bits & Pieces

Congratulations to the following Koga Ohana Members:

Newlyweds

Garett (Project Manager)
and Hae Min Ichimura
Married in October 2007



Wai'ihi Anna Rose Stewart-Furugen

New Parents

Troy Furugen (Kaua'i Operator)
and Wailani Stewart
Baby Girl – Wai'ihi Anna Rose Stewart-Furugen
March 12, 2008 21½", 9 lbs 12½ oz

Condolences to the Koga Ohana on the recent passing of:
Keith Furugen, brother of Kip Furugen (Kaua'i Foreman)
February 2008, age 55

President's Message

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how we would prepare for our projects. He found out his opponents' strengths and weaknesses and how they would stack up against his strengths and weaknesses and set up his rigorous training accordingly. I found this very much like how we analyze the many challenges of our projects and how they stack up against our strengths and weaknesses and how we go about our rigorous Deming training (flow charts, run charts, team meetings, and continuous plan-act-study cycles).

Now, if I could have only used what I learned from General Franks, Sugar Ray Leonard and our Deming Method in the casinos, my Las Vegas trip would have been perfect.

Until the next Koga Report, work safely. 

Project Highlight

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very delicate challenge of ingress and egress of heavy equipment and materials while minimizing the impact to the guest's experience at the Hilton Waikoloa.

It is always encouraging when everyone can work closely together through a difficult project and make it effortless, enjoyable and successful. Lastly, to help exemplify the harmonious and safe project atmosphere was the birth of Dolphin Quest's newest addition, "Hali'a" on October 9, 2007, literally feet away from the project site.

To find out more about the Hilton Waikoloa's Dolphin Quest Village, go to www.dolphinquest.org and click on the "Hawaii" tab. 

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Think Sitework...Say Koga!

Koga Spotlight Las Vegas ConExpo

by Keun Pak

The ConExpo in Las Vegas was a great opportunity to see all of the different equipment, tools and technology in construction. You can never expect to take in all of the sights at this great big convention, because that is what it is...GREAT and BIG. It had all the top equipment companies showing off their machines and their new and improved models. Here are a few of the innovative and interesting things that I saw.



- Case had a couple of special made hoptos. One was for its 75th anniversary, painted all black, and the other looked like it could be used in a war. It had an armor protected cab with small windows and it was painted a beige color, sort of like something they could use in Iraq.
- An improvement to Komatsu's mini excavators, PC-38 & 48, showed that the blade in front could now operate just like a grader blade and swivel. Unfortunately though it couldn't slide in and out...maybe next year's model will have that option.
- I also saw a new bucket for an excavator that had three options. It could be used as a regular bucket, it had a magnet to pick up



and/or separate metals, and it also had a crusher option to break up medium sized rocks. It operated pretty quietly too.

- Cat and Komatsu also had a huge wheel loader. I stood next to the tire and the blade and both were about 3 ft. taller than I was. Also, I saw a few big excavators where I could stand in the bucket.

- The coolest part of the Expo was the simulation set up for the equipment. The simulator was configured to have controls for the various machines such as a grader, an excavator and dump truck.



You could go for a test drive and never leave the arena, or you could compete against other operators. Komatsu, Cat, Case, Volvo, Hyundai and Link Belt were just a few that I can name, but there were a lot more.

On Saturday night, Koga Engineering treated all the employees who were able to attend the Expo to a steak dinner at The Range in the Harrah's Hotel. Everyone had a great time talking, eating and drinking.

I'd like to extend a thank you to everyone that made this trip possible and I hope to do it again soon. Next time maybe I'll win the 20 million dollars! 