Meet Makawao’s Herbert Gomes

by Katsuko Enoki

Herbert, one of 13 children (all born at home except for the youngest) was born on December 28, 1934 in Kona. As a child he lived in a home with no running water (had water tank), no electricity (had wood stove), and a charcoal stove was used to iron clothes. How many of us can identify with these experiences!

At age 6 years old, he attended Honokaa School in addition to his chores of feeding cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, and rabbits! His father owned 2 mules and one horse. Herbert was 10 years old when his dad died at 50 years. His oldest brother quit school and worked to support the family (no food stamps program then). At age 15 years, Herbert worked at Honokaa Plantation for 40 cents an hour and picked macadamia nuts for one cent a pound. At 16 years old (10th grade) Herb left school to work for a construction company installing a pipeline from Ahualoa to Honokaa. He joined the Army from 1954 to 1956, earned a certificate for attending Hilo Tech cooking school for 2 years. He worked at Kona Palms Hotel, Johnson Island as a cook for 8 months, and Kawaiian as a plumber for a year. In 1960, he returned to Maui, and got married in 1961.

Herb worked at Maui Palms as a cook and Sheraton Hotel for 5 years. His last employment was with the County of Maui as a plumber inspector for 21 years before his retirement at age 62 years.

In his retirement, Herbert enjoys going to the beach, working on cars, gardening, traveling to Las Vegas and Washington State to visit grandchildren.

Herbert’s wife Judy, is also retired from working at a coral factory and Marmac but helps her brother Stephen who owns a glass company (Arrow Glass & Mirrors). Judy and Herbert have two daughters who are both married, 3 grandchildren (soon to be 4 in June), and 4 great grandchildren! Congratulations to Herbert and Judy for their 58 years of a wonderful marriage!

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A MESSAGE FROM RETIRES UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

Remember when we couldn’t wait for school to let out and common mango season was in full bloom? June is here, graduates are donning their caps and gowns and mango blossoms are abundant. Can’t wait for some ono pickle mango and home made mango seed, yummy!

Thank you HGEA Oahu Retirees for your commitment to HGEA endorsed candidate Tommy Waters in his election to Council District 4. Retiree members spent many hours phone banking, preparing campaign materials, sign waving and going door-to-door to which led to a successful election night. Tommy is very humbly by your participation and said “mahalo HGEA retirees for joining me in the campaign, I really appreciate your help.”

The legislature will have adjourned by the time you receive this issue. Our bills have unanimously passed Final Reading in both the House and the Senate and will be enrolled to the Governor. He can do one of the following three options: sign the bill into law; allow the bill to become law without his signature; and veto the bill. Legislative Officer Michele Kurihara-Klein noted “it’s been a long Session for many, but our organization was successful in ensuring the passage of key bills.”

In Solidarity,

Mahalo

Bishop Museum on Oahu seems to be the popular pick for a day trip later this year but with several requests from neighbor island members, we have put a "Phantom of the Opera" trip together. The Broadway performance will be on Saturday, August 24, 2019, the 2:00 p.m. matinee showing. The price will include your airline, performance ticket and bus from the Daniel K. Inouye terminal to the Blaisdell concert hall and back to the airport. A lunch stop at the HGEA office first before heading to the performance will be included. The price is $332.98. Kaui is $297.96 and the Maui cost is $260.76. Because the airline costs fluctuate and the performance tickets sell daily, please contact Tammy immediately if you are sure of your participation. The group ticket price requires at least 10 people so we will purchase blocks of 10 with your confirmations. More details will be available when you call Tammy at 434-0035. Deadline to participate will be June 7, 2019.

Mahalo to our current State and Chapter officers and directors for your commitment to our Retirees Unit. I look forward to working with our new state and chapter board members. Join me in calling on all HGEA Retirees to Rise Up and join your island chapters, become an active participant, and together we will build a stronger HGEA Retirees Unit.

In Solidarity,

Molly

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