

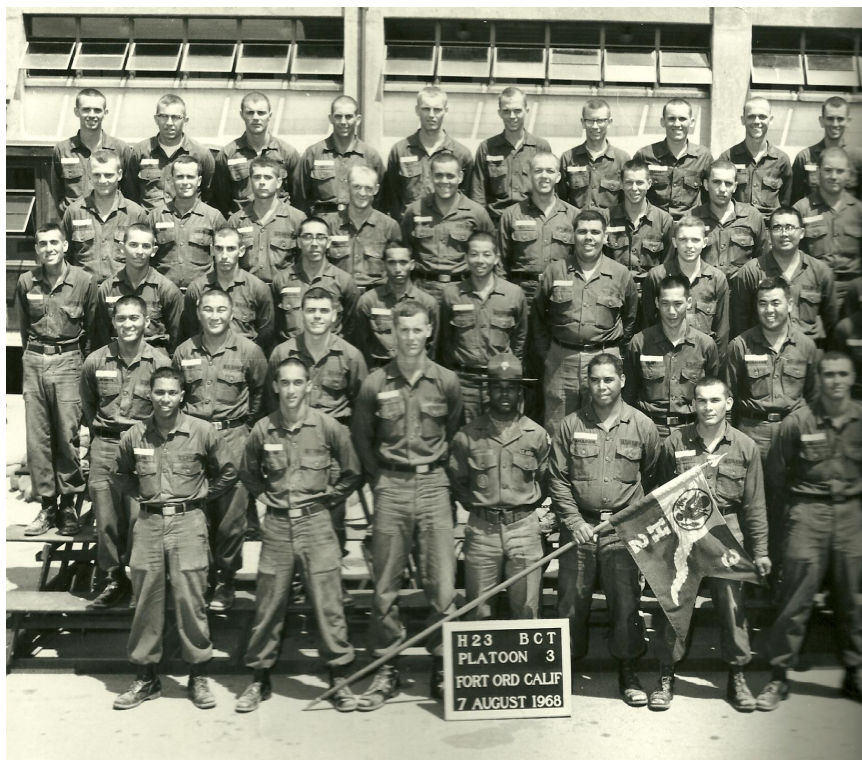
## Chapter 8

### Stokoes in Hawaii

1962 - 1980 - 2014

Mum worked for Church College of Hawaii for eighteen years. Leo and Lilian both graduated from Kahuku High School. Lilian became a pre-school teacher, and an educator at Kahuku High School. She obtained a Bachelor's degree from BYU Hawaii in 2007 and currently works for Hawaiian Social Services. Dad joined them in Hawaii and eventually retired from Dole Pineapple Company.

I attended CCH for two years, 1959-61, then left for BYU Provo a few months before Mum arrived. I spent three years at Utah State University, a semester at Southern Illinois then back to Utah before I was drafted into the army. Leo spent most of his two years in Korea as a driver for the Company Commander, a Lieutenant Colonel.



**Leo is on the far left in the third row.**

I served in the military from August 1966 - August 1968; went to Fort Lewis, Washington for Basic Training; to Fort Ord, California for AIT or Advanced Infantry Training, and served twenty months permanent party, at Fort Gordon, Georgia.



*Tommy is in top row second from the right in this photo taken at Fort Lewis.*

## **Mum Stokoe**

My first job was as a reliever for other dorm parents. I did not have a regular dorm of my own. When other dorm parents had the day off, I worked in their dorm to relieve them. We lived in an apartment. Later, my friend, the director of housing, wanted to help me. He did his best to take off another lady. Her name was Mrs. Kanikoa. He told her, 'How would you like to trade jobs with sister Stokoe?' She was a permanent dorm mother. She agreed. After she left Baden Perry said to me, 'Now you can stay put. You have children to take care of and you need a permanent home for them.' That is how I got into a dormitory. I stayed in the dormitory for a long time and then they gave me another job.

I never dreamed I could do the dormitory job. Dormitories hold about 176 girls. I was alone, one dorm parent. It was hard work. You have to be at the phone all the time. Inspection, go and see if everything is clean and make sure that the girls are in bed on time

Some of the girls were very good, they obeyed. Some were very rebellious, they didn't have a good word for dorm parents. But I know the good girls married and settled down properly. Those who were rebellious, some of them are not married even today. Lilian liked being raised with all the girls. She did not stay with me. She eat with me but she sleep with the girls in the dormitory and made a lot of good friends. They still visit one another even now. Leo stayed in my apartment. Dean Olsen said Leo should go to the boys dormitory but I told him that my son was not interested in any of the girls in the dormitory and that he only stayed in my apartment and

not go into the girls dormitory. So he let Leo stay with me.

Mostly Lilian went to the Church College of Hawaii. Leo only went two or three months to college and then he was called into the army. When he came home he did not go back to school. Now he wishes he had gone to school.

Grandpa came to Hawaii in 1963. I sent his fare to come and money to pay our account in Samoa. Then later on he write, 'Bella, send me another fare, I spent the money.' So I went and made a loan at the bank and sent him the money to come.

Grandpa came here and then went to work for the Dole Pineapple Company. Later he flew to the mainland and lived on the Mexican-California border where he worked as a gardener. But he could not eat the Mexican food so he came back. When he returned he was in a bad way. He was very sick for months and months. He said the water is bad, the food is bad and he could not live there among the Mexicans. So he came home and I took care of him. It took a long time for his health to come back. Later he told me he was going to apply for a job with the Dole Pineapple Company. I suggested that he apply for a job near Laie. He said, 'I don't belong to this society. I drink and I am not a good Mormon.' So I told him to do whatever pleased him.

**Tom's letter to sister in England**, from Box 128, Church College of Hawaii, Oahu, Hawaii.  
July 27<sup>th</sup>

Dear Lily,

I thank you for your two letters and will write more later as we are now working seven days a week with extended hours and the company would like us to do 30 days straight, but many of the workers have cracked up, stayed home to rest or just got drunk and passed out.

The weather is hot and humid also, with many unusual rain showers and clouds of steam rise from the ground. Tommy is home from Utah for two months and Leo who took a signal course in the army is personal driver to Artillery Commander in Korea—driving all over South Korea. I don't know how he got the job as he is a British Citizen but suppose he is doing well enough. We still have no house and Bella is very busy so we don't see much of each other. . .

### **Tommy describes his Mum's work**

Little did Leo, Lilian and I know growing up in Samoa that the day would come when we would share our mother with hundreds of college students in Hawaii. She was known as "mum Stokoe" to the college students. She started out as a dorm mother in the men's dorm and later moved to the women's dorm. Then she spent six years in the Aloha Center answering phones.

Mom helped the girls in many ways, answering their questions, helping them solve their problems and the Samoan students would come to her and say, "Mum, have you got something to eat? We are hungry." She would always give them something to eat. The college boys would come to her and say "Mum, what girl in your dorm would make a good wife for me? Who would you recommend?" Mum was a matchmaker. We don't know how many girls she recommended,

and how many boys followed her counsel, but we have seen the thank you cards and the happy marriage photos in her collection boxes.

Mum could tell many interesting stories about student life on campus and in the dorms: boys raiding the girls' dorm, and activities outside the dorm. Mum would go to bed after midnight and wake up at 5 a.m. attending to her stewardship as a dorm mother. She was responsible, committed, dedicated and faithful to her charge. She hit dorm invading boys with a broom and was drenched by a bucket of water during the fray; found a male student gagged and bound outside the girls' dorm at 2 a.m. in the morning, and the list goes on. Mum Stokoe believed in principles, practiced principles and taught principles. She was a good faithful servant and served the Church College of Hawaii and it's hundreds of students honorably. Upon retirement in 1980 she spent her time doing genealogy. She especially enjoyed serving in the temple with her good friend Tino under the direction of President David Hanneman.

**Leo remembers his father:**



His concern for me lasted throughout his life. He always worried about my employment, my rebellious ways, when and who I would marry and what kind of adult I would eventually turn out to be. What kind of a woman would put up with his headache son?

As a teenager I remember the lectures from my dad telling me that I was undisciplined and irresponsible and that I can't go through life like that. He sometimes disapproved of the way I put my friends first before anything else or the kind of life style I lived. He always worried. I can remember three times when he missed the bus after his worldly activities and fell asleep on the bus stop bench. I would get a call from a law enforcement officer around midnight asking "Are you Leo? Would you please come pick up your father. . . He fell asleep at the Ala Moana bus bench." At midnight a call like that isn't very funny.



Dad was a savvy and very frugal shopper. He loved fruits and vegetables and knew every discount shop in downtown Honolulu. He would travel on the bus for 30 plus miles just to buy tomatoes that were 20 cents cheaper a pound than at the supermarkets. Then he would come home beaming with pride at his conservative shopping and display each item on the kitchen table. This drove my mother crazy. She would scold him saying, “Tom, just put your things away.” All he wanted was a few encouraging words and a little recognition that would praise his shopping skills. My dad lived a simple life; he never dressed fancy and it didn’t take much to make him happy.

He was a brilliant man and had an amazing memory for facts, dates, times and occurrences. . . especially historical. He walked everywhere. He loved walking. That was the exercise that kept his strength up and his keen mind alert. He was well read and an avid library book borrower.

He loved to analyze political events. He could remember everyone’s birthday. He took great pride in this specialty and if there was a date that others were uncertain about, he knew it. They applied and came to live in the Kahuku Senior Citizen Village when they retired. My father died on February 24, 1994. He is buried in the Laie cemetery.



Tommy, Leo and Lilian in Hauula, Hawaii – Summer, 1973

**Letter to Tommy, form Box 1069, L.Y.U., Laie, Hawaii, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1977**

Dear Son,

We hope you are well over there and not too many troubles. Various things have happened around here since you left and there have been a number of funerals in which your mother got involved. Malie was buried in a two thousand dollar coffin with inscribed brass plates on inside the lid having a design of the Last Supper which will be the first thing she sees on Resurrection Day. No end of a big funeral. Ettie came over; you will remember her in New Zealand. She divorced Fa'asisila and lives with a Dutchman name of Meyn. Vainofoa was here and one way or another I got answers to some questions which had puzzled me for years. Tino is connected in some way to the Crichton's and her father died aged 106 years and 60 days.

Nobody of his generation was alive, at least not around here, and his children including a few old age pensioners, arrived in force. The gifts of cash reached \$6,000 before the funeral, a great quality of food, kegs of corned beef, etc was laid in and a whole procession of people presented fine mats with due ceremonial. All this took place at the back of the house where a hedge and bushes were removed to set up a big tent to accommodate people. It went on for about 10 days and amongst the mourners was Sane (Alexander Sane Crichton) from L.A., a nephew of your mother, son of Lizzie and half-brother to Juanita. A 14 year old girl who helped prepare food died also of a brain tumor nobody knew she had and Sane flew back again from L.A. as it was a niece of his. Your mother saw him off again last Saturday.

With two other people dying about the same time and your mother going to their funerals, also as they were Samoans friends of hers, made five funerals in as many weeks. We had not seen Ettie since last coming to the plantation 21 years ago. She speaks with a real New Zealand accent now which sounds strange after not hearing it for a long time and she had tales of the going on down there too long to relate. I am glad we got away from there because none of that crowd will do us much good although Ettie never did me any harm.

We never heard from Juanita in her last 25 years of life although it was your mother who got her over from Samoa and we kept her for a whole year. She weighs 425 lbs and needed a wide coffin. Nobody told the grave diggers and on a rainy day the people stood around dripping wet as they twice had to jump into the grave and widen it to accommodate the coffin.

There was \$2,000 N.Z. left over from the gift monies but Kakini didn't get it because of two of Juanita's brothers grabbed the cash and flew off to Samoa. The food was paid for but so far not the funeral costs. Since you went away I think we have had plenty happening. Leo lasted six weeks at that last job but it was just too much. He got into the football gambling again and that is another long story.

His mother said better pay his debts or somebody will shoot him. He is still trying and is optimistic but my bank balance suffers. His girlfriend is really named Laura and her former husband who is more than a little unbalanced suddenly found out where we lived, came around and presented a ham and a bunch of flowers to your mother for "being kind to Laura." They were divorced about five years ago but he is never far away and Leo just cannot get things

straightened out because of these peculiar complications. I will start going peculiar myself soon if not already so. Anyhow, I hope you are all well and my little pet (Stephen) is doing fine. Keep cheerful if you can better times will come. Love, Father

**From Mum Stokoe - May 25, 1978**

Dear Diane & boys,

Thank you for your letter and all the news about the boys. I'm so happy the boys are doing well in their activities and school. I hope someday Dean will be a big man in Salt Lake in electronics and Matthew a football player. I'm so happy for them.

How about Stephen? What will he do for a living? We'll wait and see. We think of you guys every day and we are looking forward for a new arrival. We are curious to know if it's going to be a boy or girl. I told Tommy in his letter that my sister Louisa is coming in August 23<sup>rd</sup>. She will stay with me, but her daughter & husband will stay at the hotel in Honolulu. I hope you can get that house you're after. I get all the news of Stephen from his father's letters. Stephen is so smart to eat all the icing on the bus and throw away the rest behind the sofa. I'm always happy to read the news of Stephen and the things he does like run away with Mieko and get lost. The only thing I worried about in case he gets knocked over by a car but let's pray that will never happen. Say hello to the boys.

P.S. Our Hawaiian Temple has been enlarged and we are having an open house since the beginning of this month. This Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> is the last day. Grandpa, Renee went to see the Temple. I went also but Leo is going tomorrow. The dedication is June 13-14<sup>th</sup>. That is all the news for now. Love to All. Aloha, Bella, Kiss Stephen for me.

**June 19, 1978**

Dear Diane,

I carry David's baby picture in my purse ever since I got it. He is so cute, and he looks just like Stephen. I thank our Father in Heaven for David. He is now a new member of the Stokoe family. We always laugh whenever you tell us something about Stephen. So he calls everyone Stokoe including Mieko the dog. Glad the boys are doing well and Matthew is a deacon. Good luck to him. And Brian is enjoying basketball. How about Dean? What is he doing? I know he was playing accordion. I suppose he is getting real good now.

We had a temple dedication last week. This place really was full with people from Hawaii, Molokai, Hilo, Western Samoa, Tonga and the mainland. President Kimball was here, N. Eldon Tanner, Marion G. Romney. They rent out one floor of the Kuilima Hotel for them. We had all the priesthood holders and their bishops assigned to guard them at Kuilima. We had a first area conference. It was held on 18 June at Blaisdell Center in Honolulu. The conference consisted of two sessions. One was at 10:00 a.m. and one was at 2:00 p.m. ending at 4:00. My friend Tino and me left home at 5:00 a.m. Sunday morning and we got there at 6:00 a.m. We stayed for 2 sessions. Then came home. The conference was very spiritual.

Leo and Renee (Laura) left this morning for Las Vegas for a vacation. I mailed a box of baby clothes for little David. I keep thinking of David all the time. I carry his little picture in my purse ever since I got it. He is a cute little boy. Okay grandpa gave \$10.00. I gave \$10.00 Leo and Aunty Renee gave \$10.00 all for David. If David needs clothes then you can buy. If you want to open a Bank Book for him it's okay. Up to you. The other two \$5.00's is for Matthew and Dean's birthdays from Grandma. Happy Birthday to those boys. I think of you every day. I have to close the Aloha Center and mail these letters so will close now. I love you all. Kiss Stephen and David for me. Love Bella, or Grandma.

**From Mum Stokoe August 26, 1978**

Dear Diane,

Thank you for the photos. Stephen is so big now and little David is getting big. Also Dean and Matt. Tommy wrote and told us the wonderful news about your big house. We're so happy for you and especially you got what you were looking for, a big house with 5 bedrooms and 3 baths, etc. etc. I wish to congratulate you for your big house. I hope someday we will come and visit you and see your new home.

The day I received Tommy's letter, I read it out loud to Leo and grandpa, their ears were wide open and their looks of excitement. Many times during my reading them the letter and asked me, stop Bella, read it again. So I read it again. I read a little bit and grandpa said, stop it Bella. Read again. I can't remember how many times he stopped me asked to repeat it again. Leo and Grandpa were both very excited with the good news. As I told Tommy in my letter the letter was getting worn out. Leo and Grandpa always pass it to one another and discuss every detail between those two. It was so funny. Even grandpa took the yard stick and ran around outside and measured the size of your land and house, sat down and said, "What a big place they got." I think Grandpa read Tommy's letter every day without missing a day. We are all excited with the good news.

I told Tommy those who are honest in the gospel of Jesus Christ by paying their tithing, go to all the meetings, kept the commandments of the Lord, they are the blessed ones. The Lord blesses those who serve him on this earth. I know these things are true.

We are settled in our new place. It's a new house not even 2 years old yet. It is good & not so much bugs. And very quiet and not so much traffic like the last place. I'm going to a big wedding Luau they are holding it at the Aloha Center Ball Room. The name of the girl is Ester Delarosa. Her mother is a Samoan named Toalo Magalei. She married a Phillipino, Ester is marrying a Samoan Chinese German from Western Samoa. His name is Po'a Alps. All of Laie is invited. So the luau is at 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Grandpa went to Honolulu Picnic by himself at Alamoana and Renee (Laura) and Leo went to Kaneohe. I'm alone. That's the reason why I'm able to write letters because no one is here to bother me. I think that is all the news for now. Love to all. Kiss Stephen and David for me. Alofa Tele, Bella



## LETTER TO TOMMY, STEPHEN & DAVID 8/26/1978

. . . We are all happy you have found a new home with many rooms and bathrooms and especially that Stephen and David have a room of their own. Those who are true to the gospel, pay their tithing, attend church regularly and obey God's commandments, the Lord richly blesses them.

There is no doubt about this. It's good that you had a rental house in Kearns that you sold gaining \$7,000 to put down towards your new home. You worked hard fixing up that Kearns house enabling its sale, so your hard work paid off as you got sufficient money for a deposit on your new home.

So let's give thanks to God for his many blessings. We think of you and the kids every day. Leo submitted an application to Hawaiian Airlines through Renee's brother's friend. We are waiting hopefully that an opening might be available for Leo so that we can get cheap flights to Salt Lake to visit you. . .

Tommy, do you bathe Mieko? Because when I was there the dog was very dirty. I'm afraid that Stephen might play with the dog so please bathe Mieko regularly. Put flea powder on him and when you bathe him bathe him with disinfectant so he is thoroughly clean and free from fleas and smells good.

Lilian, Darol and the kids are doing fine, also Renee and Leo and the old man. The old man still gets drunk and quite often. This is all the news for now. We send you our love and especially to Stephen and David. Goodbye. Love, mother.

## LETTER TO TOMMY, STEPHEN AND DAVID IN SAMOAN

6/10/1978 from Bella Stokoe, translated by Tommy

Your letter arrived and Diane's plus the photo of David. I am very thankful that you are all well. We were very happy to see the photo of David the new member of the family. He looks like Stephen. I compared Stephen's baby photo with David's. They look very much alike.

I prayed and gave thanks to God for our receiving this new member to our family and that he was born free of complications and that the mother is well. I know why God has blessed you with boys. It is because they are to be missionaries on earth and preach the gospel in these the last days before the second coming of Christ. We are very happy to hear about Stephen calling everyone by the last name of Stokoe including Mieko, the dog. We are happy to hear of the funny things he says.

There have been special sessions held at the temple: three sessions in one day starting on the 13 of January through the 14, 15, and 16. On Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> we had stake conference in the Blaisdell Center in Honolulu, the big arena where they have wrestling and special events. It was crowded. President Spencer W. Kimball was present, N Eldon Tanner and Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency.

Tino and myself left at 5:00 a.m. Sunday and got there at 6:00 a.m. We were the first people there. We stood in front of the line ready to go in. The conference was really crowded and the conference was televised just like in Salt Lake. We sat there for two sessions and we returned home at 4 p.m. Tino brought me home. Just dad was home. Leo and Renee had gone to take Anthony Forsyth and family to the airport to return to Hilo. They came for a vacation. Leo and Renee returned at 7:00 p.m. Renee was very tired and she had a cramp in her leg. She hadn't worked for a week. I helped iron clothes and pack their suitcase and at 5:00 a.m. we went to the airport. They were going on vacation to Las Vegas. They said they had money to get there but if their money ran out they would quickly return. The conference was beautiful and we learned much.

Did I tell you my uncle Pepe died in Safune? He died on the 24 of April 1978. His name was Maneta as a young boy and when he became a chief he was named Pepe. He was the one who piggy backed me from Sataua to Safune when I was a little girl so I could live with my grandmother Faitala. His son now assumes the chief title of Pepe. Back when we lived in Samoa and Maneta had the ceremony to become a chief, I went to Safune to be present. I thought I would like to have a chieftain name and be firmly pinned within the Pepe family. Then I thought, "Do I really want to do this? No, I'll forget obtaining a chief name. The relatives have enough chief names. . ."

Love, Mom

### **From Mum Stokoe, December 3, 1978**

Dear Diane,

. . . I just got back from my Sacrament meeting. So I read your letter again and looked at your picture with the children, so I decided to write. Tomorrow I will mail you 6 boxes of Macadamia nuts as usual. I suppose that all we can give you is candies so everyone can share. I can imagine the good time you had with your sisters & children together. I'm glad that David's eye is ok and his tongue. Do you know that Tommy was also tongue tied? The doctor had to cut the thread underneath his tongue so he can talk. I don't see any of Stephen's curly hair in the pictures with the three babies and Nicole. What happened to Stephen's curls?

Leo and Renee (Laura) moved to their house 3 weeks ago. My place is very quiet now. We hardly cook any food. We just eat anything is in the ice box. The Makaiaus are O.K. We are all well here. I got a letter from Zena to say that Louisa went in the Hospital to have an eye operation on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Nov. and Bob, Zena's husband, just came home from the hospital. He lost 30 pounds in weight. The doctor wants to see him on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Therefore they have to cancel their vacation. They can't make it.

Do you know I kept 16 ½ days of my vacation I didn't take it all at the summer time because of their coming. But now I have to take my 16 ½ days at Xmas time otherwise I'll lose it all. I'm not going to wait for them. Do you remember my friend at Salt Lake Named Fotu and his wife Fa'alili?" Well, Fotu's sister and her husband were staying there with them for 17 months. Now they are staying here at my friend Tino's house the last place I stayed. They have

found a Samoan masseur for Touli's sickness. So they will stay until new year. Then they will go back to Samoa. I had family home evening with them last Monday also tomorrow night. I'll conduct the lesson. Tino will be there.

Tomorrow I'm not going to work. I took one day vacation so I'm going with Tino and Lupe and her husband to tour the Island. Well I suppose that is all the news. Love and Cheerio, Bella

#### LETTER TO TOMMY FROM BELLA 11/16/1978

Your letter arrived and we are thankful that you are all well. We are all well here. On Monday Dana Afuvai was buried. He was shot in the head by a person in Laie. The previous Thursday a person went to the door of the family knocked and asked to see Dana. Dana came to the door. The person enquired if he was Dana and he replied yes. The person then shot him. A helicopter came to BYU and the ambulance took Dana to the helicopter and it flew to a hospital in Honolulu. He was dead before he reached the hospital. The search is on for the gunman but no luck yet. We heard that Dana sold marijuana and was mixed up with the underworld. That's the talk circulating here in Laie.

We are all doing well here. I'm thankful for the fun things Stephen says and to hear of David. We are always happy to hear of them. Just two more years and I will retire. I went to see my nephew Sikoti and wife during the last conference. He is married to the sister of Siala Ieremia. The question was asked where in Salt Lake do you live and I told them. I was surprised to hear Siala had just come from Salt Lake. They are trying to get their baby and live here.

Lilian, Darol, Sean and Kaimana, as well as Leo, Renee and the kids are all doing fine. The old man is fine. This is the end of the letter. Grandpa is waiting to take it to the post office. Lots of love for all of you and especially for Stephen and David. Love to all.

Mother

#### LETTER TO TOMMY FROM BELLA - 10/18/1978

We laughed at what you said about Stephen and his reading the Book of Mormon. He is really a humorous boy. If only I could be there to see him and hear the funny things he says. The Lord is clever for making the world and placing people here on earth. I am thankful to God that he has selected me to be Stephen's grandmother for this brings special happiness to me. I am grateful for the happiness grandchildren bring me.

I went early in this morning to see Kaimana because Sean is going to school and Kaimana to the pre-school of his mother. They have no school on Wednesday so that is the day I go to see Lilian and the kids. When I arrived Lilian was talking on the phone to one of her girlfriends. So I sat in the bedroom talking to Kaimana and he told me the name of the girlfriend she was talking to.

Kaimana said, "Grandma, my mommy is talking about me." I asked, "Why is your mommy talking about you?" He replied, "Because my mommy likes me." I laughed at his answer. I

enjoy hearing him. He said, "Grandma, I like to go with you to your house." I said, "How come you like my house?" He said, "Because I can play chess with grandpa." When the kids come to visit us the old man teaches them how to play chess. First, Sean plays with the old man then Kaimana. The playing style of Kaimana is to move the chess pieces backwards towards his hands. Sean gets mad at Kaimana because he moves the chess pieces like the game of checkers. So Sean beats up Kaimana.

I have a big envelope that I keep all your letters inside. I re-read them as I enjoy hearing about Stephen and the ways of the kids. This is the end of the letter. Much love to all of you but most of all to Stephen and David. I got a letter from my sister Louisa in New Zealand. Kakini, the husband of Juanita, died this month on 10/10/1978.

Love, Mom

### **Letter - July 5, 1979**

Dear Tommy, Diane & boys,

. . . How did Stephen get on with the Father's Day Program? Did he say it right or forget his part? Sorry to hear your garden is not too good. Maybe if Grandpa was there the garden would have been taken care of and watered every day. I hope your Real Estate Business is going good and making some money to help out with your houses.

Sean goes to the Ka'awa school. He catches the school bus every morning and catches again after school. He knows how to catch busses. But Mana goes to his mother's preschool and next year Mana will start school at Hauula Elementary. Grandpa and I applied for the Elderly's Home built next to the golf course in Kahuku, only one bed room, living room kitchen and bath. We pay our rent according to our earning. Twenty five percent of our earning & including \$25.00 of electrics in the rent but if anything more, I'll pay that. So we are waiting if we are qualified for it and if we do we will make the move right away.

Tino's house is going to be on sale so we have to move. Tino is going to live in Samoa. She said she is tired from paying bills. She can't work anymore because of her bad leg from the accident. Hope you are all well. I think of you all every day. Lilian and family are all well. She is big now. She is expecting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. Love to all, Bella.

### **LETTER TO TOMMY, STEPHEN & DAVID**

We think about you all the time, every day and especially Stephen and David. We are all well. Thanks for Diane's letter telling us about all of you there. We appreciate all your letters and the news about all of you. This letter is in response to you and Diane's. I never forget all of you in my prayers. I pray to the Lord to bless you wherever you go and that you will return safely home. I pray that you will have sufficient money to live and obtain the things necessary in your daily life, and for your spiritual welfare in the life to come. I pray for all of you and Leo and Lilian and their families.

Prices here in Hawaii are expensive, especially meat. The old man and I eat meat soup with

vegetables put in. It fills us up and is cheaper. It lasts us a whole week and saves money. Lilian's pregnant stomach is getting bigger and she is strong. This is the end of the letter. I am going to close the doors of the Aloha Center. I'm thankful that the boys have jobs. That helps your family. May the blessings of the Lord be upon you all. Kiss Stephen and David for me.

Love, Mother

#### LETTER TO TOMMY

The photos have arrived. We were happy to see them, you and the kids. . . Sean and Kaimana are very mischievous when they come to my house and I take care of them. They are really mischievous but they can be easily handled. Sean teases his brother and makes him cry and pulls his hair. . .

Do you remember Tusitala our neighbor up in the bush when we lived in Kasala? The mother of his wife Puese died and she was buried yesterday. She was 98 years old. The grandson of sister Bowe, who had a twin sister Barbara, was buried also this week. The twins were one year old. The boy died last Sunday when he drowned in the pool at the rear of the family house. He was found floating on the surface.

My sister Louisa did not come from New Zealand. Neither did her daughter Zena and husband Bob. Louisa was not strong enough after the operation on her eye and Bob was not strong either as he was just released from the hospital. He lost 30 pounds because of his illness so the vacation to Hawaii was cancelled. I had arranged sixteen and a half days of my vacation time so I could be with them when they came. Anyway, I will take the days at Christmas time.

We are all doing fine here. The box of candy I have sent to you in the mail. I hope you receive it before Christmas day. The sister of Fotu Matuaauto and her husband are here. They used to live in Salt Lake City with Fotu and Fa'alili. They are returning to Samoa. They are staying here with Tino. The husband is being massaged by Puese. They will return to Samoa after the New Year. This is all the news.

The word came from Samoa that an envoy to the Laie temple would be coming on behalf of my sister Nora who has had a stroke. I haven't heard any more about it. This is all for now. Lots of love to all of you and especially Stephen and David.

Love, Mother

#### LETTER TO TOMMY - 4/21/1979

I have received you and Diane's letters. The box of soap arrived also. Thank you very much. I'm keeping the soap wrapped up until December 25<sup>th</sup>. Diane has written all the news so I can read. We are all doing fine here. I was quite sick with the flu for a week and a half. I had a cough and hardly slept at night. But now I am strong. Lilian, Darol and the kids are fine. Kaimana is good at talking but he is very much a mischievous rascal. He talks back to Sean this dark skinned boy Kaimana who looks just like me. Keep writing and telling us about the kids. . .

## LETTER TO TOMMY - 6/24/1980

Today is the old man's birthday. He is 70 years old. He has gone to Honolulu to apply for a unit here for an old Samoan woman named Vai Whan. Her Caucasian husband is dead who had been in the Navy. The house they had been living in at Punalu'u is full of rats. She has been brought to the hospital and Tom is filling out papers for her in the hope she will get a unit to live in here at our compound.

We are all doing fine here, also Lilian, Darol and the kids plus Leo and Renee. I opened a box from Fa'alili and Fotu and found two cans of salt beef, a ham, oranges and apples. I shared the gift with the family and friends.

I miss all of you and especially the kids and that rascal David. I keep thinking about this rascal boy who thinks he is somebody. I keep thinking about all of you ever since I returned to Hawaii and especially Stephen and David. Keep teaching them to use please and thank you as I taught them in case they forget. Keep teaching these boys while they are young because when they get older it will be more difficult. I keep praying that Diane will have sales so she can help pay your bills.

Pay your full tithing and do your duties faithfully and the Lord will bless you. Thank you for everything you did for me on our visit. I already sent a letter of thanks to Diane for her good treatment of me. Lots of love to all of you and especially the kids. Goodbye.

Love, Mom.

## LETTER TO TOMMY

Happy birthday. I send my love to Diane and the kids. David and Stephen I think about all the time and especially the actions and behavior of the younger one. Does David still drop down onto the floor and roll around when he is angry? He is a very humorous person this boy. When he finishes eating he goes and opens the drawer, pulls out a dish towel and wipes his mouth and hands, then throws the towel back into the drawer and closes it. How is the quiet one, the humble Stephen? I keep thinking this will be the ways of the boys when they grow up. I never forget you all every day. I think about all of you all the time. How is Diane's work going? Has she had any sales? I pray for you all morning and evening.

We are all doing fine over here except the old man. He has been warned twice by the manager of the compound about being drunk and noisy. Shane had his birthday. He was one year old on August 5th. We had a birthday party at Lilian and Darol's house. This is the end of the letter. Best wishes to all of you. Kiss Stephen and David for me. Enclosed is \$5 for your birthday. Give my love to Diane. I'll send some money for the use of the telephone when I was there. . .

## LETTER TO TOMMY FROM DAD - DECEMBER 28, 1978



Dear Son:

Many thanks for all the things you sent us for Christmas and in my case the first pair of slippers I have had for many a long time. Also, the National Geographic amongst other things. I am not surprised that you have many troubles but if you see some of your assets, in your case a house, it is all too easy to dissipate the money in these expensive times, and unless some of your funds are suitably invested the cash could easily disappear.

While everyone grumbles about inflation not everybody is readily willing to amend their way of life fast enough to meet the changing situation. Those who remember the Great Depression never forget but their number get fewer and most people today are bombarded with selling propaganda urging them to buy just about anything. Many of us unable to resist we remain well and your mother insists on working till 65 and has changing ideas of what she wants to do.

It was going to Tutuila and building a house and Leo and wife who moved down the road since getting custody of Melanie are on no easy road. Leo is supposed to be going to the Big Island in January, has had a couple of weeks of special meetings at Unity House starting 3:30 am to 8:30 am and William Uale is in it too.

They are organized in a group to do certain work because a Japanese crowd was getting most of the jobs. In the middle of December I was told they were consolidating their debts, a \$2,000 cheque was to be handed to me and I was to give them change. Four days later they produced two cheques for \$1,400 (credit union) and one for \$633 (Loan company). They were inscribed "Laura S. and Tom S," all ready for me to sign so they could get another \$2,000 plus to meet immediate expenses. I only hope they manage to pay off the installments. My bank balance has dwindled since I came back to Hawaii two years ago and there are few signs of any increase in the immediate future.

Lilian and family are going along as usual and you people seem to be making ends meet somehow, but as for us, I think we had better go and live in one of those caves back of Laie to save expenses. I have not heard from Lily for a few months but at her age (81 on February 1<sup>st</sup>) her hands feel the cold in winter but she insists on staying where she is.

Am glad the two little ones are doing well and thanks for the photos. Your mother of course wants to fly over and see them but unable to do so.

Love to you all,

LETTER TO TOMMY FROM DAD - FEBRUARY 29, 1978

Dear Son:

We are well here and Renee, whose real name is Laura, got the letter sent by Diane. You must all be cold in Salt Lake and hope Stephen is running around happy in his woolly suit.

Leo expects to be called up soon for the film company job but a couple of men from the FBI

came here yesterday to talk to him. They are collecting evidence in the Rutledge case and Leo has to go to court and declare whether or not he was a party to paying kickbacks to the said Rutledge, who made millions for the two unions but does not want to retire and hand over the money bags. It will all be in the papers also on TV no doubt. The case starts tomorrow and if Leo and his fellow witnesses say anything to harm Mr. R. they won't get any more jobs at \$100 a day, and if they tell any funny stories the Feds will have them on toast.

Your mother is still making plans about Tutuila and just let her have her own way. She will never be any better off here if she works until she is 100 years old as all money is spent as fast as it comes in. Tino goes to Samoa next week to find the land survey. She is anxious to get away from Hawaii and hopes for a good insurance settlement soon. She is also troubled about one Brother Stone who greatly increased her land lease rental and has sent her a bill for \$1,800.

Somebody offered her \$57,000 for the property. I said it was not enough for  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre and three dwellings – not in Hawaii, and you mother did a great deal of talking because if we have to leave here we will be on the beach and she still has the retire in May 1981 idea and gets mad if you try to talk her out of it.

I met Rudy two weeks ago in Wahiawa and he and Marilyn came over to Laie. He more or less severed connections with the Aiono family two years ago, refused all land and told them he did not want to hear any more of their fighting and endless troubles. They don't write anymore but plenty of news on the bush telegram. Roy and his wife went to New Zealand to his daughter's wedding and don't intend to go back in spite of the fact that he has a large plantation of own nowadays.

He and Robert not only have gout amongst other things but according to Rudy have become alcoholics, endless drinking to kill their complaints (gout etc.) but only making them worse. Robert (Lepeki) came to Hawaii and wanted to stay here but his brother told him he was too old to make a start here and better stay in Samoa. They would only finish up on welfare anyway and Rudy did not want to have to fork out to support them or be responsible.

With all that land, copra, cocoa, bananas and herds of cattle one would have thought they would be satisfied, especially as Aiono, now 71, lets them have money and run their own places for profit. The relative in charge of one place takes out a gang, tells them to go to work and then drives away to spend the day in a beer joint, only returning late afternoon to take them back. You can bet there is enough crook business going on to fill a book. And now they all have easier lives and more money than before they all want to run away to the bright lights.

Am sorry to hear your deal went wrong but suppose you will find another place later on. I got a short letter from Lily who appears to be well at 80 but grumbling about the bad weather and the state of the country. Anyhow, they have a balanced budget and a favorable balance of trade, which is more than some countries have. Bread has gone up to 20 pence, about 40 cents a loaf which is the highest ever. They will just muddle along as usual without a doubt. Your mother says hello to all in chilly Salt Lake City. We hope all's well over there.

Love, Father

Dear Diane & boys,

Thank you for your letter. I'm always happy to hear from you especially the news of the boys in their activities. Do you know I had exactly the same feeling as you when I saw Tommy grow big and tall. I couldn't believe my sons as that big, also Leo and Lilian. Brian is very tall as I see him in one of your photos, Also Dean & Matt. I cannot believe they have grown so fast in the last 2 years. So Brian now can drive which will help you a lot. He can drive & you rest or sleep in the car. I hope you will get some vegetables from your garden & plenty fruits from your trees. I feel so good to hear news about Stephen & David, the way they said things and what they do each day. I told Tommy maybe if I retire I like to come and spend the whole summer with you guys so I can get acquainted to Stephen and David. I don't want David to grow any older before I see his fun baby ways.

I will retire Nov. 1980 that's next year. I'll have to try hard & work till that time so I can have a better retirement money to take care me for the rest of my days. I hope you will do well in your housing business. Just keep trying. You never know the luck. You have 5 boys to go to school and to go on missions. I was sick with the flu for 9 days. Only today I came back to work. Tonight I don't get finished until 12:00 midnight. I walked home it takes 15 minutes. That is all the news for now. We are all well here. Love to all, Bella

**Letter - October 3, 1979**

Dear Diane, Tommy & boys,

I tried hard to make time to write to you. I was sick with Stomach ache. I went to the emergency room at 3:00 a.m. to see the doctor, but I'm ok now. I was poisoned with food I ate at the snack bar here at BYU Hawaii. I'm babysitting for Lilian with her new baby Shane. I get up at 6:00 a.m. get ready, then catch the 7:00 a.m. bus to Hauula. Lilian finished teaching at 11:00 a.m. Then takes me to the Senior citizen lunch. Then I take the bus home and get there at 12:00 noon. I get ready and take another bus to work. I start work at 3:00 p.m. I finish work at 11:00 p.m. Leo picks me up and takes me home. I'm looking forward on November 30<sup>th</sup> when I can retire. So I don't have to rush around. . .

Happy to hear Brian has a car. He can help to take Dean and Matt to School. Thank you for the photos. We enjoyed looking at them, especially little David. I think David ate some mud, his mouth was dirty. If you tell him when he's grown up that he ate mud when he was a baby, he will say no, he didn't eat any mud at all. He is so cute. He runs around all over the place. Stephen also has grown a lot in the last year. Also Brian, Dean and Matt. I can see how grown they are in the photos. Our summer here is very hot. Lilian & Darol and the boys are all ok. The boys hardly go out & play since they have the new baby. They like to be with the baby every minute. Leo has a new job. He is working for the Village food mart in Laie shopping center. Renee is still working for Kuilima. I changed my ward to the Kahuku Ward and I have a position. I teach a Samoan class, the Doctrine & Covenants in Samoan. My Bishop wrote to Pesega to send us lesson books in Samoan language. The people in my class only can speak Samoan, none can speak the English. . .

Tom and I are very happy in our new unit. The place is very quiet except for some Phillipino's dogs from the nearby neighbors. We are not allowed an antenna for our T.V. in case we ruin the top of the house. We have to pay \$200.00 down before the T.V. man can install the cables.

Leo and I went last Saturday to visit Rudy and Marilyn at Mililani. They are all well. Marilyn send back Makelita to Samoa because she used to beat up the children. Nora & Aiono are not very well. Louisa and the girls are ok. Well, I think that is all the news for now. I have 10 1/2 vacation days. I'll take off Nov. 7th. I don't come back to work until Nov. 28th and I retire on Nov 30th. We are leaving here for Las Vegas on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. Come back Monday night. Well, that is all for now. Love to all, Grandma

**Dear Diane & boys,**

. . . I will retire Nov. 1980 that's next year. I'll have to try hard & work till that time so I can have a better retirement money to take care me for the rest of my days. I hope you will do well in your housing business. Just keep trying. You never know the luck. You have 5 boys to go to school and to go on missions. I was sick with the flu for 9 days. Only today I came back to work. Tonight I don't get finished until 12;00 midnight. I walked home it takes 15 minutes. That is all the news for now. We are all well here. Love to all, Bella

**Letter from Hauoli Hale, Unit 43, Kahuku, Oahu, Hawaii - August 12, 1980**

Dear Son,

It is now forty years since you arrived in this confused world on the banks of the Wanganui River and we join in wishing you many happy returns of the day. Your mother is out most days since retiring and always seems to be going picnics etc. with Hauula Old People and others, social event of all kinds send offs for somebody and people ringing up every day urging her to go someplace. It keeps her happy but drains away the extra money she is getting until November.

She got a lot of clothes to send to Savaii and in the meantime a long weepy letter arrived saying they had a special small chapel built because so many children had died in the last ten years and please send another tapestry depicting the Last Supper . . . also send money. We will never get away from the ""Fa'a Samoa"" demands as long as we live. Nora, who had a stroke, sent a message also, wants your mother to hasten to Apia but where is all this money to come from."

Leo and Laura are having a hard enough time themselves. They have the two eldest to keep except, at the moment, they are away and an actor's strike has stopped production of the movies and advertising films that Leo usually gets at least some work and money from. The airlines are in a bad way, cut down services and higher fares – it cost \$290 one way - Honolulu to Pago Pago, now.

Leo is on call for both jobs so hope better news soon. Lilian is paying off the house so no extra cash around there and the three children to keep. Things are noticeably quieter around Honolulu also, but more crime, with people being robbed at places like public parks and the Zoo. The police spent 1 ½ million on a big fencing operation which netted 116 burglars in a mass round up of crooks, and they have to let lesser criminals go as the jails are full to capacity. All this is part of the so called recession but we are lucky it is not 1930 over again with depression right up to World War 11 in many places.

Lily complained of high food prices in her last letter but a book I just finished tells me that the welfare state is paid for, they have complete medical services at less cost (1-7% of the G.N.P.) than American's pay and we don't even have full medical services in the U.S.A. They have less strikes than Western European nations or the U.S. North Sea oil will wipe out the countries debts and leave a great surplus by 1985.

The people have given up consumerism. They take more leave rather than go after more money. They are already tuned into a 21<sup>st</sup> century world in which 6 ½ billion people will have to share the resources by 2,000 A.D. What England is today, America will be by 1995. They are gradually shifting from heavy industry to science, electronics and specialized enterprise at which they often excel and they realize that East Asia, from Siberia to Singapore, has most of the world's population and resources. The industrial revolution is taking place there now. The American streets and auto industries are declining because of this and anybody wanting a career should look elsewhere.

Your mother has just come in and asked to whom I am writing? I said I was writing a preachy sort of letter to you. We hope you are all well and not doing too badly. Your mother is always talking about the children and how they may be getting on. I know she will want to go to Salt Lake City again. Will write again when I have any good news. Love to all from us over here, Father

**Letter from Father at Hauoli Hale, Apt 43, Kahuku, Hawaii - Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 1980**

Dear Son,

We read the long letter and all the news, and can only think that you are not only busy people but appear to have just about enough projects and problems for you to handle. There seems to be no way out but to keep on teaching for regular money, but as regards the property business, I have some thought on the matter. You will be interested in the two enclosed articles. The price of new houses has not only gone up but to build a 3 bedroom place in Hawaii cost \$150,000—if you have the land to build it on. With costs like that older places are in demand and the less wealthy who cannot afford big interest rates are in a bad way.

But for people like yourselves who have houses there is an opportunity not to be missed. The Housing and Urban Development Department in Salt Lake City are looking for people like you. And your friend Bert (Van Kommen) does not have to stand around scratching his head and wondering what to do with half a dozen houses he has trouble selling or finding others to rent. He goes right down to the H.U.D. office and invites them to pick the ones they want, get them

fixed up and ready, after which HUD gets the tenants. H.U.D. subsidizes the tenants and may be responsible for any loss or damage to some extent. The tenant pays H.U.D. their rent on it and it may be collected by a “managing agent,”; the landlord gets full rent every month from H.U.D. and all you need to get started is the cash for the repairs, overseen by H.U.D. inspectors. . .

The elderly housing at Kahuku was built on orders of the City and County of Honolulu who appointed Chancy & Co. real estate people as “managing agent.” They collect the rent, somebody, presumably H.U.D., pays the rest and pays Chaney for doing the job. If you have a Real Estate License, also provide the house, it looks as if you could be paid a commission for collecting your own rents! Go into this matter by all means and let us know how it goes. Your mother has been running around all over the place since she got that extra money every two weeks. November will be the last payment and I know she is going to miss it from then on. . .



*Tom married Diane in Las Vegas on July 22, 1974. The marriage was solemnized in the S.L. temple on June 7, 1980. (Neil, not pictured, was born November 9, 1982.)*

Grandpa retired and came to Utah for an extended visit. Leo arrived shortly thereafter. He dated Carman Zaragoza who became the mother of his son, named Landon Thomas Stokoe.



## Tom and Bella's Descendants



**David Thomas Stokoe**, born May 26, 1978, married Nikki Tomsich in 2003. They have four children: Nicholas David, born August 29, 2005. Sophia Nicole, born September 29, 2009; Lola Isabella born August 3, 2011. Baby Gabrielle was born on November 16, 2013.



**Neil Mark Stokoe** born November 9, 1982 married Corrine Kama Foster in August, 2011. Her Japanese grandmother was a war bride from Okinawa. Their daughter, Annabelle Jane, was born on October 30, 2012.

**Leo and Laura Stokoe - married January 19, 1978**



**Landon Thomas Stokoe & wife Sarah Ashley Loveless, Dax & Koya - 2012**



*(Leo's son with Carman Zaragoza)*



***Darol Pomaika'i Makaiau** married to Lilian Stokoe of Samoa/Laie*

*Born: April 7, 1950...Married October 23, 1971*

*Children: Sean, Ken "Kaimana", Shane, Chad "Ka'i"*

*Brief Note: Uncle Darol works for Hawaiian Electric. He loves to throw net and was taught by Reuben Pukahi whom was taught by Papa Makaiau. Uncle Darol served as a Bishop of Hauula First Ward. He enjoys people, sports, planting and jokes a lot.*



*Darol's Ohana*



*Sean's Stryker Lawai'a*



*Mana's Toa, Hunter and Tinei*



*Darol, Kaimana, Sean, Shane and Ka'i, Lilian, Mum, Kelelani and Tinae  
The Makaiau family in 1997*

**Letter from Laura - March 26, 2014**

Dear Diane & Tommy,

Again, Leo and I thank you so much for your generosity, support and prayers during our difficult time. All went well as planned and it was a beautiful service, by the Hawaiian women's "Ka'ahumanu." My mother was a devoted member of this beautiful Hawaiian program for women.

Our bishop who got to know my mother attended. His thought conveyed to us was "Now she can be sealed to your father Laura." Of course we can't wait. The week she died she would talk to my dad, brother and grandfather Duvauchell every day. It gave me goose bumps listening to her dialog to them throughout the day. I felt she finally mended her fences with my dad. It was a horrible, bitter divorce. I was only 6 years old. It had an awful impact on our lives. My 2 brothers, myself and my 2 step sisters. Sometimes Leo & I still feel her presence in our home. It doesn't scare us at all.

Today I have an ASAP doctor's appointment to go over the results of 2 weeks of testing. My doctor did tell Leo that another blockage is depriving blood to get to my heart, this is why I'm so tired all the time and wasn't able to fight that last virus. So it was difficult to recuperate. Won't end this letter till after I see my doctor. Then I can relay his findings on how to solve this.

It's risky to do surgery. My heart is too weak so he feels maybe medication will work. Will find out later. . .

We included the program for our son Kenui's retirement Banquet held in Boston. I couldn't go. Dr. said heart too weak for me to fly and cancer count was up. I was sick from that awful virus.

I was also responsible for the care of my mom for 23 weeks while Kalai was in Utah.

Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, was Kenui's big event. My mom died on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> right here practically in my arms as Leo was attempting to give her a blessing. We thank heavenly father for taking her peacefully. We know there is and was a reason for all this turmoil with my heart. Will let you know what happens.

Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:57 a.m. Leo and I had a great consultation with Dr. Albert Ing. My leaking heart valve is bad—and the blockage is creating problems. We know surgery is so risky so the plan for now is to go very slowly and patiently to solve this mess with a change in the dosage of my med. We will monitor the heart situation with great care, prayers and a blessing. Leo will do this today after this letter.

How wonderful to have the priesthood in our home. I thank Heavenly Father every day for my husband and my membership in the church. Take care of my Stokoe family and know that we love you both so much.

Aloha Soifua,  
Leo and Laura



Laura died July 13, 2014. She spent the last few years alternating the care of her aged mother, Mary Duvauchelle Peterson, with her son Kalai. Her mother died on Feb. 7, 2014 at age 97.

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### **Leo's Funeral Talk – July 31, 2014**

Brothers and Sisters Aloha and Talofa,

I am especially thankful for your outpouring of love and affection for Laura and our family. Laura's life has had a major impact on all of us and if it weren't so you would not be here. I thank you for a lifetime of great memories you have shared with her.

Many of you knew Laura through the various occupation where she was employed. I met Laura when she was hired as a hostess at Kuilima. We were married on January 19, 1978. Laura eventually became a manager at Kuilima. She was hired on as a business agent for Local 5 Hotel Workers. She worked at Hauula Elementary. The last few years of her life Laura worked at Kahuka High as a teacher's Aid. As her health was failing I often helped set up her classroom and assisted her in getting ready for the classes.

She was an excellent educator at school and in church where she taught various classes. Laura methodically digested the material and put it in it's proper context. As a teacher in church Laura always took the lead. She studied hard and put the lesson in it's proper format. Her students loved her. I was her helper. She said, "I can do all these things but I need your helped with setting up and doing the physical things." Laura prepared a folder for each student and had handouts ever Sunday.

We taught a class together for our church and she always took the lead. Laura prepared folders. Every student had a lessons with a highlighted section which they shared with the class. At the end of each session they reviewed what they had learned and put it into their folders. This was done so the students would be able to recall and remember what they had learned. They took the folders home at the end of the year to show their parents what they have accomplished. Laura studied hard to put the lessons in it's proper format. She was an exceptional teacher whether at church or at school—wherever she applied her skills.

Laura's fondest memories was with her parents as a young girl until they divorced. She loved holidays when she was growing up. Christmas, New Years, Easter, Halloween, etc. Decorating for holidays was a regular routine in our home. Sometimes I dreaded these holidays and festivities. She had so many decorations for the various seasons. Sometimes I complied about the work but I helped her because I loved my wife. You know the saying goes: "A happy wife is a happy life." Our granddaughter Mailani (*pictured above*) is picking up this same tradition. She doesn't know it yet but she has just inherited all of Nana's ornaments in the storage room.

Laura touched many lives by giving of her time and talents to those in need. She gave food and clothing and sometimes money when she could afford it. Laura was a great cook. She would always ask me to taste her food to be sure that it tasted just right. So I put on a lot of pounds around my midsection. Now that she's gone I'm starting to lose weight.

I am heart-broken that Laura has left us but she is free of the burdens of this work. She is a very special woman to so many people in so many ways. As it was getting closer to her leaving this earth, the virus attacked her nervous system and she was losing her motor skills. I would feed her and do whatever was necessary to make her comfortable. I massaged her feet and her arms. She would ask me to put cream on her face because she could no longer do it. I was with her constantly. She would say, "Honey I have lost my confidence. Honey, please come by me. Hold my hand."

I would answer, "Honey I'm here. I'm not going anywhere. I will take care of you." I stayed with her in the hospital from June 21<sup>st</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup>. My poor wife suffered in so many ways. Her



body could no longer endure the rigors of life. I called my family to come in and see her on Sunday morning. The doctors knew the time was near. I asked them to give her something for her pain so she would not have to suffer as she transitioned out of this world. Her spirit left her body at 4:30 p.m. that afternoon.

During Laura's last few days in the hospital she had flash back of her life. She insisted that we call her "Lala" for it was her nick name at school. Laura attended the following schools: St. Francis, Star of the Sea and St. Teresa. She graduated from St. Ann's in 1957. The people she met while attending these schools had a profound influence on her life. She had many close friends from all these school. It was all about reunions. I drove her to all of them. Laura loved to reminisce with her classmates. There was such a bond among them as they shared memories. Each year their ranks dwindled as many have transitioned into the spirit world. They are having a party up there while we are mourning our losses here on earth for another great spirit has departed. Laura says thank you, for you love and the great memories.

We are all on the same journey. Like Laura, we love our children and enjoy being around our families. We face the same challenges spiritually, physically and mentally to overcome the natural man within us. If we focus our heart, might, mind and strength with an eye singled to the glory of God as Laura did then we will succeed. This is known as the plan of salvation. She has fulfilled all the requirements necessary to enter into the highest degree of glory in God's kingdom. My we do likewise. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

#### **Photos taken day of Laura's Funeral**



**Leo, Lilian and Tommy**



**Shane, Landon, Stryker, Sean, Sandy, with Darol and Lilian**



**We recalled the day Wedo Valdez arrived at our front door step saying, “I’m Landon.” Diane embraced him and replied, “Oh Landon, we’ve been looking for you.”**

*Tom and Diane had been to Hawaii one month earlier. She and Laura had talked about Landon. They wondered where he was. Diane said: “Maybe someday he will arrive on our front doorstep.” Just a few weeks later Jessie Valdez, Landon’s step father, died unexpectedly at the age of forty-one. So Carman suggested that Landon go and find his Stokoe family. He reports that being among the Polynesians seems so natural. Like Leo, Landon is warm, friendly and outgoing.*





**Tom with grandma who will turn ninety-nine on November 8, 2014**



**Tommy, Leo and Landon**



### **Laura's Children and Grandchildren**

Laura had four children with Mitchell Balutski: Their eldest son is Staff Sargent Kenui who gave the eulogy with wife is on far right. Her son Kenui is pictured below. Laura's daughter Melanie Balutski is wearing a white blouse and green lei. Her daughter Kanani Burdett, is standing at Melanie's right, in center of back row. Kanani's husband, Vincent Burdett, is fourth from the left. Their daughter Mailani ( Leo's pet) is in the middle of the front row.



**Germaine and Kenui Balutski with Landon**