

KOGA REPORT

We dig . . . Hawaii!

Volume 13, Number 1, January 2002



The Newsletter of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc.

Keeping Up With Mal



Happy New Year! As tradition has it, my first article every year discusses the Chinese Astrological animal designated for the New Year and the characteristics of persons born under this sign. Unlike the Western Zodiac symbols, which are divided into twelve months, the Asian Zodiac is divided into twelve



years, each year being named after an animal. The story is that there were only twelve animals that came to show devotion to Buddha before he departed the earth. Buddha honored each of these twelve animals by naming years after them in the order that they arrived, starting with the rat and ending with the boar. Last year it was the Year of the snake and 2002 is the Year of the Horse.

People born under the sign of the horse are popular, attractive, and cheerful and have a large following of friends. Like the animal they represent, Horse born people are highly spirited and lively. They love

to be the center of attention and enjoy gossiping and talking, and can be quite boisterous but have a good heart.

From the website www.kaboom.com: "Resourceful and confident, Horses approach all things enthusiastically. Quick witted and mentally alert, they are quick to catch on and efficient in their undertakings. They are particularly skilled at handling money, very often in business dealings following their hunches. When it comes to intuition, they have a sixth sense that is uncanny. Unfortunately, as the Horse is a creature of changing moods, they are liable to lose interest suddenly in things they have taken up, whether it's a love affair, a single deal in business, or a whole career. He'll start again with the same determination, and he'll enjoy equal success.

Due to their dislike of inactivity, Horses get involved in many sorts of works outside their chosen trade. Good with their hands and attracted to art, they are skillful craftsmen with a talent for innovation."

Horse people are most compatible with people born in the Year of the Tiger and Dog. Least compatible is Rats and persons born in the Year of the Monkey.

So there you have it. Are you a Horse person?



From "Da Boss"

By Glenn Nohara

On Wednesday, December 12, 2001 we moved into our new office building on our Sand Island premises. A month later our old main office building was hauled out and our

old estimating / shop building was demolished. Mahalo to Mal Koga for spearheading the new office building team, to Jonathan Lin for an excellent job of managing the project and to all our employees who "volunteered" their services over the past twelve months to make this a reality.

While our new office building was being constructed, we had one of the busiest years on the islands of Kauai and the Big Island. Many of our Oahu workers were commuting off island for most of the year. It was ironic that when we moved our project managers from their



Our old office building moving out.

crowded quarters into our more spacious new building, half of them were working on the neighbor islands, so the new project management quarters looked empty.

We had a great employee Christmas Party on December 16 with nearly

180 people in attendance. It was wonderful to see our employees and their families from all islands enjoying each others company and having a good time.

Until the next Koga Report, remember to always work safely and smartly. If we do not understand a task or something does not seem right, call a time out and resolve the situation with the rest of the team. This will always lead to the safest, most efficient and cost effective way.

KOGA REPORT			
GLENN NOHARA - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF			
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News From Kaua'i

by: Alvin Fujioka



"Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! E aloha oukou a pau loa" from the beautiful garden island of Kaua'i. It was just the last newsletter that it was my turn to contribute an article from O'ahu, so this article is my contribution from Kaua'i. Recently, my stay on this island was abruptly cut short by my reassignment to the Big Island. Well getting to work with Andy and his

"Kaua'i Warriors" has been an enjoyable experience. Work on this island has been spread out from one end of the island to the other. Projects that are reaching completion stage include the Hanama'ulu Water Development, Consolidated Pacific Missile Range Projects, Villas On The Prince, Wa'apa Road/Rice Street Resurfacing, and the Kaua'i Main Police Facility. Ongoing projects include the Marriott's Waiohai Beach Club. Yet to be started projects are the Kapa'a Homesteads Well No. 2, and Kaumuali'i Highway Resurfacing.

New Orleans was the site of the World of



Work progresses at Marriott Waiohai



Alvin, all work and no play in New Orleans

Concrete that a "team" of Koga Engineering employees was fortunate to attend. The latest technologies and innovations in concrete construction along with new equipment models were displayed throughout the massive New Orleans convention center. The walk through the convention center site to view the various displays was very challenging. It was an experience to be in New Orleans, both inside the convention center site and outside. Bourbon Street and the French Quarters along with the Harrah's Casino were included in the cultural tour. We all got to taste the local "cuisine" that included alligator, turtle, and crawfish. Well until next time (from the Big Island ?), **malama pono, a hui hou!**

News from the Big Island

By Kyle Sakaitani



Snow falls on summits, whales return with Kona wind, continue Rockin.

We are finally back at Kealakehe High School to start the 4th Increment with Dick Pacific and are fortunate to have a great team with Presley Wann from Kauai and Alvin Fujioka from Oahu. It's

been about 3 years since Alvin's last tour here, right about the same time Kona had a Chinese food shortage.

Jobs completed this quarter were the Waikoloa Village Drains and the Hualalai Reverse Osmosis Filtration System. Jobs well done! Continuing on at Hualalai Resort, Swervin' Irving & gang are wrapping up the Parcel 2 & Parcel 4

Subdivisions and will be moving on to complete the Townhomes Phase II with Kajima/Nordic, while William Azevedo fires up the Clubhouse Loop Road.

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



The Hualalai Gang.

News from Oahu

By Jonathan Lin



Kung Hee Fat Choy! Welcome to the exciting Year of the Horse.

We began the New Year with a "BANG", literally. To make room for site and future improvements in our yard, on January 12, 2002, our old multi-purpose building of estimating office / small tool shop was torn down, without incident.

The sentimental former long time occupant of the building, Jits Kunioka, did not tie himself to the building, as some of us were afraid of, nor did he commit any irrational acts to follow through his bluff of "tear it down over my dead body." The demolition was quick, thanks to RHS Lee, Inc. I am sure Mal, Carol, Glenn and Danny had mixed feelings, as they watched the old building go down. Right before Christmas, we moved into our new 12,000 square feet, two-



story building. We would like to thank those of you who sacrificed your time and chipped in with your much appreciated help. We also would like to congratulate our subcontractors for a job well done. Commercial Electric, Economy Plumbing, K Masonry, and Quality Sheetmetal, just to name a few.

Our project in Pearl Harbor, The Abrasive & Paint Facility, is at the tail end stage. Under the leadership of John Hamada and Gil Rafael, the crew has done a fantastic job. I would like to acknowledge Clayton "Right on the money" Nii, David "The no-leak pipe man" Arruda, Rudy "Kimo the all-purpose handy man" Inong, and Lee "New daddy" Iboshi for their diligence and quality work. Jerry Smith and his good folks from Bodell (or Kodell?) are SO great to work with. If there is a slightest ounce of competitiveness or animosity between us, they only show up when we hit the bowling alley.

My other on-going project, the Department of Agriculture Annex No.3 is progressing well. Again, John is the Man on the job. In addition to David, Lee and Clayton from the Pearl Harbor crew, we also have the service of Bryant, Foster, Marciano, Chad, Celso, Grady, and Jimmy. The capable Nordic project team is doing a great job getting quick Government response for RFI's and other issues. We are meeting the challenge of a tight schedule.

Year of the Horse is my favorite year because I was born in the year of Horse. In Chinese, the horse character always groups with the dragon character to mean vigor and high spirit. However, in Japanese, the horse character teams up the deer character to mean stupidity ("Baga"). Let's work vigorously and intelligently toward the goal of having another good year.

The old estimating building/shop bites the dust

Crunching Out The Numbers

By Brian Kunioka

"Hell no - we won't go!" is how the chanting should have began. "Not today - we like stay!" is what we would say as we prepared to put up a last stand effort to save what must be one of the last remaining buildings from the "pre-paved roads and sidewalks" era of the Sand Island Industrial Park. "Have a heart - don't take it apart..." we should have pleaded with the demolition crew as they sized up the quickest way to complete their job and leave before emotions get too high. "Ah well - at least save the shell..." we could have said once it was realized that the old building would be no match for the mighty track loader. "Ho, look - that's all it took..." would have been heard as the building came tumbling down after just a few bites and one big pull on the roof. But by the time we arrived for the big showdown, all of the demolition had been completed. Apparently Jonathan and his wrecking crew got an early start in order to avoid having to listen to any of the above mentioned chanting. All we could say was, "Oh wow - they're almost pau..." as the rubble was being hauled off, never to be seen again. And standing behind all of the destruction was our brand new office building. Not realizing how impressive it looked until now because the old building had obstructed its view all this time. Seeing our new office building for the first time in all its splendor and glory, quickly made us realize that the new construction was necessary and that life moves on (which is good, since we ARE a construction company!). Although we will miss our old building and all the hard work and

good times that we had inside, it is with great anticipation and high expectations that we move into our new office building.

In regards to our Estimating Department, during the past quarter we were able to pick up the following work: Mokauea Street Improvements and Rehabilitation of Streets - Unit 11B with the City and County of Honolulu and the Clubhouse Loop Road Extension with the Hualalai Development Company.

As the Estimating Department tries to compensate with the temporary departure of one of our estimators, Gregg Ichimura, who is on his not so unexpected vacation due to the arrival of his newborn daughter, we continue to bid for work on all of our islands. Some of the bids that we will be working on in the upcoming weeks include the Kona Home Depot, Mililani Mauka II Elementary School, Lydgate Park Bike and Pedestrian Path.

Now the only complaint I have about my new office is from my children who are wondering when Daddy is going to pin-up their drawings on the walls of his new office. At least let the paint dry a little more is all I can say...



Jits "the Rock" Kunioka entertaining us at Koga's Christmas Party.

Bits & Pieces

By Lori Isara and Vanessa Suganuma

Congratulations to Mal! Malcolm Koga was the 2001 recipient of the Maui Ola (Breath of Life) award from the American Lung Association of Hawaii. This very prestigious award is given to individuals or organizations in Hawaii that contribute to the prevention of lung disease and the promotion of lung health. Mal was recognized and honored at a dinner at the Sheraton Waikiki, on December 1st, for his dedication and contributions in the search for a cure for lung disease. We are so proud of you!

Congratulations to Lee and Renee Iboshi. Renee had a baby boy, Dylan Keona Kenta on November 20, 2001. Dylan was 8 lbs. 2 oz. and 20 1/2 inches long. Lee is an equipment operator, currently working on the Department of Agriculture Annex 3 project.

We moved to our new office building on Wednesday December 12, 2001. Although there are still some unfinished areas, we are happy with our new office.

The Koga Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 16, at the Japanese Chamber. This year, along with the Rock, we also had Emeril

who had a lot of "BAM" to say. From the North Pole, Santa passed out gifts to the children and the employees. A sincere thank you to all the suppliers and subcontractors who donated door prizes for the Christmas party. Billy Acosta won the grand prize of a \$1,000 travel certificate. The Kauai team took first place in our annual singing contest.

Keun Pak just graduated from the University of Hawaii with a degree in civil engineering has started to work for us in the estimating department. A reliable source in estimating says that Keun is young, energetic, very trim and fit... estimating will take care of that. Keun is our project manager Hye Jin Warren's nephew. Welcome and congratulations Keun.

Gregg and Lee Ann Ichimura just welcomed their second child on January 21, 2002. Jaycee Miyuki was a healthy 8 lbs. and 20 1/2 inches baby girl. Gregg is a project manager currently working in the estimating department. Congratulations to the Ichimura family.

We are sad to report the passing of Andy Ragasa's mother in November and Flor Mendoza's father in January. Andy is our Kauai manager and Flor is a foreman working on the Pacific Command Center project. Our sincere condolences go out to the Ragasa and Mendoza families.

Safety

By Dennis Okazaki

Congratulation to the staff and employees of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. for a job well done this past year. "Team Work" is the name of the game. At times like this when Oahu was slow the Kauai & Big Island boys step it up a notch to help carry the load. Congratulations to Brian "Jits" Kunioka and his staff for picking up some jobs on Oahu this past quarter.

For "Safety" our "Fleet Policy" is now in effect. We are still looking into "Behavior-Based Safety" which has been in existence since the



1980's. For "Marketing" we will continue to keep in touch with our old & new clients "Frequency Of Interaction" as well as explore the possibilities of "New Markets".

Our next Koga Golf will be February 2, 2002 at "Waialeale Golf Course". At our last outing (Coral Creek), Garrett and myself were low net front with 33, Dean was low net for the back 32.5 and our club sand bagger Garrett was low net overall with 67.

On the par 3's Sanford nailed 2, Alan had 1 and Garrett had 1.

Inspiring Quotes : Success is more a function of consistent common sense than it is of genius. Hoping is active and wishing is passive. Hoping means seeing that the outcome you want is possible and then working for it. Wishing means just sitting there, waiting for a miracle to happen out of the blue.

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