Keeping Up With Mal

To Clay Asato (our Vice President of Operations), let me be the first in this issue to congratulate you on your election to the board of directors of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii. We’re really proud of your achievements with the GCA and your work on the labor/management trust funds and we are confident that you will provide the necessary leadership and guidance that we need to move our construction industry into the 21st Century. Thanks for your service!

And now for the rest of my story.

As is customary, my first article of the calendar year focuses on the Chinese Lunar Calendar’s animal for 2004, which is the Year of the Monkey. Or to be precise, January 22, 2004 is the first day in the Year of the Monkey or Year 4701 by the Chinese calendar. As I explained in our last issue, these dates do not coincide.

Anyway, from the internet, I found that these are the characteristics of people born in the Year of the Monkey:

“Monkeys are fun and loving persons who are always cheerful and energetic. They are very clever. Give a monkey a boring book to read and he’ll turn it into a Musical. Better yet, he’ll invite everyone to see it free! That’s how talented, creative and generous monkeys usually are.

If you go to a party, you’ll find Monkeys at the center of attention. Their charm and humor is the key to their popularity. Sociable and diplomatic as they may appear, they can be deceptive sometimes - they hide their opinions of others beneath their friendliness. But they don’t hide their emotion. You can probably tell how a monkey is feeling from miles away - he wants everyone to know how happy or depressed he is.

Monkey people are very good at problem-solving. Wherever you are, whoever you may be, if you’ve got a problem pick up the phone and dial-a-Monkey. Monkeys know how to listen closely and work out solutions at the same time. And because of Monkeys’ curiosity, they usually have a great thirst for knowledge. Still they have few scruples - they could be unreasonable sometimes, and they have the ability to persuade themselves and everyone around them to believe that they are doing the right things. Some say monkeys are self-centered, some say they are opportunistic, some say they are guileful, but monkeys couldn’t care less - because they are also indifferent.

The monkey has a good chance of becoming famous or well-known. Whatever he does, his charm and luck will make him successful. As friends, Monkeys are both loyal and devoted, as lovers, they can be passionate and yet flighty - they can fall easily in love but will get tired of the relationship and look for another.

Most Monkeys have one fetish - FOOD. They are not pigs, they don’t stuff themselves with food, instead, they just have this habit of eating snacks whenever they like, and wherever they like. And one last truth about monkey people is, they adore bananas. Go visit your monkey friend’s kitchen, I bet you will find some bananas there.”

Some famous Monkey people are Leonardo daVinci, Captain Cook, Julius Caesar and Elizabeth Taylor. Carol’s dad Thomas Takegami was born in the Year of the Monkey and so was my mother, Mary and granddaughter Jenica Holt. How about that?

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

From “Da Boss”  
By Glenn Nohara

In our last newsletter we stated that 2004 would be a busy year. Well, we have already started work on a number of new projects and several more are on the verge of starting. Read the details in the reports from our different islands on the following pages. In addition, we continue to be swamped with new bid requests. Our estimating department continues to work in over-drive.

Most of us have read in the newspapers or have seen TV stories of the U.S. Army Reserve 411th Engineer Battalion being called up to active duty for eventual deployment to Iraq. Koga Engineering recently was directly affected by this event. One of our project engineers, Herman “Tosh” Hamada Jr., a Sergeant in 411th, started his 18 month active duty service in early January 2004.

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KOGA REPORT  
GLENN NOHARA - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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News from Kaua‘i
By Andy Ragasa

Well, it took us awhile, but we can now all breathe a sigh of relief. Our Kaua‘i team welcomed 2004 by finally moving into its new facility in Puni just prior to the start of the New Year. New office, new year, what next? New jobs perhaps? That would always be welcome, we shall see!

Projects completed or nearing completion include Marriott’s Waiohai Beach Club (Unlimited/Maryl JV), Kaumuali‘i Highway Resurfacing – Lava‘i Bridge to Halewili Road (Glover) and Nawiliwili Pier 2 Bollard Relocation (Ideal). Ongoing projects include Kapa‘a Homesteads Well No. 2 (DOW), Kaua‘i Judiciary Complex (Unlimited) and Puako II Subdivision (Grove Farm Properties). Upcoming projects include Port Allen Fire Line Replacement (DOT-Harbors), Kaumuali‘i Highway Resurfacing – Vicinity of Laulea Street to Halewili Road (Glover), Halewili Road Resurfacing, Kaumuali‘i Highway to Vicinity of Mile Post 1 (Glover) and Kaua‘i High School Diving Board Removal (DAGS-Kaua‘i).

We’d like to invite everyone to come and visit us at our new facility in Puni. We are really proud of this accomplishment and believe that it is a reflection of the vision and direction that our company is advancing to in the coming years. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in making this a reality, from our own employees and staff to our vendors and subcontractors. A big Mahalo for all your efforts! Work safely and conscientiously and remember, there is always room for improvement. Imua 2004….until next time, ‘a hui hou malama pono.....

News from the Big Island
By Kyle Sakaitani

Happy New Year! The first quarter for 2004 has seen the completion of Ramp K-Kona International Airport with D.O.T.A., Hilton Waikoloa Lobby Bar with Nordic Construction, and over in Hilo, the Kamehameha Schools-Phase 3 with Hawaiian Dredging. The ongoing project remains the Kailua-Kona Wharf improvements with Hawaiian Dredging and we are presently starting up the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort with Dick Pacific. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2004.

Work safe and remember, there’s always a better way.
News from Oahu
By Jonathan Lin

Kung Hee Fat Choy! Welcome to the exciting, prosperous Year of the Monkey.

Last year was another good year for Koga Engineering & Construction. High five’s to everyone for hard work and following the Koga way. Thanks to a rock-solid effort of the “Rock” and his estimators, we look forward to a very busy and challenging 2004.

The projects I was involved with last year included the Traffic Calming Improvements at Pearl City (City & County of Honolulu), Hale Koa Hotel Pantry (Kiewit Pacific), B.E.Q 1506 (Nan, Inc.), and Building 113 & 114 (Designer Built System). Congratulations to Gil, John, Flor and the hard working crews for a job well done. Currently I am on the Hokua at 1288 Ala Moana project with A.C. Kobayashi, Inc. Flor and his gang are doing a fine job. We are working hard to meet the challenge of a tight schedule.

Other recently started projects on Oahu include Wahiawa-Whitmore Waterline (BWS), Mililani Recreation Center No. 7 (S&M Sakamoto) and Ala Moana Center Block H Renovation (A.C. Kobayashi). Work will soon start on Barbers Point Building 117 (Nan, Inc.), Schofield WBR Phase 2C1 (Dick Pacific) and Hickam AFB Atterbury Circle and Base OPS Facility (Grace Pacific).

While I was writing this article, I could hear the sounds of firecrackers and a lion dance from Ward Ave. and Chinatown. It really lifted my spirits. From Christmas, to New Year, to Chinese New Year, to Superbowl, there is so much excitement. Let the spirit and excitement of the New Year be with us for the entire year.

Crunching Out The Numbers
By Gregg Ichimura

To say that the Estimating Department is busy would be an understatement. The bid schedule is not only filled with a lot of projects, but many of these are MONSTERS. So let’s make this short and sweet.

Successful Bids for the past quarter:

• WHOLE BARRACKS RENEWAL - PH 2C1, SCHOFIELD – sub to Dick Pacific
• KEAUHOU BEACH RESORT RENOVATIONS, HAWAII – sub to Dick Pacific
• BLOCK H RENOVATIONS AND SEWERLINE IMPROVEMENTS - ALA MOANA SHOPPING – sub to A.C. Kobayashi
• IWILEI COSTCO – REMODEL SITE PARKING LOT – sub to Ledcor
• WIDEN 3rd STREET – MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – KANEHOE BAY – sub to Thurston Pacific
• KEAKEALANI OFFICE - REPLACE WATER LINE & SEWER LINE, HAWAII – D.A.G.S.
• HONOLULU ZOO VETERINARY CLINIC – sub to S&M Sakamoto
• HALEWILI ROAD RESURFACING, KAUMUALI HIGHWAY, KAUAI – sub to Jas. Glover

Some of our upcoming bids from our bid schedule are:

• MOANA PACIFIC CONDOMINIUM
• OPERATING ENGINEERS TRAINING BUILDING – KAHUKU
• MATOC 2: MISSION SUPPORT TRAINING FACILITY & INFORMATION SYSTEM FACILITY
• MATOC 3: C-17 SUPPORT UTILITIES PHASE 1, OPERATIONS FACILITY, FLIGHT SIMULATOR BUILDING
• MATOC 4: C-17 SUPPORT UTILITIES PHASE 1 & 2, CONSOLIDATED MAINTENANCE COMPLEX
• KONA LAGOONS SEWAGE PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS
• MARRIOTT KO OLINA BEACH CLUB PHASES 2 AND 3, HALE MOANA TOWER

We look forward to returning next quarter with good news of successful bids on some of these “MONSTERS”, as well as our usually HIGH level of creative essay.
Bits & Pieces

By Lori Isara

Jingle Bells! Jingle Bells! The West (or was it Rest of) Oahu team won the annual song contest this year under the song leadership of Johnny Sanchez. Our annual Koga Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 7, at the Waikiki Beach Marriott. It was nice to see our fellow employees and their spouse/guest from the neighbor islands. Paul Senior (Brian “Jits” Kunioka) and Paul Junior (Keun Pak) of “American Chopper” were our co-emcees this year. Once again, our emcees did a great job and everyone had a good time. Thanks to the generosity of all our suppliers and subcontractors, every employee in attendance went home with a door prize. Melvin Corpuz our equipment operator on Kauai won the grand prize of a $1,000 travel certificate. This was the second year in a row that someone from Kauai won the grand prize. There must be a lot of good luck there.

The start of the new year is always a good time to go over finances and do a business and health check up. Some of the things you may want to do include creating a realistic budget, paying off your credit card bills, pay yourself (investment/savings account) first, review your wills, trusts and life insurance. If you have children under 18, you should have a will in case something happens to you and your spouse, you would want to specify who the guardian of your children will be. Review your life insurance policies and be sure that they are adequate to cover your expenses should something happen to you. Also, review your family health history. If your parents or grandparents had cancer or a stroke at an early age, you may want to consult your doctor to either prevent or detect any early warning symptoms.

Finally, 529 college savings plans are a great way to save for future college expenses. If you would like more information on plan options, please call Lori at 842-9351.

From “Da Boss” continued from page 1
Herman has been with Koga Engineering for over 13 years. He has worn many hats including grade setter, foreman, estimator, purchasing agent and project engineer. Just as he has been a team player and dedicated employee at our company, he is undertaking this crucial new assignment with the same kind of solidarity and commitment we have always seen from Herman at Koga Engineering. Sergeant Hamada is the U.S. Army Reserve 9th Regional Support Command’s Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 2004. Herman, take care and come back to us safely, our thoughts and prayers will be with you, Bernice and Herman III (H-3).