

KAMA'AINA KANIKAPILA

By Barbara Del Piano

It's happening again! The 18th annual get-together, now called Kama'aina Kanikapila, will take place on Monday, August 28 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. in the Koa Lanai.

The price is \$25 which includes tax and tip. Scrip will be available for drinks and Hawaiian music will be provided by Kualoa. Many of you have been attending the event for years, but do you know its history?

What started as a one-time private party has ended up as one of the longest-running consecutive annual events in Outrigger history. It all started one day in 1999 when Joy and Bill Barnhart invited former member Brownie Williams to Sunday Brunch on the Koa Lanai. As usual, when old-timers get together, the conversation turned to "the good old days," with questions like "I wonder whatever happened to....."

So they came up with the idea of having a party and inviting all the "old-timers." Invitations were sent to everyone they could think of from the "Old Club," and non-members were allowed to send in their ticket money; scrip was sold for drinks. People came from all over O'ahu, the Neighbor Islands and the Mainland. They brought their guitars and ukulele to contribute to the great entertainment.

The event was such a smashing hit that everyone wanted them to do it again. And so they did! For years and years, old-timers like Brownie, Rita Fuller, Blondie Boyd, Peter Nottage, ML O'Brien, Paul Dolan and many others worked hard to help Joy and Bill with the numerous details that contributed to the fabulous evening. Other volunteers manned the check-in table.

After five years, however, the Barnhart's were ready to call it quits but the attendees wouldn't hear of it. The author then took over for the next seven years, with the help of a large and eager committee. Each year it continued to bring back waves of nostalgia like a 50-year high school class reunion, with people seeing old friends they hadn't seen in years.

When again, after several years, there was no one to



Joy and Bill Barnhart and Brownie Williams started the Oldtimers' event in 1999.

take over the massive job, and so many of the "Old-Timers" were gone, a new generation stepped up to the plate as Mahi Riley came to the rescue. Then the Outrigger itself decided to make it a Club event rather than a private party, and it was turned over to the Historical Committee, which Mahi joined, continuing to chair the event.

The name was changed from "Old-Timer's Get-together" to "Kama'aina Kanikapila." When Mahi recently moved to the Mainland, again leaving the event without any one to organize it, Kehau Kali Berquist volunteered to take on the event this year.

As the years have passed, the party has remained very much the same. The original price of \$20 has increased only five dollars; the ono buffet, which includes mahimahi, stew and rice, salad and desserts, is the same. Invitations are still sent out and scrip is still available for drinks. They still bring their guitars and ukulele, and Ivanelle Choy, and many others who danced at the very first get-together, still entertain with their special hula.

So reserve the date...it's something you don't want to miss. It's usually a sell-out so be sure to sign up at the Front Desk or just make a call, 923-1585. See ya there!