

Show Biz

By Wayne Harada

Graceful brush with Clintons

AMAZING GRACE: Jay Larrin had been booked to perform at a private gathering Saturday night at the Outrigger Canoe Club, but little did he know that the party would include President Bill Clinton. "I drove over, because Alan (Yamamoto, Larrin's manager) called to say that the roads into Waikiki were blocked because of the President, and I go into the club and I see Bill Clinton sitting in the corner," said Larrin. "The piano bench was missing, and there were no speakers, so I'm running around getting help and then I bump into Hillary Clinton."

Before long, Larrin is set to perform and the President and Mrs. Clinton want to hear "God Bless America" and "Amazing Grace."



Larrin Worrisome requests, since Larrin doesn't think he remembers all the words to "America" and only knows his Hawaiian version of "Grace."

But the country bumpkin easily warmed up to Bubba, even telling the Prez (who was wearing an aloha shirt with an identical print of one that Larrin had at home): "You have excellent taste," referring to the shirt. He mentioned that Al Gore had all of his records; that he would mail a CD (with "Amazing Grace" in Hawaiian on it) to Mrs. Clinton . . .

Larrin becomes show-active again this Friday at Cupids at the Outrigger Prince Kuhio Hotel . . .

DeLima Sept. 15 through 19, toasting Hawaii's favorite and versatile canned staple, SPAM. Spami, a costumed character, will be on hand from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 15, 16, 18 and 19 at Ala Moana and from noon to 2 p.m. Sept. 8 at Pearlridge. Frank DeLima, who sings "Spam Musubi" on his "Babooze!" CD, will autograph copies of the disc from 11 a.m. to noon Sept. 16 at Ala Moana . . .

The aforementioned DeLima also is creating a Spam Musubi costume; soon as it's ready, he'll put the number into his madcap show (with Glenn Medeiros) at the Polynesian Palace . . .

Rolando Sanchez & Salsa Hawaii will provide post-race entertainment at about 9 a.m. Sept. 17 at Restaurant Row, which is the start and finish for

"Race for the Cure," a walk-run to benefit breast cancer . . .

WHEE, THE PEOPLE: Jack Cione, just back from another sea cruise (and a pause in New York and on Broadway), knows a good thing when he sees it. That's why he brought more than 100 senior citizens to Anita Mann's "Blast From the Past" revue at the Aloha Tower Theatre. Cione teaches tap-dancing to seniors at the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, and brought his "Cione Tappers" to watch Phil Volk (an original member of Paul Revere & the Raiders) twist, hully gully, swim and mash potato their way through the rapid-fire song-and-dance revue. For kamaainas, the show is offering a two-for-one special through Sept. 30 . . .

When Cione was in The Big Apple, he ran into Ron Bright at a "Grease" performance. And in Las Vegas, he bumped into Don Ho, who was taping a Flamingo Hilton commercial and said he's bound for Atlantic City shortly . . .

WHO'S WHERE: Mila Garcia, former lead singer with Kit Samson's Sound Advice, has relocated to Manila. Taking her place on the bandstand with the Sound

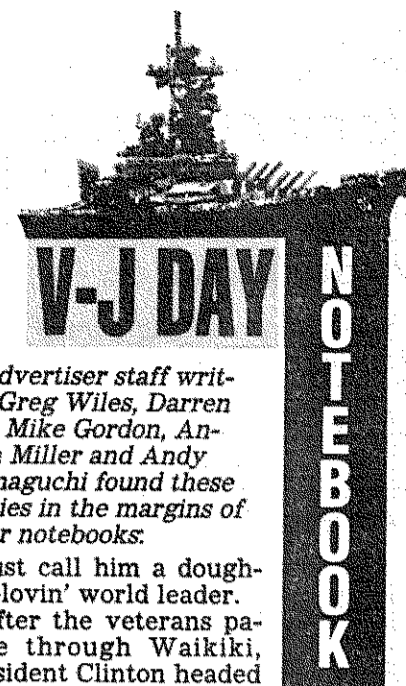
Advisers Wednesdays through Saturdays at the Hawaiian Waikiki Beach Hotel's Captain's Table Lounge: Cynthia Romero, who, until recently, was performing in Manila . . .

Kenny Kerr, a 20-year Las Vegas legend, is guest-starring in the "Boylesque" show at the Waikiki Beachcomber Hotel, through next weekend . . .

Butch O'Sullivan is back in town and performing from 7 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at W.C. Peacock in the Sheraton Moana Surfside . . .

AROUND 'N' ABOUT: Notice a flurry of restaurant changes around town? Keo's Bar & Grill on King Street is now Minamoto, a Japanese restaurant . . . The old King's Bakery now is Stallion's, a male host club — where women sit and are hosted by gents, a role-reversal of the hostess bars . . . TGIFriday's will launch a Waikiki location this Saturday, at 2058 Kuhio Ave. . . Johnny's is new at Restaurant Row, opposite Ruth's Chris Steak House . . .

And that's Show Biz . . . Wayne Harada writes Show Biz every Wednesday.



Advertiser staff writers Greg Wiles, Darren Pai, Mike Gordon, Angela Miller and Andy Yamaguchi found these stories in the margins of their notebooks.

Just call him a doughnut-lovin' world leader. After the veterans parade through Waikiki, President Clinton headed for the United Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park about 5 p.m. As he shook hands and had his name written in Okinawan calligraphy, Secret Service agents headed for the andagi booth to check out the cue ball-sized doughnuts.

Then the president walked up to Kaili's Haruko "Auntie H" Nakamoto, working the andagi booth in a bright pink T-shirt.

"I was kinda scared 'cause so many security," she said. "I asked, 'Will you accept our Okinawan specialty?' He said, 'Sure.'"

She handed over a bag of a dozen andagi and the big man took a bite. The crowd went wild.

It was only a smattering, and yet it was still there and noticeable. Former Gov. John Waihee was booed (among some polite clapping) when he was announced during Friday night's "Hawaii Remembers" show at the Waikiki Shell.

Master of ceremonies Ron Bright had asked that everyone hold the applause until he finished introducing the dignitaries, but there was a kindly amount of clapping following each name.

But then Waihee's name was called. Some have criticized the two-term governor for the state's fiscal crisis, but never in such a public venue.

Mixed in with the light applause was the boing, making for an odd moment in the otherwise warm night of entertainment.

Although Honolulu baked at 90 degrees yesterday, the heat related problems expected by V-J Day medical teams weren't as bad as expected.

Rainfall and 16,080 bottles of water at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific probably helped.

Officials said five male veterans, ages 68 to 75, were treated for medical problems during the Punchbowl ceremony.

Two of the victims suffered from heat exhaustion and two were diabetics. One developed heart problems and was taken to St. Francis Medical Center, where he remains in stable condition.

No medical problems were reported during wreath-laying ceremonies aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.

But seven people, all civilians, were treated for problems at yesterday's veterans parade. Five were heat related, including two who had to be taken to nearby hospitals. A sixth person suffered a dislocated knee and the seventh injury occurred when a woman fell and hit her head. She refused treatment.

The first family sat down for dinner at the Outrigger Canoe Club just as the sun was setting over Waikiki Beach yesterday.

Between courses President Clinton walked around the private club's dining room and shook hands with fellow diners. He wore a blue and white aloha shirt and a broad smile.

Front desk clerk Hildegard Marks received a handshake and an autograph from the president.

"I was just thinking that someday when I get to be 110, I'll be sitting in a chair in an old age home like the people who had been interviewed for shaking Lincoln's hand," Marks said. "One president in a lifetime is enough for me."

The Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani, retired bishop of Honpa Hongwanji, Hawaii's largest Buddhist congregation, was one three clergymen who presented invocations for yesterday's National Memorial Service at Punchbowl. The others were retired Navy chaplain the Rev. Kenneth Perkins and Rabbi Morris Goldfarb. President Clinton acknowledged all three early in his speech. Trouble was, he called Fujitani Fujitano.

"It doesn't bother me at all. That happens quite often, so I tell people I have some Italian blood," Fujitani joked.

He served with the Military Intelligence Service during World War II as a Japanese language interpreter while his father, a Buddhist priest, had been interned as a suspect alien.

Star-Bulletin



HAWAII
By Dave Donnelly

Prez savors island sunset and curry

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton turned down offers from both Gov. Ben Cayetano (to attend the UH-Texas game at Aloha Stadium) and Mayor Jeremy Harris (for a select Honolulu Hale reception) to spend a quiet dinner with his family (and the dogged press corps) Saturday at the Outrigger Canoe Club. The club's celebrated "members only" policy was bent when a Secret Service man flashed a card from a California club with reciprocal privileges and, for his trouble, received the bill. Clinton arrived first and changed into an aloha shirt in the men's room before making his way to the terrace, shaking hands with cocktail hour guests along the way. He sipped a Corona Light with security agents while watching the waves crashing on shore. The rest of the party arrived some 20 minutes later and they all took in the spectacular sunset, the pal of First Daughter Chelsea proclaiming it, "Awesome." . . . Dinner took a while to be served because one of the President's Men was in the OCC kitchen overseeing the preparation of each dish. "Bubba," as the prez is affectionately called by many, had the curried chicken, and the others opted for a vegetarian dish . . . Singer Jay Larrin was at his usual Saturday evening post (no relation to the magazine) at the piano. At Hillary Clinton's request, Larrin sang her favorite song, "Amazing Grace." He did it in both English and Hawaiian, and one Outrigger

staffer described it as "chicken skin time." Larrin also regaled the First Family with some of his "Smokey Mountain" hand-clappers from his native Tennessee. The maitre d' got out the club's disposable camera and took a number of family photos. After all had dispersed, somebody noticed the camera was missing. It's unknown if one of the Presidential party took it or someone with visions of National Enquirer cash squirreled it away . . .

Victory Jump Day

WHILE others celebrated V-J Day in predictable fashion throughout Honolulu, those dedicated folks at Sky Dive Hawaii had a Victory Jump Day. Entertainer Norm Compton had popped into town and, per usual, made his way to Mokuleia for some sky diving. He'd just left Puerto Rico where he'd been serving as a bodyguard for Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith, and had recently wrapped up his role as a terrorist in the Steven Seagal movie, "Under Siege II: The Dark Territory," in Colorado. If ever actor Compton is called upon for sky-diving in a film, he'll certainly



Jay Larrin



Norm Compton

ly be ready, with no extras needed . . .

THERE were no cheap seats at the Kenny G show at the Arena. Toward the end of his show, the saxman — with his sax and wireless mike intact — strolled far and wide through the arena, including the balcony. That particular riff must have lasted at least half an hour. Yes, his songs all do sound a bit alike, but it's a pleasant, pleasing sound and the crowd seemed more than happy . . . Resume writer Dorothy Hazzard could only conjure up thoughts of the late Jackie Gleason when she found herself parked next to a white Mercedes with the personalized plates reading "XQQME" . . .

Wong place, right spot

IT seems to have happened even faster than I thought. Alan Wong's new restaurant bearing his name is perhaps the hottest spot to dine in Honolulu today. After my initial visit there I predicted it would soon be on most discriminating diners' top five lists. Not to be outdone, John Heckathorn in Honolulu magazine, now gives Alan Wong's his top rating, five stars, and says it'll be on most of those diners' top two or three lists. Recent guests there ranged from Giorgio Armani N.Y. exec Ben Otero, to Hapuna Prince Hotel G.M. Percy Higashi, to Hawaiian activist Haunani-Kay Trask, who savored the chef's personal version of kalua pig, poi and poke. Yes, there's chile pepper water on each table, too . . .

Dave Donnelly has been writing on happenings in Hawaii for the Star-Bulletin since 1968. His columns run Monday through Friday.

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Isle music greats enter Hall of Fame

IT WAS a night to remember, full of warmth and nostalgia, as the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame and Museum held its first induction Wednesday at Washington Place. Awards for most of the inductees, all deceased, were accepted by family members. Honored were Kealuhimoku, Joseph Kekuku, Henry Berger, Helen Desha Beamer, Charles E. King, Lena Machado, Alfred Apaka, Sol Bright, Victoria Ii Rodrigues and Mary Kawena Pukui. Gov. Ben Cayetano attended and backed the project with a proclamation. Mayor Jeremy Harris sent a proclamation. Emcee Harry B. Soria Jr. did a superb job. TV screens showed photos of the honorees, and their recordings were played . . .

THE HIGH point came when Sunbeam Beamer, granddaughter of the Beamer honoree, forced Lani Custino, daughter of honoree Rodrigues, to hula while Rodrigues' recording was played. Also, Nalani



WOODCRAFT
By Ben Wood

Olds sang beautifully with the Royal Hawaiian Band. The singing group, Na Leo Ku Ho'okahi, performed. There was fabulous singing and hula with Mahi Beamer, Sunbeam's brother, at the piano. Nina Kealiwahamana, another Rodrigues daughter, did most of the singing. Nina's brother Boyce, and Sunbeam, Genoa Keawe, Benny Kalama and Jeff Apaka, son of honoree Apaka, also sang . . .

CYNTHIA ROMERO is the new singer for Kit Samson and his Sound Advice at the Captain's Table . . . Besides Hawaiian songs from their "Ukulele Lady" album,

Keith & Carmen Haugen will do a folk tribute to the late Burl Ives in a Grandparents' Day concert tomorrow at Hawaii Public Radio, 4 p.m. Call 955-8821 . . . Controversial faith healer and televangelist Benny Hinn must like Ciao Mein in the Hyatt Waikiki. The eatery stayed open late for three nights recently so Hinn and his party of 10, including three bodyguards, could eat there . . . Emme Tomimbang and former isle TV women Emerald Yeh and Jan Yanehiro reminisced over breakfast at the Moana's Banyan Veranda recently. Yeh and Yanehiro are now with San Francisco TV stations . . .

UH '55 grid heroes reunite

THE 40th reunion last week of the 1955 UH football team that scored the tremendous 6-0 upset over Nebraska was a big success. Head Coach Hank Vasconcellos, 84, and suffering from Parkinson's disease, played all 18 holes of golf at Hickam, sharing a cart with assistant coach Jimmy Asato. One later became a UH head coach. One of the '55 players, Sharkey Felles, gave Hank a rubdown the morn-



Mahi Beamer



Cynthia Romero

ing of the golf tourney to limber him up. A grand time was had by all golfers, although Eddie "Soupy" Kawawaki's "Honest John" handicap system is suspect. The ensuing dinner and program at Hickam Officers Club was a treat. Hank, a Maui boy, sang a song about the Valley Isle. "There's a Longing in My Heart." He said, "I'll never forget this occasion." Asato gave the ex-players, who showed so much fighting heart in the great upset in Nebraska, words from his heart: "We are blessed to have the privilege of knowing and coach-

ing you." Asato, Kawawaki, Roy Price and Charlie Araki formed the reunion committee. They did a fine job. There were prizes and gifts for everyone, mostly rounded up by Kawawaki. The former players chipped in for a TV for Vasconcellos and a neighbor isle trip for two for Asato. Felles, Christy Mamiya and Jimmy Shizuru led the crowd in Hawaiian songs. The one-and-only Colin Chock cracked jokes . . .

Larrin's flag flies high

JAY LARRIN has been busy. He performed for the Clinton Ohana at the Outrigger Canoe Club last Saturday night. Days before, Jay was at the St. Francis in San Francisco. The hotel flew the Hawaiian flag for his show. In S.F., HVB bright light Anne Holt and Kauai's Dulce Dease Shafter gave Jay a U.S. flag from Sen. Daniel Akaka. It flew over the U.S. Capitol on Aug. 21, 1995, Hawaii Statehood Day . . .

Ben Wood, who sold the Star-Bulletin in the streets of downtown Honolulu during World War II, writes of people, places and things every Saturday.