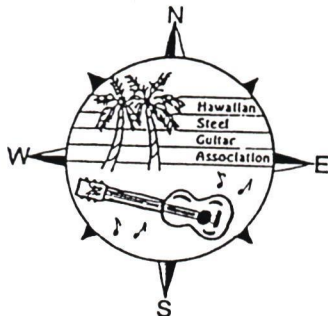


# HSGA QUARTERLY

Published four times a year in Honolulu, Hawai'i  
by The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association

Volume 12, Issue 45

WINTER 1996-97



Alan L. Akaka, President  
Jerry Byrd, Vice President  
Edward Punua, Secretary-Treasurer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John Marsden, England  
Lorene Ruymar, Canada  
Mike Scott, Canada  
Doug Smith, Ohio  
Don Weber, Illinois

## JAPAN COORDINATOR

Akitomo "Tom" Ikehata

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association is registered as a non-profit organization in the State of Hawai'i, and as a social organization under IRS tax code 501(c)(7). Its purpose is to develop a global communications network of players and lovers of Hawaiian traditional music as performed on all types of steel guitars and related instruments.

## MEMBERSHIP

Open to all steel guitar players and non-players around the world who support the promotion and perpetuation of Hawaiian steel guitar music. Annual dues are US\$24. Membership year begins July 1. Members receive HSGA Quarterly, and other group benefits.

## MAILING INFORMATION

Mail all correspondence and submissions to HSGA Quarterly c/o:  
HSGA/Alan Akaka, P.O. Box 1497,  
Kailua, HI, 96734-1497, USA.  
Phone/Fax: (808) 235-4742

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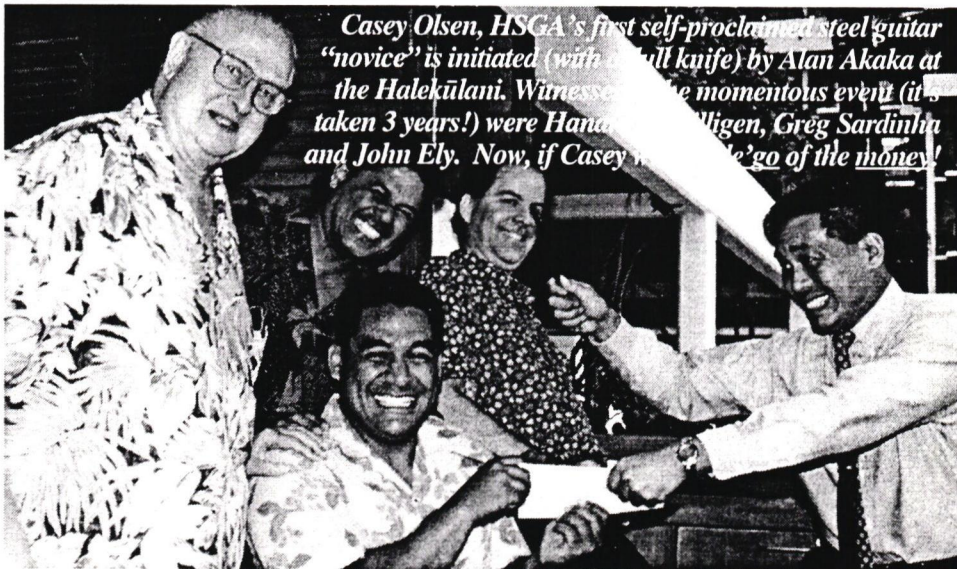
## SNOWING WHERE YOU ARE?



Better come to Honolulu Convention in May and thaw out. Better yet, come NOW. Kanoë Miller dances six nights a week at the Halekūlani "House Without A Key", with Alan Akaka and the Islanders on Mondays and Tuesdays. Hiram Olsen Trio with Casey Olsen on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. You can hear the Islanders group with Harold Haku'ole on steel, Walter Mo'okini and Helene Woodward on Thursdays and Sundays. All play from 5-8:30 p.m., Hawai'i's beautiful sunset hours.

Greg Sardinha joins Ipo Kumukahi and Chris Kamaka at Sheraton Poolside at sunset on Mondays, and Kaipo Asing, Ocean Kaowili and Nephi Brown trio at the Sheraton Moana on Thursdays. Another Thursday evening special is Auntie Genoa Keawe and Trio, with Alan Akaka on steel at the Hawaiian Regent Hotel, 5-8:30 p.m.

Daytimes, get OUT of Waikīkī! TheBus gives good service, and has special route maps for visiting all over O'ahu. The "Aloha Pages" in the front of the GTE Hawaiian Tel Yellow Pages have an excellent visitor's guide with address and phone numbers. *Ā hui hou* (see ya)!



Casey Olsen, HSGA's first self-proclaimed steel guitar "novice" is initiated (with a dull knife) by Alan Akaka at the Halekūlani. Witnesses to the momentous event (it's taken 3 years!) were Hanalei, Greg Sardinha and John Ely. Now, if Casey will, he'll go of the money!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECISIONS

Following are important excerpts from the quarterly HSGA Board of Directors meeting, held on Saturday, Sept. 28, during the Joliet convention. Present were Alan Akaka, Ed Punua, Lorene Ruymar, Mike Scott, Don Weber. Jerry Byrd, Bernie Endaya, John Marsden and Doug Smith were absent.

**TREASURY IN THE BLACK.** Treasurer Ed Punua reported that, for the first time, our annual statement shows a small credit balance, rather than the debit balances of previous years. This was attributed to a cut in costs of operations, rental of office space and voluntary reduction of professional fees by Marjorie Scott for her services as Quarterly Editor and office manager. This was acknowledged with thanks.

**DUES TO INCREASE IN '97-'98 YEAR.** After discussion, begun and continued at previous Board meetings, it was moved and seconded to increase HSGA dues to \$26 across the board for all members, beginning with the 1997-98 year. The main reason is to allow HSGA the funds to expand steel guitar

events and programs without creating another deficit, and to offset increasing overall costs of supplies, printing, postage. HSGA has not increased dues in some years. (A formal announcement will appear in the Spring Quarterly. Members who have already paid ahead will not be affected.)

**TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.** Alan reported that HSGA's request for an IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status in the United States has been applied for, and the fee paid. Hopefully, we will have this status, enabling us to seek Grant funding, in a short time.

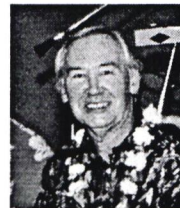
**OTHER BOARD APPROVALS.** The Board approved the purchase of a 28.8 modem and subscribe to LavaNet (Hawai'i's on-line service), so that HSGA's Internet Web pages can be accessed and E-mail answered from the HSGA office. Alan Akaka stated that we are receiving both E-mail inquiries and memberships regularly from our Home pages, through our Webmaster, Rabbet. We will now have access to the World Wide Web.

Lorene Ruymar reported that 40% of the Convention book sale proceeds, minus shipping costs, would be contributed for HSGA for operational purposes,

plus one book. The amount given was \$529. (The 1997 Joliet Convention committee has already started working on convention and concert sites, as we go to press.)

The Board approved scholarship funding for Alan Akaka to give Al Greene, Jr. 20 advanced steel guitar lessons, at \$25 per lesson, in order to complete Al's formal education on steel guitar. The request for these lessons was made by Al's parents and John Auna, Al's beginning teacher.

### JOLIET "THANK YOU'S FROM DON WEBER



Every year we rent amps for the Joliet convention from Ralph Zuppa's "World of Music", through HSGA member, **Charlie Brewer**, who is "World of Music"'s guitar repairman. Rather than write a check to them, Charlie said "give it to the HSGA Scholarship fund". So the enclosed check (sent to HSGA) is a gift from "World of Music", 1159 W. Jefferson St. in Joliet. (From Alan Akaka: "Many mahalos folks for your aloha spirit, it's only fun to play when you can be heard, and your gift will benefit a young, new Hawaiian steel player.")

Many thanks to the Joliet Convention Committee members: **Wally & Alma Pfeifer, Frank & Donna Miller, and Art & Lorene Ruymar.** Without all the work and effort from them, the Joliet convention would not happen. Planning for 1997 is already underway, and we hope to make it the best yet.

One BIG added *mahalo*: to **Floyd Alexander**: God Bless You for handling the sound system all by yourself, and to **Mike Beeks** for assisting. All the thanks in the world, and I'm sure Doug Smith, who had to be somewhere else this year, also thanks you for taking over this major job.



Do they LOOK like Hawaiian steel guitar Pros — especially da kine Wise Guys in dark glasses? Al Greene, Jr. Bobby Ingano, Da Pres and Da Duke take a shave ice break at HSGA's Aloha Festival Steel + Slack Key Jam. More pictures on page 12.



## WINTER CALENDAR OF HAWAIIAN EVENTS

*Mahalo to Kapalakiko Productions, once again, for many items in this listing.*

**12 Jan '97** - NĀ MELE WELO, Regional Center For the Arts, Walnut Crk, CA. 2 pm. Hawaiian, Tahitian, Maori, Samoan, Filipino dances. \$8; \$6, seniors/students. Call Kamaile Clayton (510-562-5355).

**8 Feb '97** - LŌKĀHI 'OHANA O HAWAI'I HO'OLAULE'A, Bingo Hall, 112th St., Parkland, WA. Food booths, music, dances, crafts. Call: Emma Saroni 206-475-8381.

**11 Feb '97** - 2nd ANNUAL HAWAIIAN MUSIC HALL OF FAME CONCERT, Hawai'i Theater Center, Honolulu, 7:30 pm. "MEMORIES: THE KAHUANU LAKE TRIO (Tommy, Al & "K") in an exclusive performance, and MAIKI'S DANCERS". Guest artists include: Mahi Beamer, Robert Cazimero, Nina Keali'iwahamana, Anuheia Brown, and Emma Veary singing songs made popular by the 1996 Hall of Fame honorees: Mekia Kealaka'i, Albert "Sonny" Cunha, Haunani Kahalewai, Sol Ho'opi'i, Alvin Kaleolani Isaacs. Produced by The Kahuanu Lake Trio Corp. for the benefit of The Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame. **Tickets: Hawai'i Theater (or Connections) 808-528-0506; \$39.50 & \$25.** (Acoustics & all seats excellent in this historic, restored theater.)

*It takes a full committee to plan six hours of the biggest steel guitar and slack key event ever, for HSGA's May 4 Ho'olaule'a, and six months to prepare and produce! Da wahine is saving her smiles for May. Wonder why!*

**1 Mar '97** - 8th ANNUAL KAPALAKIKO HAWAIIAN MUSIC GET-TOGETHER, Riordan HS Gym, 175 Phelan Av, San Francisco, CA. Music Features Moe & son Nālani Keale, and Kawai & son Ha'aheo Cockett, several local hula halaus and the Kapalakiko Hawaiian Band. Doors open 5:30. Show: 6:45 pm. Refreshments, records, crafts. \$15. Fundraiser for the Kapalakiko Calendar. Call Saichi Kawahara 415-468-7125.

**16 Mar '97** - 4th ANNUAL 'UKULELE FESTIVAL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, Hayward Adult School, Hayward, CA. Doors open 10:30 am; Show 11 am. Both amateur & professional performers. \$5. TO PERFORM: Register by 2/28/97 w/ Hollis Baker 510-793-1165 or John Ogao 510-886-8865.

**21 Mar '97** - KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS SONGFEST, Neal Blaisdell Arena, 777 Ward, Honolulu. Time: 7:30 sharp (as this is televised). Gen'l public seating (if available) at 7:15 pm. This is the 75th Anniversary concert featuring favorites from over the years. Call Bob Whiting 808-842-8412. NOT TO BE MISSED FOLKS, if you're in Hawai'i-at least watch it on TV. Awesome!

## HSGA HONOLULU CONVENTION EVENTS UPDATE

from Lorene Ruymar & Alan Akaka

**SUNDAY, MAY 4- HAWAIIAN STEEL GUITAR HO'OLAULE'A PLUS!** This year an ALL NEW program format and probably a new name for SIX CONTINUOUS HOURS OF JAM SESSIONS featuring steel guitar with full groups of Da Bes slack key and 'ukulele. Venue will probably be McCoy Pavilion, Ala Moana Park, as it will hold 1,000. Hawaiian crafts for sale also. Concert is Free, of course. Bring a picnic and mats to sit on. Committee: Alan Akaka, Hanalei deWilligen, John Ely, Greg Sardinha and Marjorie Scott are hard at work on the program, funding, logistics. More in Spring Quarterly.

**FRIDAY, MAY 9 -DAY TRIP TO MOLOKA'I.** Open to any HSGAr who wants to go. The purpose is to give a steel performance for the public on Moloka'i. Arrangements are underway. We hope that in return for doing a concert, we may be given a tour of the Island sights. (*In case you're wondering, flying time to Moloka'i is apx. 15 minutes!*)

**MONDAY, MAY 12 - HSGA SHOW AT POLYNESIAN CULTURE CENTER,** located in Lā'ie, on the Windward side, about a 50-60 minute drive from Waikīkī. PCC offers a 25% discount to our members on admission, dinner and evening show (a Hawaiian extravaganza!). Time for HSGA to perform and other details in Spring Quarterly. (*If you haven't been there, it's well worth the price and the time, to be immersed in Polynesia for a few hours. Many acres of native houses, history, costumes, dances, crafts, professionally and lovingly done by the students of Brigham Young University, next door. A true hands-on experience.*)



# COCO WIRE



**Werner Bauhofer** has done it! Not only did he produce a picture of "The Five Sharps", **Betty Bahret's** winning name for his wonderful drawing of a Hawaiian band, he wrote a musical arrangement for her poem! (See Joliet convention pages). Now which one of you is going to learn it and play it during the Hawai'i convention??

A very warm "Thank You" to **Roger Crandall** of Kelso, Washington for a true act of *aloha*. Roger joined HSGA about a year ago. Last spring he sponsored the membership of **Dorothy Mawae** of Longview, Washington, who was born on Kaua'i and entertained in the Islands for many years before moving to the mainland. The two of them played Elks Clubs and lū'aus together in Washington for many years. Says Roger "if any one should belong to this organization, I'm sure Dorothy fits the bill." She met and entertained the Voyaging canoe visitors in Portland and the Vancouver area in 1995, and plans to attend the HSGA Honolulu convention in May '97. "I'll be there, too, if I'm still on my feet", Roger says.

A number of members have gifted friends with an HSGA membership over the past years. Nice gesture of friendship, and apparently genuinely appreciated, for we see these friends come back and renew their memberships themselves, the following year. See how you all are?

**Bob Mekani** shared a memorabilia treasure with us: a letter from

**Joseph Kekuku's** widow, written in April, 1935, to "Hawaiian Ensemble, WMCA Radio, New York." She asked Bob and his group to play "Joe's solo ('*Ua Like No A Like*' and '*Mai Po'ina Ia'u*' [sic]) next Saturday for him, who is now in Heaven." From the days when Bob was House Musician for the Hawaiian Federation. Of interest, postage stamp was three cents! Thanks, Bob. Sometimes we forget how important music and Hawai'i's musicians truly were in popularizing Hawai'i around the world.

New member, **Frank Baum** and his gracious wife **Ruth** spent almost every evening at the Halekūlani "House Without A Key" during their recent Hawai'i visit from their home in Theuern, Germany. And they hated to go home! While Frank "earns his keep" playing "cowboy" music with his group "Country Creek", Frank, his two sons and a young friend keep Hawaiian music and steel guitar alive AND recorded. Nothing "old hat" either. In addition to the Hawaiian greats from the "Hawai'i Calls" era, Frank says he likes the "very good modern material" of Keali'i Reichel and Sistah Robi. "Sure, I'm near 60, but I'm not retired in music yet" (nor "retarded", Frank, along with the "Mākaha Sons", we like them best, too.)



**Frank Baum & his Mauna Loa Hawaiians**

Did you read the New Members list? We've almost reached the ends of the earth, except for Russian, China and South America. **Jannie Van Zyl** may just be the ONLY Hawaiian music enthusiast in South Africa, and **Jeffrey Lani Phillips** in Hong Kong is a welcome addition to HSGA's Pacific Rim membership. Make them welcome, folks, WRITE to them, send Tabs and sheet music and letters and pictures. We don't want *any* member to feel isolated.

Welcome back to **Sig Vogel**, who's been gone too long. He says he's "re-assessed matters" and feels he should continue his HSGA membership and support of steel guitar. Could Jerry Byrd's new record have persuaded you, Sid? Whatever the reason, stick around. The way we're growing both in numbers and musically, it can only get better!

Surprised and most pleased that **HSGA member Anastasy Tyson** gave our Kikā Kila Ho'olaule'a '96 a full story and picture spread in his tabloid "Hawaiian Spectator", this past summer. Tyson, Marketing Director for one of Hawai'i's micro breweries, publishes the newspaper for beverage distributors and producers in the Islands. Yes indeed, we have many. It's a growing market, here. Ever had a cup of *real* Kona coffee? Or a glass of Gordon Biersch German Style Beer, brewed in Hawai'i? Ain't all pineapple, taro and mac nuts here, anymore, folks.

# LEARNING TO STEEL IN HAWAI'I

by Beat Iseli

*(Beat, pronounced Bet, is a recent HSGA member from Winterthur, Switzerland. Here's how to connect with him: Obergasse 5, 8400 Winterthur, Switz.; phone 052-213-24-23.)*

## OUR FIRST TWO VISITS

I spent my first two weeks in Hawai'i in 1980 after my wife and I had travelled across India, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand. Despite the many different countries we had seen, we liked the Hawaiian Islands right from the beginning because of the beautiful scenery, the mild climate and the friendliness of the people.

Taking a few surfing lessons and then paddling out to the waves in front of Waikiki was another aspect that thrilled me. In the evening we used to go to hotels that featured Hawaiian music and I was struck by the beauty of the sound of the steel guitars. Unfortunately, we couldn't hear this instrument very often. Younger bands seemed to do without it.

On our next visit, three years later, we listened to many different Hawaiian bands and singers and slowly started to get an idea what island music was about. Personally, I didn't like the reggae influence very much, but enjoyed the Brothers Cazimero and the Peter Moon Band, although I missed the sound of a steel guitar. So going to the Halekulani where Alan Akaka and the Islanders played became a habit, and we always loved the beautiful music and the peaceful sunset mood.

Being a guitar player myself, I had taught classical guitar and I am still playing in a blues/rock band; I was intrigued by the sweet, harmonically full sound of the steel. One evening I approached Alan and asked him about the tuning of the steel guitar and the technique involved. Alan gave me his address and encouraged me to write if I had a question.

## MY LESSONS WITH ALAN

Back home in Switzerland, where I have a teaching job at an engineering school, I often listened to my cassettes of Hawaiian music, and especially Alan's own "Islands Call", and the idea of going back to Hawai'i, and learning how to play Hawaiian steel guitar started to grow. In the summer of '96, I decided to come back to Hawai'i and take



a few lessons with Alan, whom I had contacted earlier, and who agreed to teach me.

I arrived in Honolulu on 21 July and went to see Alan at the Halekulani. He expected me and quickly organized the schedule of our classes: every Tuesday and Thursday morning he would come to my hotel for an hour of teaching.

So Thursday morning I was eagerly awaiting my teacher for the first steel class and, perfectly on time, Alan stepped into the lobby casually dressed, with an acoustic steel guitar for me to practice on. I was taught how to hold the bar, how to use the picks, and then I already had to play using an open A tuning, which was new to me then. I didn't have much trouble with the diagram music, as I had already used a similar notation when playing ragtime guitar. The time passed quickly, and I was left to practise the first exercises on my own.

The next few weeks Alan progressed quickly, introducing me to the E tunings and teaching me how to slant the bar. I was very happy when I got to play the first Hawaiian songs, like "Song of the Islands", "Aloha 'Oe", and "Sweet Lei Lehua".

It was quite difficult to come to terms with the reverse slant exercises, but playing C# minor and C6 tuning was a real discovery to me. Alan was a great teacher; he was very patient and motivating. With him, I learned a new technique and musical language, but he also stressed the importance of musicality,

of playing "Hawaiian" style steel guitar. I practised as much as I could without neglecting my wife and my two and one-half-year-old daughter Claudia too much. In between we also managed to visit Maui for three days and tour O'ahu a few times.

## SAD TO LEAVE HAWAI'I

At the end of my 4-week stay, I was very unhappy about having to leave the Island and its music, which I had come to appreciate so much thanks to Alan. When I went to see him for the last time at the Regent, where he was playing with Auntie Genoa, I felt a bit sad because I knew how I would miss Hawai'i with its ocean and music and Alan's classes.

Now I'm back in Winterthur, a small city in Switzerland, and my time is taken up with preparing classes, correcting papers and attending meetings. But whenever I find a few minutes, I sit behind my '55 Fender lap steel guitar which I bought after my return, and practice exercises and songs.

Sometimes I also listen to records and try to find out what the steel guitarist is doing, and when I hit the right notes I get a real kick out of it. In addition to that, I'm encouraging my friends in the band to get into a few Hawaiian songs we might add to our repertoire. Looking back at the too-short four week holiday, I'm really very happy with what I've learned, thanks to Alan Akaka and this visit to Hawai'i will certainly not be my last one.



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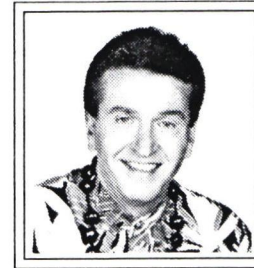
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## UPDATE: "DA BOOK"

LORENE RUYMAR

( & member comments )

*(Ed. Note: In case you DON'T know "The Hawaiian Steel Guitar and its Great Hawaiian Musicians" could easily be regarded as a "signature piece" for HSGA. Contents are, briefly: Chapter 1 - stories and theories of the origins of steel guitar; Chapter 2 - steel guitar history, growth and travel throughout the world; Chapter 3- "Mainland Schools & Cultural Influences"; Chapter 4 - personal stories of professional Hawaiian steel artists; Chapter 5 - physical development of the instrument itself; Chapter 6 - Instructional, teaching manuals, early and modern playing techniques, string gauges, tunings etc.; Chapter 7 - "The Hawaiian Guitar Today" AND loads of PICTURES.*

*By Mail- check or money order only: \$29.95+\$3 surface/\$5 airmail; CANADA ONLY: 2090 W. 44th Av., Vancouver BC, V6M 2E9; USA & ALL FOREIGN: P.O. Box 28337, Bellingham, WA 98228-0337. Allow at least 4-6 weeks, or go nag your local bookstore! (See below).*

### SALES & PROMOTION

Aloha to all of you. I'd like to tell you how the book sales are going. In one word GREAT! Every week Art and I drive down to Bellingham, Washington to empty the mailbox. Then we head for the cabin to do the processing of book orders.

The books I am selling are only a small part of the sales. The Hal Leonard Co., one of the biggest distributors in the business, has the contract to sell it. It's listed in their catalog as a reference book, which means it will automatically go into libraries and it will be shown in book fairs in many countries. I am getting many letters from people who are delighted with the book, and I put those in a special file for possible use if a second edition is printed. If you wrote to me, thank you very much. Your letter is valuable and I send photocopies to the publisher as well. *(More HSGA member comments follow this article.)*

Perhaps all of you could help promote the books in your area: ask your music store whether they carry it; make sure your library has it at least on order.



HSGA member, **John Fatiaki** buys the very first copy of Lorene's book, "The Hawaiian Steel Guitar & its Great Hawaiian Musicians".

All you need to tell 'em is "it's listed in the Sept. '96 Hal Leonard catalog. Their E-Z order line is 1-800-221-2774.

### MISTAKES AND SURPRISES

As we all know, there are bound to be errors and omission in any book. For example, I have stated Ed Punua to be four years younger than he is. I don't know WHO gave me that information, out of all the questionnaires I sent out in doing research. In case there just might be a second edition, if you have new information and/or pictures, please quote the page number where they belong and your source of the information (photocopies of newspaper or book items, date/place of publication, etc.). Just now I realize that Elsie Jagers is not listed. Does anyone know her latest address?

I'm sure you recognized a computer-enhanced Sol Ho'opi'i on the front cover, and there are full-page pictures added to the front and back of the book I know NOTHING about. They're from the Experience Music Project in Seattle, Washington, and put in by the cover design artist, Scott McDougall. (As I've said in past articles, the publisher decided to "surprise" me with the book cover; he wouldn't tell me what it was to be. Yes, I was surprised! Sol was a great steel player, but I would certainly have chosen a more all-encompassing or generic front cover, or even a picture of Joseph Kekuku, if given a choice.)

Can you folks help me identify the "mystery players" in the very first pic-

ture of three men with four guitars? See page 182. Also "baby face" on page 186 and the back cover, evidently doing a commercial for National guitars. He's also on page 200 holding a 'ukulele.- But who's on steel? And who are the other two?

### INVITATIONS TO "SPEAK STEEL"

Since the book came out, I've had some very nice invitations to promote it. On August 17, I was part of a telephone interview with Aloha Joe on Hawaiian Adventure Radio. Duke Ching and Alan Akaka were also interviewed. Thank you, Duke, for setting that up. Then, on Oct. 11, I did a one hour Hawaiian music show on cross-Canada CBC radio, the Viki Gabareau show. Art chose the recordings from the finest produced in Hawai'i, and I took them to the radio station. Just to set the Hawaiian atmosphere, I dressed Hawaiian and took a lei for host David Grierson. Great fun and my mouth didn't let me down. Have received a LOT of letters since from people who loved the music and want to get connected. CBC got lots of calls too, apparently, because they're now considering a "Christmas in Hawai'i" special. It makes me very happy to know that if Hawaiian music were given half a chance on radio and TV, it would find many fans.

I'm getting brave now, with all this success. I signed up for a "no-frills"

*Continued on pg. 15*

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 HSGA NOW HAS A "CHAT PAGE" WHERE YOU CAN TALK TO EACH OTHER IN REAL TIME. And, Rabet has created an E-mail Bulletin Board for HSGA, where you can leave a general message without having someone's E-mail address. USE IT. On the back page you'll find the E-mail addresses from members who have responded to our request for them. **PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS, A.S.A.P.** so you can get connected around the world. Incidentally - where are your E-mail addresses, England, Germany, Japan, Eastern Canada?



# ANOTHER HSGA JOLIET SUCCESS!

By Bob Pulevai Waters & Julie Haunani Waters

Aloha, Dear Members, Associates and Friends,

In spite of many obstacles, the September Convention in Joliet was a great success. This was due mainly to the untiring work of **Don and Donna Weber**. With the remodeling in progress at the Holiday Inn, many unusual plans and arrangements had to be made. Restaurants for our evening and Luau dinners; hot lunches being catered in, and I'm sure a million other details. Thanks, Don, for a super effort. **Lorene and Art Ruymar**, as usual, were helpful to everyone.

Julie and I have known **Alan Akaka** for many wonderful years; since he was a student of "Master Byrd." And yet everytime we have had the opportunity to be with him, we are more and more impressed. Not only by his great musicianship, but also his intelligence and gentlemanly demeanor. We couldn't have a better President!

**Eddie Punua** and lovely wife, Vanessa, and sweet little Kawai'iki were a joy to behold. Ed played and sang beautifully. Alan's idea of having all three steel guitars on stage for the entire Luau show was great: Alan, Ed, and "The Palm Springs Wild Man", **Duke Kaleolani Ching!** Those three guys lined up across the stage, side by side. They played for all the dancers, singing also, and then "jammed" to high heaven. Alan and Duke each sang their own version of "No Huhū". The super rhythm behind our steel players was furnished by **Ian Ufton** and **Shoichiro Okada** whose guitars complimented each other. And on stand-up bass, the wonderful **Virginia Gradzinski**.

Let me say that having **Shoichiro and Katsuko Okada** and **Tommy and Mrs. Ikehata** with us was a real pleasure. Katsuko's voice and Shoichiro's guitar accompaniment were a thrill that I won't forget. They knew all of Keali'i Reichel's songs, had them memorized, and the renditions were super "chicken skin". Tommy's pedal steel was tasteful and appreciated.

Dancers were **Haunani Waters, Maile Nash** (now from Indiana) and her

friends, **Nāpua, Momi, Mapuana** and their mother, **Leina'ala**, and **Hana Gleason** who danced a rollicking arrangement of "Henehene Kou Aka". Also, our old friends, "Fire Chief" **Kololia Murawsky, Leigh Bell, Mike Beeks and Greg Wong**.

After the Luau show, we jammed until 6 a.m.! That's when I discovered that **Alan Akaka** requires even less sleep than **Duke Ching**. Geeez!

Friday morning, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce escorted **Don Weber, Alan Akaka, Duke Ching** and myself to look over some possible sights for next year's convention, in the event things are not satisfactory at the Holiday Inn. First was the "Alexandria", an Egyptian resort complete with two gambling boats on the Des Plains River. It is positively palatial! Several restaurants and other facilities, suites with beside jacuzzi big enough for four to six people (yippee)-just kidding. We looked at another Riverside Auditorium and Playhouse, fully equipped stage, lighting, sound, etc. Of course, the bottom line on either one of these locations would have to be negotiated.

Okay, now we're ready to go to Honolulu May 1, 1997.

*Above : could have been taken at Merry Monarch hula festival. You got REAL hula kahiko folks, costumes and all; (kahiko=ancient/old style, pronounced "ka-heeko"). Below: Brand new HSGA members **Joe Okada** on guitar, and his wife **Katsuko** on vocals join **Tom Ikehata** (steel) on some modern Hawaiian songs. **Virginia Gradzinski** does superb bass as usual!*





## At Joliet, convention - FIRST WE PLAY ...

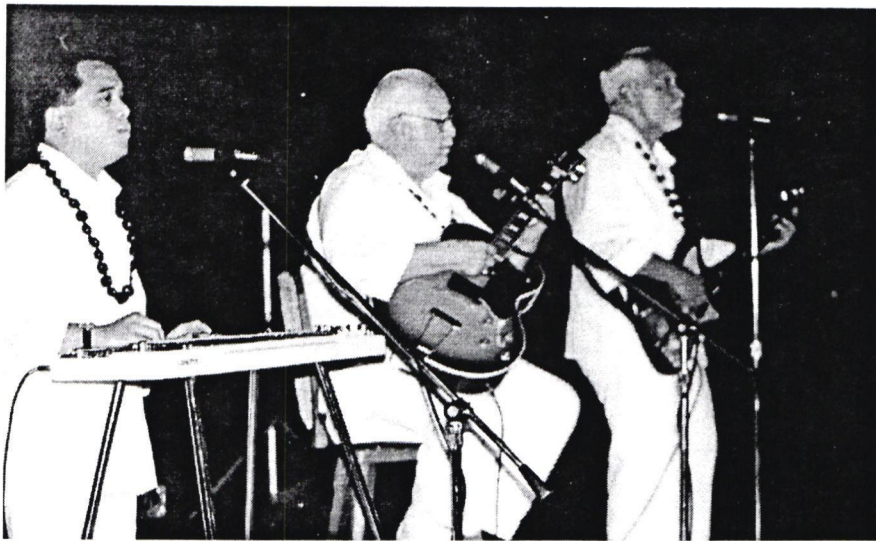
Page 10- top to bottom. You want luau tickets? **Donna Miller**'s got 'em. "Is that my daddy?" Baby Kawai'ike Punua and watchful momma Vanessa watch **Alan and Ed Punua** give Hawaiian steel music da treatment — what? you didn't know? They sing, too. **Dusty Nall** and **Charlie Brewer** make a great Hawaiian country team, while **Jack Campbell** plays it straight.



**... THEN WE FEAST!**  
(in "Hawaiian" that's "PIG  
out" as in LŪ'AU)

Page 11 - top to bottom. Alvin Kaleolani Isaacs' comic song "No Huhū" gets the full "Chinee" treatment, hat and all, from **Duke Ching**, while Ed tries to keep a straight face. HSGA members fill the hall - always. We couldn't resist this happy Punua family picture — especially since it includes HSGA's youngest "recruit". **Dale Nightwine** plays for his supper, and what a luau feast it was!



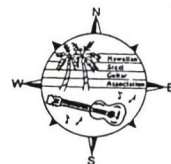


*Honolulu's Aloha Festival*  
**HOT HAWAIIAN STEEL**  
**AT THE HALEKŪLANI**

*HSGA guest artists galore at "House Without A Key". Top to bottom: Ed Punua plays and sings with The Islanders Walter Mo'okini and Harold Haku'ole on steel. Mariko Seki duos with Alan on steel to accompany Mariko's daughter, a very up-beat and lovely vocalist. Da Duke steels in with The Hiram Olsen Trio —*



*— and Dick Sanft adds his special steel touch (watched carefully by Ed Punua) to The Islanders. Then, a FIRST for Waikiki: a TRIPLE steel jam session with Hanalei deWilligen, Alan Akaka and John Ely. Sonny Kamahela and Benny Kalama back them.*



— and an afternoon  
**STEEL & SLACK KEY  
JAM**  
at McCully Shopping Mall

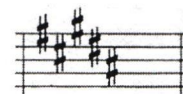


*Greg Sardinha starts off with Ipo Kumukahi on slack key and Rick Rickard backing on guitar. Bobby Ingano jams with two slack key greats, Martin Pahinui and Al Ka'ai. Really HOT licks from George Kuo and Reverend Dennis Kamakahi on slack key with Alan sparking his steel. HSGA then proudly featured the youngest pro duo going: 16-year old Al Greene, Jr. on steel and 14-year old recording artist Ikaika Brown on slack key. Both dads along with Rick Rickard backed them. You'll see LOTS more of these groups in May at HSGA's expanded annual Ho'olaule'a, May 4.*





# BETTY BAHRET NAMES "THE FIVE SHARPS" BAND



At the Joliet convention, Betty Bahret of Poughkeepsie, New York was named winner of HSGA's "Name This Band" contest, held to give names to Hawaiian band members drawn by HSGA member Werner Bauhofer of Bozen Italy. (See "Coco Wire", page 4).

Werner, a guitar professional and school teacher, drew the figures on the blackboard during tests, to the delight of his young students. We were so taken, we published the drawing in the Winter '95-'96 Quarterly as a contest.

Betty won the new Jerry Byrd recording, and a signed, drawing of the "The Five Sharps" whose names are "Fret"tie "Strum"bold ('ukulele), Celia Signature (singer), Gigi Slapagut (bass), Dee Dee Fasolateedo (singer) and A. Grand Steeler (steel guitar).

Werner writes "all we need to make the (band) unforgettable is a melody... and someone to write a steel guitar arrangement for it." Werner's melody and Betty's poem are on the next page.



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WORDS BY BETTY BAHRET  
 ANDANTE ♩=108 - SWING FEEL

THE FIVE SHARPS

MUSIC BY WERNER BAUHOFFER  
 C6TH

THEY MET AT AN ALL NIGHT LU-A-U ON THE BEACH OF OFF-THE-KEY

THEY AU-DITIONED AT HA-LE-KU-LA-NI WERE TOLD IT NEVER COULD BE

FOR-EVER WE'RE BOOKED UP WITH A-LAN WITH SONJY AND WITH BEN

BUT YOU'D FIT IN JUST PERFECTLY IN THE ACT OF LE-O-NARD ZINN

"DA BOOK" - continued from pg. 7

women's music conference, and took the Dobro in case I'd have to perform without backup. The instant response was "I LOVE Hawaiian music!", but no one I met had the foggiest notion of what a Hawaiian steel guitar was. SO, I gave a seminar, and a chance for all the guitar players to try it. I played two numbers in the concert and got overwhelming response.

Moral to the story? Yes. I'm convinced those of us who are Hawaiian players should get out among OTHER musicians more. We're sticking to our Hawaiian friendship groups too much. My New Year's resolution is to make the big effort to get our Hawaiian musicians in the Vancouver area included in the Folk Music Festival in July, 1997.

I'll look forward to your book orders or letters and comments, and try to answer

everyone. But if I just shout "Mahalo", you'll hear me, eh?

MEMBERS COMMENT

John Marsden - "Lorene's book arrived today. MOST impressive! Shall enjoy reading it."

John DeBoe - "The Book is terrific. Need to write to Lorene 'The Queen Mum'"

Dave Mayes - "I just finished reading Lorene Ruymar's new tribute to Hawai'i's steel guitar players and was entranced from beginning to end. Bravo Lorene and thank you. I bought two copies."

Bob & Julie Waters - "All of us should heap our congratulations on Lorene for her long-awaited book. This is a real labor of love, many years of work and frustrations, but something we can all be proud to own. mālama pono, Lorene."

**HONOLULU  
 CONVENTION  
 CONTEST!**

**Write a Hawaiian steel guitar arrangement for "The Five Sharps" song, play it convention, May 5-8. WINNER gets his or her favorite (and available) Hawaiian or Hawaiian steel CD or cassette — and WORLD WIDE FAME!**

# MEMBERS' CORNER

*Isaac Akuna, Kāne'ohe, HI* - "I wish to applaud the efforts of the leadership of HSGA. It's been great to see the wonderful growth of the association. I had an opportunity to play at a jam session up at Kamehameha Schools with Bobby Ingano, Owana and Alan. Had a great time. Four steel guitars going at once, and a great honor for me. I feel so thankful for having studied under Jerry. I am playing more and more these days and having the time of my life." (*Isaac is the creator of the beautiful koa "Akuna-Schaeffer Pineapple" steel guitar, and a consistent supporter of HSGA. Thanks for volunteering, Isaac- "grunt work" coming up soon!*)

*Pat Jones, Brecon, Powys, Wales* - "In June we had a Convention and Lū'au here, which was well attended by people from all over Britain. ... there were several HSGA members, including Warren Slavin, Hal and Aina Smith and Stewart Moffat, who hopes to be at the next convention. I have heard from someone in Holland who is interested in attending. Last year, Georges and Jeanette Chatagny from Switzerland (were here). This Island music gets everywhere!. I hope to be with you all next May (in Honolulu) together with several other 'Brits' who are planning to come. Keep up the good work!" (*Pat has the Flag & Castle Guest House.*)

*Teresa Scott, Toronto, ON* - (*She's Mike's daughter and steel student*) - "I would like to let you know how much I enjoyed meeting everyone at the convention in Joliet. It was my first time attending an HSGA convention and being a new student, it was also the first time I had ever played steel guitar in front of a group of people. I was very nervous and their warm response was so much appreciated. I would also like to thank the musicians for sharing their talent."

*Steve Sherman, San Francisco, CA* - "Mac Pavon saw my name in the Quarterly and wrote me a nice letter inviting me to a gig at Bruno's in San Francisco. Mac plays with 'ukulele maestro Hollis Baker. It was almost like my own private concert. We had fun talking about the great old songs and stars. As for Mac, all I can say is 'wow'! Like a comic wizard, he treated me to trick after trick — and those tunings!. He played some beautiful music (awesome reverse slants) and he looks great. I hope the young, 'hip' audience will realize what musical treasures they have so close to home." (*Ed. Note: Mac wrote that he celebrated his 88th birthday on Sept. 10. He said "I've lost some of my speed (!!!) and I'd sure like to teach some other steel players harmonics." Steve go for it!*)



*Yozo Endo, Kurtistown, HI* - "I am not a professional entertainer, but fell in love with steel guitar when I was 15. Now I'm 82 and still enjoy my steel. I can play only E major tuning and it sounds quite appropriate for church music. It's wonderful to have young Hawaiian boys keeping the steel guitar alive."

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# DISC 'N DATA

The Mountain Apple Company has produced a real listening treat "The Ho'opi'i Brothers". Thanks go to the Brothers' close friends J. W. Junker & Diane Sunada Koshi who encouraged them and produced this recording: the unique and special gift of their pure, Hawaiian form of falsetto singing, *Leo Ki'eki'e*.

Sol and Richard Ho'opi'i, 61 and 55 respectively, were born and raised "in the remote village of Kahakuloa" on the island of Maui. Say the Brothers, who thank God and "the *kūpuna*" for their talent, "We are not here to show off. We are just the same as anyone else. We're country people... family people" trying to pass on the culture they knew in the village they grew up in. While they've performed live in Hawai'i as well as Europe in many concerts, festivals, and especially in church, it's been a long dry spell since their last record. Last summer, the Brothers received the National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship, America's highest honor for traditional artists.

You'll know why, when you hear this recording. Sol and Richard have been joining their voices since childhood "to become one of the most accomplished and respected duos in traditional Hawaiian music." The rest of their story is interestingly told in some of the most complete liner notes we've ever read. - Best of all, both the Hawaiian lyrics and their English translations (as well as their "story") are written out.

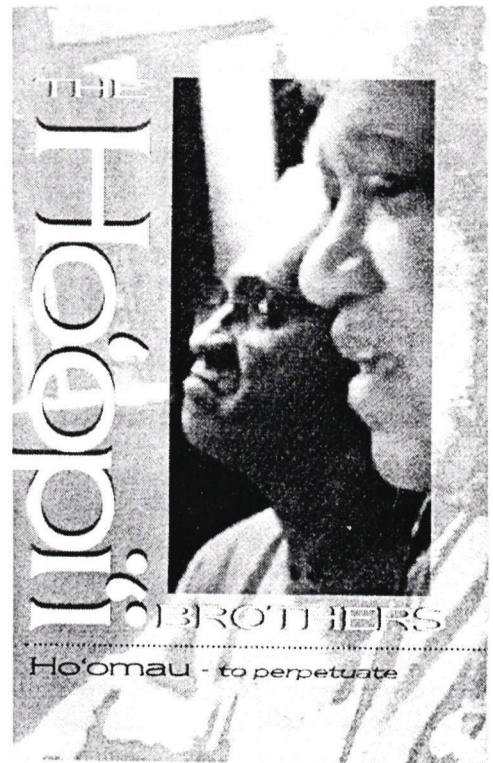
You all will know the songs, performed here without frills or "studio tricks": Auntie Emma Bush's "*Pauoa Liko Ka Lehua*"; Irmgard Aluli's "*Puamana*"; Lena Machado's "*Ei Nei*". There are songs by Edith Kanaka'ole, Rev. Dennis Kamakahi, Alfred 'Alohikea, and several beautiful prayerful songs expressing their joy and strong faith. For some of you, the treat will be the traditional "*Meleana E*", "Maui Girl", "*Alika*" (joined by **Auntie Genoa Keawe**) and the yodeling song for which the Ho'opi'i Brothers have become famous "*Kupa Landing*". You'll hear our own **Herbert Hanawahine** on several selections.

Everyone who contributed to this fresh and satisfying collection of Hawaiian favorites is duly acknowledged in the liner notes. We personally wish to thank Mt. Apple's Leah Bernstein and pro-

ducer, Jon de Mello for their *mana'o* in choosing to present this recording. You can buy it at your local music store, or order directly from The Mountain Apple Co., (800) 882-7088, or get their catalog at: P.O. Box 22373, Honolulu, HI 96823.

**Compliments to Greg from John DeBoe:** "I received the Greg Sardinha CD yesterday, and played it last night. Like it. Although some of the selections are standard and have been recorded many times by various steel performers, the idea that various performers are featured was GREAT. The tune that impressed me most, and which is not Hawaiian is 'On A Little Street in Singapore'. Never heard it played like this. Very good. Hoping to hear more of dis kine."

**'Ukulele players alert: Michael Cord has done it again — 'THE KALIMA BROTHERS & THE RICHARD KAUHI QUARTETTE - 1000 Pounds of Melody'**. Two-for-one of some of the greatest vintage Hawaiian sound on record. "Ukulele Legend" Jesse Kalima (and brothers) are joined by Julian Gasper on steel. Richard Kauhi, called "The Father of Modern Hawaiian Music" fills out his famous Quartette with Johnny Costello, Jimmy Kaku, Sonny Kamaka and vocalist and steel artist, "Lovey" Lui. This is FUN



music, and lot to go to school on, if you're enlarging your 'ukulele repertoire.

As Harry B. Soria says in his excellent liner notes "these performers are truly vintage Hawaiian legends". As always, Hana Ola Records has restored the audio and digitally re-mastered the 25 tracks in this recording from original sources; the sound quality is great. CD or cassette in your music store, or order direct from Cord International.



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# SO YOU WANT TO PLAY STEEL GUITAR HAWAIIAN STYLE



## THE QUARTERLY INTERVIEWS ALAN AKAKA PART VI - BAR TECHNIQUE FINALE

Laurent Mettraux of Lausanne, Switzerland wrote to me recently, with a steel playing question I'd like to answer here, for everyone:

"I used to bend my wrist and let the pointing finger leave the top of the bar. Then I started following your lessons.

"My question is, when you are in that slanting position, can you really lift the bar (without letting it drop!) to play another slant a few frets higher if you do not want to slide the bar?"

It's okay to slide the bar. You rarely need to lift the bar from the strings, unless you are changing necks, or bouncing the bar on the strings, as in the march section of "Hilo March".

A steel player should be able to maintain control of the bar in any position without dropping it. I covered Bar Technique in Part II, Winter '95-'96 issue, and suggest you review it, and, yes, PRACTICE the rest of Jerry Byrd's reverse slants continued, below, from the Fall issue!

And just to make you wintertime a little easier, George "Keoki" Lake has contributed the following arrangement which he uses in teaching. Thanks Laurent and Keoki for your contributions. Anyone else with questions or steel technique problems?

### Reverse Slant Practice - (cont.)

Handwritten musical notation for Reverse Slant Practice. It consists of two systems of guitar staves. The first system shows fret numbers 12, 11, 10, 12 on the top staff and chords C, C, E7, E7 on the bottom staff. The second system shows fret numbers 13, 12, 8, (R-1) on the top staff and chords F, F#m, C, C on the bottom staff. Arrows and 'Rev.' labels indicate reverse slanting techniques.

Handwritten musical notation for Reverse Slant Practice. It consists of one system of guitar staves. The top staff shows fret numbers 8, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7. The bottom staff shows chords C, G7, C-G7, C-C7. Arrows and 'Rev.' labels indicate reverse slanting techniques.

Handwritten musical notation for Reverse Slant Practice. It consists of one system of guitar staves. The top staff shows fret numbers 10, 6, 6, 6, 5, 6, 8, 6. The bottom staff shows chords Bb, Bb, F7, Bb. Arrows and 'Rev.' labels indicate reverse slanting techniques.

Handwritten musical notation for Reverse Slant Practice. It consists of one system of guitar staves. The top staff shows fret numbers 15, 13, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11. The bottom staff shows chords Eb-Bb, Eb, Bb, Eb. Arrows and 'Rev.' labels indicate reverse slanting techniques.

Handwritten musical notation for Reverse Slant Practice. It consists of one system of guitar staves. The top staff shows fret numbers 13, 11, 10, 5, 8, 6, 6. The bottom staff shows chords Bb-Eb, Bb, F7, Bb, Bb. Arrows and 'Rev.' labels indicate reverse slanting techniques.

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MEANS FORWARD SLANT

D7 G (FILL) D7

7 - - - (R) 7 8 10 | 12 - 10 9 | 8 - 4 - | 12 12 12 12 | - - 4 5 | 12 12 12 12

6 - - - | 6 8 9 | 12 - 10 9 | 8 - 3 - | 11 11 11 11 | - - 4 5 | 11 11 11 11

G D7 G7 E7 E+7 E7 A7(add9)

5 5 5 | 8 5 8 7 | - 5 5 4 | 3 - - 5 | 7 - 10 - 7 - - - (R) 7 5 4

- - 5 5 | 8 5 8 6 | - 5 5 4 | 4 6 - 10 - | 6 - - - | 6 3

A7(add9) D7 D7 G

3 - - 5 7 - 3 - 5 - | 6 - 7 | 8 - - 8 | 10 8 10 8 | 11 - | 7 7 8 10

3 - - | 6 - 3 - | 4 - 6 - 7 | 8 - - 8 | 8 8 8 | 11 - 13 11 | 6 6 8 9

11 - 13 11

G7 C6 (FILL) C Eb7 G D7 G7

12 R 7 5 5 4 | 3 - 3 6 | 7 - 3 - - - | - R R R

12 7 | 4 5 | 6 - 6 - | 3 - - - | - - -

E7 D7 G

KEOKI JULY 1996

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## **THE LAST WORD**

*Marjorie Scott, Editor*

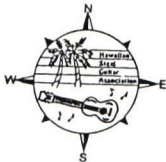
Our plate is full! We're seeing lots of interest and excitement about Hawaiian steel in the letters we get from new members, just joining HSGA. Can you imagine what it's going to be like to be able to "talk back" in real time on the Net with members and others around the world? Wow! These Islands will no longer be the most isolated society in the world for Alan and me.

A very special welcome to our far-flung new member-friends from South Africa, Hong Kong and Japan, and one "astounded" new member, via the Internet, Joe Kuta of New Lenox, Illinois, who "flipped out" when he discovered we were having steel guitar conventions right "next door" in Joliet. Is our world small, or what! Many thanks to Lorene's marvelous book for several more new members in the past month. And always, to YOU who continue to refer lovers of Hawaiian music and steel guitar to HSGA. Tell us EVERYTHING that's good news about your Hawaiian music remembrances, where you're performing, and any little tidbits about your activities you'd like to share (that's fit to print!) You may call it "gossip"; in Hawai'i we call it "talking story"!

## **HSGA QUARTERLY**

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