

# SCHOOL NEWS

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**BIRMINGHAM'S ONLY HAWAIIAN 'SCHOOL-MARM'**  
Plays ukelele, sings and dances (Eccentric Photo)

## Home to Hawaii Via B'ham Schoolrooms

By VIRGINIA REINEY

Arthur Godfrey hasn't anything on Birmingham. For the city has its own Haleloki... who sings and plays the ukelele.

She's Miss Edna Sumie Oshiro of Hawaii, who is better known to her fourth grade class at Torry school as Miss Edna Oshiro.

Ever since she was a fourth grade student herself, she longed to visit the mainland, as Hawaiians call the United States. Her lifelong ambition was realized a year ago when she set foot in San Francisco on Labor Day, 1953.

It was as late as August of last year that she convinced her parents that they should send her to the states to complete her senior requirements for a BS degree from Michigan State Normal college, which she did last June.

Japanese, she has no particular ambition to visit that country.

She said, "It is as foreign to me as Germany."

She has eight sisters and one brother. Her brother came to the states a year ahead of her. He came with the Hawaiian National Guard to attend officers' school at Fort Benning, Ga.

Because enrollment in the teaching college of the University of Hawaii is somewhat limited due to its size, it becomes increasingly difficult to gain admittance. So it is not uncommon for the islanders to come to the states for their schooling, she said.

Her intensive interest in coming to the states developed when she was 13 years old and started writing to four pen pals in the United States—all of whom she has since visited.

But these are only four out of 50 pen pals throughout the world with whom she corresponded. She still hears from many.

HER REASON for deciding on Michigan is one she can't immediately put her finger on. Perhaps it was for its central location, in close proximity to the eastern seaboard and points in all other directions, she said.

But she decided on Michigan State Normal college at Ypsilanti for its graduate teacher reputation.

After interviews with 19 school systems, she decided on Birmingham for its residential characteristics. She would like to teach at least two years before she returns to her home. She said the only place she would consider teaching on the islands would be Honolulu.

AS FOR Miss Oshiro's fourth grade pupils—they are the envy of the rest of the student body. Ever since the opening of school, they have boasted the fact that they are going to learn Hawaiian songs and words that others won't understand.

## Top Player Award Goes To Reynolds

A Birmingham player was awarded "most valuable player" in the Pontiac Recreation softball league at a banquet of the league Thursday evening, Oct. 14, at St. Benedict's Hall, Pontiac.

Roger Reynolds, jack-of-all trades on the ball diamond, gained the coveted award after his play this summer at short stop, pitcher and manager for Birmingham's team entry to the league, Rite-Way Water Softener. The team finished in fourth place in league play.

He was awarded a permanent trophy by the Pontiac Press.

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**SHE COMPLETED** her first three years at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu on the Isle of Oahu—some 150 miles by plane from her home on Hawaii, the largest island—larger than all others combined. Hawaii is the island of eight volcanoes, six of which are extinct.

Miss Oshiro comes from a small community named Halaula, where there is a large sugar plantation. A range of the Koolala mountains protects her home from the Mauna Loa and the Kilauea craters, the only two active volcanoes on the island. The Mauna Loa erupted last in 1962 she recalls.

Unlike the states, there are no snakes on the islands where neither poison ivy nor poison oak exist. There are many beautiful flowers, but only one species of orchids grows wild. It grows in small quantities, because most of the land has been given over to agricultural cultivation of sugar cane and pineapple.

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