

“I Remember When...”

by Charles Mahoe Sr. '37

Growing up in my younger days in Nu‘uanu and Jack Lane in particular, we had a good life, a simple life, nothing fancy. Even though we were not money rich, we were rich in our faith in God, our Hawaiian heritage and the fact that family was important.

We worked hard, played hard and studied hard. I guess you can say we were from a world of “hard knocks.” Our parents taught us to be honest, to speak only when spoken to, to help with the chores and to be respectful of our elders, our *kūpuna*. They taught us how to set goals for the future, study hard, graduate from high school and get a good-paying job... and to dream big dreams.



Charles K. Mahoe Sr. '37 as a senior student at Kamehameha

I remember how so happy and proud I was when I was accepted to attend Kamehameha School for Boys as a ninth grader back in 1933. This was a dream come true and I would make my parents proud. I kept up with my studies and took classes in welding, which would later help me land a job at Island Welding after graduation.

Sports and music were my true loves – even before the *wahines* – and I took advantage of the opportunities offered me in these areas.

I remember as Song Contest leader for our senior men, we won our division by singing “Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a.” (My son, **Charles K. Mahoe Jr. '58**, was also a winning Song Contest leader during his senior year.) Song Contest was very competitive, and sometimes we had to hide and have our class practice in secret so the other classes would not hear us. We didn't want them to know our techniques!

As for sports, I was involved in football and baseball. I played varsity football during my four years at Kamehameha, and I loved every minute of it. My position was halfback, although I did throw the football once or twice.

After graduation, I remember this one game our Nā Ali‘i Chiefs team (made up mostly of former University of Hawai‘i players) played against the team from University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Other Nā Ali‘i team members included the late **Clayton Benham '40**, the late **Albert Pelayo '41**, the late **George K. Aki '34**, Andrew Boyd, William-Henry Meyer and Francis Lee.

We lost that game 26-6, but we gave the fans their money's worth. In a 1937 Honolulu newspaper column called *Ho‘omalimali*, sports writer Red McQueen wrote, “Charlie Mahoe finally got a chance to inject his right arm into the battle, and he proved that he is still one of the best gunners in the circuit.”

I was not in the game for the guts and glory of the sport, but mainly because I loved the competition and playing ball with the guys.

Kamehameha has given me a sense of self-worth, a sense of identity being Hawaiian and a sense of appreciation for all that I have been blessed with in life. Kamehameha will always have a special place in my heart and the memories made there etched in my mind forever.

I Mua Kamehameha!

Charles Mahoe Sr. resides at the Maluhia Care Center in lower ‘Ālewa.

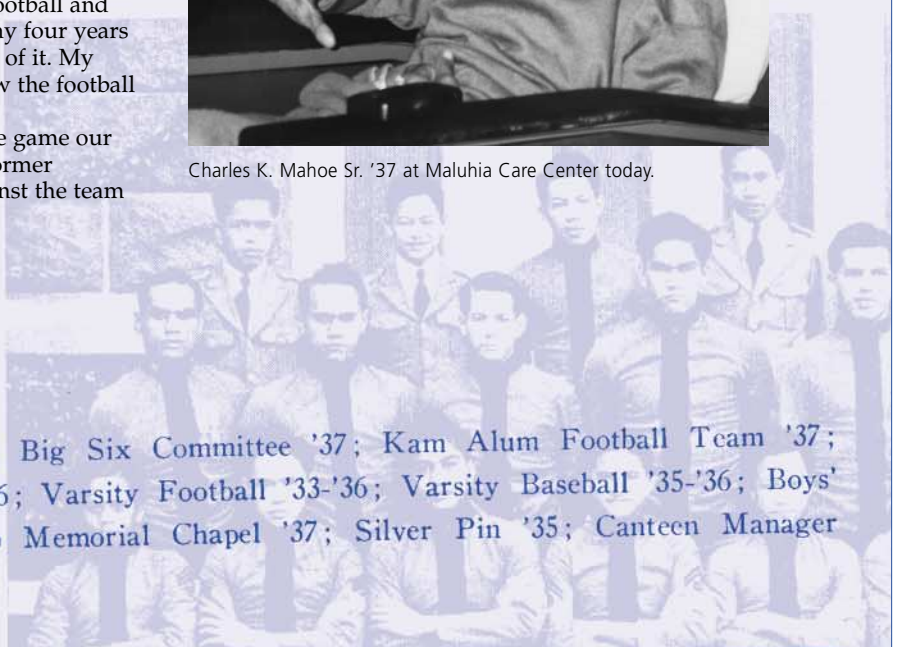


Charles K. Mahoe Sr. '37 at Maluhia Care Center today.

CHARLES MAHOE

AUTO MECHANICS

Cadet Adjutant '37; Big Six Committee '37; Kam Alum Football Team '37; Cadet 1st Sergeant '36; Varsity Football '33-'36; Varsity Baseball '35-'36; Boys' Representative, Bishop Memorial Chapel '37; Silver Pin '35; Canteen Manager '37; Hui Oiwī '36-'37.





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There is always someone in our lives who inspires us to strive for our greatest potential.

Clay Benham '40, who passed away in April, was described as the heart and soul of the Interscholastic League of Honolulu, where he served as executive secretary since 1970.

"The game's not over for Clay," said his wife Marion. "Clay's memory lives on, in the lives of all the athletes he mentored over the years."

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Clay Benham '40

Kahiau –

*to give generously and lavishly from the heart,
with no expectation of return.*

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