

# I Remember When

by **Mikahala White** Cockett Turner '36

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Being a senior while at Kamehameha was an exciting time for me. Among the “specials” of being a senior was to take your turn with others of your class and live at the Senior Practice Cottage.

The Cottage was separate from the dormitories. During the time there, you learned the responsibilities of family living. You were the cook, housekeeper or whatever, but most importantly, you were “mother” for a week to a real, live baby. You were completely responsible for his or her care for a whole week.

My story is about what happened while I was “mother” to Rankin Lemon Kinney – our redheaded, blue-eyed cutie who was only about two months old when he first arrived.

What happened is that I had put Rankin’s bottle nipples in water in a pot to sterilize them. I turned on the stove and then went back to tend to him. Time went by and soon the smell of burning rubber had me running back to the kitchen. It was too late! There were burned rubber particles sticking to the window screens and the burnt rubber smell permeated the cottage.

Frantically calling my father at work at Honolulu Iron Works, I tearfully begged him to leave work to buy new bottle nipples and deliver them to me right away. Then, I set to work scrubbing the screens and other things and aired out the kitchen and other areas.

What a relief it was when dad delivered the new nipples (which I promptly sterilized without burning them) and then got back on schedule for Rankin’s feeding.

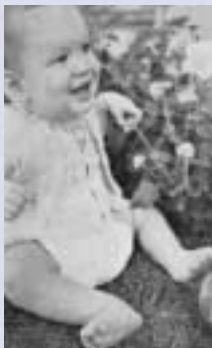
Miss Hirleman (director of the cottage) was away at the time and not expected back until late afternoon, so she never knew the story. My classmates were away attending classes as well.

This was my most traumatic experience during my six years as a student at Kamehameha...and, ah, ...I remember it well.

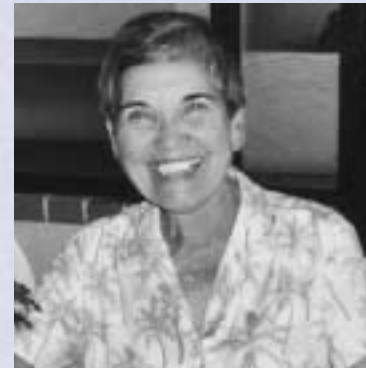
*Today, Mikahala lives in 'Aiewa Heights, O'ahu. She keeps active walking and caring for her great-grandchildren.*



Mikahala White '36 at KS



Rankin Lemon Kinney,  
Senior Practice Cottage  
baby



Mikahala White Cockett Turner

Below: “Mama-dees” (mother of the day) **Wilhemnia Atai Ito '62**, **Diane Medina** Kaahanui '62 and **Sharol Lum '62** display their Senior Cottage babies in this Pop Diamond photo from the 1961-62 school year. Kamehameha’s Senior Cottage Baby program ran from 1924 until 1970.

