

## — continued

still in FBI storage in Hawaii. Bucy is working to have them returned to the family for proper burial in San Diego.

- Buck Walker spent 22 years in prison. He was paroled in 2007 at age 69 due to declining health. He moved to Willits, where he died of a stroke in 2010.

- Vincent Bugliosi died in Los Angeles in 2015.

- Stephanie Stearns, who changed her name, is still alive and living free.

- The whereabouts of Sea Wind, if it still survives, are unknown.



## japanese spirit — continued

The Ikegawas were finishing a two-month visit to the Bay Area after completing a 56-day passage across the Pacific last summer from Japan to Victoria, BC.

This is the second time Ikegawa-san has sailed to California from Japan. In 1977, when he was only 25 years old and a self-described 'unskillful sailor', Ikegawa-san left Japan aboard his 26-ft sloop *Oumei* headed for San Francisco. During the trip, *Oumei* was rolled and dismasted over the course of a four-day storm in mid-Pacific. When the weather finally calmed, Ikegawa-san jury-rigged a mast and continued eastward, running out of water on day 106. Eight days later, a passing freighter dropped him supplies and he continued on, eventually making landfall at Fort Bragg after 118 days at sea. Only 15 hours after arriving, he left Fort Bragg to complete his voyage to San Francisco. He then repaired *Oumei* and continued sailing, returning to Japan via Mexico and the South Pacific.

Back in Japan, Ikegawa-san pursued a career as a boat carpenter, and would eventually own his own boatbuilding business. During his tenure, he built *Hanamaru*, a strong, cold-molded gaff-rigged ketch that he and Kazue-san are currently cruising aboard. Nearly everything on the boat is handmade: from the articulating bowsprit (which saves marina fees by folding up and reducing the LOA of the boat) to the deadeye turnbuckles and skillfully whipped rigging. The boat is small by modern American cruising standards, but the Ikegawas seem very content with their home. Ikegawa-san proudly pulled out the original plans to show us the exquisite drawings by the Japanese naval architect who designed the boat.

But Ikegawa-san didn't spend all of his time running his business after he returned to Japan from his epic 1977 Pacific crossing. He continued with a string of sailing adventures, including round trips to Hawaii and New Zealand. Last summer's Pacific crossing was the start of his fourth major voyage, but both Ikegawa-san and Kazue-san displayed humility regarding their impressive accomplishments. Offering us Japanese tea, Kazue-san lightheartedly admitted her lack of enthusiasm for sailing across oceans. Yet, here she was, shrugging off the tribulations of an almost two-month passage.

At the end of January, the Ikegawas sailed under the Golden Gate bound for La Paz, Mexico. After that they will begin working their way down to the tip of South America for the southern summer. We wish them well as they continue their journey and hope that their adventures will inspire another generation of Japanese sailors.

— bruce balan



TOMIO IKEGAWA