



Trades his tux for Marine togs



U.S. Marine Corps photos
SINGER TURNED MARINE James Shigeta is proving a solid performer, although his stage is no longer the type with footlights but a California training camp for Korea-bound Marines.

JAMES SHIGETA, who used to look pretty snappy in a dinner jacket, is wearing another outfit these days. If anything it's even more elegant than the clothes he used to don as a big-time entertainer.

Shigeta, 23, well-known Honolulu singer who has toured the cafe circuit in the States as well, got his draft notice recently and chose the Marine Corps as the outfit he'd most like to go to Korea with.

The new recruit is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Shigeta of Honolulu. He got his start toward a stage career in school productions at the University of Hawaii.

He had nothing more on his mind than studying for his AB in English and occasionally taking part in school productions when friends talked him into entering an amateur hour contest. He was so outstandingly good that he breezed through the preliminaries and was flown to New York for the finals.

He breezed through that, too and

won \$2,000 and a chance for a Hollywood screen test.

It turned out so well that MGM put him in school in Hollywood where Shigeta, at that time 21 years old, stu-



DRESS UNIFORM of Marines looks good on Shigeta, as did his tux when he was singer Guy Brion.

died singing and took lessons in dancing and acting, as well.

Meanwhile, he participated in radio and television shows with actors such as Bing Crosby and Edgar Bergen and on the side appeared with stage shows at places like the Palace theater in New York.

That developed into a full-time job when Shigeta took to the road under the name of Guy Brion. Night clubbers in Las Vegas saw him at the Flamingo there and Chicagoans saw him at the Palmer House and he finally wound up the tour as a featured performer at the Mocambo in Hollywood.

He returned to Hawaii last year when his draft number came up and made a successful concert tour of the outer islands. The Civic Auditorium in Honolulu was packed to capacity when Shigeta came home to give his final concert.

With his partner, Charles Davis, Jimmie was so well received that a second performance was scheduled in response

to popular demand. He was inducted into the service on the morning of that concert and, technically, was a Leatherneck when he stepped onto the stage that night.

Jimmie's career has not been confined to singing alone. He has, on occasion, ranged into the legitimate theater. While at the University of Hawaii he played the lead in the Honolulu Theater Guild's production of Elmer Rice's "Street Scene." On the mainland he appeared in a concert at the Hollywood Bowl and was tested for the lead in "The King and I," the hit Broadway musical. He was also considered for the lead in Cheryl Crawford's latest production, "Paint Your Wagon."

Now stationed at Camp Pendleton, the Marine Corps' training base in Oceanside, Calif., Jimmie is training with a replacement group for combat in Korea. He may well be in the fight when this story is published.

He appears regularly on the Marines' radio show, "Marines in Review," which originates in California and is broadcast on a weekly nationwide hook-up by the American Broadcasting Company.



SHIGETA WAS SHIPPED out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., for training. He was quickly drafted for the camp's weekly national hookup radio show, "Marines in Review."

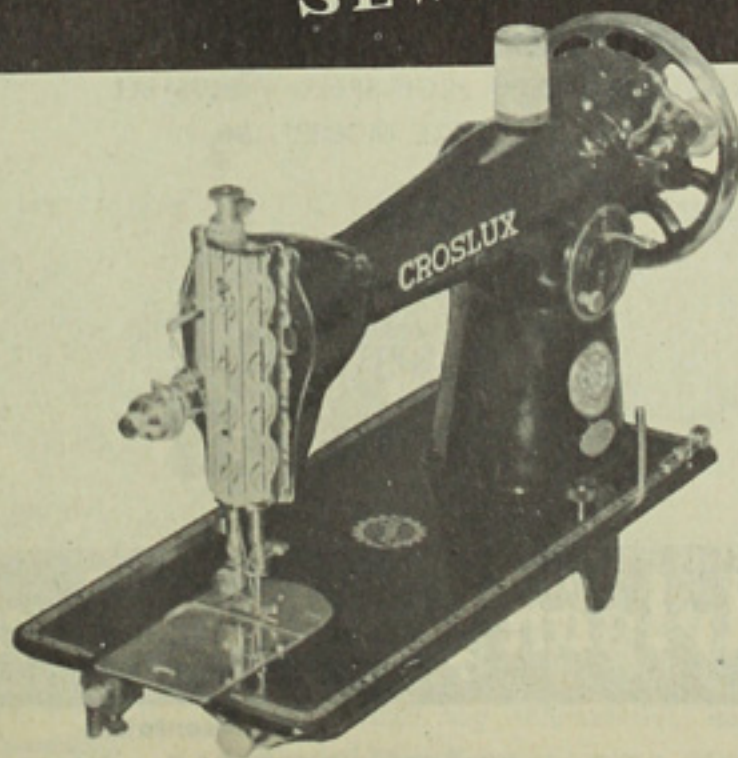
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HIS MOTHER was backstage to say aloha when Shigeta left for the Marine Corps barracks after his farewell concert at Honolulu Civic Auditorium.

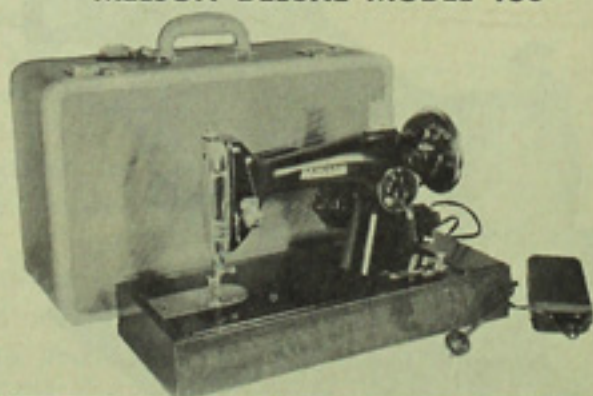
PATSY KIM showed how she felt about Shigeta's leaving with a hug and a kiss backstage. She added her lei to the others around his neck.



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