



Helen Altonn



Meghan Akim

10-18-05 HSB D2

Legendary Helen Altonn marks 50 years with Bulletin

HELEN ALTONN came here expecting to spend a couple of years with the Star-Bulletin and then return to the mainland. Friday we celebrated Helen's 50 years of superior reporting for the newspaper at a luncheon with salmon, a champagne toast and strawberries in our Restaurant Row newsroom. Helen is a legend when it comes to Hawaii journalism, and at age 74 there is no retirement in sight. Her actual anniversary date is Oct. 22. She did not want any celebration so she scheduled vacation that week. But there was no way this much-respected reporter was going to get away without being honored for her remarkable career. Editor Frank Bridge-water scheduled the party a week early so she would be here. Frank and Tim Ryan, who received guidance from Helen when he joined the paper, gave meaningful talks about the tough reporter that brought tears to her eyes and to those of hardened staffers. Frank gave her two round-trip air tickets to the mainland as a company gift. Besides employees, many Star-Bulletin retirees attended the luncheon, catered by Murphy's. The food was a cut well above the usual office-party grinds ...



WOOD CRAFT

Ben Wood