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a thoughtful, thought-provoking gift

*Few remember the name Saihei Okada, yet it was his self-taught expertise that brought life-giving water to plantations and towns on Maui...*



Saihei Okada was twenty-four years old when he arrived in Spreckelsville. He had come from Kumamoto Prefecture with a third-grade education and no knowledge of English, but as the Hawaiian Reporter noted, "Night after night his oil lamp burned in a labor camp bunkhouse. Under his mosquito netting...with legs crossed in front of him, he worked his pencil to learn the alphabet and mathematics."

Okada taught himself algebra and trigonometry, and became an expert surveyor for the East Maui Irrigation Company....

On November 18, 1935 Okada invited (long time family friend Shinichi) Makino to see one of the tunnels he had been surveying. David Okada, Saihei's grandson recalled... "a construction crew working near the tunnel was not aware of (their) presence. The two men were still within the tunnel when a large dynamite charge was detonated at one end... The concussive pressure killed both men instantly."

*Every Grain of Rice by Rita Goldman. Hardcover, 240 pages. \$44.95.*

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