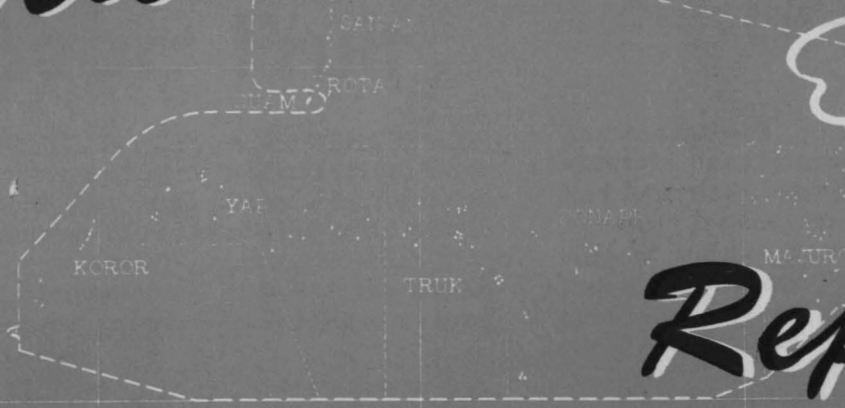


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# Micronesian



# Reporter

PUBLISHED BY HEADQUARTERS ——— TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Volume V, Number 1

January - February 1957

Agana, Guam, M. I.



Balance Race - Palau School Girls ( Story on page 13)

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# An Idea Bears Fruit

## Entomology Laboratory at Koror Has Been Base for Many Scientists Interested in Research in the Pacific Islands.

SIGNIFICANTLY, A PROJECT which was initiated as a means of honoring American world war dead in the Pacific by the establishment of research laboratories for the use of scientists wishing to work in the area, has borne fruit, although the organization which prompted the idea is no longer functioning.

For the Entomology Laboratory at Koror, Palau District, which was established in 1950 by Mr. Robert P. Owen, Trust Territory Staff Entomologist, is to some extent the outgrowth of another laboratory which was in existence between 1947 and 1950 in the present Weather Bureau building on Koror. This other laboratory was operated by an enterprise known as the Pacific War Memorial.

The Entomology Laboratory received its initial start by inheriting certain supplies, materials and equipment from the Pacific War Memorial through the offices of the Pacific Science Board of the National Research Council, which organization acted as receiver for the Pacific War Memorial when the latter was forced to cease operation because of lack of funds.

The Entomology Laboratory is occupying a building immediately adjacent to the Weather Bureau building on Koror. In 1950 it was the empty shell of a Japanese concrete structure. U. S. Navy funds were made available to roof over a part of this shell and to install electricity and plumbing. Since that time the building has been improved gradually without the appropriation of any special funds, through the help of visiting scientists and of the district administration of Palau, as well as through the efforts of the Staff Entomologist and materials and labor which have been available to him. The structure is approximately one hundred feet long by twenty feet wide. The lower floor consists of two laboratory rooms, a store room and a lavatory. The upper story which covers about half of the building, contains a two room apartment and lavatory. The apartment is fully equipped with necessary living ac-

commodations, some of which, including an electric range, modern sink unit, lavatory and bedroom, were added to the apartment recently by the George Vanderbilt Foundation in return for the privilege of a temporary occupancy of these upstairs quarters and one of the laboratory rooms on the ground floor.

The main laboratory room is occupied by two members of the Trust Territory staff, Entomologist Owen and Marine Biologist John McGowan. The laboratory is surrounded by about an acre of land, half of which is landscaped in lawn and shrubs. A part of the grounds is used for thirty sawdust heaps presently being used by Entomologist Owen to artificially breed large numbers of the wasp Scolia ruficornis, which shows good possibilities for the control of the Rhinoceros Coconut Beetle in the Palau Islands.

The main laboratory is provided with a considerable amount of laboratory equipment and supplies for use in the natural sciences. Microscopes, laboratory glassware, plant driers and various chemicals are available for use. Special laboratory tables and sinks also have been installed.

The Palau Islands are of particular interest to natural scientists for a variety of reasons, and the Trust Territory Entomology Laboratory, which could now quite properly be called the Biological Laboratory, has been of service to many who have visited these islands since the war. The existence of a usable laboratory and living quarters in connection with the Entomology Laboratory has no doubt contributed to the parade of scientists to Palau. Since 1950, thirty-three of these scientists have used the laboratory for their work. These include an archeologist, an oceanographer, a microbiologist, a paleontologist, a plant pathologist, a malacologist, a forester, a geologist, two anthropologists, eight entomologists, three botanists, four ichthyologists, four marine biologists and four fisheries biologists. Some of these scientists have used

*Continued on page 28*



# "The Pirates" are Studying Habits of Rats



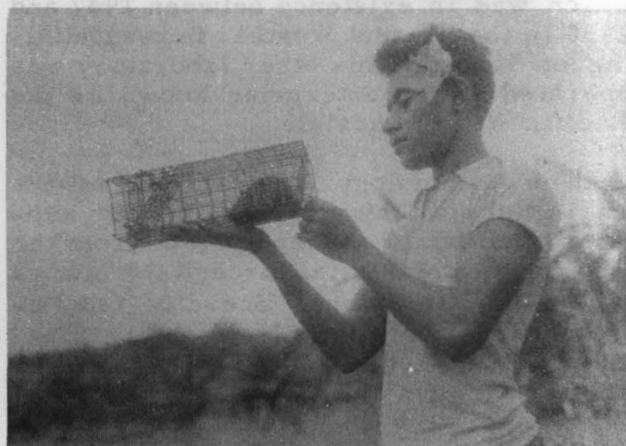
Maynard Edward measures a rat.



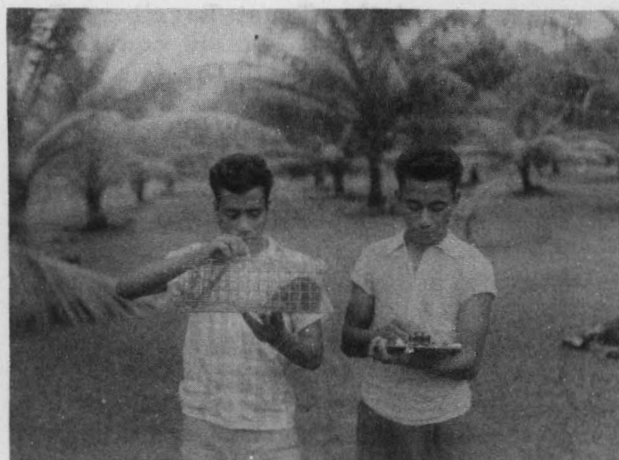
Yeswo Kiliopas autopsies a rat.



Maynard Edward displays rat caught in a snap-trap.



Hemon Frank examines rat captured in a live-trap.



Hemon Frank records information while Maynard Edward examines rat in live-trap.



Here a Ponape rat has been neatly caught in a snap-trap. PIRATES will examine it.

# THE PIRATES HAVE LANDED

## - - rats are their prize

By Robert L. Strecker and William B. Jackson

THE PIRATES FIRST landed on Ponape in the summer of 1955. No one was harmed, though, since these were a new kind of Pirate. In this case PIRATE is the code name of a project set up by the Pacific Science Board and actually represents the Pacific Island Rat Ecology Project. Rats are recognized as a serious pest wherever they occur. They can cause much damage to houses and furnishings, eat many desirable foods and contaminate even more, and are capable of spreading several serious diseases.

In the United States and Europe much research on the basic life history and behavior of rats has been done, and improved control methods have resulted from these studies. Less work has been done in the tropics, however, and practically none in a Pacific Island environment other than on Hawaii. The PIRATE Project was established to fit this need - a detailed study of how rats live on a Pacific island to provide a sound basis for developing control procedures. Ponape was picked as the home base because it has everything - a high island with small islets and some atolls nearby, a big variety of vegetation and hence different habitats, good working facilities, and of course, rats.

The project actually began with the arrival of Dr. J. T. Marshall, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, and Dr. W. B. Jackson, U. S. Public Health Service, Newton, Georgia, and their families in August, 1955. In July, 1956, Dr. R. L. Strecker from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and his family arrived. The study will continue until the spring of 1958.

There are on Ponape three kinds of rats and the house mouse. Some or all of these occur on all occupied islands in the Trust Territory as far as we know. The Norway rat, the common inland rat of the United States, is the least common here, occurring chiefly around dock and store areas. House mice are fairly common, but only around human habitations. The roof rat

(or ship rat) and the Polynesian rat are the common rats of the houses and boondocks, occurring everywhere from the mangrove swamps to the mountain tops. Before arrival of the white man, only the small Polynesian rat was found in Micronesia; the rest have been brought in unwittingly on ships at various times.

The aim of the PIRATE Project is to find out as much as possible about rats. We want to learn such things as where they live, how long they live, how much they move about, how many young they have, how often they have them, where they build their nests, what they eat, and how well the different kinds get along together.

We are trying to learn these things in a variety of ways. In several large areas we trap rats alive, mark each one differently by cutting off the tips of different toes, and then let them go again. When we recapture them at later dates we learn how far they have moved and how long they have lived. We regularly catch rats in ordinary rat traps and autopsy them to see how many are pregnant, how many young they are having, what parasites are present, and what foods are in their stomachs. Trapping is done in many different areas to see where they occur. Some tests on swimming ability have been made to see how long and how far they can swim. Other tests on several different rat poisons have been run to check their effectiveness.

The PIRATES also helped out at the Trust Territory School for Sanitarians held at Ponape in the summer of 1956. At the sanitarians' suggestion and with their help, we are writing a booklet on rat control for Micronesia.

The PIRATES on Ponape don't appear to be too dangerous, then. All we will take away with us are a number of dead rats and a lot of knowledge about them. We hope to leave behind a better understanding of rats, and a better knowledge of how to control them.



# *Micronesian Reporter*

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## TRUST TERRITORY OF PACIFIC ISLANDS

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### HIGHLIGHT ON THE SCIENTIFIC

EMPHASIS in this issue of the MICRONESIAN REPORTER is on topics of a scientific nature. Because of the very fact that most of Micronesia still is in an undeveloped state, and because the expanse over which it stretches is so large, the area offers a wide field for research; hence it is no surprise that a variety of scientific programs are in progress. Some are being conducted by the Trust Territory Administration, others by outside agencies and organizations, but all are devoted to studies which are expected to be of ultimate value in the development of Micronesia, and some are being put to immediate practical use.

Not all of the current programs of research are touched upon in this issue: a major project concerning the coconut will be discussed in a future edition of the MICRONESIAN REPORTER, as will other related scientific and research subjects. The archaeological pursuits of Dr. Edward W. Gifford of the University of California were described in a recent issue.

Contributions to the MICRONESIAN REPORTER are welcome. Persons interested in submitting an article and pictures on any subject, may write to the Editor, MICRONESIAN REPORTER, Trust Territory, Box 542, Agana, Guam

### LIFTER OR LEANER?

The two kinds of people on earth I've seen  
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

Wherever you go you will find the world's masses

Are always divided in just these two classes.

And oddly enough, you will find too, I've seen,

There is only one lifter to twenty who lean.

In which class are you? Are you easing the load

Of overtaxed lifters who toil down the road?

Or are you a leaner, who lets others bear  
Your portion of labor, and worry, and care?

--Anonymous

### CIVIL SERVICE CREED EXPRESSES OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

Following is the Federal "Creed of Service" of Civil Service employees. To this creed all, whether contract employees or day laborers, may well subscribe.

"We as members of the civil service, accept our obligation and our opportunity to serve the American people well and in full measure, doing our best to further the free and democratic institutions of our country.

"We believe it is our duty to:

Carry out loyally the will of the people as expressed in our laws;

Serve the public with fairness, courtesy, integrity and understanding;

Help improve the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of our work."

### HANDBOOK IS AVAILABLE

Many people have inquired if they could purchase extra copies of the Trust Territory HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION published in 1956 for the United Nations Visiting Mission. A second printing has been made, and copies are now available. Price is \$1.50. Make checks payable to Treasurer, Trust Territory, Box 542, Agana, Guam.

# Water Shortages and Salt Water Seepage Are Among Problems That Plague Trust Territory

## *U. S. Geological Survey Assesses the Situation*

ONE WHO NEVER has visited the Trust Territory would be skeptical of a water shortage in an area where the average annual rainfall is more than 100 inches, and where in some parts it is reputed to be 255 inches.

Nor does it seem likely that the water provided for drinking, run from reservoirs through pipes, could ever become so mixed with water from the ocean as to make it unnecessary to add salt when one cooks rice for breakfast or taro for supper.

Yet these are two of the major problems in the Trust Territory with respect to water; for the area of Micronesia is so great that vastly different rainfall conditions prevail in different parts; likewise the geology is so varied that, particularly in the low atolls, the encroachment of salt water into fresh water is of vital concern to those entrusted with the territory's development.

Something, however, is being done about these and related problems.

A small group of men representing the U. S. Geological Survey are quietly but continuously at work checking the water and its sources, testing its suitability for drinking and cooking purposes, determining the potential supply for the future, and investigating the effect upon agriculture from seepage of salt water into the land. Their survey is a cooperative one, carried out in conjunction with the Trust Territory Government and the U. S. Armed Forces. Leader of the group currently stationed in Guam, which makes periodic reconnaissance and research studies in the Trust Territory, is Porter Ward, youthful geologist. Working with him is a crew of four; their area of assignment includes not only the Trust Territory but also the island of Guam.

In addition to the hydrology studies, several other geology and soil projects are being followed. Currently an additional team of two is engaged in a soils-survey project at Yap. Other programs under the U. S. Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior, include research by Ray Fosberg, author of "Botanical Report on Micronesia" and other studies.

How much water is there in the Trust Territory? How good is it? Whence does it come? Is it adequate for the future needs of a developing Micronesia? What can be done about the salt-water encroachment? Can the water shortages be licked?

These are some of the specific questions under study. Water research has been in progress in the Trust Territory since the area came under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior in 1951. An early study which included water research, known as Project Atoll, was conducted in the Marshalls by the U. S. Geological Survey and other agencies, to determine what research is needed in connection with water, minerals and health. At Yap Island, also at Ifalik and Ulithi, preliminary studies of the use and availability of water have been carried out. Chemical analyses of water have been made at Angaur, and exploratory reconnaissance surveys have been conducted at Koror. Considerable research also has been done at Saipan.

At Truk a continuing project is in progress. Preliminary studies have been finished, and a more complete study is to start in the spring of 1957, to establish gages in streams and correlate the geology with the hydrology and the rainfall--in other words--to determine actually how much water there is in Truk and how to get it and develop it. A report with recommendations and all the findings will be issued at the completion of this work.



# Trust Territory Figures in IGY Program

*Secrets of space being studied*

IGY, the International Geophysical Year, is by now familiar to much of the world. The earth satellite program is preparing an assault on the secrets of space outside the earth's atmosphere. Expeditions have already penetrated Antarctica's uncharted interior, and are challenging the worst of the world's climates to add to our knowledge of the planet on which we live.

These bold projects have naturally captured the public imagination. The phase of IGY which is to include Koror, Palau District, in its operation is not so spectacular, but it is just as important in the overall plan. Data collected by the satellite and by the polar stations must be correlated with information gathered in as many parts of the world as possible before its significance can be interpreted. For this reason, it is part of the assignment of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, U. S. Department of Commerce, to operate a chain of geomagnetic and seismological observatories in the Pacific, from Point Barrow, Alaska, in the north to the Antarctic stations in the south. The observatories on Koror and Guam are now under construction, under the supervision of Mr. David D. Newman, who will be Observer in Charge at Guam. All observatories are scheduled to be in operation by April 1, 1957, three months before the IGY commences officially. Records thenceforth will be maintained continuously up to and through the spring of 1959, for purposes of comparison.

One mission of the Pacific chain of observatories, more than a dozen in all, is the measurement and recording of the fluctuations of the earth's magnetic field. It is well-known that the earth is a giant magnet. Like any magnet, it has its north and south magnetic poles (somewhat different from the geographic poles) and a patterned field of magnetic attractions surrounding it. This magnetic field is constantly changing, in daily, yearly, and

long-period cycles. Instruments for calibrating these changes and for recording them photographically will be in operation continuously.

In addition to geomagnetic work, the Pacific observatories will operate seismological instruments, for measuring and recording earth motion. As well as maintaining around-the-clock recordings, they will serve as links in the international seawave warning system. Tremors reaching a certain magnitude actuate an alarm which calls an observer, and the photographic record is immediately developed and studied. If any dangerous potentiality is suspected, a report is radioed to the Honolulu observatory, the center of the system, where the reports from various locations are combined and any necessary seawave warning made public.

All geomagnetic and seismological records from the observatories will be sent to Washington, D. C., for correlation and interpretation. The combined data will be tabulated and studied, a task which will require several years. It is expected that this study will yield valuable information on the structure and composition of the earth's interior, of which very little is now known.

The Koror Magnetic Observatory and the two men who will operate it are only one small unit of the world-wide IGY program. It is a unit, nevertheless, which is a vital part of this all-out scientific effort to fill the gaps in man's knowledge of his environment.

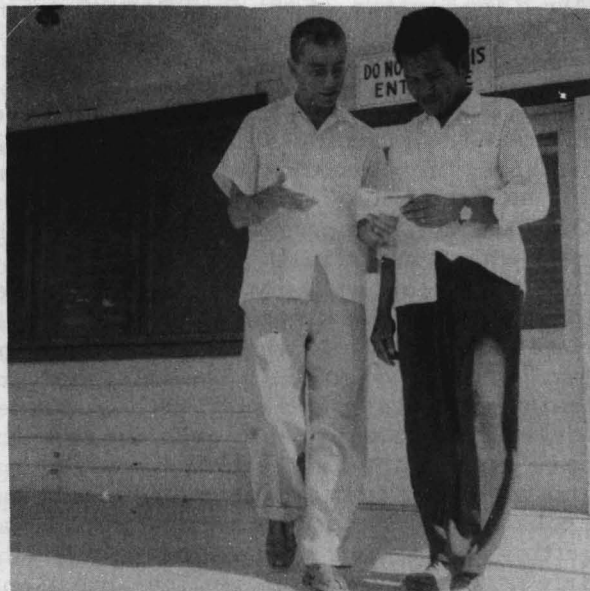
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## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AHEAD?

A GENTLEMAN from Minnesota, veteran of the Mexican border campaign and of World War I, has written requesting some used railroad, street car and bus tickets of the type currently in use in the Trust Territory, to add to his world-wide hobby transit collection.

*"I can't believe it!"*  
This was Mr. Oiterong's  
first reaction to news  
that he might be chosen  
to accompany the High  
Commissioner to U.N. Trustee-  
ship Council hearings.

*Alfonso, right, chats with  
Staff Anthropologist John E.  
deYoung at Trust Territory  
Headquarters before both  
depart for New York.*



## MY TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES

*By Alfonso R. Oiterong*

### "I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!"

This was my reaction when Mr. Dan Peacock, our Educational Administrator, showed me a dispatch from the High Commissioner's office saying that I was being considered as Trust Territory delegate to the meeting of the United Nations Trusteeship Council in New York. I felt this was too good to be true. I did not dare mention the news to my wife until three days before leaving.

The trip covered more than 10,000 miles by air from Palau to East Coast United States and took about 40 hours of flight time. Stopovers were made at Guam, Honolulu and San Francisco. Five days were spent on Guam, two nights in Honolulu, and 19 hours in San Francisco.

In Guam, I met with Mr. D. H. Nucker, who was then Acting High Commissioner, and Mr. John deYoung, Staff Anthropologist, who briefed me on what our respective responsibilities would be as special representatives to the U. N. I also was informed that the three of us would make our departures separately; that I would meet Mr. deYoung at Honolulu and again at San Francisco, and that we would meet Mr. Nucker in Washington.

In Honolulu, I was able to meet with Trust Territory students as well as with some of my classmates whom I had known when I was a student at the University of Hawaii between 1950 and 1952.

I took my first step on the continental United States at San Francisco on June 11, 1956. It was after three o'clock in the morning and the chilly weather made me shiver.

During the limited time that I had in San Francisco, I was fortunate in being able to meet with Mr. Sidney Burnett, former District Administrator of Palau, and his wife. I happened to be passing by the San Francisco News building when I remembered that this is where Mrs. Burnett is working. That afternoon, accompanied by Mrs. Burnett and her daughter Suzie, I had my first glimpse of the inside of a TV studio. Later, after stopping by at their home for a while, Mrs. Burnett took me for a short ride over the steepest and the most crooked street I have ever seen.

After going through a bewildering process for securing transportation arrange-



ment, I found myself boarding a United Air Lines plane at the San Francisco International Air Field, bound for Washington, D. C.

I arrived in Washington at seven o'clock the morning of June 13. As I was finishing my breakfast at the airport dining hall, someone called out, "Mr. Alfonso Oiterong, telephone call at the desk!" The call was from Mr. Nucker. I rushed out into a taxicab with my luggage and asked the driver to take me to the Roger Smith Hotel, not knowing where it was nor how far I would be going. The mid-morning traffic was heavy and everybody appeared to be going somewhere in a hurry. The cars were moving slowly, one behind another, in a stream of traffic that was probably several miles long. The day was getting warm and uncomfortable, and the driver seemed to be getting impatient.

At the hotel, Mr. Nucker had kindly made arrangements for a room for me and I relaxed there for a little while.

I was surprised when Dr. Jack Taylor called over the phone and said that Atlan Anien of the Marshall Islands was arriving in Washington at six that evening. Atlan was a classmate of mine at PITTS (Pacific Islands Teacher Training School) when it was established on Guam in 1947 as the first Trust Territory teacher-training school. Atlan and I have been very good friends since that time. He is now studying at a college in the state of Indiana.

Dr. Taylor stopped by for me at the hotel after picking Atlan up at the station. That night, we had a delightful reunion at Dr. Taylor's home. I was especially glad to see Mr. Harry Stille who had been Island Affairs Officer in Palau four years ago. "Ke unangerang!" (How are you!) he called out, still remembering the Palauan greeting.

The second day in Washington, Mr. Nucker and I went to the Office of Territories, Department of Interior, where I was introduced to Mr. Anthony T. Lausi, Director of the Office of Territories, and to Mr. Bill Yeomans who was to be with us, later at the Trusteeship Council meeting in New York. Then we went up to see Dr. Taylor at the Office of Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs at the House

of Representatives. Atlan was there, too, and we were introduced to the members of the committee, following which we sat down and observed the committee in session for the rest of the morning. I was pleased to shake hands with some of the congressmen who visited Palau in 1955. Mr. George W. Abbott, consultant to the committee, kindly explained to us about the item which was being debated in the committee meeting. It was a debate over a resolution on "The Establishment of the Horse Shoe Bend National Military Park in the State of Alabama."

After Dr. Taylor and I lunched with Mr. David Fuss, who is said to have taught in the Marshall Islands some years ago, we spent the afternoon observing Congress in session. I had not known that sessions of Congress were normally open to the public; I was impressed by the size of the audience and the number of tourists. In the Senate, I was puzzled by the behavior of some of the senators who, instead of paying attention to the discussion that was going on, were reading papers or were chatting with their neighbors. They were, probably, so familiar with the matters being discussed that it wasn't necessary for them to pay any attention. On the other hand, the debate in the House of Representatives was very interesting. I liked the way the chairman presided over the discussion with individuals getting up to make remarks and moving that a motion be carried.

Dr. Taylor and Mr. Fuss were very kind to us. They introduced Atlan and myself to some important gentlemen in the Capitol. We even had an opportunity to meet Senator James H. Duff of Pennsylvania. I felt nervous when we shook hands with the senator and sat down with him for a discussion of about fifteen minutes; however, I found him to be a kinder and friendlier person than he looked.

My five days in Washington gave me great pleasure. Everyone I met was very nice to me. Harry Stille drove me around the city, one day, to all the famous places: Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, etc. At the Marine Corps Memorial, I found "Peleliu" spelled out on the edge of the concrete wall and I felt very good. On the following day, Miss Edna Barr drove Atlan and me out of the city to Mount Vernon where President Washington had lived and died. The

beautiful home is located on a view across the river, with numerous varieties of plants growing around it.

My friend, Harry Stille, had strongly recommended that we see the play, "Tea-house of the August Moon," so Atlan and I went to see it one night. It was very good; in addition to being humorous, it was realistic. It reminded me of Palau nine years ago when only a handful of Palauans had acquired even as much as a smattering of broken English and we were faced on many occasions with difficulty in understanding American military personnel. Interpreters often made unexpected mistakes in relaying messages from Americans to the Palauans.

On June 17, Mr. Nucker and I left Washington aboard a train, arriving in New York four hours later. At Pennsylvania Station we got into a cab which took us to the Vanderbilt Hotel where we joined Mr. deYoung. As soon as Mr. Nucker and I were settled in our respective rooms, we went out and caught a bus. After riding on it for about fifteen blocks, we got out and walked. I felt terribly small, walking at the foot of tall and huge buildings around Rockefeller Center. Cathedral Building was one of these impressive buildings. I had to strain the muscles of my neck to look up its sides. Empire State Building could be seen sticking up into the sky from many blocks away.

As it was Sunday night, many of the restaurants were closed. After strolling along for several blocks, we decided to try Japanese food. Sukiyaki was delicious. Although the sashimi was also good, I thought it was no better than the sashimi we have back on Koror. Looking around at the people in the restaurant, I felt that most of them had come in just to test the food. Some were trying to use chopsticks and seemed to find it amusing. Occasionally, there would be laughter and giggles at a table when someone had lost control of the implements.

The view of Times Square at night is heavenly. Countless numbers of neon lights advertising products in all the different colors, merge into an incredible loveliness. Thousands and thousands of

people walk about with no particular purpose, apparently, other than to view this stirring spectacle. I was especially amazed and puzzled by a waterfall on the roof of a department store; where the water goes or what it accomplishes I don't know.

On the following day, Monday, Mr. Robert Halvorsen, District Administrator of Yap who was on his annual leave, came to the hotel, and we all went together to the headquarters of the United States Mission in the United Nations Building. I was introduced to Mr. Mason Sears, U. S. delegate to the Trusteeship Council, and to his staff. They were all very kind to us and offered us the use of an office. Mr. Yeomans and Commander L. Gordon Findley were there, too, having arrived from Washington. I spent the whole morning reviewing the speech I had prepared for presentation to the Trusteeship Council.

In the afternoon, Mr. Halvorsen and I went on a three-hour boat ride around Manhattan Island. The two-decked boat which we boarded was full of tourists and it steamed eastward. The day was clear and the Hudson River was calm all the way to East River. The sceneries we watched of New Jersey and the New York skyline were almost too beautiful to be real. The Rockefeller Center, the Empire State Building, and the U. N. Secretariat Building were especially impressive. The captain of the boat permitted the craft to get very close to the Statue of Liberty, enabling me to see it clearly and take pictures of it. We passed numerous other places but I do not recall their names.

Later in the afternoon, we went up the Empire State Building. This was a thrilling experience. I hardly dared to look down where people and cars moved like microscopic organisms. The Empire State Building makes it possible to see how magnificent the city of New York is. It is the greatest city in the world.

On the evening of our third day in New York, after we adjourned from the Trusteeship Council hearing, Mr. Nucker, Mr. Yeomans, Commander Findley and I went to watch a night baseball game at Brooklyn. I believe this was the day Mr. Nucker and I had delivered our talks to the Coun-



cil. While watching the game which was between the Dodgers and the Red Sox, my attention was often drawn to the booming sound of the crowd and to the calls of the peddlers: "peanuts, cakes, chocolate, cold beer." I did not have the courage to take a cold beer while shivering in the middle of a chilly evening. The stadium was not as crowded as I had expected it would be, yet the number of spectators gathered there was as great or perhaps greater than the entire population of the Trust Territory. I always enjoyed strolling around Radio City with Mr. Nucker and Mr. Yeomans or with Mr. deYoung and Mr. Halvorsen. Most of the time, however, I would go out alone. Among the several movies and stage shows that I saw, I thought the floor show at Music Hall was the most spectacular. The vision of an orchestra slowly rising from underneath the stage is amazing. The play, "Witness for Prosecution," was also very good.

I was surprised to meet Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, former district agriculturist and teacher, respectively, at Truk, who had come to listen to our opening speeches. On Saturday, they took me on an extensive tour outside New York by way of Washington Bridge. We drove for approximately eight hours through the countryside of the state of New Jersey, enjoying the sight of mountains, lakes and farms. On the way back, we came through Lincoln Tunnel across the river.

I went to the American Museum of Natural History, the Planetarium and Central Park. At an aquarium, some boys and girls were lifting a box with something long and black in it. It was a black snake of a kind I had never seen before. One of the girls picked it up with her hands and attempted to put it around my neck. I screamed with fright. It was probably a tame creature but snakes have always appeared ugly and dangerous to me.

The Trusteeship Council hearing on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands commenced on Tuesday, June 19, at 2 p.m. That morning as Mr. Nucker, Commander Findley, Mr. Yeomans, Mr. deYoung and I were getting ready at the office, I felt very restless and nervous. The meeting started on time but Mr. deYoung, Mr. Halvorsen and I were a few minutes late. I felt in-

creasingly nervous and frightened when we were guided into the meeting hall which was as quiet and solemn as the inside of a church. Here delegates of fourteen nations already were seated in a semi-circle with earphones over their ears. I sat with the U. S. delegation behind Mr. Nucker.

Among the dignitaries gathered in the meeting hall I recognized some who had visited the Trust Territory, such as Mr. N. Rifai of Syria, Sir Alan Burns of United Kingdom, Mr. M. E. Chacko of India, and Mr. Jose Rolz of Guatemala. I saw their friendly smiles and I felt somewhat better. Mr. Sears, the United States' delegate to the Trusteeship Council, stood up and introduced Mr. Nucker to the President, who is the gentleman from Syria, and to the Council members. Mr. Nucker made a wonderful speech. Next, Mr. Sears introduced me to the Council and requested the President's permission for my presentation. I felt my body go cold and my hands trembling. Gradually, I recovered my composure when I could see smiling and friendly faces around me. Then I was not afraid any more except that the delegate from Russia appeared so intent that I avoided looking at him during my delivery.

Following my speech, Sir John Macpherson, chairman of this year's U. N. Visiting Mission, gave his summary of the Mission's report and closed it with a farewell statement; he was leaving for England that night. Sir Alan Burns, chairman of the 1950 U. N. Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory, was introduced as successor to Sir John Macpherson. During recess, I had an opportunity to shake hands and talk with Mr. Rifai and Sir Alan at the delegates' lounge. These gentlemen remembered me from their visit to Palau in 1950. I also shook hands with delegates from Burma and China; they were all very nice. Mr. Victorio D. Carpio of the Philippines, another member of the 1950 Visiting Mission, although no longer a member of the Trusteeship Council, was there. He told the other gentlemen who were with him of the good time he had on his visit to the Trust Territory. He even recalled delivering a two-hour speech at the feast on Koror on the night before the Mission's departure from Palau. The atmosphere among the delegates as they chatted outside was very democratic and friendly. The

serious and gloomy faces one saw in the meeting hall were now all relaxed and smiling.

Interrogation by the distinguished representatives of the various nations began on the following day. Mr. Nucker answered all of the questions. This continued for four days. The fifth and sixth were set aside for debate and evaluation, and for suggestions as to what the United States might do to further improve the living standard of the people of the Trust Territory. Most of the delegates complimented Mr. Nucker highly on his good and concrete answers, and the Administering Authority for its fulfillment of its obligations.

Suggestions were mostly in the line of economic and political development for the inhabitants of the Trust Territory as a whole, and improvement in the living conditions. Some of the delegates seemed to think that a unified government for the inhabitants of the Trust Territory, rather than separation into individual districts, was preferable. In my opinion, the unification of Micronesians under a single government is an excellent idea. Nevertheless, I feel that there should be greater political educational and social development at the individual district level first. Moreover, there should be an increased emphasis on the teaching of English so that it will serve as the common language throughout the Trust Territory.

The distinguished delegate from Burma was very curious about the "Modekngai" religion of Palau. He asked me during recess whether the "Modekngai" was strictly a religion rather than a political party. I explained to him that I felt it was more of a social group rather than a religious body. I wondered if he would inquire into it in the formal meeting but he didn't.

On one occasion, Mr. Nucker and I were invited to luncheon by Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., Permanent U. S. Representative to the United Nations, and his staff. Mr. Leo W. O'Brien, U. S. Congressman, was also there, accompanied by Dr. Taylor. To describe Mr. Lodge, I can only say that he is a great gentleman. Congressman O'Brien and Dr. Taylor arrived from Washington on June 25 for a day of observation at the hearing. It is a great privilege and comfort to have a U. S. con-

gressman present at the hearing, knowing that he is listening to what the U. N. is recommending to the Administering Authority regarding the betterment of the people of the Trust Territory.

I am very grateful to Mr. Sears for the reception party he sponsored on the night of June 28. Most of the delegates of the member nations in the Trusteeship Council were present; some came with their wives while others came alone. I was able to chat with many delegates and their wives. They were all very warm and friendly people. By nine o'clock, there were eight of us left in the hall: Mr. Sears, Mr. Nucker, Mr. Yeomans, the delegate from Australia, three gentlemen from the State Department, and myself. We took cabs and went to a restaurant at Seventeenth Street and Third Avenue for dinner.

This was where we enjoyed our meals while listening to some typical German songs. I happened to meet a young fellow who asked me where I came from. When I told him that I came from Palau, he jumped up and said, "My friend, my name is Tom. I was in a Marine Corps unit which landed on Peleliu!" He hugged me as if I were his long lost brother.

Mr. Nucker and I left New York for Washington on June 29. During our four days in Washington, I saw Mr. Stille again. I also met his friend, Dr. Lang, who is teaching at Georgetown University.

One day, I took a long bus ride out of Washington around part of the state of Virginia. It was a ten-hour ride through the countryside by way of Waynesboro that enabled me to look at the mountains and stretches of cornfields and pasturelands.

On another day, Harry Stille and a friend took me to the Pentagon in the afternoon. What a huge building! The thousands of cars parked outside the building give some indication of the large number of people that are in the building itself. I imagine the number must be as large as the total population of Palau. Like a city within itself, the building contains various establishments, such as department stores, book stores, tailors, watchmakers, shoe stores, drug stores, restaurants, etc. I went up to see Commander Findley for



my travel authorization and to say good-bye to him. However, I could not see the five corners of the building. The building is much too large for a person to look at all of its corners.

I spent my last evening in Washington with Dr. and Mrs. Taylor and their children at their home in Maryland. I always feel at home when meeting these people. They are very kind to anyone from the Trust Territory. Next morning, on July 3, Dr. Taylor drove me to MATS airfield where I took the plane for San Francisco.

I have really learned that the United States is a large and great country. It is a country where the cities, farmlands, forests, deserts, and mountains meet the horizon. Even during the hot summer, its mountains, rising more than twelve thousand feet in height, are covered with snow. When our plane was about to cross a vast lake, I thought we had arrived at the Pacific Coast. A sergeant sitting beside me said, "My friend, that is not the ocean but the famous Salt Lake of the United States."

After waiting for four hours at Travis Airfield in California, I was on my way to Honolulu. Now, I am back in Palau after three full weeks of visiting in the United States, and, I am telling of my experiences and impressions to the people of Palau.

I am extremely grateful to the High Commissioner and his staff for providing me with the opportunity to attend the hearing of the Trusteeship Council, and to the people of both the State and Navy Departments for making all of the necessary arrangements.

I am now convinced that the following areas should be strongly stressed in our school curriculum as well as in our work with the community: (1) Study of the United Nations and its functions; (2) The obligations of the United States to, and its relationship with, the United Nations; and, (3) The obligations of Micronesians to, and their relationship with, the United States and the United Nations.

I have learned that complaints alone will never solve any of our problems unless, at the same time, we try ourselves to solve these problems to the best of our ability. We Micronesians should strive for a prosperous future. We should develop

a good working relationship with the Administering Authority all problems we wish to solve for mutual consideration before complaining about them. Petitioning to the U. N. should come later, for the U. N. is merely a body which makes suggestions to the Administering Authority. The actual solving of our problems is done by the Administering Authority and ourselves, the Micronesian people.

## PALAU INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

DURING THE CHRISTMAS VACATION, invitations to attend an "Open House" of the Intermediate School were sent out to parents of students of the Palau Intermediate School.

On January 10, 1957, a large gathering of parents was on hand for the "Palau Intermediate School Open House." What a crowd! For the first time in the history of the school, more than sixty parents were present to observe the activities and schedule of the school.

The purpose of this "Open House" was to give the parents of the students an opportunity to find out what their children are doing in school. For this reason, members of the faculty decided to proceed with the schedule as usual except for a few additional activities such as after-school baseball and square-dancing.

The parents were quite enthusiastic. Led in little troupes of five or six by student guides, they asked numerous questions as they passed on from one classroom to another. They became so interested in the activities going on that most of them paid little attention to the passing of time.

After observing the classes at work, the parents dined in the school galley with their children. This was followed by a meeting of parents and teachers.

The teachers had hoped that during the Parent-Teacher meeting the parents would offer some criticisms on the overall operation of the school. Nothing was received, however, except compliments.

— Yoich Kohama

"Guam Gazings" is missing from this issue of the MICRONESIAN REPORTER. Miss Thelma Gorman, who writes the column regularly, is on her vacation.

## POSTURE PERFECT - - COULD YOU DO AS WELL ?



*Taklau of Ngerechelong and Erminia*



*..... Itwong of Koror .....*

PALAU WOMEN LEARN EARLY in life to walk with a graceful carriage. They are adept at carrying bundles or baskets on their heads, as these pictures illustrate. Palau men have other special skills such as the stick dances for which they are noted, but the men of Palau do not carry articles on their heads successfully.

The cover picture shows Palauan school girls in a balancing race with bottles on their heads, one of the events of the 1956 Palau Fair. This is no easy trick--how about trying it? In the picture one girl only seems to be in difficulty. The boys also had a bottles-on-the head race, but it ended in laughter and confusion as

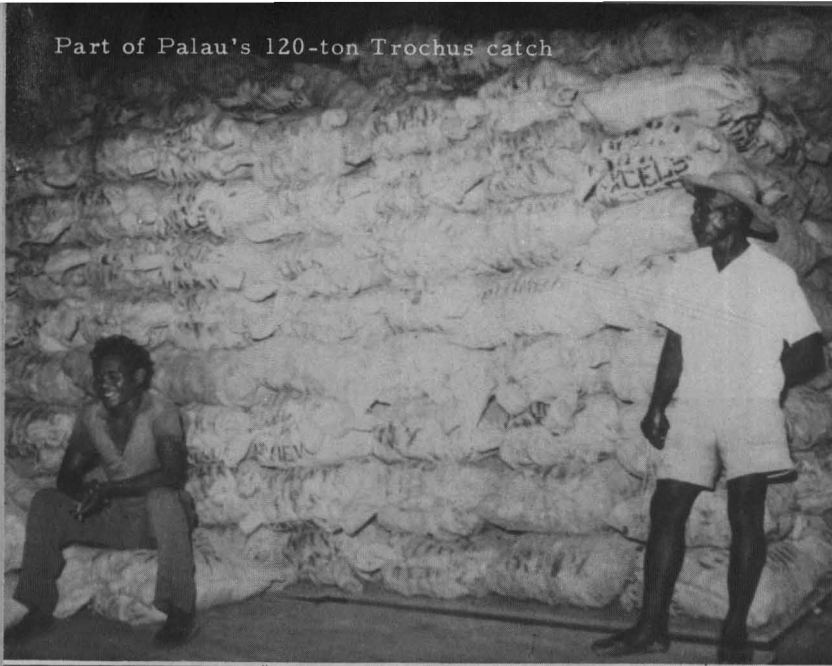
the bottles immediately toppled to the ground.

Above, left, is Taklou of Ngerechelong Municipality in Koror carrying food to a baby sick in the Koror Hospital. The food is in a dish, and the dish is wrapped as a bundle. With Taklou is her daughter, Erminia.

Nonchalantly carrying a load of hand-woven baskets on her head is Itwong of Koror, also strolling along the main road in Koror. A passing Palauan cyclist wonders how she does it--he can't carry bundles on his head.

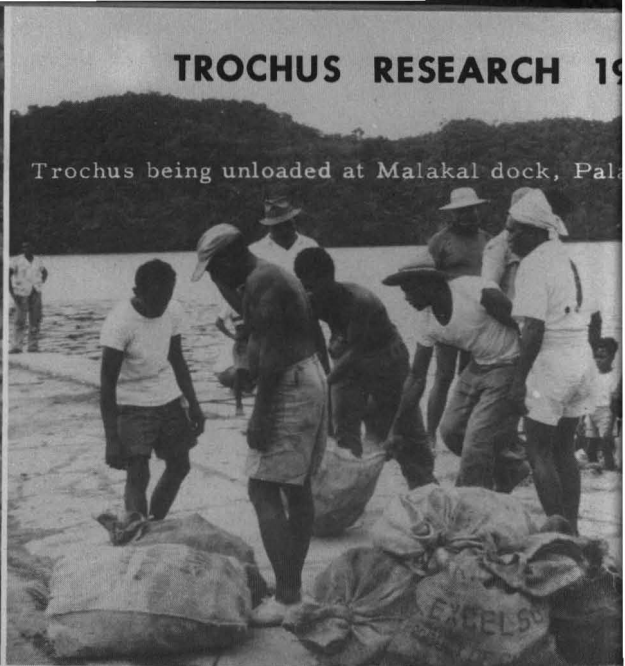


Part of Palau's 120-ton Trochus catch

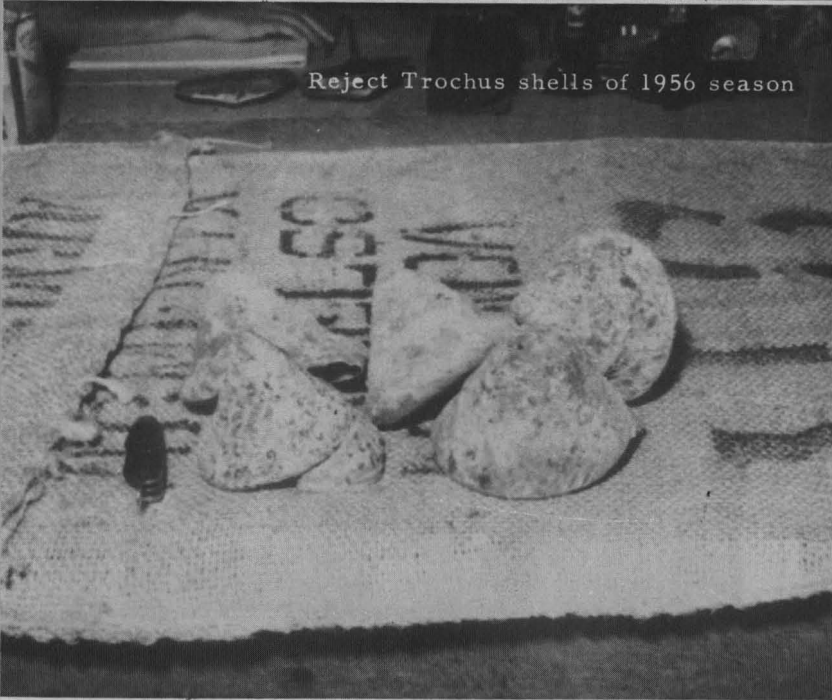


## TROCHUS RESEARCH 19

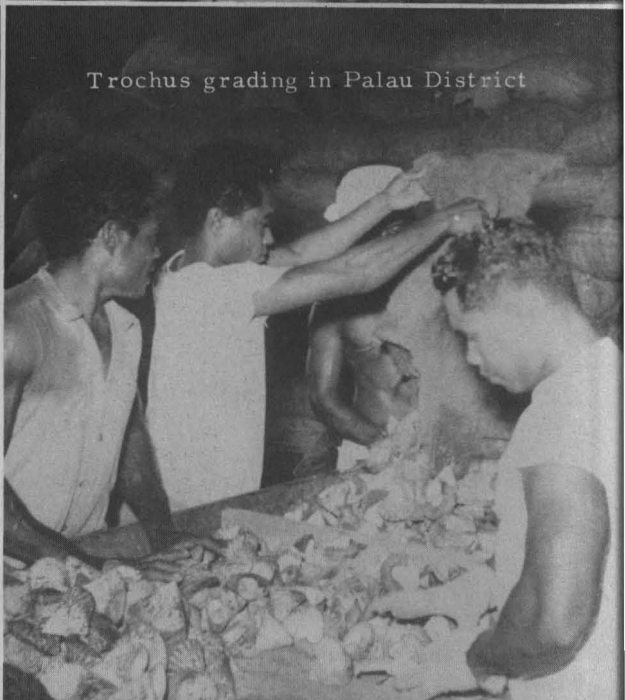
Trochus being unloaded at Malakal dock, Palau



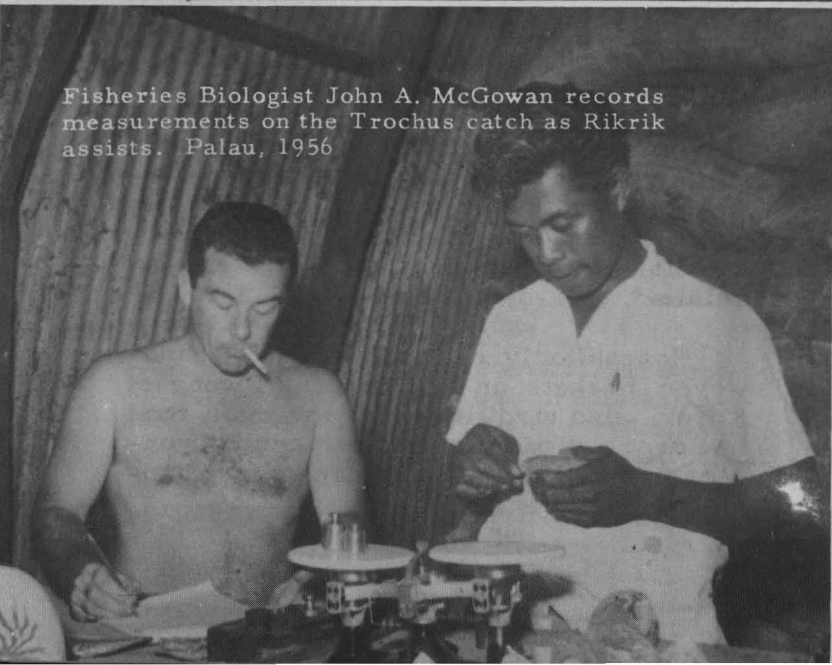
Reject Trochus shells of 1956 season



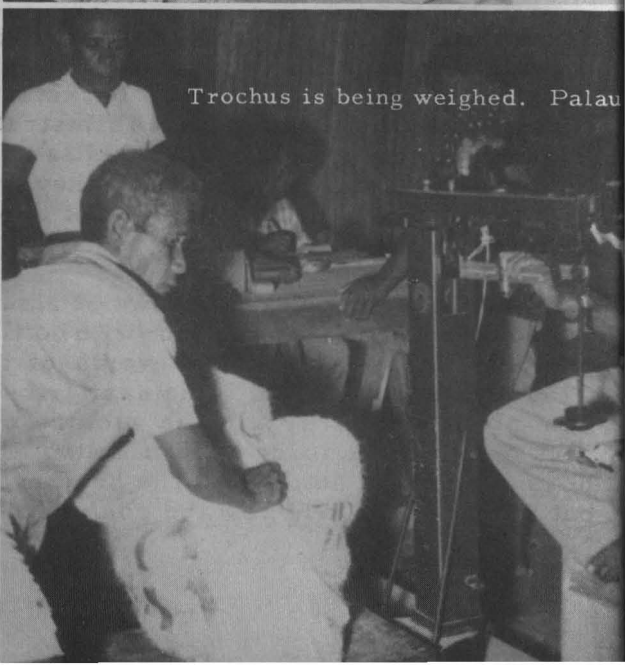
Trochus grading in Palau District



Fisheries Biologist John A. McGowan records measurements on the Trochus catch as Rikrik assists. Palau, 1956



Trochus is being weighed. Palau



# Trochus Research in the Trust Territory

By John A. McGowan

JUST A LITTLE over one year ago the position of "Marine Biologist" was established in the Trust Territory. Although he is concerned with all problems involving marine organisms, his primary job is to investigate the economic and biological aspects of the Trochus industry in the Trust Territory, and then to recommend procedures that will insure the maximum sustained yield possible from our Trochus populations.

However, it soon became apparent that the existing information on the biology of Trochus was not sufficient to allow us to "manage" our Trochus as a sustained yield crop. The gradually declining size of the catch both in the Trust Territory and on a world-wide basis is proof that the existing regulations are based on insufficient scientific knowledge. Therefore it became necessary to do some basic research on the life history, ecology and population dynamics of this important animal.

Although basic research is a time-consuming process and one in which results cannot be guaranteed, it has been proven time and time again to be the only way to really solve the problems of nature and make it work for us. Since most natural phenomena are so complex, the job of understanding them completely is never finished and basic research goes on and on. Luckily we can utilize the products of research before the job is finished, however. For instance we can now harness atomic energy although physicists still do not understand completely the nature of the atomic nucleus and are still doing research on it.

The comparison of Trochus studies to those of atomic energy may seem a little ridiculous at this point, but actually the principle is similar. Although we do not know everything we would like to know about the biology of Trochus we can, after

a year of study and research, make some logical changes in our current harvesting practices. These changes will be put into effect before the coming Trochus season next June.

The methods employed to study Trochus during the last year have been primarily those of direct observation of the animal in its natural environment. This environment is generally the seaward face of barrier reefs, and the Marine Biologist and his assistant have spent many hours aqua-lung diving in this area. Aside from observing trochus we have seen many strange and wonderful marine organisms and have been approached by sharks and barracuda on a number of occasions.

As well as observing Trochus we have resorted to the analysis of catch statistics. These are simply a way of getting a population census and they give us a very accurate picture of the size, age and weight categories.

If this data is broken down by reef areas and by the number of divers employed, we can combine it with the observational information and deduce many facts about the biology of the animal.

A third method to study Trochus is the experimental. In the past year very little experimentation has been done but more of it is planned for the future. Trochus can now be maintained in an aquarium at Koror and we can go ahead with many experimental studies that were not possible before.

Although we are now moving out of the research phase of the program and starting to apply some of the knowledge we have gained, more research will still be necessary if we are to really accomplish our objective of obtaining a maximum, sustained yield.





*Marshallese dwelling with pandanus-thatch roof, and pandanus trees in the yard.*

# poor man's pineapple is pandanus of the pacific

*By Benjamin Stone*

THERE'S PANDANUS IN THE PACIFIC--perhaps on the island where you are reading now (if you are on an island); perhaps, even, visible from where you sit. Those clumsy looking trees with the long spiny leaves and grey twisting trunks--that's it. With its woody fruits which resemble a pineapple--at least at a distance--it has been used, among other things, for fooling visitors into believing it to be "the tree which produces pineapples." But it has many important and serious uses; mats, roofing, and food, even a source of wood for certain specialized uses.

But what of all this? Well, wherever you may go in the Pacific you will run across Pandanus; and in many places, you will find several, or even many, different kinds.

What are these kinds? Where do they grow? What are their names? In some cases these questions have not been answered. It is the purpose of "Project Pandanus" to find out all these species. Dr. Harold St. John of the University of Hawaii has been granted funds from the National Science Foundation and from the McInerny Foundation of Hawaii to study Pandanus in the Pacific and to bring to Hawaii the useful varieties.

It is now nearly a year and a half since the project started, and we have come a long way. I have spent four months in the Marshall Islands, where there are about one-hundred-and-forty cultivated kinds of Pandanus; and also I have collected Pandanus in Palau, Guam, and Saipan. Dr. St.

John has collected in Yap, Palau, Hong Kong, Formosa, Okinawa and Japan, where he has visited the museums and universities which have collections of this plant. So far, probably three hundred or more collections have been made; and portions of other museum collections have been loaned for comparisons. This coming spring and summer, plans have been made to explore the outlying islands of the Carolines--Ulithi, the Mortlocks, Woleai, and others; and in June, an extended trip to New Guinea, New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, New Britain, New Ireland, and Fiji, among others, is scheduled.

But why, you may ask, all this curiosity about a tree? There is of course a purely scientific basis for the study: the compilation of a systematic account of all the kinds of Pandanus of the Pacific area, with names, descriptions, keys, and illustrations; also, however, there is a great deal of information to be gathered concerning the uses of this versatile plant.

Throughout the Pacific the leaves are used, for thatch, roofing, walls, and fine matting; for sails (in pre-discovery times); for medicine and ritual, in some areas, and for cordage (also provided by the aerial roots). In New Guinea's high mountainous interior, the fruits of one species provide a light oil; in the Gilbert and Marshall groups especially, the fruits provide a reliable and nutritious source of food. The Gilbertese in fact have been called "the Pandanus people" by anthropologists, because their travels and existence depend so much on Pandanus.



*Pandanus* variety  
"jecterive"  
in fruit  
Marshall  
Islands.

In the Marshalls, *Pandanus* cultivation has been going on for several centuries at least--perhaps a thousand years. The result is a large number of slightly differing "varieties" which must be propagated by cuttings, not from seed, since the seed of these will not breed true. Some of these named varieties were recorded by Kotzebue, who discovered the Marshalls in 1821.

The fruits are large heads, sometimes two feet in diameter, composed of segments called phalanges; these in turn are formed of several fused carpels, or female seed-bearing structures. The phalanges ripen to a red or orange color, and though woody at the tops, have fleshy pulp embedded in the lower fibers. This pulp can be eaten raw, tasting rather astringent and reminiscent of pineapples and pumpkin; or can be cooked into a soft mash like squash. With coconut flakes, a little salt, and (if possible) some butter--it's very good. Or if you prefer, it can be dried to a thick paste, wrapped in leaves very tightly, and stored for five or six months. It's no longer a delicacy, but it still contains a rather high amount of vitamin A, and will sustain you on long canoe voyages. Though not a luxury food, it is, at least on the atolls where the vegetation is limited in species, a very important food crop.

It is hoped that a complete list of the Marshallese varieties, with their names, descriptions, and uses can be compiled. Specimens of these, and any other examples of *pandanus*, are needed for study; seven or eight of the phalanges and some leaves, a slice of bark, and notes on the height, habit, habitat, and locality of the tree, are the minimum information required for a collection. Any information which readers may think useful will be welcomed at the Botany Department, University of Hawaii.

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS RECEIVED

THE INHABITANTS OF THE Trust Territory were included in President Eisenhower's message of greetings for Christmas and the New Year, received by the High Commissioner at Guam on December 24, 1956. Following is the text of the message:

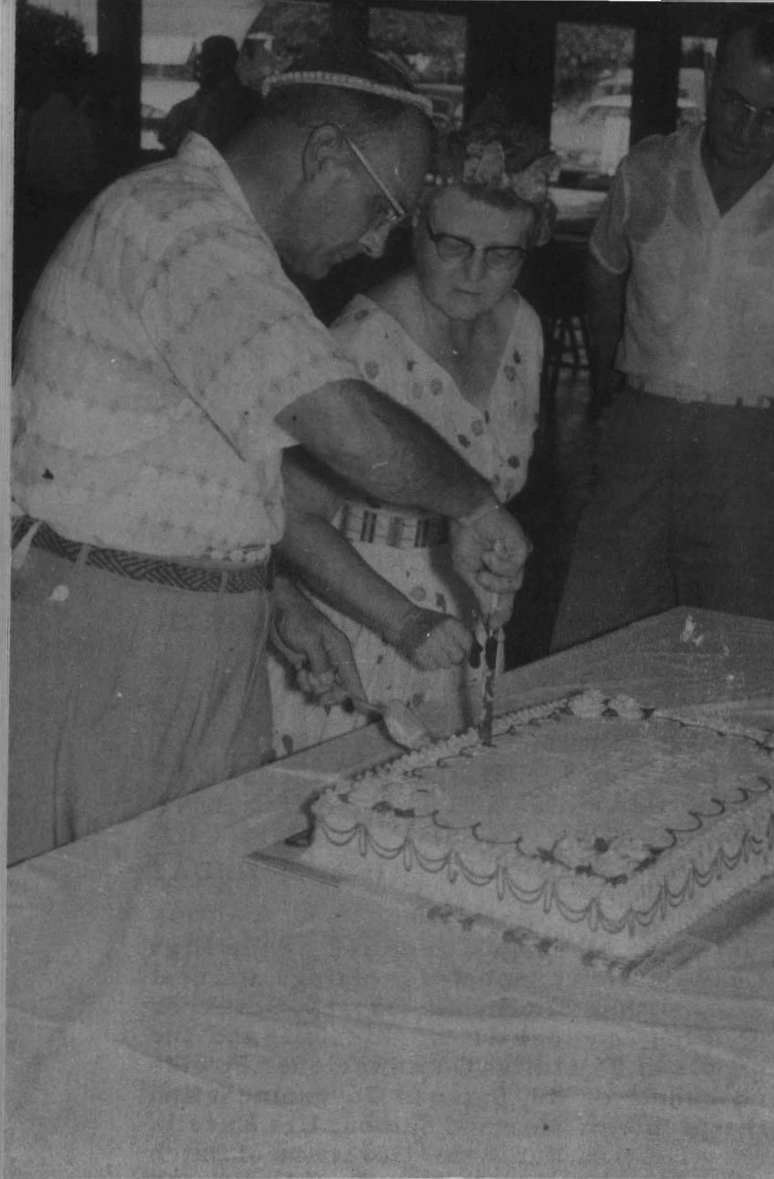
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
U. S. GOVERNMENT  
HONORABLE D. H. NUCKER, HIGH COMMISSIONER  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS,  
BOX 542, AGANA, GUAM  
TO YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MRS. EISENHOWER AND I SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR IN THE OBSERVANCE OF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Other messages received by the High Commissioner included greetings and best wishes from Sir Ronald Garvey, Governor of Fiji, on behalf of himself and the people of Fiji; High Commissioner Powles on behalf of the Samoan Government and the people of Western Samoa; His Excellency Dr. Jan Van Baal, Governor of Dutch New Guinea; the Acting Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands; Mr. R. S. Leydin, the Administrator of Nauru; and Brigadier D. M. Cleland, Administrator, Territory of New Guinea.

Holiday greetings were extended by the Hon. Mr. Nucker to the governors and administrators of various island areas of the Pacific.

PICTURE CREDITS - Page 2, William B. Jackson; p. 14, John A. McGowan; p. 18, Richard G. Emerick; p. 20, 21, U.S. Navy; p. 22, 25, Dr. Ketebengang U. Marcil, Masato Kosaka, Alfonso R. Oiterong, Gustave Weilbacher; cover picture and p. -7, 14 .... the Editor.





*The High Commissioner cuts first piece of cake while Mrs. Nucker looks on.*



*The High Commissioner shares a "confidential remark" from the "private report"; Mrs. Nucker smiles, too.*

## "The Staff" Honors High Commissioner

SIGNS IN THE FRONT of the Recreation Hall read "Welcome" and "Congratulations" in the various languages which are predominant in the Trust Territory. Flowers and green coconut fronds decorated the platform which had been built, and upon which two chairs were placed. Inside the room were gathered some seventy-five employees of the Headquarters offices of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The Honorable Delmas H. Nucker and Mrs. Nucker had returned over the weekend from Washington, D. C., where on November 26, 1956, the former had taken oath of office as High Commissioner of the Trust Territory.

The date was Monday, December 10. The place was Headquarters, Guam. The Nuckers had been invited to attend a staff function, the exact nature of which was unexplained. The High Commissioner, trusting his staff, had accepted the invitation.

At the appointed time--not knowing what to expect--came the High Commissioner and Mrs. Nucker. From that moment on they were the cynosure of all eyes, as they entered into the spirit of the occasion and celebrated with the Headquarters staff the promotion which two weeks earlier had elevated Mr. Nucker from Acting High Commissioner to High Commissioner.

by appointment of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Greeting the High Commissioner and his wife as they arrived at the Recreation Hall in the Trust Territory compound, were Clerk Stenographer Clara Cerbana and File Clerk Damaceno Mendoza, who placed typical Marshallese wreaths upon the heads of the honored guests, and hand-woven belts from Rongelap around their waists, as tokens of esteem. Thereupon Radio Operator Luisa Ada escorted the distinguished head of the Trust Territory Administration and Mrs. Nucker to the "throne"--the two chairs upon the platform.

After a pantomime scene briefly enacted by Acting Deputy High Commissioner John M. Spivey, there came a note of gravity as Mr. Spivey expressed the feelings of the group there gathered, saying that with hearts full of happiness the employees of the Trust Territory sincerely congratulated the High Commissioner and extended their pledge of faithful service to him.

Back then to the spirit of fun went the party, as designated representatives of each department presented the Hon. Mr. Nucker with "gifts" intended to be useful to him in his career as High Commissioner.

There was the long rope towed by a crew of men--"the longest supply line in the world," from the Department of Property and Supply; the paper money and old coins from the Finance Department, to "supplement the 1957 budget"; the 1,000 aspirin tablets for "headaches," tendered by the Personnel Department; the toy boat with oars for "pulling together," from the Internal Auditor; the little basket containing lumps of edible chocolate--"manufactured cacao"--purportedly from the Cacao Plantation at Babelthuap, presented by the Department of Agriculture; the "grain of salt with which to take decisions," from the Legal Department; the whistle with which to summon the Constabulary, from the Department of Public Safety; the money-making game and wrappings of money "for construction purposes," from the Public Works Department; the personalized "ticket to anywhere" consisting of a mammoth ticket to which was attached teletype tape, a radio head-set and a private mailbox, from the Administrative Services Department; the "top secret" report contain-

ing baby caricatures and "confidential remarks" of Trust Territory personnel, from the Reports Office; and the signed scroll, delineating services rendered, from the Special Assistants to the High Commissioner.

As the High Commissioner opened the packages, he made fitting and amusing comments upon each presentation. Everybody was laughing and photographers were snapping pictures, sometimes requesting a re-enactment to capture a highlight moment.

After all the jesting was finished, there came the time of solemnity again, when Budget Officer Emil F. Strench in his characteristic "Will Rogers" manner presented to the High Commissioner on behalf of the employees at Headquarters, their serious gift, an authentic replica of the "Mask of a Woman" by Rodin, noted sculptor, bearing in gold the inscription,

To The  
Honorable D. H. Nucker  
High Commissioner  
Of The  
Trust Territory Of The Pacific Islands  
From The Members Of His Staff  
1956.

Thereupon the High Commissioner spoke his appreciation to his staff for their excellent spirit of cooperation and dedication to work, which he said had contributed to the recognition which had resulted in his appointment.

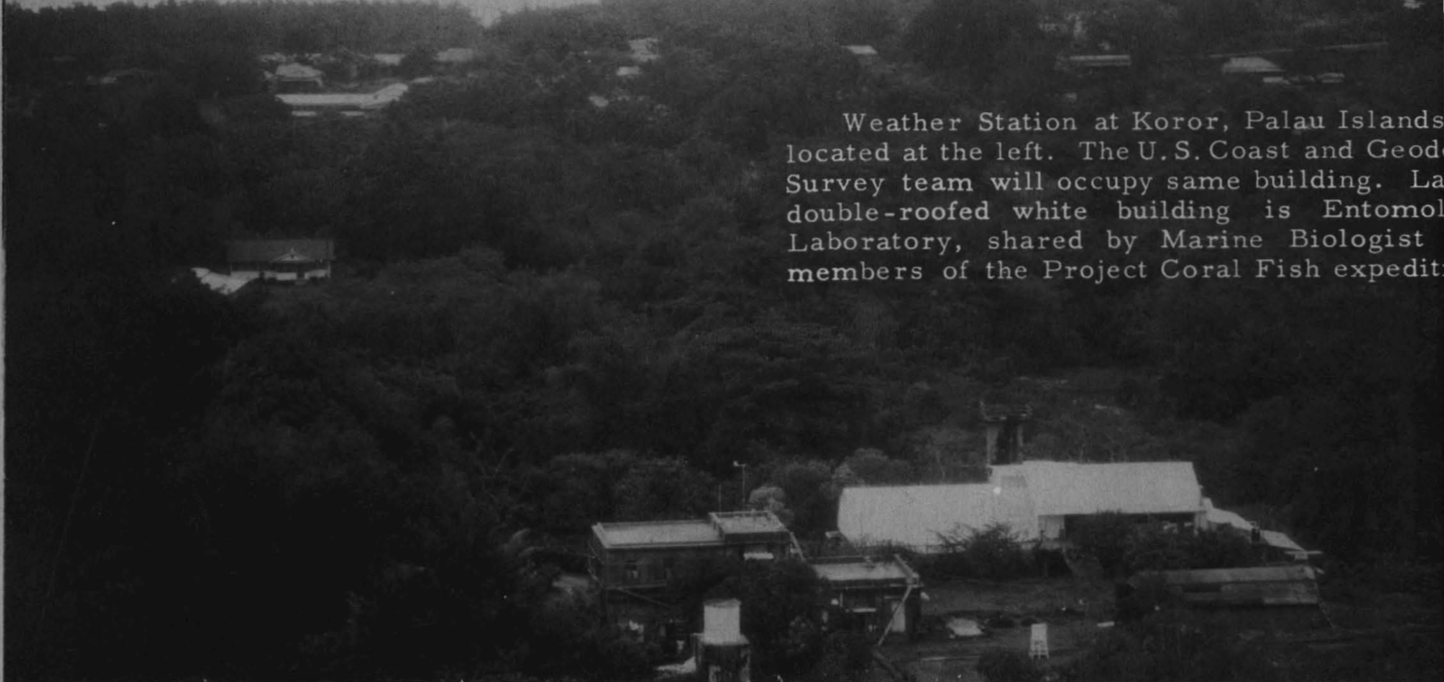
After the program of gifts and speeches, it was time for refreshments. There came a great cake decorated with roses, bearing the names of the districts of Rota, Palau, Truk, Yap, Ponape and the Marshalls, and in the center the words, "Good Luck High Commissioner." The celebration was rounded out with a "sakao-drinking" ceremony at which Special Assistant deYoung officiated, with the High Commissioner and Mrs. Nucker joining in the sipping of a soft drink out of a coconut shell, in the ceremonial fashion of Micronesia.

A series of other functions were given for the Nuckers following the announcement of his appointment. In the districts where Mr. Nucker was traveling on official business when the word first was received, spontaneous celebrations were

*Continued on page 29*



# Climatological Observations are Increasing and Improving



Weather Station at Koror, Palau Islands located at the left. The U.S. Coast and Geod. Survey team will occupy same building. Large double-roofed white building is Entomology Laboratory, shared by Marine Biologist members of the Project Coral Fish expedition.

## Weather Bureau Goes Unnoticed Until the Storms Come

By Myron H. Kerner

WHEN IT COMES to projects scientific in the Trust Territory, the Weather Bureau's program might attract little notice. This is not for lack of importance, but rather, because it's been going on for a long time now, and sometimes is taken for granted.

Day in, day out, night in, night out, three-hundred-and-sixty-five days and nights a year, the U. S. Weather Bureau goes about its work of collecting weather information with the aid of its various instruments on the ground and its radiosondes which are carried to great heights by balloons.

Little attention ordinarily is paid to the Weather Bureau's routine observations in the Pacific which aid aircraft flying over the Wake-Guam-Manila pathway and across the Trust Territory routes; but it is these observations which enable the Fleet Weather Central to issue its routine forecasts, and its small craft and typhoon warnings. However, for brief periods from time to time the situation is changed; then the various Weather Bureau stations spring into the limelight and become beehives of activity. This is when a typhoon is approaching. At such times all eyes and ears then are bent upon the smallest details of the weather-station operation.

It so happens that often a station will be playing a vital part in the charting of a storm which is too far distant to give the station itself or surrounding area any strong winds.

A continuous improvement in instrumental equipment is contributing to greater accuracy in weather forecasting in the Trust Territory; and on the inside Weather Bureau scene, another progressive change is taking place. More and more responsibility has been given to the Micronesian weather observers, with a corresponding reduction in the Weather Bureau's American staffs. Each station, with the exception of one soon to follow suit, has become permanently and completely manned by Micronesians except for the officer in charge and the electronics technician. We now have Micronesian weather specialists doing highly complex work requiring multitudes of mathematical computations and operating complicated electronic devices.

The training provided by a Weather School at Truk under direction of Mr. John Norris of the Weather Bureau, has been responsible for equipping these Micronesian observers for their jobs. Three groups have been trained; thus for the present the Weather Bureau rolls have been filled. With the graduation of the



*View of Yap Island. Weather Station is located to left of the long building in foreground.*

final one of three classes in January, 1957, the work of the school is completed. In the future, replacements as required will be trained at their respective stations through a self-study course under direction of the local Officer-in-Charge. Preparation of this course is Mr. Norris' final contribution to the training of students in the Trust Territory. From Truk he will go to Guam to conduct a class of Guamanians to work at the new Weather Bureau station there.

Meteorological studies have, in the past, been largely neglected in the tropics, but more and more attention is being directed this way. In the Trust Territory of the Pacific, an area roughly equal to that of the United States, there are but nine weather stations reporting by radio; in the United States there are more than 300. Forecasters for the Trust Territory have found this sparsity of reports a serious handicap.

To help fill the gaps between regular radio-reporting stations, the Weather Bu-

reau is undertaking a long-range program extending over the next two or three years to expand its climatological network in the Pacific. Stations reporting only by mail are being and will continue to be set up. Of course, these reports cannot be used in day-to-day forecasts directly, but will lead to improved results through affording greater knowledge of weather behavior, and the records themselves will be utilized also in agriculture, fisheries, construction and industrial planning, among other things.

This proposed expanded network comprises approximately 70 stations outside the Hawaiian Islands, covering the United States territories in the Central, North and South Pacific Oceans from American Samoa northward to Midway Island and the French Frigate Shoals, and westward over the Western North Pacific to Okinawa and Guam. Some of these stations will be staffed by regular full time employees who will perform other duties in addition

*Continued on page 28*





ROTA DISTRICT - Elder members of community occupy special seats as guests of honor during celebration.



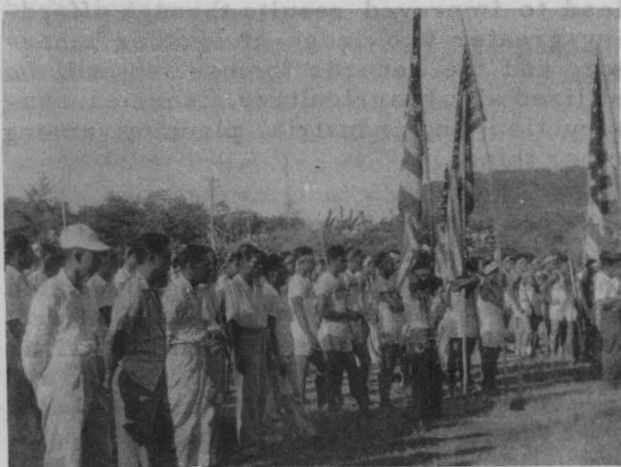
ROTA DISTRICT - Pole-climbing contest is on. Young Micronesians learn early to climb coconut trees.



PALAU DISTRICT - Girls riding on float in parade throw candy and bubble gum to the crowd of onlookers.



PALAU DISTRICT -- Young men and women students of Trust Territory School of Nursing march in parade.



PONAPE DISTRICT - Crowd stands at attention during address by District Administrator.



PONAPE DISTRICT - Runners line up for race as spectators watch in background.

# TRUST TERRITORY OBSERVES ELEVENTH

## ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DAY

A UNIQUE SPELLING CONTEST conducted in PALAU DISTRICT in connection with the U. N. Day celebration in October, 1956, "brought down the house" with excitement and applause. Words of the spelling contest were selected for their relevance to the United Nations.

Chief Justice Edward P. Furber and Director of Education Robert E. Gibson were the Masters of the Words. Judges were Antolina Rudimch, John Olbedabel, Nobuo W. Swei and Hassida Sasang, all of Koror. Master of Ceremonies was Alfonso R. Oiterong.

Even the spirited outdoor field events drew no louder cheers than those which resounded through the packed Community Center in Koror as the final winners "spelled down" their rivals. A team composed of Isabella Sumang and Yasko Suman from the Seventh Day Adventist School won the elementary contest, and the Palau Intermediate School team, consisting of Sizue Gibbon, Sadami Kosiba, Naemi Tkel, Takako Tarkong and Mamoru Nakamura, won the intermediate contest.

Another feature of the Palau celebration was a spectacular "war canoe" manned in the parade by some twenty women towing a replica of Captain Wilson's ship ANTELOPE which was wrecked upon Palauan reefs back in 1783 long before the United Nations organization was conceived and when the United States was still an infant among nations. This was a combined entry of the Ngaratatirou and Ngarachemayong, older men's and women's societies of Koror, respectively. This colorful and remarkably authentic entry won the first prize awarded by Palau's Community Center Executive Committee. Second prize went to the Intermediate School's costumed students representing several members of the United Nations. Third prize was won by the Emmaus Training Home for Boys, which entered a boy who rode a bull, giving this mission school the distinction of having probably

the only mounted rider and marching brass band in any Trust Territory parade.

Official ceremonies at Koror were opened by Alfonso Oiterong, chairman of the U. N. Day Committee, and recent visitor to the United Nations, who introduced the Acting District Administrator, Francis B. Mahoney. Principal speakers were Dr. Gibson, High Chief Reklai and the president of the Olbiil era Kelulau (Palau Congress), Roman Tmetuchl.

The morning was marked by 29 field events, feature races and similar contests arranged and conducted by the following groups: Ngarachelechil Society--Andress, Marino, Benjamin, Ongeklungel, Smusech, Sintaro, Mosubed, Ngerur, Macch; and Ngarabeled Society--Funio R., Ito, Yasinto, Bakuu, Dr. Masawo, A. Murphy, Haruwo R., Susong, Nisang and Dr. Alfonso.

Spectators sought shelter from a scorching sun as a group of distinguished Palauan elders climaxed the ceremonies with a demonstration of a traditional fishing method, employing woven nets resembling squash racquets. This demonstration proved ample reward for those who had withstood the late morning heat to witness it.

The Palau Museum, which was open for the day, was host to many spectators who viewed the special exhibitions featuring a caged monitor lizard, several baby crocodiles, a tank containing live trochus, as well as a collection of New Guinea handicraft, and the Palau permanent exhibit.

Movies provided by the Western Carolines Trading Company concluded the 1956 observance of U. N. Day in Palau. The U. N. Day committee consisted of Mr. Oiterong; Jonathan O. Emul, Ngodrii Santos, Bismark, James Haim and Nobuo Swei. The judging committee consisted of the Messrs. Ivan Mackenzie, Sidney Seid, Daniel Peacock, Ringagang, Olbed-



abel, Koshiba and Tatsuo. On the prize committee were the Messrs. Masami, Temengil, Kumangaisang, Ikerdou, Olker-iil M. and Meltel.

ROTA DISTRICT, though the smallest in the Trust Territory, had one of the most impressive United Nations Day celebrations. Starting with a parade led by the Rota Constabulary in costume and including almost the entire student body of the elementary school as well as government workers and other residents of the district, the day's program proceeded with addresses in the Municipal Plaza and various athletic events. Elder members of the Rota community occupied special seats as guests of honor.

The addresses were given by the Chief Commissioner of Rota, Mr. Melchor S. Mendiola; Bert Ogata serving as Acting District Administrator, and Monsignor Oscar L. Calvo. Athletic events, which included foot races, pole-climbing, fishing, fire by friction and broad-jump contests, concluded with a softball game. Dr. Marcil, Palauan dentist serving at Rota, won the running broad jump with a leap of nineteen feet and seven inches. Prizes were awarded to the winning contestants.

In the MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, a "Fatties and Fogies" race was one of the featured events in the field program. This included some of the less-athletically inclined men of the district. Its originator, Acting District Administrator William C. White, who was the recipient of many jibes, proved that he actually was neither "fat nor foggy" by coming in third in the contest.

Another exciting event was the race in which the boys started around the track, each one grabbing a girl on the way and continuing to run, while on the turn-about the girls each grabbed a boy, continuing the team race. Other contests included 100-yard dashes for men, women and children; a four-man team relay race, a ten-man team tug-of-war, and a greased-pig chase. Music was furnished by Father Hacker's Mission Band.

The afternoon was devoted to a baseball game between the Marshall Islands Import-Export Company and the Public Works crew, with the former winning nine

to five. A total of one hundred and eleven dollars and sixteen cents was awarded in prizes.

PONAPE DISTRICT held a three-day festival in celebration of United Nations Day. Dates were the week-end days of October 20 and 21, and the U. N. Day of October 24. Almost the entire population of Ponape turned out for the Agricultural Fair which marked the opening morning, Saturday, October 20. It was held at the Agriculture Station, and more than 400 individual exhibits were entered.

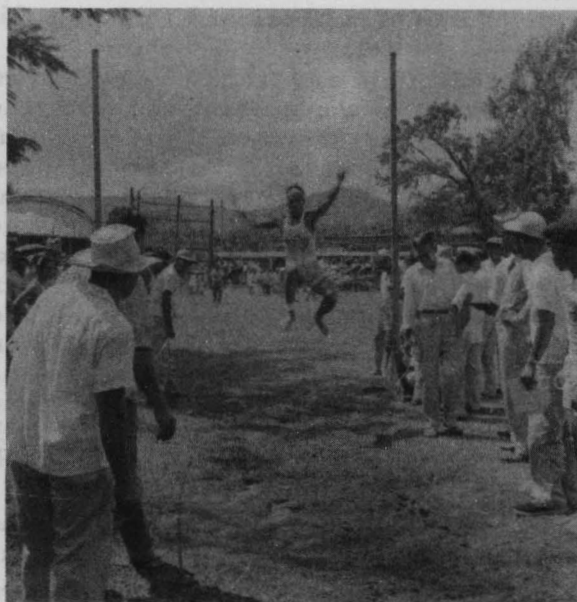
Trophies were presented to the municipalities with the winning number of entries. The contest between Not and Metalanim ran close until the former picked up sixteen out of a possible eighteen points in the copra judging. Final results were Not, first prize, with 76 points; Metalanim, second prize, with 53 points, and U, third prize with 20 points. Individual prizes also were awarded for the best exhibits of yams, copra, taro, tapioca, pineapples, citrus, vegetables, poultry, pigs, goats, and handicrafts.

Saturday afternoon, water events were held, with Kiti Municipality winning the most points (51) to receive the winning flag. First place winners in the various water events were as follows: speedboat races, Salton, Salmon, Mikel and Naped; canoe paddle race, Kiti Municipality; 7 1/2 horsepower canoe race, U Municipality; diving contests, Topias and Walare; 10-horsepower speedboat race, Martin; whale boat paddle race, U Municipality; swimming relay race, Not Municipality; and distance diving contest, Kiti Municipality.

Track and field contest first-place winners were as follows: 100-meter race for men, Walter B., Mike, Saburo and Walter A.; 100-meter race by schools, Sepio of Ohwa Protestant School; fire races, Raimon and Miorike, Kasimi and Kindaro; 200-meter race, Selestino of Intermediate School; final 100-meter race, Walter B.; broad jump, Walter A.; men's and women's race, Aiako and William; 800-meter races, Manuel and Osei; 200-meter races, Walter B., Permin, Okin and Mike; coconut-spearing contest, Kiti Municipality; donut-eating contest, Anton; three-legged race, Kon and Salmon, Samson and Ioster; high jump, Antereas; 1500-meter race, Isao; obstacle races, Isac and Singli; pole vault



*Dr. Marciel of Palau, dentist stationed at Rota, wins running broad jump with leap of 19 feet 7 inches.*



*Crowd watches closely as Bermin Simram makes broad jump during U.N. Day in Ponape District.*

contest, Olper; 400-meter races, Walter B. and Sanson; hop, skip and jump contest, Walker; 400-meter race, Intermediate School; 200-meter race, final, Mike; cross country race, Sidero; 800-meter relay race, Jokaj Municipality; wrestling contest, Jokaj. One of the features of the Ponape celebration was the championship baseball game between Kiti Municipality and the Comets of Kolonia with the former winning eight to four.

Jokaj Municipality won a flag and pennant for accomplishing the greatest community public works in 1956, and 15 citizens received citations for contributing the greatest public service in the district. Also awarded were 13 citations to Micronesians employed by the Trust Territory who had received outstanding performance ratings.

On United Nations Day in Ponape the program consisted of an address by District Administrator Henry M. Hedges; a flag-raising ceremony, and the presentation of awards and trophies. The day concluded with an exhibition of Ponapean songs and dances.

In TRUK DISTRICT United Nations Day observances were held in different places, in order to assure the greatest possible participation. The decision to hold several separate celebrations was made by magis-

trates and chiefs in conference with the District Administration, and was based on the factor of transportation. Small boats and canoes carried the participants to the several scenes of festivity.

The island of Pis joined with Moen Island for one of the largest celebrations, held at the latter place. Uman, Dubloh, Tol. Polle and Pata each held individual celebrations, while the islands of Tsis, Parem and Fefan combined for their observance as did Romanum, Eot, Udot and Fanapanges. All prizes were furnished locally.

The celebration at Moen started with several groups singing and parading around the main roads of the island. These singing groups converged upon the athletic field where District Administrator Roy T. Gallemore gave the welcoming address. He spoke of the meaning of United Nations Day, explaining how the United States of America through the Trust Territory Government carries out the policies of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, thus progressively helping the Micronesian people gradually to develop their governmental structure and improve their economic condition. Cuba and the Philippines were cited as examples of minority areas attaining governments of their own.

*Continued on page 26*



## TRUST TERRITORY CELEBRATES

(Continued from page 25)

Various field and track contests were held. Prior to the opening of these athletic events, the Assistant Chief of Moen, Mr. Meipwung, gave a speech on good sportmanship in competitive games. Eight teams participated in the contests, the teams made up as follows: Moen, Tunnuk, Mechitiw, Iras and Fano, first team; Nwan and Nepukos, second; Neouwe, Wichap and Epinup, third; Sapuk, fourth; Penia and Peniesene, fifth; the remaining teams being students, respectively, of the Pacific Islands Central School, the Xavier High School and the Truk Intermediate School.

The third team of Neouwe, Wichap and Epinup scored highest with 83 points; Intermediate School was a close runner-up with 80 points, and Moen Village ranked third, with 77 points. Games and races included a soft-ball throw, 50-meter races, 100-meter races, 200-meter races, relay races, jumping, shot-put and other contests.

Scorekeepers were Efou, Yariterou, Fuchiwo and a student of the Xavier School. The prizes were presented by Meipwung, Angang and Napo.

A baseball tournament on the Saturday and Sunday following United Nations Day, wound up the celebration. In the semi-finals Xavier High School's ball team faced the Pacific Islands Central School, and it was anticipated that one of these two strong teams would come out winner, but the boys of Sapuk Village came up with a surprise in the finals, to win from Xavier by a score of seven to two.

The YAP celebration was held in the Colonia Recreation Area at Yap on October 24. An administrative holiday was declared so that all workers who could be spared from their jobs might participate. The Yap Magistrates' Council cooperated by encouraging attendance and by assistance in planning and financing the program. Members of the U. N. Day Committee were Lukan of Dugor, chairman; Defmew of Rumu; Tizin Moon and Uag, both of Balabat; Gilrow of Kanif; Bulwol of Fanam, and Gilmar, representing the District Administration.

The flags of the United Nations and of the United States were borne by members of the Constabulary, who led off the parade in the morning. The students of the elementary schools, the mission school and Yap Intermediate School followed, each carrying a flag of one of the member countries of the United Nations. These flags, which had been made by students of the Intermediate School, were mounted on small bamboo sticks. As the marchers paraded around the prescribed route, they sang "Patriots of Micronesia," again and again until reaching their destination. The Magistrates of Yap marched after the students, and then came members of the American community and the Yapese people.

Among the units in the parade was a float created and decorated by members of the Fak e Pulh (Young Men's Organization). Great effort was put into the making of this float of the United Nations, and the resultant creation was an object of beauty. A replica of the U. N. flag was fashioned out of leaves and flowers in the front of the float, and on the sides, also in leaves and flowers, were the names of the ten municipalities.

After the parade came the posting of the flags and the speeches. The magistrate of Ruul, Ranganibay, addressed the crowd on the United Nations and its meaning to the world and to Yap. District Administrator Robert Halvorsen spoke on the United Nations and Yap's relation to it. Then came the games and contests, highlighted by an exciting baseball game between Keng and Ruul, the latter winning six to five. Among the sports contests were swimming races, coconut-spearing, bag race, marathon, relay race, candy race and coconut-weaving contest.

Final event of the day was an exhibition of three Yapese dances presented by residents of Tomil and Fanif municipalities. Approximately 1,500 attended. The success of the entire celebration was due to the cooperative efforts of the different Yapese municipalities, the Magistrates' Council, the District Administration, the Yapese workers and the American community.

# Story of The Sonsorolese Repatriation

by Francis B. Mahoney

## THE EXILES RETURN

ON OCTOBER 15, 1956, nine eager faces gazed anxiously from the rail of the M/V ROQUE for a first glimpse of their new home, tiny Sonsorol Island in Palau District, which their parents and grandparents had left more than forty years before in the service of "his majesty" O'Keefe.

Gathered under the ship's awning and surrounded by their worldly goods, Johnny Victor and the Terry twins administered the final cinch to the mattress roll which contained their radio and electric hot plate. From the upper deck, Vrouw Betty Hagenbeek, acknowledged spokesman for the group, called to her four-year-old son Freddi in a strident mixture of Malay, Dutch and Sonsorolese, warning him away from the rail. Two old women, Tola and Katutu, looked unbelievably at the clump of palm trees and pandanus beyond the breaking surf, searching for the sight of a thatched roof or an old canoe house that might somehow call up memories of the place they had left as children; they alone of all the group were born Sonsorolese and this knowledge gave them a certain satisfaction. As Yapese and Kusaiean crewmen prepared to launch the ship's dory, the island's only large canoe came alongside, propelled by three elderly men in G-strings. "Imahoi melie!" "Maholi melie!" They were home.

Thus ended one of the most remarkable repatriations in the history of Micronesia, bringing home to the Trust Territory from Netherlands New Guinea the last survivors of the group of Sonsorolese men and women who had gone to O'Keefe's Mapia plantation on a schooner years before: Johnny Victor, the son of Alfred; Jacobus Terry and his twin brothers, Francis and George; Betty Hagenbeek, her Javanese-Dutch husband and their son, and the two old ladies. Thanks to the High Commissioner, to Johnny's father Alfred, now an American citizen in Guam, and the people of Sonsorol themselves who had never stopped hoping, the exiles had returned.

It had been a long time since many of them had lived on the old plantation. During the second world war when the Japanese had interned Mrs. Eugenie Scott, O'Keefe's daughter, the younger men had drifted to the port towns of New Guinea. Here it was that they had first met Americans when MacArthur's forces moved up from Papua. After the war, the remainder of the population had been evacuated to Manokwari by the Dutch Government because of the constant depredations of Japanese trochus poachers.

Life in this bustling post-war colony of half-caste Indonesian refugees, with its sawmills and shipyards, had brought new experiences. The men had learned mechanical skills and some had become heavy equipment operators. One of the women had studied nursing. One family, as government employees, acquired a coveted three-bedroom concrete house. Yet always they remembered their parents' tales of Sonsorol in the old days and the wartime generosity of the American armed forces. Somewhere, they thought, there must be a better, freer life.

The time for decision and parting was not easy. There were those for whom age or infirmity made the return impossible. Others had to stay for family reasons. The Terry twins' two sisters finally chose to stay on and finish high school in New Guinea. Everyone had Dutch and "Indo" friends. No one could quite bear to say goodbye to "Tante" Scott who in her alert seventies still attempts to run her father's plantation with a handful of laborers.

The last canoe load reached the beach at Sonsorol. Hands reached out to help with boxes and bed frames. Aged Sonsorolese women draped in head scarves, hobbled forward to tenderly sniff the hands of nieces and nephews they had never seen.

*Continued on next page*



## PROJECT CORAL FISH STUDIES MARINE LIFE

A SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM which was initiated in 1951 by the George Vanderbilt Foundation, and which is still in progress, is known as Project Coral Fish. It deals with research concerning fishes and other marine life of the coral reefs and open waters surrounding the islands of the Central Pacific. One phase of its work is currently being conducted at Palau, with headquarters in the Entomology Laboratory at Koror.

Joint sponsors with the George Vanderbilt Foundation are the Pacific Science Board, the Office of Naval Research and the Trust Territory Government.

A team of investigators carried out field research during the summer and fall of 1956, and although this was concentrated in the Palau Islands, additional work was undertaken during this time at Saipan, Yap and Ulithi.

Investigations which started during 1955 on the fishes, marine invertebrates, fresh water streams, reptiles and amphibians, and the ecology of coral reefs, are continuing. New investigations include entomological studies, particularly for scale insects, and marine biological studies bordering on the oceanographical.

## CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

*(Continued from page 21)*

to their climatological functions; however, most of them will be manned by school teachers, traders, agriculturists, missionaries and people in other walks of life not directly connected with government work. Observations will be taken and recorded daily and the records mailed to the Climatological Unit of the Weather Bureau in Honolulu at the end of each month, or in the case of remote sites, they will be mailed whenever ships call at these islands.

One of the first steps in implementing this expanded network of stations was the recent installation of five climatological stations in American Samoa. Another significant phase is the establishment of stations on some of the outer islands in the Trust Territory.

The issuing of monthly and annual climatological summaries on surface weather data for the Pacific, for distribution to all those having need for this information, is planned in conjunction with the proposed expanded network of stations in the Pacific area.

## SONSOROLESE REPATRIATION

*(Cont. from page 27)*

Chief Nestor of Sonsorol ordered the municipal office cleared to house the newcomers. Shyly, in their best store clothes, the new arrivals looked about them at the tiny thatched village which had been clean-

ed and painted for their arrival. Sonsorol would be a quiet place after Biak with its airfields and Manokwari's brightly-lit restaurants. Vrouw Hagenbeek made arrangements to send her electric iron and radio on to Koror. "At least there are coconuts," one of them smiled wistfully. "We won't starve."

"Thank you for everything," Johnny Victor said. "We will make out all right here. If it doesn't turn out, we can always go to Koror or Guam, can't we? This is a free country!"

## AN IDEA BEARS FRUIT *(Cont. from p. 1)*

the laboratory for work directly related to economic problems in the Trust Territory. Most of them have or will be producing scientific papers on their studies in the Trust Territory, which papers are expected to be of eventual use to the territory.

In addition to these visiting scientists, some of whom have used the laboratory for as long as a year, the Entomology Laboratory is headquarters for research experiments of the Trust Territory Staff Entomologist in his pursuit of methods of overcoming agricultural pests and parasites, and of the Trust Territory Staff Marine Biologist for his concentrated research program concerning the Trochus.

Thus the dream of those who first conceived the idea of creating facilities for scientific work in the Pacific, has become a reality, and a vast amount of valuable research work is in progress in the Trust Territory.

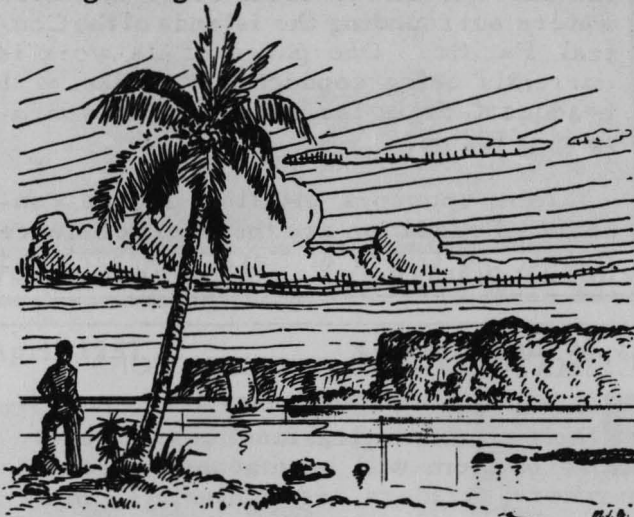
## MY TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES

(Continued from page 19)

held wherever he went. At Kwajalein in the Marshalls the High Commissioner was "piped" off and on his plane by an honor guard of the U. S. Navy. At Truk where Mr. Nucker stopped overnight, a community celebration took place at the Truk Hotel, the guests including the Trukese leaders who were in Moen for the Magistrates' Conference, as well as members of the District Administrative staff. At Ponape the District Administrator and Mrs. Henry M. Hedges entertained for Ponapean officials and all the District staff at a buffet party in the High Commissioner's honor. The newly reconstituted Metalanim Band played during this function, and also at the Ponape Dock as the High Commissioner was arriving by picket boat after alighting from the plane at Langar Island.

The significance of naming Mr. Nucker, a Government career man, to the post of High Commissioner, was expressed by

the Honorable Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior, when the former took the oath of office in Washington. At this time, speaking for the U. S. Government, Secretary Seaton said, "This Administration is aware of the splendid contribution made to good government by career people, and this appointment exemplifies its policies of recognizing valuable career service."



## Favorite Foods of Micronesia

### BAKED TARO

Cut skin from taro, and if large, cut in half. Put in oven and bake for one hour. Break with the hands into individual pieces and serve with butter and salt.

### FRIED TARO

Pare and slice the raw taro with a fluted slicer and fry slowly to a light brown in deep fat. For certain purposes, this is one of the very best ways in which the taro can be prepared.

### TERRITORY TUNA

The color contrast in this casserole dish makes it attractive. Serves four.

- 1/4 Cup butter or margarine
- 2 Tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 Cup milk
- 1 Egg yolk, well beaten
- 1 Teaspoon lemon juice or cider vinegar
- 1 6-1/2 Ounce can chunk-style tuna, drained

- 1/2 Cup sliced ripe olives
- 1 12 Ounce package frozen green lima Beans, cooked according to package directions
- 1/2 Teaspoon salt
- 1/2 Teaspoon paprika

Melt butter or margarine over low heat. Add flour and blend. Add milk and cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Gradually stir in egg yolk and lemon juice. Break tuna into large chunks. Add tuna and remaining ingredients to sauce; mix lightly but thoroughly. Turn into greased 1-quart casserole; cover. Bake in moderately hot oven (375°) 15 minutes. Serve piping hot.