

# MicronesianReporter

FIRST QUARTER 1978

*The world of the outer islands throughout the districts  
of Micronesia  
offers a  
"back to nature"  
environment...  
tranquility,  
beauty and  
friendly people.*

*Spending one's time in the water is one of the favorite sports in the Pacific Islands. The Mokilese children are no exception. In the photo, the boys were cooling off during a hot afternoon.*

PACIFIC AREA LANGUAGES MATERIALS  
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# This Quarter's Worth

Anyone studying the history and cultures of the Pacific nations will be delighted to read and analyze Dr. Dirk A. Ballendorf's article which meticulously traces the United States' and Japan's interest in the Pacific. Ballendorf writes, "American interest in Micronesia . . . was not an economic or territorial interest — Micronesia has little to offer. The interest was a strategic one . . ." And the references indicated throughout the article should encourage further and deeper research for any interested scholarly person.

## Who's Who

...in this issue of the Reporter

**Dirk A. Ballendorf, Ph.D.**, is Director of the Community College of Micronesia in Ponape District. He has contributed many scholarly works to the *Micronesian Reporter*. In this issue of the magazine, Ballendorf traces the historical development of American and Japanese intelligence gathering in the Pacific. Ballendorf's interest in Micronesia began when he arrived in Palau as one of the first District Peace Corps Directors in the 60's.

**Singeru Singeo** is a young Dental Doctor and a faculty member of the Micronesian Occupational Center in Koror, Palau. He graduated from Loma Linda University, and became the first Micronesian to receive a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS). As a young educated Micronesian who is witnessing the political status development, Singeo offers his personal view of what could

At this crucial moment of the Micronesia's political history where decisions are being assessed to ascertain the future political status of the nation, young educated and concerned Micronesians are voicing their views. And so Singeru Singeo, DDS, a young dental doctor from Palau who teaches at Micronesian Occupational Center, offers his personal views of what could be some possible solutions to the political puzzle. Dr. Singeo points out, "The barrier that divides Micronesians into the pro-unity and the pro-separation groups is not very much more than an ultra-thin and misplaced veil of misunderstanding and suspicion on the part of both sides", and that the "few differences between the two camps could easily be compromised to the satisfaction of each party." He concludes his article "I pray that they don't say to each other, 'Okay, you take your choice and I'll take the other'."

Senator John Mangefel is the Jonathan Swift of Micronesia. His

be a possible solution to the political dilemma.

**Senator John Mangefel** is a colorful lawmaker from Yap, and has been presenting his famous, "Letters from his nephew, Ngabchey, who is attending school in the States", during each session of the Congress of Micronesia. In this issue of the Reporter, the magazine has the privilege to present the readers Senator Mangefel's satirical essay, *The Seven Cousins and the Cunning Crocodile*. One has to read it to grasp the Senator's fine sense of humor and his command of the English language.

**Leo A. Falcam, Jr., Nelsin S. Iriarte, Philip F. Polloi, Speeder M. Stile and Arnold Q. Yorkbay** are seniors at Xavier High School on Moen, Truk District. In this issue, the magazine presents their Town Study Project, *Moen—"Dry Season 1978"*, a report on prohibition on Moen, the district center of Truk District. The students not only came up

satirical allegory, "The Seven Cousins and the Cunning Crocodile", is colorful and whimsical in its narration of the political struggle in Micronesia. The story, however, has a happy ending—"They lived in harmony and mutual respect with the giant crocodile, Kra, whose presence was feared by others far and wide. For this reason the island remained at peace for many generations."

This issue of the *Reporter* is delighted to publish a study-report produced by five Xavier High School seniors. The report is, not only excellently written, it also shows that these students actually labored hard to perfect their project. The *Micronesian Reporter* congratulates the Xavier-5 and their fellow classmates for the job well done.

The *Micronesian Reporter* is happy to present the young poetess Miss Anne M. Udui who is an eight grader at Mount Carmel School in Saipan. In her poem, "WHO?", Anne writes about the Superport in an adult way.

with a fine analysis of prohibition on Moen, but also present a well documented and professionally written report. They should be commended for their accomplishment.

**Doug Trail** is Acting Chief of the Publications Division, Headquarters. Recently Trail was on an assignment to microfilm certain documents in Koror, Palau. While there he had an opportunity to visit and observe the Micronesian Occupational Center in action. He was impressed by what he saw. The result of his impressions of MOC is included in this issue.

**Ms. Anne M. Udui** is a child prodigy and should be the pride of her parents. She is an eight grader at Mount Carmel School in Saipan. Ms. Udui is a young Micronesian Poetess, and offers one of her poems, "WHO".

**Val** is assistant editor of the *Micronesian Reporter*.



# Getting Behind the Coral Curtain: Beginning of American and Japanese Intelligence Gathering Activities in the Pacific

*by Dirk A. Ballendorf*

America has had an interest in the Pacific Island area of Micronesia for a long time. Much longer, in fact, than is commonly supposed. The United States' interest in Asia, of course, dates from the time of Perry when he opened Japan to the West in 1854. The American acquisition of the Philippines in 1898 from the Spanish cemented our vested interests in Asia.

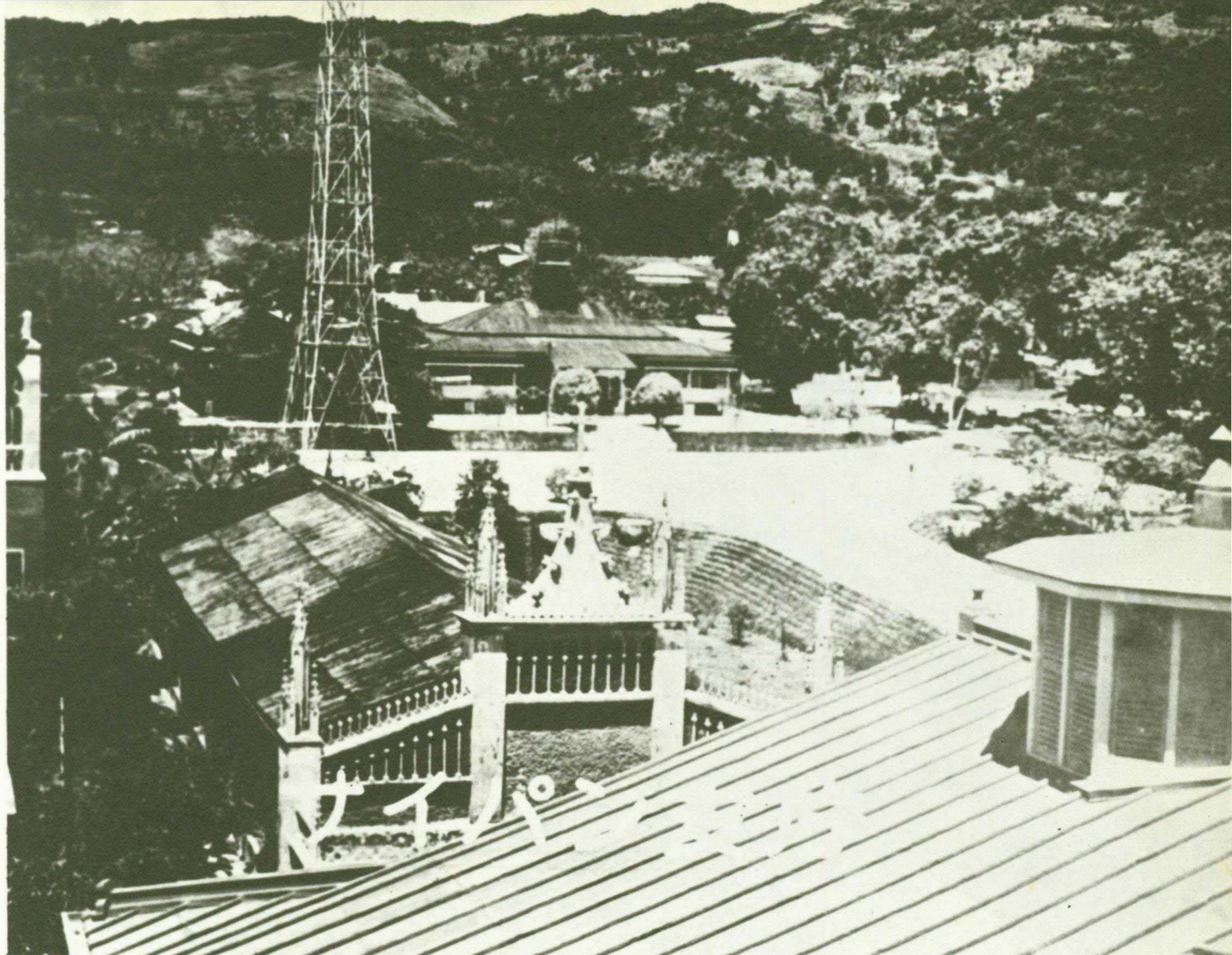
Because ships at that time could not travel endlessly across vast ocean expanses unsupported, there had to be coaling stations for them along the way. Therefore, at the time the Philippines became important to the United States, so did the ocean area stretching between the Philippines and the American mainland. Hence America, during the nineteenth century acquired territory in the Pacific: Midway (1867), Hawaii (1898), Guam (1898), Samoa (1900), Wake (1899), and also other island groups such as Enderbury, Canton, and the Phoenix Islands which are administered jointly with the United Kingdom.

American interest in Micronesia—the Marshall, Mariana, and Caroline Islands—arose at this time. It was not an economic or territorial interest—Micronesia had little to offer in that regard. The interest was a strategic one. Whoever controlled Micronesia could control the shipping lanes which provided western access to the American ports of Guam and Manila.

From 1899 to 1914 Micronesia was in the hands of the Germans.<sup>1</sup> Their administration was exploitive and so they did not allow large foreign settlements to be established. They did, however, allow some business interests to go into the islands. The American merchant firm of Atkins-Kroll was permitted to operate, as were some smaller companies which dealt in coconut oil manufacture and copra trading. D.D. O'Keefe, the self-styled American adventurer, trader and scoundrel, operated an extremely lucrative copra trade at Yap during the 1890's and early 1900's. The trade was so lucrative however, and O'Keefe so incorrigible, that the Germans stripped him of all his holdings shortly after they assumed control in the Carolines. Generally speaking however, as long as the Germans could control things, they didn't mind some foreign business presence.

American Protestant Missions began work in Micronesia during the Spanish times at Ponape and Kusaie. They were permitted to carry on their work during the German times and even established some new stations, particularly at Jaluit in the Marshalls.





*In the background of the photo is the Japanese Administration Building, and in the foreground is the Garapan Catholic Church demolished during the war. At the extreme left and behind the church is the bell tower which still stands today.*

The Japanese also began activities in Micronesia, especially in the Carolines, during the Spanish times and when the Germans arrived the Japanese already had large and profitable commercial interests there.<sup>2</sup> Competitive and inscrutable, it was clear by the early 1900's that Japan's presence would be an economic bone of contention for the Germans or anyone else wishing to gain interests in Micronesia.

When the First World War came Japan, as an Allied power, declared war on Germany. Japan had relations with England as a result of treaties signed in 1902 and 1905. Also, Japan wanted to square accounts with Germany for humiliation suffered at the close of the Chino-Japanese War in 1895.<sup>3</sup> Most of all there was an opportunity to acquire prestige in East Asia and territory in the Pacific. Japan lost no time in completely taking over German establishments in Micronesia. Despite the fact that the Acting German

Governor of New Guinea, who was over-all administrator of Micronesia, had surrendered to the British on September 17, 1914, Japanese naval forces systematically occupied all the centers in the Marshall, Mariana, and Caroline Islands, starting in the east: Jaluit on October 3, Yap and Ponape on October 7, Truk on October 12, Saipan on October 14, and Anguar on October 31, 1914. Of all Allied war participants, Japan gained most and suffered least.<sup>4</sup>

After the Japanese naval forces had secured the islands a naval administration was set up and remained in authority throughout the remainder of the war. The Treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919, formally placed the control of Micronesia under the Japanese. Japan then pushed for League of Nations recognition of the islands as a Japanese Mandate. In 1920 this was achieved. The United States, however, never joined the League. With her authority firmly established, Japan



placed the administration of the mandate under civilian control. She announced her intentions in May 1920, in the newspaper, *Nichinichi*:

The islands in the South Seas, at present under the military administration of our Navy Department, will at length have an office for their administration opened. The provincial military administration will be abolished, and a purely civil regime instituted.<sup>5</sup>

But all was not as smooth as it appeared. Since the beginning of the war Japan had been prohibiting foreigners from entering Micronesia and were also discouraging the foreign business interests that had been there since German and Spanish times. By the end of the war Japan had effectively lowered a "coral curtain" over Micronesia. Director of Naval Intelligence, Roger Welles, described it as "a veil cast over everything."<sup>5a</sup>

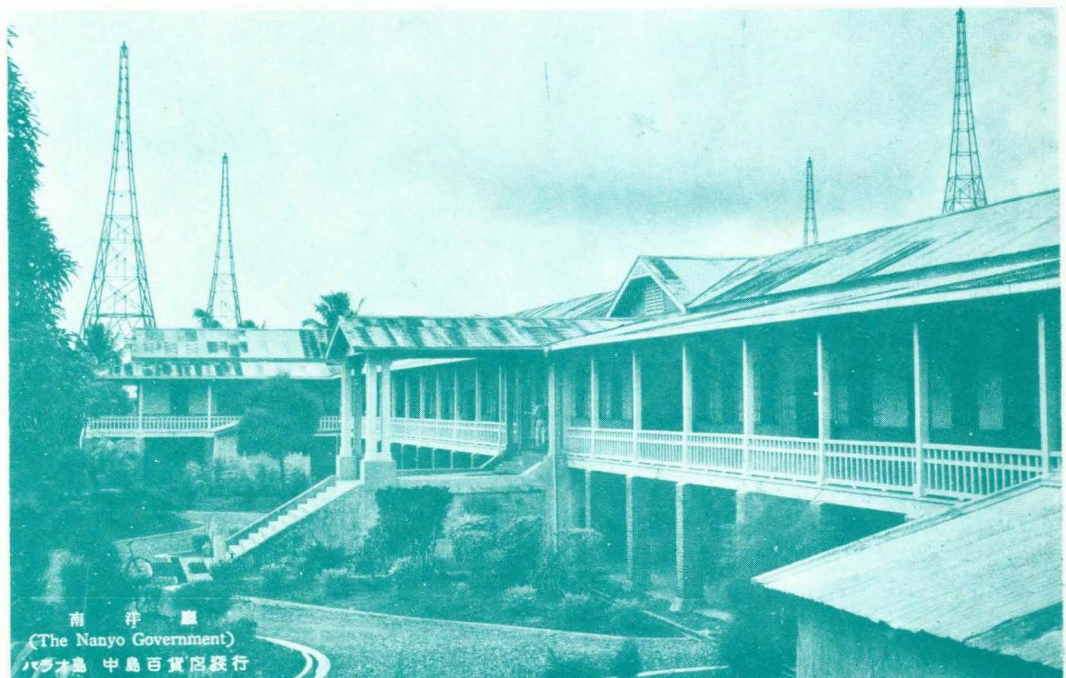
Both the British and the Americans were concerned, and, as always happens when nations decide to close their territories to outsiders, consideration was given to establishing an intelligence-gathering network in Micronesia. Concern on the part of the western powers was heightened by several events which occurred during the war. An American merchant vessel, landing at Jaluit in 1915 in some distress, was denied access to a Japanese radio in order to report its position to its home office in Hawaii. At Kusaie, the firm of J.V. Melander and Company, who had been operating in the islands for thirty-five years, and whose

owners, J.V. Melander, and A.V. Herrman were both American citizens, were "refused any space on Japanese boats for the importation of supplies, or for the importation or exportation of goods or products." They were also informed by the Japanese naval officials that they "were liable to be expelled from the islands at any time."<sup>6</sup>

In December 1916, a U.S. Army officer visited the Gilbert Islands and was informed by the British Resident Commissioner that an embargo had been established upon the "touching of British and Australian ships at the Marshall Island group."<sup>7</sup> A test case was made by sending the steamship *Mawatta* to Jaluit and the Japanese admiral had refused her permission to enter. This episode created a good deal of ill-feeling on the part of the Australians towards Japan.

Conditions got worse instead of better. In August 1916, it was reported that the Japanese held up all mail bound for the Marshalls and severely restricted mail leaving the Marshalls. In the same month the Atkins-Kroll Company, who had offices at Guam, were denied permission to go the Marshalls to trade in copra.<sup>8</sup> As Germans and other foreigners began to leave Micronesia at the request of Japanese officials, they brought with them reports and rumors of Japanese military build-ups in the islands. In 1915 a German Naval officer who was being repatriated, reported that "the Japanese fitted out Truk as a naval base."<sup>9</sup> In 1918 an American citizen, who had been a master on a

*The Japanese  
headquarters  
in Koror, Palau.*





German schooner sailing out of Jaluit, reported that the "Japanese have a naval base with coal and stores at Truk," and further that there was also "some coal at Jaluit."<sup>10</sup>

In 1917 the Director of Naval Intelligence, Roger Welles, officially directed the Governor of Guam to "submit to the Office of Naval Intelligence any information of interest . . . in regard to the activities of [Japanese] subjects . . . [and also] occurrences political and commercial, that may take place in the adjacent islands."<sup>11</sup> The First World War was not yet over and American intelligence-gathering activities were already underway in the Japanese-held islands of Micronesia.

Setting up an effective intelligence-gathering network in Micronesia was no easy task. Micronesia's total area is approximately that of the continental United States, covering almost 3,000,000 square miles, while its more than 2100 islands form a total land mass equal to less than one half of that of Rhode Island. In all, the territory stretches more than 2700 miles east to west, and 1300 miles from north to south. On most of the islands it is impossible to hide, and a stranger would have no way of working physically "undercover." No one could "get lost in a crowd" because there are no crowds. A newcomer is soon known by all and it is relatively easy for those being spied upon to keep close track of those doing the spying if any suspicion exists.

It was understandable then, that if the Japanese were doing things in Micronesia that they did not want the outside world to see or know about, they would have to keep out foreigners and restrict the islanders themselves from entering certain areas. As the Americans realized that the Japanese were in fact doing just this, and also that Micronesia presented numerous natural constraints to effectively gathering information, it became necessary to adopt some rather extreme measures early in the game.

Opening the mails was one practice early adopted by the Office of Naval Intelligence. All ships, private and commercial, which passed through the islands and landed on the American west coast, had their mail opened and scrutinized. Tourists who were traveling from Australia to America provided some of the greatest sources of information, and little did they know at the time that all of their letters to friends and relatives at home first were opened and read by ONI before being forwarded to their destinations.<sup>11a</sup>

Many Micronesians residing in Hawaii, particularly Marshallese, were questioned about activities in the islands by American authorities. Efforts were made to interview all foreign nationals leaving Micronesia,



*Japanese sugar mill in full operation on Saipan as indicated by smokestack and rows of railroad cars loaded with sugar cane in front of the factory. The structure is located in Chalan Kanoa right behind the Mount Carmel Church, and is being utilized by Mt. Carmel School in Saipan.*

*Japanese Post Office and Communication center located at San Jose, Oleai Village in Saipan. The building has been used as storage for school supplies.*







*A typical day in downtown Garapan, Saipan, during the Japanese time. You can see the Ford model cars popular during the 30's in the photo.*



*Downtown Koror during the Japanese era. The Department Store (L) was Nakashima.*

particularly Germans who had resided in the islands before the Japanese take-over and who were familiar with terrain. American officials from Peking interviewed a German missionary who had been deported from the islands in November 1919, and who was awaiting passage home from Shanghai. He reported that "the Japanese government has built large dry docks on Truk...large coal piles have been established; heavy lighters [sic] are being brought up from Japan; to fortify this island steps are apparently being taken."<sup>12</sup>

In 1920, Arthur Herrman, of Millander and Company at Kusaie, made a report to the American Naval Attache in Tokyo. He estimated that there were "100 Japanese naval and government officials in Truk alone", and that there were also "three large coal piles at Truk, Ponape, and Jaluit." He also stated that "in Truk, a rock-walled chamber, about 100 feet square, has been constructed in the side of a hill, with an iron door and a wooden fence in front."<sup>13</sup> Herrman had reported his information to the American authorities in confidence, as a responsible citizen. He was concerned about his business interests which he felt were threatened. The Japanese had informed him "that if he talked, for publication, of Japanese military activities in the islands, that he would be refused readmission."<sup>14</sup>

Intelligence was also sought from observers in the Western Carolines. In 1920, an American marine, married to a Chamorro woman from Guam, and who had traveled through Yap and Palau in a small "40-foot

motor boat" bound for Australia, reported that in talks with natives from the Western Carolines he had heard that the Japanese had "guns and carriages on Upper Palao [sic]" and that "some of the guns were as large as ten inches."<sup>15</sup>

Reports such as these caused the Americans to seek ways of sending trained observers into the islands to gather firsthand knowledge of Japanese military activities. Late in 1920 it came to the attention of ONI that two private expeditions were planned for operation in the Pacific Islands. One was a "photographic expedition...to be sent out from the West Coast for the purpose of taking motion pictures..."<sup>16</sup> It was to be sponsored by some wealthy persons who were expecting that the returns from the films would pay for the cost of the trip. The other was a "scientific expedition...organized under the cognizance of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu."<sup>17</sup> Their purpose was to gather scientific and historical data with a view to determining whether "prehistoric American races came from Asia via the Pacific Islands."<sup>18</sup> ONI made efforts to "secure trained persons" to accompany these expeditions<sup>19</sup> and requested the American naval commander at Guam to "submit a questionnaire from which you wish information." The questionnaire would be given to members of the expeditions "in order to obtain as much information as possible."<sup>20</sup>

Gathering intelligence in Micronesia was only part of the developing American network. The Japanese had closed off other areas under their control as well





*Also depicting a typical day in downtown Koror.*



*This is how M-dock (Shinhatoba) looked during Japanese times.*

and it was important to learn of military activities in the Pacific as a whole in order to be reasonably knowledgeable about the entire Pacific area. The Ryukyu Islands were an important supply link to Japanese Micronesia. Then referred to as the Loo Choo Islands, no American ship had called upon the Ryukyus since 1906. The Americans, in 1920, wanted to arrange a call and to also stop at some other islands along the way. A curious scheme was devised for arranging the visit.

ONI had noticed that an American professor of anthropology at a small college in Hawaii had published an article in a scientific journal about some studies he had made some years previously at Okinawa. In the article he had mentioned that he had found the graves of "five American sailors" who had been with Commodore Perry on his first expedition to the islands in 1853-54. Seizing upon this, ONI asked the State Department to send a note to the American ambassador in Tokyo instructing him to decorate the grave of the first Japanese envoy to the United States, Yoshishiro Murakami. The State Department complied with the request and the ambassador decorated the grave. The Japanese press covered the event with considerable enthusiasm and appreciation. The first part of ONI's plan was successful.

Some months later ONI made another request of the State Department. This time they asked State to request the Japanese Foreign Ministry to grant the U.S. Navy permission to pay a call at the Okinawa port of Naha for the purposes of consecrating the graves of the five American seamen who had died on the Perry

expedition.<sup>21</sup> The Japanese could hardly refuse since the Americans had been so nice about decorating the envoy's grave. ONI was confident that the request would be granted since the Japanese have great respect and remembrance for the dead.

The request was granted. On October 14, 1920, ONI sent a cable to CinC, Asiatic Station, Hawaii, informing him that the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo had "granted permission to visit the Loo Choo Islands for the purposes of reclaiming graves of Commodore Perry's men at Naha." The cable further instructed the CinC "to designate the vessel and make the necessary preliminary arrangements."<sup>22</sup> The Japanese however, apparently recognizing the ulterior motives of the Americans, did not grant permission for the U.S. ship to stop at the other ports which had been requested.

When the First World War began Guam was the only American outpost in Micronesia.<sup>23</sup> The defense force was not great at Guam<sup>24</sup> and when, on August 25, 1914, Governor Maxwell was notified by cable that Japan had entered the war on the side of the Allies, it was realized that the area of conflict was brought close to Guam, and that the island was not prepared for serious fighting. Although the Governor had declared the island's neutrality on August 11th, there were German ships in Micronesia, and the German control of the Northern Marianas made an attack on Guam a distinct possibility.

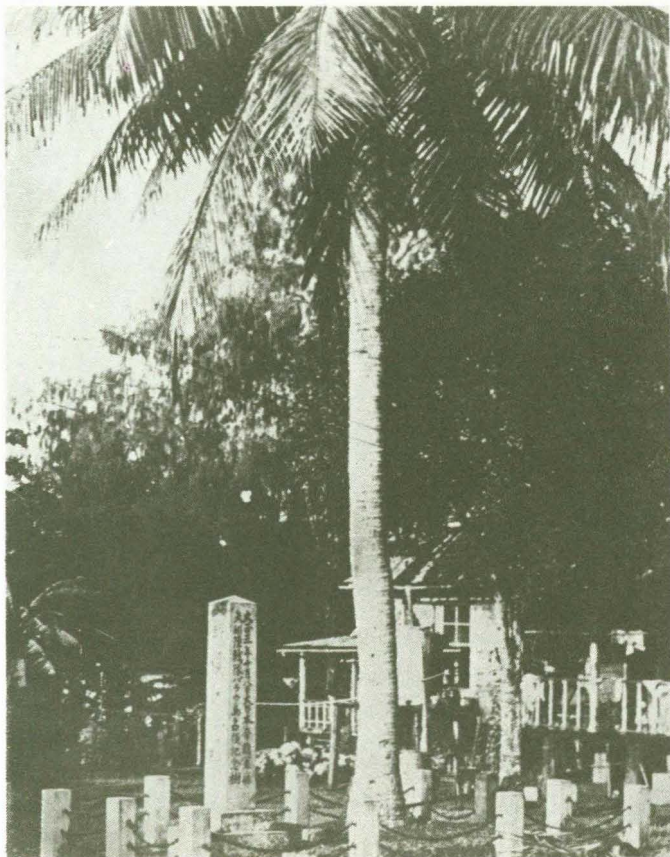
As America's neutrality in the war in Europe became more fragile as the Germans continually and without warning sank American ships with submarines



in the Atlantic, consideration was given to building up the Guam defenses. Late in 1914 a joint Army and Navy Board was sent to Guam to study and make plans for "the defense of the island."<sup>25</sup> One of the members of the Board was Capt. Earl H. Ellis, USMC. Ellis remained on Guam as the commanding officer of the Guam Insular Patrol. In 1915 he submitted to the Navy a detailed report called, "A Military Reconnaissance of the Island of Guam", which outlined at some length procedures and tactics for the defense and fortification of the island. In 1916 the Navy estimated that it would cost "\$16,150,000 to fit Guam as a base."<sup>26</sup>

While the Americans debated the merits of fortifying Guam the Japanese lowered their coral curtain around Micronesia. And as the threat of German aggression towards Guam subsided American concern over Japanese activities in the islands increased. When the decision was made to begin an intelligence-gathering network in Micronesia Guam became a focal point for the intelligence operations. By 1920 the Americans had cracked the Japanese Naval code, and on April 27, 1921, the Chief of Naval

*A Japanese monument comemorating the landing of Japanese empire in Palau 1914.*



Operations provided the governor of Guam with the necessary information and instructions for intercepting all Japanese messages in the area.

Japan, of course, was interested in American activities on Guam. And she took steps to establish her own intelligence-gathering organization on that island. The Americans, sensitive to this development, put up their guard. When the war began there were 100 Japanese nationals living on Guam and Japanese trading ships made regular stops there. American residents at the time recall that the Japanese population on Guam was regarded with suspicion. One resident of the period, the daughter of a German businessman and merchant, remembers that at the time "there were a large amount of Japanese agents there. The governor's cook was one, and there was also a palace gardener, and some merchants."<sup>27</sup> One Japanese, a trusted employee of Atkins-Kroll on Guam, was investigated because Naval Intelligence was not sure whether he should be in "an employment in which he has intimate intercourse with Guam matters."<sup>28</sup>

At one point, shortly after the war, concern over Japanese intelligence-gathering was so great on the part of the Navy that consideration was given to closing Guam to civilians and expelling all foreigners.<sup>29</sup> The Department of State didn't favor this idea because the Naval Armaments Limitation Treaty talks were coming up with Japan and Great Britain in 1922, and State feared the Japanese would use such a move to bomb the talks. The idea was dropped and Guam remained an open port.

Intelligence-gathering on both sides continued. Hans G. Hornbostel, a former marine who had assisted Ellis in the preparation of "The Military Reconnaissance of the Island of Guam" in 1915, returned to Guam in the 1920's to become a collector of artifacts for the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. He became a regular informant for the Guam governor's office and one of the most important intelligence-gatherers in the Mariana Islands. Under the excellent cover of a collector for the museum, he made frequent trips to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, excavating ancient ruins and artifacts. For his archaeological researches he had the cooperation of the Japanese authorities. One elderly Saipanese who recalls Hornbostel's visits of the 1920's says the Japanese authorities were very helpful to Hornbostel and all were quite impressed with his ability to locate "digs" with accuracy. He further remembers that after Hornbostel had made several trips to Saipan, the Japanese reception cooled somewhat and began to watch him closely.<sup>30</sup>

Hornbostel was indeed effective in passing information of military significance to the Americans.



A cable, probably from Hornbostel, which was received by the Office of Naval Intelligence on January 10, 1921, reads:

ADVANCE REPORT STOP VISITED SAIPAN  
JULY STOP FOUND NO FORTIFICATIONS  
AND NO TROOPS STOP BUT OFFICIALS  
NERVOUS STOP<sup>31</sup>

As both the Japanese and the American authorities further entrenched themselves in the work of gathering intelligence on one another's activities in the Pacific, they seemed to have developed a posture of tit for tat. In January 1923, the United States granted permission for a Japanese ship to visit Guam. It was clear that the ship would be gathering intelligence, but since no moves had been finalized for the fortification of Guam, and since also a year previously the U.S. and Japan signed a Naval Armaments Limitation Treaty, the permission was granted.<sup>32</sup> On March 13, 1923, the Japanese light destroyer, *Shiokaze*, arrived at Apra harbor in Guam. She remained for only one day, sailing around the island and making the appropriate courtesy calls ashore. The Americans prepared a full counter-intelligence report on the visit, and the Japanese, no doubt, satisfied themselves that Guam was not about to become a large base with fortifications.<sup>33</sup>

Reciprocation of intelligence-gatherers continued, sometimes under rather satanic circumstances. A 1925 cable from the U.S. Naval headquarters at Guam to the Secretary of the Navy at Washington refers to a letter sent to Guam from the Japanese hospital at Saipan requesting that a Dr. Matagoro Kurimoto be granted permission to visit Guam "to study American methods in combating tropical sickness." The cable goes on to state that Naval headquarters at Guam had "no local objections" to the Japanese visit, and further that "Mr. Hornbostel . . . has just returned from Saipan and Rota on a Japanese schooner, where he often goes with a permit. . . ."<sup>34</sup>

And so went the early days of intelligence-gathering in the Pacific Islands. These are but a few of the many stories surrounding the early operations on both sides. Many of the stories will never be fully told, for, as one military historian has put it: "An undercover agent is 'undercover'." But by the early 1920's an effective American intelligence-gathering network had been established,



*Yokota, perhaps the first civilian governor (equivalent to High Commissioner) of the South Sea Government who died in Palau.*

and as the years went on between the wars the operations became more extensive and more sophisticated. Unnoticed and unadvertised in the rest of the world at the time the early efforts of the Office of Naval Intelligence have gone unremembered and unsung in recent times. Their accomplishments were considerable. By 1941, before the outbreak of World War II, ONI had compiled a monograph on the Japanese Mandated Islands which documented more than 33 anchorages and harbors, 7 airstrips, 9 sea-plane bases, 17 radio stations, more than 23 fortifications, and numerous roads and railways on more than 61 islands. Five submarine bases were either reported to be in existence or under construction.<sup>35</sup>



## FOOTNOTES:

<sup>1</sup>The Germans had established a protectorate over the Marshall Islands as early as 1885 after a bloodless dispute with Spain which was mediated by Pope Leo XIII. After this Germany had the right to trade and maintain coal stations in the Carolines. But effective German control didn't occur until after the Spanish-American War when Spain sold all of Micronesia to the Germans.

<sup>2</sup>In 1891 the Japanese established commercial interests in the Western Carolines in copra, trepang and tortise shell. After 1892 Japan gave Germany some stiff competition. In 1890 Nanto Shokai Trading Company was started with 44,400 yen.

<sup>3</sup>In 1894-95 Japan forced a war upon China over the control of Korea. China was defeated, and by the Treaty of Shimonoseki recognized the independence of Korea and ceded to Japan the Liaotung Peninsula, Formosa, and the Pescadores. Germany, together with Russia and France, protested Japanese holding of Liaotung and compelled its restoration to China.

<sup>4</sup>Japan mobilized about 800,000 men. Her total war casualties numbered 300 killed, 907 wounded, and 3 missing in action. Altogether fifteen one-hundredths of one per cent of her forces. None were killed in Micronesia.

<sup>5</sup>Attache Reports, citing: *Nichinichi*, 27 May, 1920.

<sup>5a</sup>ONI, RG-38 21067-3, gen'l notes, 1917-1921.

<sup>6</sup>Naval Attache Reports, #303, April 29, 1920, "Marshall and Caroline Islnds", National Archives, RG-38.

<sup>7</sup>ONI, Nat. ARc. RG-38 21067-3, memo to CNO, 14 June, 1918, "Conditions in the Marshall, Mariana, and Caroline Islands.

<sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*      <sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup>American Naval Attache Report #304, Tokyo, April 29, 1920, Nat. Arch., RG-38.

<sup>11</sup>Memo: Dirnavintel to Gov. Guam, 15 Sept., 1917. Nat. Arch., RG-38, 21067-3.

<sup>11a</sup>During the First World War, as has been previously stated, the Japanese prohibited or discouraged any ships from landing at any Micronesian ports. This restriction was relaxed as the war ended and foreign ships were able to stop briefly although usually no one was permitted to go ashore. Thus, intelligence gained from opening mail was gleaned from impressions people had from viewing the islands from aboard ship, or from stepping briefly onto landing areas.

<sup>12</sup>Memo to Navintel, 11 Nov. 1919, RG-38 21067-3.

<sup>13</sup>Attache Report, #304, *op.cit.*      <sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*      <sup>15</sup>Attache Report, 23 June, 1920.

<sup>16</sup>Letter from Dirnavintel to ComnavGuam, Sept. 1, 1920.      <sup>17</sup>*Ibid.*      <sup>18</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.* There is no record stating that such persons were made available.      <sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup>Under the terms of an agreement signed by Perry and the Okinawans in 1854 at Naha, "a burial ground for the citizens of the U.S." was established at Tomari, "where their graves and tombs shall not be molested."

<sup>22</sup>Cable: ONI, October 14, 1920, RG-38, 21067-3.

<sup>23</sup>Though geographically part of Micronesia, Guam has not been politically a part of the territory since Spanish times.

<sup>24</sup>The island could have mustered a defensive force of about 400 marines, 64 sailors, 40 police, and 900 native militiamen.

<sup>25</sup>Gen. orders, A.G. Army to Engineers, Hawaii, RG-38. P.D. 127-4.

<sup>26</sup>Memo: Pickens to Chief of Staff, 3.2.16, RG-38.

<sup>27</sup>Personal correspondence, 1968.      <sup>28</sup>RG-38, *op.cit.*      <sup>29</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup>Personal interview with Mr. Juan Jose, aged 80, Saipan, 1969.

<sup>31</sup>A.T. Long to Gen. Nolan, 1/10/21, RG-38, 21067-3.

<sup>32</sup>The treaty had many points to it, but the most relevant to the Micronesia situation were: (1) a four power treaty between the U.S. Britain, France, and Japan, that each other's rights over Pacific islands possessions would be respected, and (2) a treaty between Japan and the U.S. confirming American cable rights on the island of Yap.

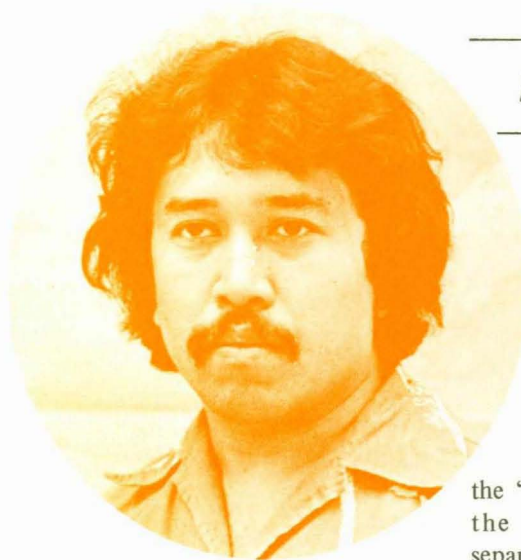
<sup>33</sup>RG-45, Nat. Arc., memo from Guam Governor.

<sup>34</sup>RG-38, SC 127-321, National Archives.

<sup>35</sup>ONI. "The Japanese Monograph" change #4, Dec., 1941. pp. 127.01 to 127.24.



# Unity vs. Separation, or Is It Unity-A vs. Unity-B?



*by Singeru Singeo*

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**NOTE:** The thoughts and opinions expressed in the following article are those of the author, a concerned Micronesian, and they do not reflect the official thinking or policy of the Trust Territory Government.

As we (Micronesians) are dragged closer toward the end of the Trusteeship period, many kinds of pressures are being exerted on all segments of our societies; and the changes that follow are becoming more and more apparent throughout Micronesia. Our future political status negotiations with the U.S. are not what you might call smooth; and the relationship between our islands continues to degenerate at an unbelievable rate.

The issue of unity and separation is dividing all levels of Micronesian societies into opposing camps. Friends who used to cooperate in their efforts are divided now into the so-called "pro-unity" and

the "pro-separation" groups. Palau and the Marshalls have been labeled separatists while the other districts — Yap, Truk, Ponape, and Kosrae — pro-unity.

As the U.S. maneuvers with more effort to conclude the status talks sooner, there will be more confusion and more divisions in Micronesia, penetrating further and deeper even to the innocent segments of our societies where divisions did not exist before. The gulf between pro-unity and the pro-separation groups is likely to become wider still. More clouds of suspicion and hopelessness will descend upon us. Other unexpected moves, out of desperation, are likely to follow. These will happen unless we (Micronesians) realize exactly where we stand, reorganize a united front, and with dignity conclude the status negotiations to the satisfaction of the majority of Micronesians. This is the challenge facing Micronesians today. We should find out exactly where we are so that we can chart our course for tomorrow.

I would like to accept this challenge and with this paper share my opinion on this subject. I will make a strenuous attempt to show that:

- 1) the "barrier" that divides Micronesians into the pro-unity and the pro-separation groups is not very much more than an ultra-thin and misplaced veil of misunderstanding and suspicion on the part of both sides;
- 2) the two opposing groups have a lot more in common than differences (including their similar views on the size and the general relationship between district governments and the central institution); and
- 3) the few differences between the two camps could easily be compromised with little effort (and almost no sacrifice) to the satisfaction of the pro-unity group as well as the pro-separation group. To conclude this paper, I will recommend an organizational structure for Micronesian unity which is a compromise in its composition; compatible with recent world opinion and developments; and which does not contradict modern theories of organization.

**COMMON GOALS:** Whether one is pro-unity or pro-separation, there are certain truths and concepts we hold and believe in to be good and desirable characteristics of our future Micronesian union. We believe, for example, in "decentralization" as opposed to "centralization". We believe that district governments must have more power and authority than the central institution has. We agree that a good government must be small, less costly, manageable,



and effective. We agree further that a good government must be responsible and accountable for all of its activities; and it must be sensitive to, and reflective of, the needs and the desires of the people. We believe that a good government must show respect for our traditional ways and cultures. We also agree that the leaders in government must derive their power from the people who elect them into office. This means that any leader who is not serving the people well will not be re-elected into office by the voters. These are some of the concepts and ideals that have been bequeathed to us by Americans and we have embraced them. We, pro-unity and pro-separation alike, believe that free people (and that includes all Micronesians) have the right to demand these principles from their governments. More can be said along this line but I think the point has been adequately made.

**THE DIFFERENCES (BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS):** It is ironic, and maybe surprising to some people, to discover that Micronesians are divided (into pro-unity and pro-separation) by, more than anything else, the very issue of unity itself. This may sound odd and meaningless but elaboration is in order here, for indeed this is the very point where misunderstanding and confusion are deeply rooted.

Our problem is not disagreement over what we want for our future unity because, as has been sufficiently pointed out above, we (pro-unity and pro-separation alike) have common beliefs as to what are good and desirable characteristics of our future Micronesian unity. The cause of division, therefore, does not lie here but someplace else.

The dilemma facing Micronesians' future exists mainly because we disagree on the mechanism of implementation; we disagree on the device, the particular kind and form of unity, and there are several, through which our common goals and desires could become materialized or made into reality. In other words, the two opposing groups

have the same goals but their approaches to achieving these goals are different. It is like the two uninitiated Micronesian boys at Guam International Airport fiercely arguing whether to take Pan Am or Air Mike because each one is so sure that his airline and not the other will go to Hawaii. This is an important point to remember if one is to read further. Let me elaborate a little more.

It seems that those who support one kind of unity, through a federal scheme as proposed in the draft Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, are being called the "pro-unity" group; but, for some unknown reason, those, who equally support the concept of unity through a different arrangement such as All-Micronesian Entity, are being called the "pro-separation" group. This is an inaccurate identification and must, therefore, be changed. A closer examination will show that the proponents of the All-Micronesian Entity concept are just as much, if not more so, believers in and supporters of unity as are the others. What All-Micronesian Entity does is just convey a different kind of arrangement — a different kind of unity or approach through which our common goals could be achieved.

So from here on a new set of identities should be adopted for use. Because these two seemingly opposing groups are in reality 'unity' groups and not "unity vs. separation" as has been believed, the proposed identities are Unity-A and Unity-B. Unity-A will be used exclusively to refer to the kind of unity (union) of Micronesian islands as proposed in the draft Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia.

In contrast, Unity-B will be used to refer to a different kind of unity and it will mean several things. It will mean the belief that we must support unity of Micronesians because legitimacy frowns on fragmentation. It will mean the unity of Micronesian islands in a loose form of union — a degree looser than that

spelled out under Unity-A. So if they still believe in a loose form of union, then Palau and the Marshalls should be identified as Unity-B group. The other districts — Yap, Truk, Ponape, and Kosrae — should be called Unity-A group. (I might add that the idea or the tendency to separate or to fragment has no room for consideration in this paper. Fragmentation is contrary to world opinion and contrary to modern theories of organization. It is pursued only as a last resort for the sake of self-preservation.)

**WHY NOT THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (UNITY-A)?** I am convinced that Unity-A as proposed in the draft constitution is not in the best interests of Micronesians, at least, not at this stage of our development. As a mechanism designed to implement our goals, I am afraid it will fall quite short of our expectations and will never deliver to us what it promises to do. Of all the arguments against it, and there are several, I think the proposed federal scheme should be shelved outright solely on the basis of a historical possibility: that, if it were to collapse in the future, it would irreversibly ruin the chance of Micronesian unity forever. The sad history of the West Indies Federation's collapse and the damages it left behind should alarm us. Are not there enough "writings on the wall" to trouble us to look for a better and more acceptable arrangement?

As early as 1945, the British Government initiated proposals for creation of the West Indies Federation to incorporate 10 Caribbean islands — Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and several Leeward and Windward Islands. Finally in 1958 the Federation was born after quite a long and tiring formation period. Stanley A. de Smith in his book *Microstate and Micronesia* says, "Four years later the federal scheme was in ruins, and on the day the Federation had been destined for independence, it was instead dissolved."



I am pointing out this sad history of the Caribbean islands' attempt for unity not because it collapsed but because we can learn from their mistakes. For the uninitiated, the islands in the Caribbean have pretty much the same characteristics as the islands in Micronesia. The many islands are scattered sparsely and are connected to each other by nothing but open sea. They were under colonial rule for centuries. Insular particularism was prevalent. And each island had its own sense of identity not much different from the insular kind of identity we readily see in Micronesia. These similarities, and more, are the reasons I say that we can learn from them.

De Smith explains the picture quite well. He asks, "Why... did it (Federation) collapse so swiftly?"

This is his analysis: "The Federation had no common internal market... British Guiana, The British Virgin Islands, and British Honduras held themselves aloof from the outset... The Federal Government source of revenue and power were trivial, and it spent only 3% of the revenue collected in the area... The political leaders in Jamaica and Trinidad refused to leave their island power base in order to take a direct part in federal politics in which only one man could come out on top; they were on bad terms with one another and with Federal leadership. At the first (and only) federal election the Federal Labor party won a narrow majority, but its candidates in Jamaica and Trinidad fared poorly which meant that the eight smaller islands had to be given disproportionate representation in the Federal Government. Jamaica felt that its interests were not being adequately safeguarded, particularly as its numerical preponderance was not reflected in the allocation of seats in the Federal Legislature. The other islands resented Jamaica's wish to exercise dominating influence."

As a consequence, Jamaica opted for separation in 1961. In 1962

Trinidad followed suit. The remaining islands — little eight — "... began to emerge from the ashes of the dead federation, and a new federal scheme was prepared... Wrangles developed among the eight... and the islands went their separate ways."

"Given that the islands had a large measure of linguistic, ethnic and cultural homogeneity, and similar political institutions, these failures are depressing. Anticolonialist sentiment, though patchy, was significant and there was a widespread desire for full autonomy. The British, Federal and island governments devoted an enormous amount of time to devising an acceptable constitutional structure. But enthusiasm for the principle of federal union was apt to cool rapidly when its practical implications were examined. There was too little willingness on the part of the island leaders to accept compromises or jeopardize local economic and political interests for the benefit of a larger entity. Nor was it obvious what positive gains (e.g. obtaining direct economic benefits, or better safeguards against immediate external dangers) would be achieved for the largest islands by a partial submergence of their identity. Indeed, insular particularism was deep-rooted and tenacious. Fellow feeling, a sense of belonging to the British West Indies as a whole, was not strong.

"Other factors militated against the creation of a durable union: an uneven distribution of wealth among the islands, conflicts of economic interests and the familiar phenomenon of acrimonious competition for scarce resources. Another important factor, already hinted at, was the style and structure of politics. In substance the federal political parties were no more than loose coalitions of distinct island parties. Many of these parties had charismatic leaders who appealed to the faithful by way of demagogery at mass open-air meetings in the context of purely local issues. This special manifestation of insularity not only

impaired personal relationships in federal politics but also helps to explain why the plan for a "little eight" collapsed," says de Smith.

In fairness, it must be noted that some of the problems mentioned above are not applicable in the Micronesian setting but, nevertheless, we can learn the applicable ones from the West Indies Federation experiment. A failure of any experiment is not that bad in itself. What must be considered are the difficulties and the problems encountered during the process of experimentation which would subsequently play important decisive roles in later attempts for further experiments.

After the collapse of West Indies Federation, the islands went their own separate ways. They became "... competitors rather than collaborators, and most of them have weak points. This has perhaps been the saddest effect of the collapse of West Indies Federation and the failure of the little eight," regrets de Smith. Other historians of the Caribbean believe that some of the leaders who were directly involved in this experiment came to hate each other so much that there will not be another attempt for unity in this region until after this generation of leaders are dead and gone.

We must agree that the above statements are alarming and that is why I am worried. Suppose the proposed Federated States of Micronesia, also a federal scheme (which has more against it than West Indies Federation had) collapsed in this fashion. Would we have to wait for our leaders — Nakayama, Henry, Amaraich, Olter, Udui, Bossy, Tmetuchel, Tun, Kabua, Salii, Heine, Ismael, Mangefel, and more — to be dead and gone before another attempt for Micronesian unity could be made again? Are we going to become competitors rather than collaborators in our efforts for development? I certainly hope not. I hope some other form of unity or arrangement could be found now so that we will not have to follow



the path of the West Indies Federation. Between the Federated States of Micronesia and the West Indies Federation, the latter had a much better chance of success under the federal scheme. But it did fail. We must know why it failed and try not to follow the failure. This is my concern and the main reason why I am against the proposed Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia. Already two districts are not that enthusiastic about it. And there is no guarantee that this federal scheme will not collapse, either. There has to be a less risky arrangement. Let me propose a possible scheme under a different kind of unity – Unity-B.

**A NEW ARRANGEMENT THROUGH UNITY-B:** A quick review of what has been pointed out in previous pages is in order here before a few more observations are brought up for consideration. Both Unity-A and the Unity-B groups have basically common goals; their differences are the two different approaches they propose to use to achieve these common goals. This point has been sufficiently explained.

And of the two approaches, a strong factor against Unity-A is the risk of immediate collapse of this federal scheme just like the collapse of the West Indies Federation. Or at least nobody, Micronesian or American, can assure us that this history of collapse will never be repeated in Micronesia under the proposed federal scheme. Therefore, considering that risk factor, I would like to propose a new arrangement, which is not risky, for consideration. After all, it is not too late yet for experiments!

There are a few basic requirements of human nature which must be pointed out and accepted before we can talk about Micronesian unity with any sense of direction. One is that we must consider and accept each and every Micronesian district equal to the others without regard to size, material strength, or population. That simply means this: Palau is equal to Yap; Yap is equal to Truk; Truk is equal to Ponape; Ponape is equal to the Marshalls; the

Marshalls is equal to Kosrae; and, therefore, Kosrae is equal to Palau. This principle of equality of nations or states or entities is nothing new. This is one of the bases of international diplomacy. A good example of this principle of equality of states is the General Assembly of the United Nations. All UN member states, although quite different in size of population, have one vote in the General Assembly. This concept may be difficult for some Micronesian leaders to accept but they must be convinced to accept it. This is one of the few keys to Micronesian unity. Once this is accepted, I venture to think that the elusive unity will arrive on its own bidding unescorted!

Another of the requirements is that we must respect one another, and that respect must penetrate the life, the thoughts, and the actions of the peoples that make up the Micronesias. If we are to have a close and durable Micronesian unity, I'm convinced that it must come from the cooperation of Micronesian districts on a basis of equality – a cooperation that recommends instead of ordering, that conciliates without condemning. These are requirements that any meaningful interaction between different peoples must first meet before any cooperation is to be expected.

In addition to these human requirements, there are a few requirements for any organizational structure which is fairly large in size and composed of many impossible parts characterized by an assortment of values, sense of drive and direction, mode of communications, requirements, patterns of operations, motivations, etc. – the list is almost endless. E.F. Schumacher, an economist and a student of Gandhian philosophy, in his book *SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL – Economics as if People Mattered* eloquently outlines his analysis and recommendations for large organizations in the chapter "Question of Size".

He says, "Even today, we are

generally told that gigantic organizations are inescapably necessary; but when we look closely we can notice that as soon as great size has been created there is often a strenuous attempt to attain smallness within bigness. The great achievement of Mr. Sloan of General Motors was to structure this gigantic firm in such a manner that it became, in fact, a federation of fairly reasonably sized firms. In the British National Coal Board, one of the biggest firms of Western Europe, something very similar was attempted under the chairmanship of Lord Robens; strenuous efforts were made to evolve a structure which would maintain the unity of one big organization and at the same time create the 'climate' or feeling of there being a federation of numerous 'quasi-firms'. The monolith was transformed into a well-coordinated assembly of lively, semi-autonomous units, each with its own drive and sense of achievement. While many theoreticians—who may not be too closely in touch with real life—are still engaging in the idolatry of large size, with practical people in the actual world there is a tremendous longing and striving to profit, if at all possible, from the convenience, humanity, and manageability of smallness. This... is a tendency which anyone can easily observe for himself."

Schumacher continues later, "Let us now approach our subject from another angle and ask what is actually needed. In the affairs of men, there always appears to be a need for at least two things, simultaneously, which, on the face of it, seem to be incompatible and to exclude one another. We always need both freedom and order. We need the freedom of lots and lots of small, autonomous units, and, at the same time, the orderliness of large-scale, possibly global, unity and coordination. When it comes to action, we obviously need small units, because action is a highly personal affair, and one cannot be in touch with more than a very limited number of persons at any one



time. But when it comes to the world of ideas, to principles or to ethics, to the indivisibility of peace and also of ecology, we need to recognize the unity of mankind and base our actions upon this recognition." Order and freedom are what Schumacher refers to as "duality of human requirement when it comes to the question of size".

The "question of size" is indeed an issue of utmost importance whenever we talk about unity or the relationship between district governments and the central institution. A key point mentioned above is freedom of autonomous units within the "bigness". In Micronesian political context, this duality of human requirement calls for creation of autonomous districts in Micronesia. This is a point not too difficult to accept in Micronesian political arenas.

Districts are being chartered because they wish to attain autonomous status. The same can be said of the Marshalls' proposed constitution. That constitution should guarantee the Marshalls an autonomous status by virtue of that district being a sovereign entity under the said constitution.

My opinion is that the Marshalls is on the right track. A sovereign district has power and authority over its territory, the sea, the air-space, and all resources in them. There should be no reason why any district need settle for less than to achieve a "sovereign" status (unless that is objected to by the U.S.).

Let me hasten to add that to achieve a "sovereign" status doesn't necessarily mean separation or independence. In the context of a loose federation arrangement, yet to be proposed in this paper, "sovereignty" and "autonomy" will mean essentially the same thing. Each "sovereign" district will delegate back to the central institution authority and power over matters of Micronesia-wide importance, such as law of the sea, etc. This is compatible with and certainly meets the duality of human requirements —

freedom and order — that E.F. Schumacher insists on.

With all these requirements taken into consideration, let me now propose an organizational structure for that central institution which will have the following characteristics: It will be less risky that the West Indies Federation scheme. It will allow each district to be considered and accepted equal to all others. It will make room for and the environment conducive to mutual respect. It will allow the freedom of autonomous units (districts) and at the same time provide for orderliness among these units. As for experiment, it does not have the risk of leaving irreversible damages behind its trail.

The proposed structure is a compromise between the proposed structure of The Federated States of Micronesia and The South Pacific Commission's. It is a version of the United Nations Organization's structure but so modified to suit the needs, the uniqueness, and the requirements of Micronesia and her peoples. Its direction of purpose is Micronesian-oriented; it is geared toward development, unlike the UN structure which is geared toward maintenance of world peace.

Briefly, the central institution will be composed of the following principal organs:

- 1) General Assembly,
- 2) Secretariat,
- 3) Economic Council,
- 4) Social Council,
- 5) Micronesia-U.S. Relations Council, and the
- 6) Interislands Court of Justice.

**THE TRANSITION:** In view of Winkel's Reorganizational Plan\* the transition from the Trust Territory Government to this new arrangement will be smooth and will need minimum rearrangements:

**The General Assembly:** Briefly, the General Assembly's legislative powers will be similar to those of the proposed Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. An exception, however, must be made in order to make this

body compatible with all the requirements and the considerations outlined in this paper: that exception is, the General Assembly must *not* make laws to meddle with domestic affairs of the sovereign districts.

The legislative power of this body will be confined to those areas so delegated to it by district governments. Some examples of these are: law of the sea, College of Micronesia, national postal system, etc.

It is recommended that any procedure used in conducting the General Assembly's business must uphold and reflect the "equality of entities" principle. A set of procedures which adequately accommodate this particular concern is outlined in the Article IX, section 20 of the draft Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia. In consideration of the "equality" principle it says, "To become a law, a bill must pass 2 readings on separate days. To pass first reading, a 2/3 vote of all members is required. On final reading, each state delegation shall cast one vote and a 2/3 vote of all the delegations is required".

Such a procedure will allow the General Assembly (and the rest of the central institution) to promote and uphold some basic requirements: For example, it will respect the sovereignty (autonomy) of each district; it will consider and accept each district equal to the others; and it will give due recognition to the numerical preponderance of some of the districts — a reality we cannot just ignore.

**Secretariat:** This organ will be composed of the core staff of the central institution and the Secretary-General who will be elected by the General Assembly. The Secretary-General will be the administrative officer of the central institution; the scope of his function will be much like that of Kurt Waldheim's of the UN. Most of the staff will be recruited from the Department of Administrative Services; the services to be required will not be much



different from those being rendered under the present government.

*Economic Council:* This organ will be responsible for coordination and assistance in the development of plans and programs for all Micronesian districts. The majority of programs and staff of the Department of Development Services will be transferred to this organ.

*Social Council:* The Department of Community Services will be replaced by the Social Council which will be responsible for programs on health, education, etc.

*Micronesia-U.S. Relations Council:* We must admit that we need an umbilical cord between Micronesia and Washington. We also know that the U.S. will want to have some accounting system over the fiscal matters if Federal aid were to come out of the taxpayers' purse. This organ will be the Micronesia where Americans have offices. This is the part of Micronesia where Americans can meet Micronesians.

*Interislands Court of Justice:* With the General Assembly and the Secretariat the whole compromised structure would not look balanced without one more "branch". The Interislands Court of Justice will be the highest court system in Micronesia. Its statutes will be the international laws plus those delegated to it by district governments through the General Assembly. It will also provide, among other things, consultation services on legal matters including assisting any district's relationship with a non-Micronesian entity.

**CONCLUSION:** After reading this paper, several different reactions are to be expected. Some will say this is nonsense. Others will just ignore it. Still others will exclaim, "Ah, this is what I've been thinking about all along but never have been able to say it out". That's good because that's what it's all about. To bring an idea into proper focus is like a mid-wife's role in delivering a child into this world. That child was formed in the womb and it has to be delivered whether the mid-wife is there or not.

My role in writing this paper is only to try to put different ideas into a certain perspective for my fellow Micronesians to see. I have no claim to the originality of these things.

If I were to summarize the fundamental principles needed for a durable union in Micronesia in three words, they would be "equality and sovereignty". Sovereignty essentially means autonomy which has already been accepted throughout Micronesia. Charters are an example of this principle. So the remaining key word is equality (of districts). This is the remaining hurdle. Once overcome, we will have turned the corner and be on the final stretch for unity. (We need unity now more than ever before. We need a united front to ward off the

devisive maneuvers of the U.S. in these negotiations. No longer should we depend on the "good will" of the U.S. Government for there is none for us. We have to look after our own interests.)

I have tried to show that Unity A is not the answer. I have tried to paint and sell Unity-B as the answer for our future union. But I would not be surprised if other Micronesians came up with Unity-C, Unity-D, etc., as other alternatives. What is needed are many options from which we can choose the best answer. There is no one answer to Micronesia's future. This is the truth that cannot be overemphasized.

So being a concerned Micronesian, I walk up to these two Micronesian boys at Guam International Airport. I want to help because the departure time is near and the argument is reaching violence. They still have not decided which airline to take to Hawaii. This is what I would like to tell them.

"You can go to Hawaii by taking either Pan Am or Air Mike. But I recommend that you decide which one to take together. You will need each other's company on this unfamiliar trip to an unfamiliar destination. Air Mike, you should know, will be a little rougher and longer but exciting because it needs to make several stops before it reaches Hawaii. Pan Am, however, will be smoother, faster but less exciting because it's straight flight".

As I leave them to decide which of the two airlines to take, I pray that they don't say to each other, "Okay, you take your choice and I'll take the other".

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\*Introduced by Adrian Winkel, T.T. High Commissioner, in a speech to the COM (Jan. 1978)

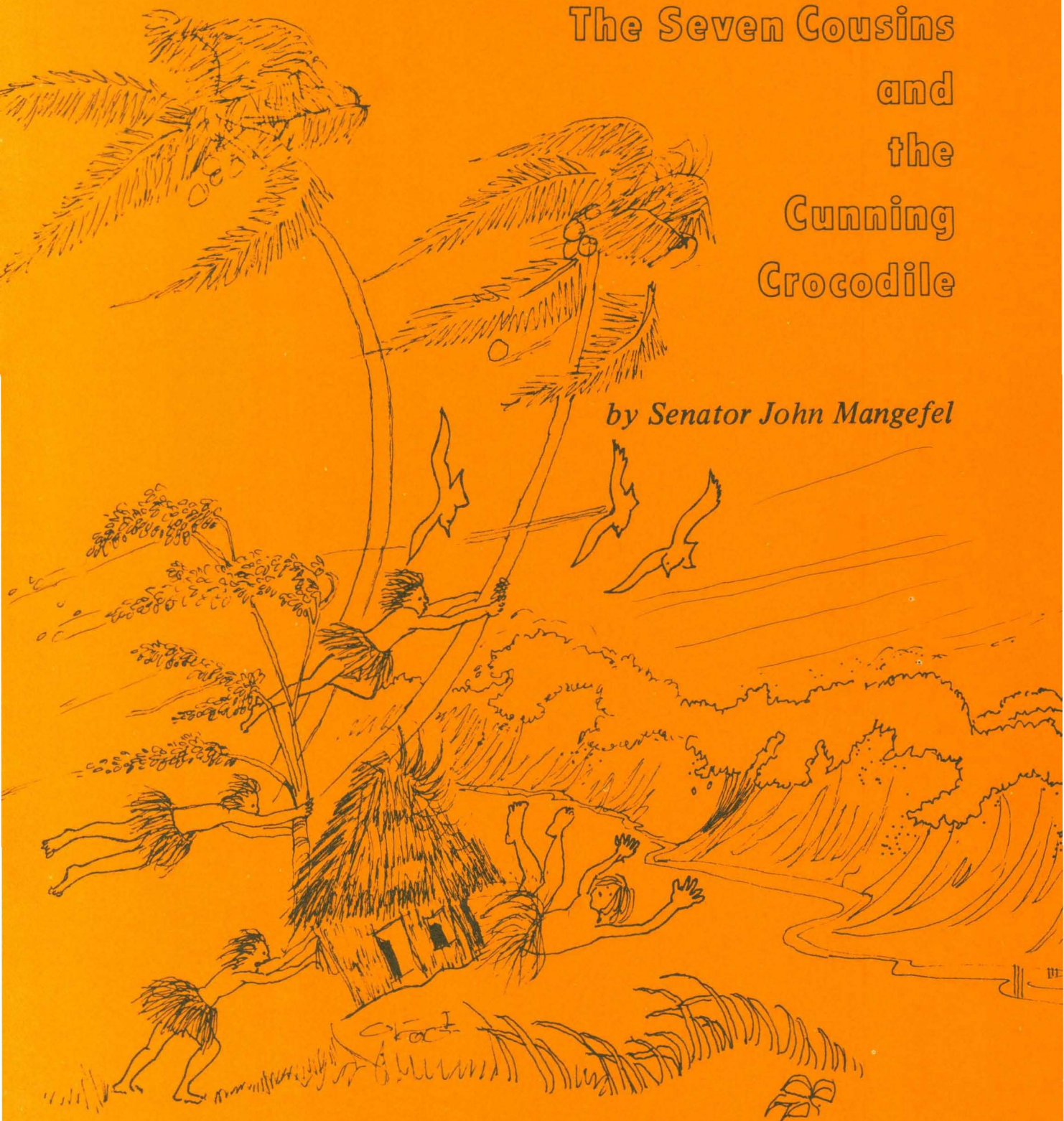
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# The Seven Cousins and the Cunning Crocodile

*by Senator John Mangefel*



*There was a great typhoon that swept away houses and trees, people and animals.*



Many, many moons ago, after the great spider had spun his web of the sky and stars, and after the great sea bird had flown all over the sea that was the world and built the islands, and long after the gods had created man, there was a great typhoon which swept across the ocean destroying almost everything in its path. It swept away houses and trees, people and animals. It was so strong it drained some small lagoons of water and fish and mixed them with birds and the sky.

In the wake of this great destruction, was a large atoll, on which was one big island. And on this island, there were no people except seven young cousins, who had been saved from the terrible wind, by the cunning of their elders. Yet their cunning did not save the elders, who were lost, and thus only the seven young cousins remained. They were without food and water, crops having been destroyed, and the water being salty.

One day soon after they came from their hiding place, the seven cousins held a council. The names of the seven cousins were: Mar, Marsh, Kos, Pon, Pal, Ru and Ya.

"What shall we do?", they exclaimed in unison. "We are lost, for we have no food, no water. We have no one to care for us, we are too young to care for ourselves."

Just then, one of them spotted a canoe on the horizon.

The children watched with fearfulness while the canoe slowly approached their island. When it landed, they could see an old man with a white beard get out. He came slowly to them and then he spoke.

I am your uncle, as were the brothers of your fathers. I have returned from a long journey from another part of the ocean. I am happy to return, but am sad to see no one else here. Are there others?

"Oh, no, great uncle, they have all been taken away by the big wind. We are the only ones left," they cried together.

"Do not worry, my children. I shall take care of you. I have provisions in my canoe enough to last until our crops can grow again. I have enough coconuts and water to last until the water is good again. I have enough tools to help build our house. And while I am not so strong, I have enough experience to teach you how to do the things you need to make you able to care for yourselves again."

And so it was. The old man cared for them and many moons passed, and many stars rose and fell.

One day, the cousins asked the old man if they could explore all 'round the island. The old man said that they were big enough to explore all places, but that they had to be careful of one.

"You see, you all have lived on this island, but your fathers who were all brothers were married to wives who were from different parts of the island; so you all together do not know the whole island.

"For this reason, you must be careful of one part of the island."

"Why, uncle?," cried the cousins.

"This is the part where the Giant Crocodile lives. He is a very special animal. Some say he is not only a crocodile, that he has magic powers and that he can change himself into different forms, that he can help you or destroy you at his will. One thing on which all the elders agree: he is very cunning and you must be very careful when you encounter him."

The next day, the boys held a meeting. They decided that the way they could show their uncle how they appreciated all his kindness and caring for them would be to capture the giant crocodile and bring it back to their uncle.

Early the next morning, with the excuse they were going fishing the cousins set out for the end of the island where the giant crocodile lived. The sun was hot, and they grew very weary. They saw no crocodile. They were startled once when a large lizard scurried up a coconut tree. They later saw some small white terns which flew overhead, and heard some small land crabs scuttling through the dark underbrush. They searched and searched but found no crocodile. Being tired, they ate some food and rested in the afternoon under a large shade tree. Soon they fell asleep. When they awoke, it was dark.

They debated on whether they should remain, or return. They decided to start back, thinking that their uncle would worry about them if they did not get back that night. Slowly they retraced their path by moonlight. However, before long, large clouds hid the moon and stars.

They stopped, and tried to peer into the darkness. Suddenly, a chilly breeze struck them and at the same time they heard a hissing sound that deepened into a low, soft voice.

They cried out as one. They all saw two, large, red eyes before them in the blackness. Their eyes were a good three feet above the ground.

"Who, what are you," the boys shouted after recovering from their fright.

"I am Kra", said the low voice which came from the direction of the red eyes that glowed with an eerie brightness, "I am the guardian of the mighty, and the ruler of the vanquished; I am the protector of all, and the savior of none. I am nothing and I am everything, I am what you think I am, and I can be what you wish me to be."





*They went to do their chores: some to the taro patch; two went fishing and others went to collect firewood.*

"Then you are Kra, the giant crocodile?," the boys asked.

"Some say that; but I am much more and no less," said the voice.

"Oh, great Kra, we mean you no harm, we are lost and trying to find our way home again," they said. "Can you help us?"

"It would please me greatly to be of assistance to the young adventures. Come closer so that I may see you better," said Kra, his eyes unblinking.

The boys then formed a plan. Mar, Marsh, and Kos would approach from the rear of Kra, about 30 feet back from the red eyes where they estimated his tail to extend, and Pon, Pal, Ru and Ya would approach about 10 feet before the eyes, allowing some distance from where his snout should be. Those from the rear would approach the head and those at the head would move toward the tail on the same side. The two groups would meet approximately at the middle.

"We are not together, we have become separated," they called, "but we will walk toward each other's voices until we are near you."

"Kra awaits, Kra has much patience," said the crocodile.

The boys then began moving noisily towards each other according to the plan, saying "When you feel us touch your side, you will be able to see us."

They boys in front watched as the eyes followed them in an arc, and the boys in the back, watched as first one, and then the other eye appeared to them.

Suddenly, at the mid point, they produced a long pole, which they thrust toward where Kra's side should be.

"We are here," they exclaimed.

There was a mighty roar, and rush of wind as the giant Kra thrashed in the night, for the crocodile had unwittingly snapped his jaws shut on his own tail.

The boys then fled through the underbrush as though they had wings on their feet.

As they ran, they could hear the thrashing stop, and again Kra's voice: "Kra has much patience. We will meet again."

Past midnight, and with the moon low in the sky, the boys returned to their house, entering quietly so as not to wake the old man. They quickly fell asleep. Their sleep was deep, but troubled.

### **The Crocodile Triumphs—Mar Disappears**

They awoke late in the morning. The old man had already left to bottom fish beyond the reef. The boys discussed their meeting with Kra. They all agreed that he was a 'wily' and dangerous animal. All, except Mar, said that they would hesitate to try to capture the beast again. Mar, however, just smiled, and said he had an idea. He refused to tell them what it was, despite their pleading, and they then went to do their chores: Mar to the taro patch, Marsh and Kos to collect breadfruit; Pon and Pal to spear fish, and Ru and Ya to collect firewood.

In the afternoon they returned from their work. They saw the taro on the carrying pole, resting in the shade of their house. But Mar was not in sight. That



evening, when he had still not returned, they told their uncle of their previous night's adventure, and what Mar had said in the morning.

"Boys, I fear Mar is lost forever. He has tried to do what no one man has done, to capture Kra, alone," said the old man.

"No. Mar is not dead, but he can never return. He is now under the magic spell of Kra. And you must not kill Kra for he is all powerful, and he gets his power from the wind and trees, from the ocean and the land. If you were to kill him, we all would die," said the Uncle.

"Then what must we do, uncle?," they asked.

"Kra is powerful, and he is smart. Were you to capture him, and make him afraid, he would leave you alone. If you prove you are equal to him, he will respect you. He will then help you by not hurting you. That is the only way," said the old man.

"But how can we do that?," asked the cousins.

"I do not know, I cannot go with you, for I am old and weak. But I can give you some advice which you might be able to use. You must also prepare yourselves before meeting him again. You must make a plan, and you must stick to the plan. That is all I know," he said.

The next day, the boys gathered together their equipment: a long stout coconut rope, some sturdy mangrove poles, and adze and some glowing embers from the fire placed in a clay pot. They also put together their provisions of food and water. Then they sat down to listen to their uncle's advice.

"Do you yet have a plan," he asked.

"No, uncle," they said.

"You must have a plan, but before you make it, listen to this: What is strong, may be the source of weakness; what is weak, may be the source of strength. Whatever plan you may have, use both to your advantage," he said.

"But what does that mean? What does that say about the crocodile?" they asked.

"I cannot tell you. It is for you to know and understand. That is the nature of youth. But I can give you examples. A coconut tree is strong and tall, with many leaves that provide shade for its fruit; but during a typhoon, the wind presses against the trunk and leaves as it would against a sail and the coconut tree's strength becomes its weakness."

"Can you tell us more?," they asked.

"One of man's strengths is his ambition, yet it is this ambition which often leads man astray," he said.

"I can say no more," added the old man, and with that, he bid them farewell and the boys set out across the island to where they had first encountered Kra.

They camped near a cliff, overlooking the sea. On the cliff were some large boulders and tall and strong shade trees. They quickly set to work starting a fire from the embers, and gathered firewood. They then went to the sea, where they formed a line and drove reef fish into a shallow pool to be easily captured. On their way back, they took sea birds' eggs from the face of the cliff.

They feasted on the fish and eggs, taro and breadfruit. They drank coconuts, and then rested. Later, they set out for the spot where they had first met Kra. Even before they reached where they guessed the place to be, they again encountered the chill wind and heard Kra's voice.

"Kra has been waiting for you. He is patient. He is glad to see you return. He welcomes you," said the voice and again they saw the glowing red eyes.

"What have you done to our cousin, Mar? Where is he?" they cried.

"Mar is safe," said Kra, "he is with me now. He cannot return to you. You boys were very rude to Kra when last we met. You tried to trick Kra. You tried to hurt Kra." There was a long, hissing sound.

"But Kra is patient. He forgives. He is also soothed by one of your young cousins," the crocodile said.

"You have killed and eaten our cousin. You are wicked and treacherous," they cried.

"Kra does not lie. Behold."

A light began to glow before the red eyes, and then the image of Mar appeared.

"My cousins. I am safe, do not fear for me. I am happy, but I cannot return to the place from where I came. I cannot join you now, but perhaps someday in the future we will be together again," said the image.

The image dimmed, and faded. The red eyes glowed again.

"Kra must go now. We will meet again tomorrow night. Until then, remember that Kra is kind. He wants to be your friend and he wants to help you." The eyes blinked shut. The crocodile was gone.

The six cousins returned to their campsite. They were amazed by what they had seen. They soon fell to discussing what they had seen, and began arguing over what it meant and what should be their next step.

Pal and Marsh felt that they were being foolish in trying to capture the crocodile. "He is strong and we are weak. He does not wish to harm. We saw Mar. He is well and happy. If we try to capture him, he may hurt us. If we listen to him, we may be happy."

But Pon, Ru, Ya, and Kos disagreed saying that Mar was now a prisoner and that Kra was using his magic to try and also catch them.





*Kra dangling helpless from the tree.*

After much discussion, they all agreed that Kra was to be reckoned with carefully. They also agreed that whatever they would do, they would do it together. Upon that agreement, they slept.

**What is weak becomes strong—what was strong becomes weak.**

They arose the next morning and discussed over their first food what they should do.

“Remember what the old man said,” said Ru, “What is weak, may be the source of strength.”

“I am stronger than all of you,” said Marsh, “I can use my strength against Kra.”

“And I am more cunning than the rest of you,” said Pal, “and I can use my cunning against Kra.”

But Pon said, “If Kra is so strong, how can he also be weak?”

“What makes him strong?” said Ya.

“It is his jaws, and his tail,” said Kos.



"And his cunning," said Ru, "is what makes his jaws and tail so strong."

"So?" said Marsh, "How do we make his strength a weakness?"

"We can dig a deep hole and cover it. Kra is big, strong, and heavy. He will fall into the hole, and we will not let him out until he agrees not to hurt us ever," said Ru.

"We agree," said Kos, Pon, and Ya.

"That is foolish," said Marsh, "only his head will start to fall and the rest of his long body will be safe. He will be angered and will know we tried to trick him again."

"I agree," said Pal, "it is foolish. Instead, we must prepare a trap with the rope. We will tie down a large tree, and put a loop of rope over his snout. The tree will snap up, and Kra will be helpless."

"That is a good idea," agreed Ru, "but for one thing. All of us are not strong enough to bend a tree that can lift Kra."

They all agreed that neither proposal could work. Then, one of the cousins had an idea and proposed it to the other five. The five nodded in agreement. It was a good idea, because it would use Kra's strength into his weakness.

The next morning the boys went fishing, catching some large reef fish. They returned with these, and placed them in the sun where they quickly began to spoil. By afternoon, the odor of fish had become strong. By dusk, they had arranged the fish in front of a natural opening in the thick jungle leading to their campsite. They then fashioned a special loop of the coconut rope around the second natural opening leading to their place. The rope was then run through the fork of a large branch in the shade tree, and its end was securely tied to a large boulder at the edge of the cliff. That portion of the rope from the ground to the tree branch was then soaked with coconut oil. After all this, the rope was well hidden with vines like those which were on the large tree.

They then made a fire, ate and rested to gain strength. When it had become quite dark, they again set out for the place where they had met Kra the night before. But like the second time, they encountered him sooner than expected, as though each night the giant crocodile was moving closer to their place.

The red eyes stared at them unblinking.

"Kra is happy to see you. He has been waiting to meet you again," hissed the low voice.

"Oh, great Kra, we have come to ask your forgiveness for being so rude. We wish to invite you to feast with us. We have worked hard all day preparing for your visit. We have caught many good fish. If you

will come to our resting place, we will show you what we have prepared for you.

"Kra is pleased. He accepts your apology. He accepts your good will and your hospitality. Kra will follow."

The boys then took off at a fast pace. They darted through the opening where the spoiled fish lay, leaving their scent behind. Then they moved quietly to the other opening and waited, holding the end of the rope forming the loop. They waited and listened. They could hear the giant crocodile's approach through the thick undergrowth.

"Kra is hungry. Kra is happy. He will soon feast. He will soon fill his belly with all the good things from the six young adventurers. Hsssss. Hsssss. Kra is happy, Kra is hungry," repeated the crocodile.

Then the boys heard nothing. All was silent except for the chirping of crickets. Then the sound of Kra approaching resumed again. He was coming toward them, as they expected. They could dimly see the eyes through the opening. The crocodile stopped again, waiting. The eyes blinked once. The crocodile proceeded toward them. Finally, the end of the snout appeared in the opening. The boys held their breath and dared not move. Little by little, the long snout protruded through the opening toward the clearing.

"Now!" they shouted in unison, and drew the loop tight around the gnarled old snout.

Kra's reaction was immediate and it was violent. He lunged forward dragging the boys with him toward the edge of the cliff.

They heard his muffled roar of outrage.

"Wicked boys. You have tried to trick Kra again! You will regret what you have done. Kra will not have mercy."

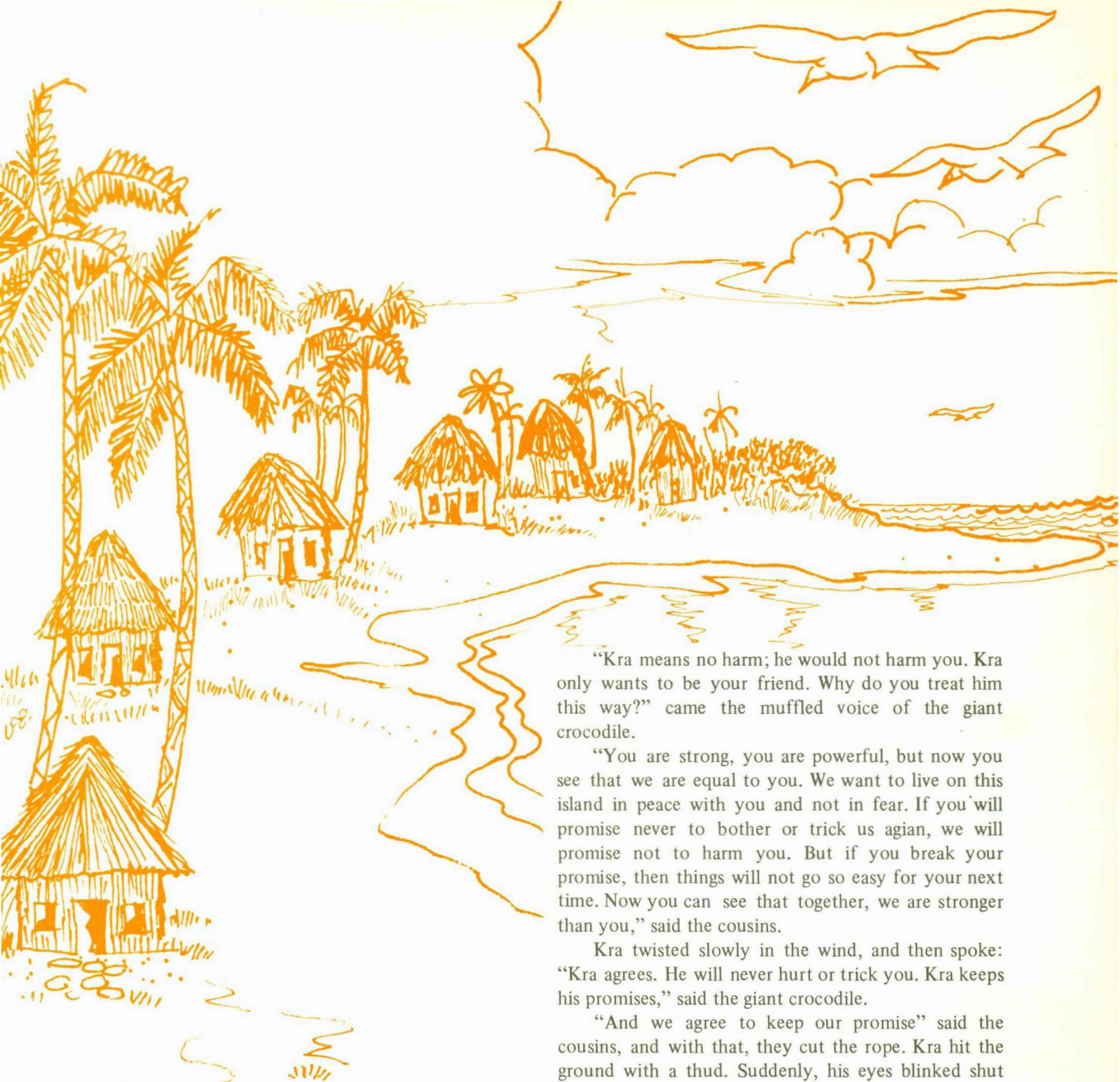
So saying, he heaved his mighty tail to the left in an attempt to strike the boys. This produced the opposite movement of his head, and the six cousins tightly gripping the rope, were flung up into the air over the edge of the cliff. They fell back down near the edge, and again, Kra, with a mighty hissing, flung his tail to the right. This second action was so violent, the boys lost hold of the rope and fell in a tumble to the ground away from the cliff.

"We are lost," cried the boys thinking the plan had failed, "the crocodile will eat us."

They got up, and looked around, but they saw no gaping crocodile jaw ready to devour them. Instead, they saw Kra, dangling helpless from the tree, his tail flailing uselessly from side to side. Kra twisted violently from side to side, then ceased his efforts.

It was as they had planned.





For the boys had finally discovered how to use the crocodile's cunning and strength against himself. They knew that he would avoid the obvious smell of fish as the possible place of a trip, thus he avoided it and went to where the trap was. Likewise, the boys knew they could not bend a tree big enough to lift the animal, and they could not together hold Kra's snout and his tail. So, using the advice of their uncle, they used Kra's own strength, the strength of his tail, to push the large rock over the cliff, which in turn would pull the oiled rope, and lift Kra into the air.

"Now, great Kra, you who would make us your prisoner, are at our mercy," they chanted.

"Kra means no harm; he would not harm you. Kra only wants to be your friend. Why do you treat him this way?" came the muffled voice of the giant crocodile.

"You are strong, you are powerful, but now you see that we are equal to you. We want to live on this island in peace with you and not in fear. If you will promise never to bother or trick us again, we will promise not to harm you. But if you break your promise, then things will not go so easy for your next time. Now you can see that together, we are stronger than you," said the cousins.

Kra twisted slowly in the wind, and then spoke: "Kra agrees. He will never hurt or trick you. Kra keeps his promises," said the giant crocodile.

"And we agree to keep our promise" said the cousins, and with that, they cut the rope. Kra hit the ground with a thud. Suddenly, his eyes blinked shut and he was gone as if by magic.

The six boys hurried home the next morning to tell their uncle the good news.

The old man was pleased, "You have learned your lesson well, and I can see now that you are able to take care of yourselves and so I will leave you soon."

Within the passing of one moon, the old man departed in his canoe for other islands. The six cousins eventually found wives and prospered on their island. They lived in harmony and mutual respect with the giant crocodile, Kra, whose presence was feared by others far and wide and for this reason the island remained at peace for many generations.



# MOEN--"DRY SEASON 1978"

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*by Leo A. Falcam, Jr., Nelsin S. Iriarte, Philip F. Polloi,  
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## INTRODUCTION

On January 15, 1978, a municipal ordinance to ban the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on Moen Island went into effect. Even before it actually took effect, the ordinance has been a controversial topic of discussion on the island. The discussion aroused our curiosity to learn more about this newly passed law, its causes and effects. Our main objective in this project was to investigate the effects of the law upon the different segments of society: businesses formerly selling liquor, the tourist industry, the Truk District Legislature and other government bodies that depend on liquor taxes for revenue, and the lives of the people residing on Moen.

In order to fulfill our objective, we conducted direct interviews with the following departments and people: Administration Office, Truk District Legislature, Moen Municipal Council, Police Department, Hospital Administration, Tourism Office, Tax Revenue Office, Public Affairs Office, Micronesian Legal Services, managers and owners of various bars, restaurants and stores. Questionnaires were also given out for the purpose of finding out public reactions to the law.

Moen Island, the District Center of Truk, is where the administration office, the district legislature, and major stores, bars and restaurants are located. Thus, different people in the Truk Lagoon and the outer islands have continually migrated to Moen in search of jobs and recreation. Since Moen is the center of businesses, political activity, and entertainment for other islands, it also becomes a "melting pot" for the different groups of people. Often unable to find available jobs, however, these people — especially youth between the ages of 15 and 30 — roam around aimlessly. At times these groups of people come into small clashes, which sometimes eventually result in island-to-island conflicts. The troubles that occur are, of course, all alcohol-related problems which have been occurring frequently in the past years.

## BACKGROUND

Liquor has always been a favorite beverage for many people in Truk. It has been used as a means of relieving tensions and family problems. A person who is unable to speak out soberly, usually drowns his shame in a can of beer or a bottle of gin, then he is able to speak out freely what he thinks or feels. Liquor, however, has also been a cause of many severe social problems ranging from simple fights to recorded homicide cases. In 1975, for instance, there were three car accidents caused by drunken drivers. Between the years 1970 and 1977 there have been six recorded homicide cases, five of which were committed by persons under the influence of alcohol. In the past two years, there have been four recorded assaults in which cases the assailant and/or the victim was under the influence of spirits.

Over the course of several years, the government has tried to offer solutions to minimize, if not abolish completely, these problems. Among the solutions found were: temporary closing down of bars, licensing, and recruiting of new police chiefs.

**Temporary closing down of Bars.** In February of 1977, the two island groups of Faichuk and Namoneas in the Truk Lagoon got into a conflict and decided to have a showdown at Truk Airport on Moen. On hearing this, the DistAd closed down the bars on Moen for precautionary measures fearing that the consumption of liquor might lead to an even worse situation. This tactic had been used a few times in the past. The problem with this solution, however, is that it doesn't work in the long run because after the bars are reopened, trouble resumes at its normal pace.

**Licensing.** During the latter part of 1974, drinking permits were introduced. Anyone over the age of 21, except those whose files in the police station showed that they couldn't behave well when under the influence, was eligible to obtain a drinking permit from



the police station for a fee of \$6. In other words, it was a way of segregating the people who could and couldn't drink. Drinking permits were confiscated from certain individuals if they drank and caused trouble. Thus, anyone without a drinking permit was not to be sold or consume alcoholic beverages at anytime. This law worked — for a while! Eventually, businesses no longer looked for the permits; the money was more important. As a result teenagers and those who were refused drinking permits got away with purchasing liquor. At the same time, those stores that firmly abided by the law sold alcoholic beverages to people who had drinking permits and were purchasing liquor for friends who didn't have them. Law enforcement also gradually waned, and the police hardly checked bars for people who had no drinking permits.

**New Police Chiefs.** Then in the latter part of 1977, two new policemen from Hawaii arrived in Truk to begin conducting training for the Truk Police Force and also help in dealing with the crimes in Truk. Police Chief Boisse Correa and Captain Marc Greenwell were a big help to the Police Department. The few remaining tough criminals in Truk, who were not in the prison before Boisse came, were arrested. Certainly the coming of these two men has eased the situation a little. Police became more diligent. Street fights erupted less frequently than before. Even though there were more controls on drinking, however, it didn't stop completely. Drinkers fled to rural areas when they wanted to "suck 'em up". Then there were those who remained in town, but hid out in the bushes when they felt like downing a bottle or two.

Moen residents had begun to understand that trouble couldn't be controlled if drinking was not stopped. They saw that in town, trouble had decreased, but in the villages away from town, problems caused by drunkards were beginning to multiply. Therefore, groups from the different villages on Moen submitted petitions to the Municipal Council stating that they wanted no more liquor on their island at all. The Moen Municipal Council considered the petitions and decided to hold an island-wide referendum. Before the referendum was held, meetings were convened in villages and people were notified of the advantages and disadvantages of the liquor ban. After the people had gone to the polls and voted on whether or not to ban liquor, it was clear that despite the disadvantages of outlawing alcoholic beverages mentioned in their meetings, they were still firm in their decision to prohibit liquor. Out of 2,191 registered voters, 2,045 were for the ban, while a mere 146 voted against it.

Older people, women and Protestant Church groups were especially strong in their support for the ban.

Seeing this, the Moen Municipal Council recognized that many of the people of Moen were very outspoken in their desires to prohibit liquor on their island. They constituted a Moen Municipal ordinance, which states that "it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or consume alcoholic beverages in Moen Municipality." Violators were liable to be fined not more than \$100 or imprisoned for not more than 90 days or both.

The ordinance was then submitted to the DistAd for approval. As was expected, the Acting DistAd at that time approved and signed into law the Moen Municipal ordinance on the 25th of October 1977. As the Acting DistAd at that time stated, "I had no choice. It was the wish of the people and, following the procedures of a democratic government, the majority rules as the vote showed clearly." Responses coming into the Truk District Administration Office were numerous. Protestant Church groups wrote and extended congratulations to the Administration for its wise decision. Even some businessmen were also happy with the decision of the Administration. These were the owners of the few businesses that were victims of regularly scheduled fights which caused damage to furniture and ruined the reputation of that business as a whole. As might be expected, however, most businessmen expressed concern for the money they would lose as a result of the ban. A certain business even went to the point of inquiring at Micronesian Legal Services whether or not it was legal to build a floating bar in the Truk Lagoon. It was decided that such a bar would be illegal. The Truk Tourism Office also expressed strong concern about the ban resulting in the loss of tourists who were expected to come to Truk. Thus, it would decrease the amount of money coming into Truk.

The public response, which will be elaborated on later in this paper, was mostly positive regarding the ban. People seemed to like it because they felt there had been much crime on Moen. They believed that these crimes were all caused by people who were drunk and could not control themselves. Many felt the ban would put an end to all these problems, and so they supported it. And as can be seen from the petitions and the votes, it was clearly the wish of the people of Moen that such a law be put into effect.

There is some speculation, however, that Moen Municipal Council had mixed motives for passing the ordinance. One person interviewed suspected that the Moen Municipal Council would like to acquire a bigger portion of the liquor tax collected by the Truk District



Legislature for their own operation. The District Legislature collects all sales tax on liquor and eventually receives fifty percent of the import tax on alcohol coming into Truk. This money is thereafter divided equally among the different islands in Truk according to their population and is used for the improvements of roads, docks, and other community projects.

The Moen Municipal Council, said several sources, was pushing for a bigger cut of this money through informal onversation and speeches with members of the Truk District Legislature. The Legislature ignored their request, however, so it is believed that Moen Municipal Council retaliated by banning liquor entirely. Said one source interviewed, "Moen leaders are selfish and lack a sense of responsibility." He also mentioned that, "many people will not come to Moen because it is dry." He cited an example for his statement, "Now in Truk there are many new projects that are about to get underway such as the new airport, docks, and others. They are presently up for bid to various companies, and seeing that Truk is dry these companies might not want to come because of the lack of entertainment for workers."

But the Moen Municipal Council's desire to acquire a bigger cut in the Truk Legislature's taxes is not entirely unreasonable. As one source mentioned, "Moen Municipal Council would like a bigger portion of the liquor tax to improve the Moen Municipal Police Force." This, the source mentioned, "is for a good cause because the fact remains that people from the other islands of Truk Lagoon come to Moen, drink all they want, and leave for home. However, before they depart for their islands, the consequences of their drunken misconduct due to alcohol abuse are left for the Moen Municipal Police to take care of."

### EFFECTS

The prohibition of alcohol on Moen has had an obvious effect on the other islands in the Truk Lagoon. Now that the sale is prohibited here on Moen, people from the other islands have nowhere to obtain their drinks. Dublon, another island in the Truk Lagoon, had an ordinance similar to Moen's that also prohibited drinking on their island but it was not really effective until Moen passed its ordinance. Even if people from Dublon or other islands wish to drink, they have no means of obtaining liquor anymore.

In general, life here on Moen has changed as a result of the alcohol ban. People feel safer because trouble has ceased. Another thing is that people who were once drinkers and were employed, no longer

spend most of their money on liquor. Instead, more money goes to families for their use. Wives are also now happy that their husbands don't run around much anymore. Nowadays more people are turning to the church. They are beginning to participate more in religious services and church-sponsored activities.

On the other hand, the prohibition has been a very severe blow to the economic situation here in Truk. As will be shown more clearly later on, money acquired from the sales and importation of liquor constitutes approximately 27% of the District Legislature's income. Furthermore, the liquor ban has also badly hurt several businesses on Truk that used to sell liquor.

### Bars.

In the month of November 1977, there were six opened bars on Moen. Immediately preceeding the prohibition, one of the bars closed down completely because it had no other means of income since it was only selling liquor. The other five bars didn't close down completely, because they were selling other things besides liquor. These five businesses that were formerly selling liquor altogether grossed two-thirds of a million dollars in 1977. When the purchase cost of alcoholic beverages is subtracted from this gross, these five bars show total earnings of almost \$300,000. It is this amount that circulates in Truk District and has a multiplier effect in the economy. The figures on gross and net income that are shown in Table I come from alcoholic beverages alone.

TABLE I

Names of Businesses	1977 estimated liquor income			Employees Lay-offs since ban
	Gross	Purchases	Net	
Stop N' Shop	\$240,000	\$142,659	\$ 97,341	14
Happy Landing	\$216,000	\$121,500	\$ 94,500	6
Continental	\$123,000	\$ 61,500	\$ 61,500	18
Maramar Hotel	\$ 69,200	\$ 35,190	\$ 34,010	2
Bayview *	\$ 16,080	\$ 7,000	\$ 9,080	0
Total	\$664,281	\$367,849	\$296,432	40

\* Bayview Restaurant & Bar just opened recently for a little over two months (Nov. 4th — Jan. 14th).

The D'Oasis Bar has closed down completely and now the managers are trying to find means of compensation for the money lost. In their case, they are planning to open up a bakery and an outdoor repair



shop for automobiles as well as for office equipment like typewriters, Xerox machines, and cabinets. Despite all this, the managers still feel these means of compensation will not bring in the amount that they once made when liquor was sold. The Happy Landing Bar and Restaurant's manager is planning to order more ping pong tables, and he might, if the ban does not lift, build a store. The Bayview Restaurant has already opened a poker club. The owner is also planning to offer some sort of family entertainment on certain nights at which families can get together, have fun, eat, and watch movies afterwards. Hotel Maramar has plans to improve their kitchen service to lure more hungry customers. They also are in the process of exporting handicraft to other places. The money they expect from this will not compensate completely for the money they lost as a result of the ban; however, it will bring their income up considerably.

The banning of alcoholic beverages has also had an effect on employment here on Moen, especially people employed by businesses selling liquor. It is clear from the table that there have been 40 employees laid off from their jobs. Businesses no longer need them and can't pay their salaries because of lack of money. Out of all these employees laid off, we have been able to find two who have gotten other jobs again. One is working for the CETA program here in Truk and the other is now working at another restaurant. We have been unable to find information on the remaining laid off employees.

Our interviews with managers of these businesses revealed that they are mostly against the prohibition. Most of them are hoping the ban will lift soon. Said one, "it is a breach of our privacy rights." Another replied, "it is really bad for my income because 75% came from liquor. I am not doing anything about it, but I hope someone will do something soon." Most of the businessmen interviewed are gambling on the Legislature to act and make some kind of amendment to allow their businesses to reopen the sale of liquor. We will see later in this paper what power the Legislature has to do this.

#### **Tax Revenue.**

Stores, hotels, restaurants and bars selling liquor all pay liquor taxes to the Truk District Legislature. They also pay alcoholic beverage licensing fees each year to the Moen Municipal Council. Thus, both of these legislative bodies will lose a certain portion of their revenues as a result of this liquor ban. The Truk District Legislature, especially, will be hurt badly because it will lose the large sum of \$242,592 that taxes on alcohol brought in last year — that is 27% of their total income of \$900,000 for the year 1977. The

amount they will lose is based on their 1977 collection on both sales and import taxes on liquor. All liquor sales tax is collected and kept within the Truk District by the Legislature. On import tax, however, half of the amount collected on liquor is for the Truk District Legislature and the other half for Congress of Micronesia. The total import tax on liquor collected for the year 1977 was \$189,155.

The Moen Municipal Council is not affected so much by the liquor prohibition. It will lose the very small sum of \$500, which is only 0.8% of their total income of \$64,501.00. The \$500 it will lose was collected from annual license fees for businesses selling alcoholic beverages.

**TABLE II**

<b>Tax revenues from licensing and sale of alcoholic beverages</b>	
	<b>1977</b>
<b>Congress of Micronesia</b>	<b>\$ 94,577.81</b>
<b>Truk District Legislature</b>	<b>\$242,592.64</b>
<b>Moen Municipal Council</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$337,670.45</b>

In the Truk District Legislature, the members have different viewpoints on the prohibition. One remarked, "The prohibition of alcoholic beverages on Moen is good. Liquor has been a contributing factor to problems such as fights. My son was a victim of a drunkard." Another said in opposition, "I am a liberal. I believe in money economy. Liquor should not be banned in order to calm down problems. Instead, law enforcement should be paid much attention to."

As to their plans of compensation for the money lost, a member of the Legislature said, "I suspect nothing could be done now because of the upcoming Truk District Legislature election." It would be "hazardous" for the present Legislators to do anything such as raising taxes because it might narrow their chances of retaining their seats in the District Legislature in the elections this year.

#### **Tourism.**

The newly passed municipal ordinance has had a wide effect on tourism here in Truk. According to our interview with the local Tourism Officer, a total of 350 tourists came to Truk during the month of January 1978, whereas 437 tourists came to Truk during the same month of the previous year. A drop of 437 to



350 represents a 20% loss of tourists for Truk. The local Tourism Officer felt that the liquor ban is a good part of the reason why the number of tourists has decreased. He has plans to try and amend the new law.

Part of the reason the rate of tourists has dropped so rapidly is because by November 1977, a hotel manager said, "word had reached Hawaii that Truk had gone dry." Some hotels in Truk such as the Truk Continental Hotel and Hotel Maramar have received many cancellations of reservations from tourists who were planning to stay here in Truk. This, therefore, has affected the room occupancy rates of these two hotels. The Truk Continental Hotel during the month of December 1977 had an average of 13 of their 56 rooms occupied, while in December 1976 they had 28 rooms occupied. The month of December is Continental Hotel's biggest month of the year and the only month at that time that they could give us figures on. The figures in Table III on the Truk Continental Hotel might appear to show that it has gained money. But actually, they have received in the month of January 1978 less than what they expected. The hotel anticipated receiving an income of about \$40,000 in January 1978, but as a result of the ban six diving groups cancelled their reservations, costing the Truk Continental Hotel a loss of \$20,000 in their estimated \$40,000 income for the single month of January. Continental Hotel had just begun advertising last year, and reservations had just started building up when this new law came into effect.

**TABLE III**

Income from room rentals				
Hotels	Jan. '77	Total '77	Jan. '78	Proj. all '78
Continental	\$12,513	\$150,156	\$20,633	\$247,596
Maramar Hotel	\$ 1,427	\$ 16,852	\$ 798	\$ 9,580
Christopher Inn	\$ 1,630	\$ 37,129	\$ 2,818	\$ 33,827

Hotel Maramar in the month of January 1978 had five of its 20 rooms occupied. During the month of January 1977, however, all 20 rooms were occupied periodically.

The Christopher Inn is a different story, however. The hotel had 45 tourists occupying 10 to 12 rooms during the month of January 1978. In January 1977, 40 tourists occupied these same rooms. It is clear that the Christopher Inn was not adversely affected by the liquor ban. Most of their tourists were Japanese and perhaps not heavy drinkers.

The overall decrease in room occupancy rates, of course, had an effect on the money acquired by the hotels on room rentals. Although the three hotels may well show a slight increase in income by the end of 1978, they still stand to lose almost \$90,000 of what they estimated they could have earned.

### **Public Safety.**

Problems have decreased considerably as a result of the prohibition. The hospital, for instance, averaged before the ban about three serious injuries per month from car accidents, stonings and stabbings. For the first month of the law, this rate dropped to zero. During the month of September 1977, the total number of detentioners and prisoners was 109. In October 1977, the number of detentioners and prisoners increased to 119. For the first month of the law (January 15 to February 15, 1978), there was a total of 65 prisoners and detentioners. That was a drop of 60%. The reason why our group chose the month of September was because records of earlier months could not be obtained from the Truk Police Department. September's figures were the earliest month we could procure. A majority of the detentioners last September and October were thrown in the prison for not having drinking permits while consuming alcoholic beverages and for fighting or disturbing the peace.

### **Disrespect for Law.**

Having reduced the amount of trouble in town a bit, the liquor ban has perhaps also created a feeling of disrespect for the law. It could be that these people merely think this law is ridiculous or that they just can't stay away from "imbalancing factors". After the law came into effect, for instance, there have been six convicted cases of consumption of manufactured yeast. There has also been one case of selling liquor under the counter. Then there are those who have turned to other drugs such as marijuana. In one case, two members of our group were once offered a "joint" by a passerby. In another, our group observed a group of three people fondling a "joint" in a restaurant. So this law, in a way, may be creating several minor problems.

### **Reactions on Family and Community.**

Our group interviewed 222 people from all over Moen in order to get their reactions regarding the liquor ban. The questions asked were to find out how people live after the ban, what they feel regarding the island's present atmosphere, and how they spend their money if they were once drinkers.



It was interesting to see a great deal of support for the ban on alcohol. Ladies especially stated that it was a wise decision to ban liquor on the island. They said it was the intoxication of liquor that brought trouble in communities, clans, and families. They further explained that Trukese have no sense of control when they drink and usually abuse alcohol. A mother residing at Nantaku said that the banning on the island was a great relief on her part due to the grievous agony she suffered when her oldest son was stabbed by drunkards. Most of the women interviewed said that the present atmosphere is very peaceful. They can now go out at night without any worries of being forced off the road by tipplers.

During the course of our interviews, we found that some drinkers even gave up drinking altogether after the ban. Some of their reasons were that drinking was pointless when there are no other drinkers around. What's more, since the Moen Municipal Council prohibited liquor on this island, it was better to give up drinking than to put themselves into trouble. As a result, most drinkers said they made a better living after the ban by settling down with their families and spending the money that was once spent on liquor for food, personal belongings, and family needs. Furthermore, many of them, instead of spending the whole weekend in bars and bushes, now come home and perform their family duties. Some were even able to deposit money in the bank. Nonetheless, there are many drinkers who still feel that the general atmosphere has changed very little except to become slightly more boring.

There were additional questionnaires made up for use in getting the family opinion on the liquor ban. There were ten families in all that were interviewed. During our interviews with family heads and members, it came to our attention that most of the families improved in the areas of food and work. We found from some of the mothers interviewed that family nutrition has improved greatly after the ban. A mother from Neauo also mentioned that there is more peace in the family and that her sons no longer go out at night. "This is because," she said, "my sons gave up drinking completely after the prohibition." In one of the families, there was a sign of improvement in that they just got a brand new car, a refrigerator and some supplies for the extension of their house. This was all made possible because papa no longer spent all his money gallivanting from bar to bar, we were told.

In our interviews we found that mothers especially were appreciative of the ban. In one family where the father and sons all drank, for example, the mother

reported that they stopped drinking completely. There was one family where the father was not a drinker and he too liked the ban very much. Before, he said, he always carried a weapon in his pocket whenever he went out at night. Now he could walk around at night, he said, without the weapon and without any fear. In another case, a man employed at the Truk Hospital realized how stupid he was to drink before. There were times when he would take off from work just to drink a couple of beers and later on decide to take the rest of the day off. Now, after the ban, he works eight hours a day and comes straight home afterwards. He is also able to provide better for family needs and attend to his children. This is because he has more money than formerly and cannot find much to spend it on except for the family.

Recreation patterns, too, appear to have changed after the ban. Nowadays, unlike before, the basketball and tennis courts are often full, even at night. When people come to play tennis they often have to wait for a time, because on weekends and on week day evenings the courts are full. Before, very seldom could you see the lights at Anderson Field lit at night; now they are lit almost every night. Movie theatres and bingo parlors are constantly jammed with customers. The liquor ban is believed to have been at least partially responsible for all of this. Our questionnaires reveal that many people after the ban spend their money for entertaining their families with movies and other things.

## CONCLUSION

We have seen various effects that the recently passed ordinance prohibiting alcohol has had. On the social scene, we have gathered that most youthful and middle aged drinkers have strongly disagreed with this ordinance, while women and a majority of elderly residents have expressed approval for the new law. It is commonly felt that as a result of the law there is more peace in Moen society. One reason for the peace might be that those who continue to drink fear the law and therefore do their drinking secretly. But as far as fights and major criminal cases are concerned, there have been none since the effective date of the law.

As we have seen, the liquor ban has been a wound to Truk's economy. Businesses formerly selling liquor will lose income and, of course, Truk District Legislature will also lose the revenue brought in from sales and importation of liquor. Almost all the businessmen interviewed have shown disagreement with the prohibition. Some feel that Truk needs the money from their taxes to promote economic



development. Projects for which Truk District Legislature has appropriated money might be eliminated due to the lack of funds available for them, and Truk's economic development stands a chance of being crippled.

What does the future hold for this newly passed alcohol law? Will the law continue? The Moen Municipal Council may amend or abolish its own ordinance, but only through another referendum. The Truk District Legislature also has the power to abolish the Moen Municipal ordinance. This can be done if the Legislature takes away the power vested in the Moen Municipal Council to make their own laws with respect to alcoholic beverages. According to a source, "it would be better for Moen Municipal Council to amend the ordinance on its own accord; otherwise, if Truk

District Legislature decides to act on it, it might cause things to look bad for Moen." What this means is that if Moen Municipal Council does not change its law, the whole Truk District by way of the Truk District Legislature might do it for them.

Will the alcohol ban solve the problems? Will the habit of yeast drinking ever cease? Will businesses ever try to stop selling liquor "under the counter"? Is it possible that since there is no more liquor, people may turn to hard narcotics such as marijuana, heroin or LSD? These are few of the questions which we should consider seriously. If the prohibition proves to be the only solution to the present problems, are the Trukese of today doing a favor for those of tomorrow? The answers to these questions are yet to be unravelled.

### NGEDELLOCH

by Val Sengebau

*You look very familiar  
To me  
Like an old acquaintance.  
I wonder  
Where did we first meet?  
Was it in my dream  
Or in your dream?  
Or was it during your time  
Or mine?  
Or whether I met you  
In the books I read.  
Strange. . .  
You sure look very familiar  
To me  
Yet you're so fathomless.  
You seem to be everything  
To me  
And yet you're none  
Of the things*

*I know.  
But somehow I can see your face  
Dancing all over  
The recess of my mind.  
Perhaps we did meet  
In some distant age  
In some remote time.  
Then again,  
Perhaps not.  
But you still look very familiar  
To me  
And it feels good  
In deed  
To know  
That I feel  
I know you  
And that's very comforting  
You know.*

### WHIO?

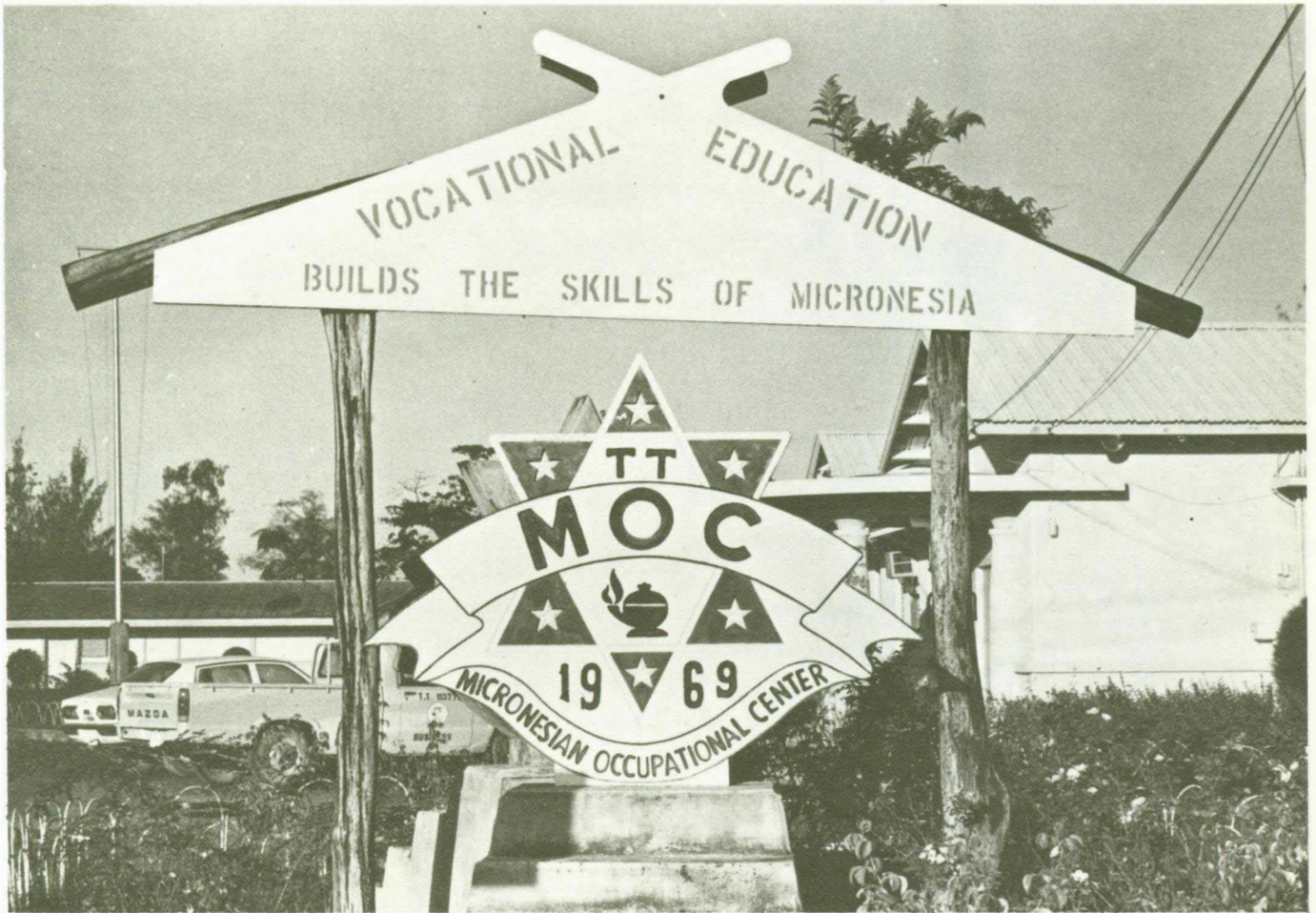
*Who are they that come to our isle  
to change the machas to their "so-called" style?  
Who are they that unchained the latch  
of ways of living, like the abandoned taro patch?  
Who are they to give us the eye  
and call us strange if we sit in the abai?  
Who are they with greedy hands,  
to pollute our gardens and rock isle sands?  
Who are they, to scorn us with a snort,  
after all aren't we the ones who dream of a superport!*

by Anne M. Udui



# The Micronesian Occupational Center—

by Doug Trail



*The sign speaks for itself, MOC builds the skills of Micronesia in Vocational Education. Since 1969 it has contributed to the practical progress of Micronesians, and will continue to do so as we enter a new world for all of our citizens. This new world will be largely a technical one and MOC students are assured a place in it.*

## Another Giant Step Forward



The Micronesian Occupational Center is now a part of the newly created "College of Micronesia". The Micronesian Occupational Center, or MOC, was awarded full accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in June 1977. Located in Koror, Palau, it is expected that the school will have over 300 new students beginning classes by August of this coming year.

## PHILOSOPHY

Provisions made by the United States Government to provide funding for Micronesia's economic development have opened up new job opportunities for many young citizens of the districts.

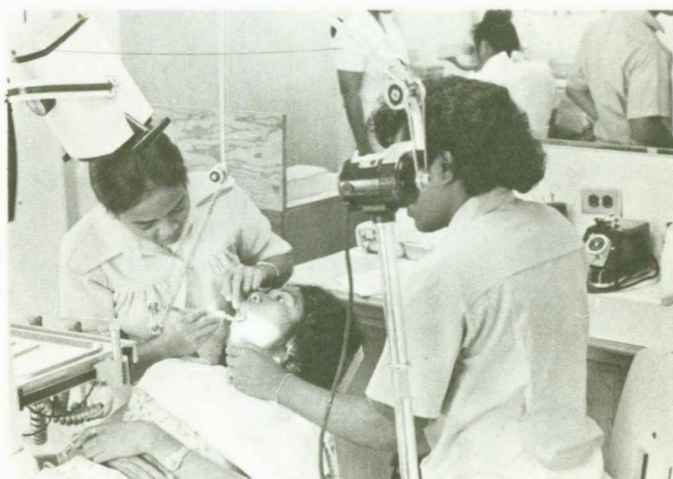
Unfortunately, in the past many Micronesians have not been able to benefit much from these newly created job opportunities. A lack of training in the skills required by the construction industry and others has dictated that many skilled technicians be imported to fill many positions. Although many Micronesians have been employed, the time and cost of training numbers of them on-the-job has proved to be too much. A cost-conscious private employer can not afford to follow this practice. There is an urgent need to provide education in the trades for Micronesians.

Manpower needs in both government and the private sector have been, and still are, pressing. The Micronesian Occupational Center has dedicated itself to the purpose of training men and women to fill many of the jobs now held by non-indigenous persons.

One important point included in the MOC philosophy states that the college should "provide the types of work skills and attitudes which will open the labor market to Micronesians". To date the college has done its work well. More and more graduates from MOC are filling many needed technical positions throughout the districts of Micronesia.

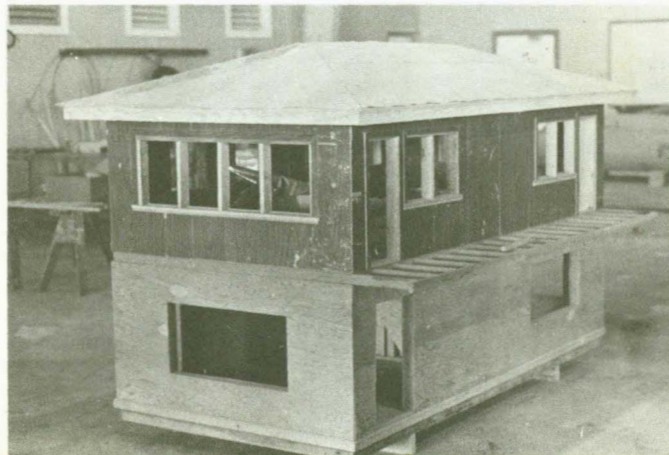
In order to move successfully into positions long occupied by non-indigenous workers, Micronesians must become competent in the skills needed to fill these positions. "Text-book" courses are necessary for learning technical theory related to a given subject, and these are provided at MOC, but providing for the study of theory is only the beginning. At MOC, students are required to apply the principles and theories learned in the classroom to a "real job" task occurring in the real world. In addition to their own campus laboratory experiences where the tools of the trade are provided, MOC students are required to work as typists and clerks in government and school other construction jobs. Other on-the-job training is carried out by

*"Business Education and Secretarial Science" students gain comprehensive training in shorthand and typewriting. They are also taught the proper use of business forms and the operation of different types of office machines such as ditto, adding machines, and other duplicating machines.*



*"Dental Nursing" students learn the skills and knowledge about oral health and tooth structure. Included in this course of study they also learn tooth restoration and many clinical application techniques.*

*This model house is only about six feet tall yet it is an exact replica to scale and complete in every detail. Students in the "Construction Carpentry" section build such model houses from scratch. Every detail is the same as if they were building a full size house.*

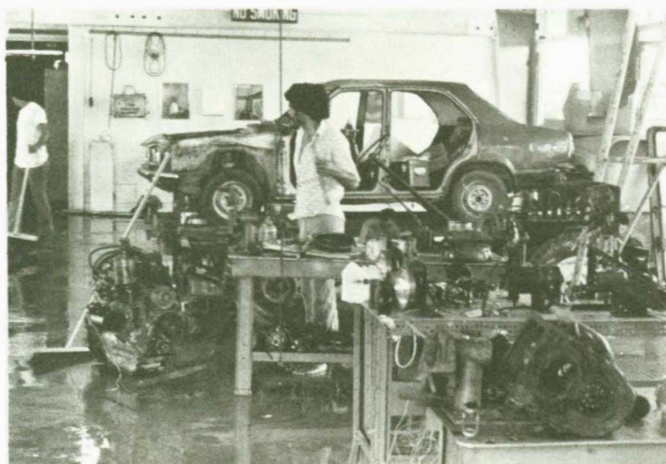






*These students are learning how to service and repair all kinds of two and four cycle engines such as those used in lawn mowers, chain saws, motorcycles, and other small engines. "Small Engine and Outboard Technology" is an important field for students in Micronesia.*

*Students in Automotive Body Repair develop their skills in frame construction, metal bumping, patchwork, application of plastic fillers, and all other skills needed to bring about effective repairs. The last stage is spray-painting. Students here also learn how to use power tools plus repair and alignment.*



students in the Cookery and Waiter/Waitress Curriculum. Such activities include training in the Center's cooking and dining facilities and at the Palau Continental Hotel. Clerk-typists work, part time, in the administrative division and at the registrar's office. Wherever a job can be found that is related to the student's chosen course of study, the student works and applies the principles he is learning at MOC to the actual situation he will be faced with on his future job.

MOC students, through their occupational training, also contribute to the real income of the institution. They do this by providing as much as they

can for the operation of their own school during the time they are learning their trade. While agricultural students grow fresh foods for the kitchen, construction carpentry students may be partitioning a dormitory, or building bamboo benches for use about the campus. Students in Automotive Mechanics may be busy, at the same time, rebuilding the trucks for use by MOC which have been acquired from the military or some private concern. Other Agricultural students landscape the campus grounds and provide for necessary maintenance and care.

Another good example of opportunity for students to apply their learned technical knowledge is the work that has been done on the M/V Vocational. The M/V Vocational is a 46 foot picket boat owned and serviced by MOC. It is used for educational and recreational purposes. The M/V Vocational was completely rebuilt by the students and staff of MOC, with the exception of some assistance from a local boat builder. Students from Carpentry, Electrical, Heavy Equipment, Clothing Construction and Design, and Welding shared in most of the work.

## COURSES OF STUDY

MOC has developed admission standards compatible with its curriculum. Although all but elective requirements are prescribed for each course of study, rules are sufficiently flexible to make it possible for each student to transfer to another occupational curriculum within the first months of the first quarter or to extend the length of residence at the school should he want to achieve more proficiency in the trade studied, or in more than one trade area.

## INSTRUCTIONAL DATA

Between 1969 and 1976, more than 700 students graduated with diplomas or certificates, and more than 1400 enrolled in one or more occupational courses of study. As a co-educational body, the staff of MOC has carefully considered those manpower requirements which are specified for Micronesia. As a result, MOC has provided a curriculum choice that will attract the men and women who wish to improve their employment opportunities. Student enrollment at MOC for academic year 1976-77 was over 300 students. Courses of study cover a wide variety of technical skills. The MOC curriculum, as it stands today, is shown in the box below.



## OCCUPATIONAL CURRICULA

Automotive Body Repair  
Air Conditioning and Refrigeration  
Agriculture Science  
Automotive Mechanics  
Appliance Repair  
Construction Carpentry  
Clothing Construction and Design  
Cookery  
Clerk Typist  
Dental Nursing  
Construction Electricity  
Heavy Equipment and Diesel Mechanics  
Masonry  
Plumbing  
Secretarial Science  
Small Engine Repair  
Welding Technology  
Waiter/Waitress

The Center has been authorized by the Department of Education, Trust Territory Government, to be a certificate and diploma granting institution. Students may elect to earn a certificate or a diploma by completing the curriculum and residency requirements. A total of 15 diploma granting curriculums and 7 certificate granting curriculums are available. Through its In-Service Teacher Training Program 118 school teachers received vocational training.

### PART TIME ADULT EDUCATION

The Center has held several evening and summer programs in part time adult education. Students from the surrounding community of Palau and other districts can upgrade their existing skill in a trade or acquire new ones which will help them get a better job. The population is not sufficiently large to justify a curriculum choice that can satisfy all adults. However, in the future MOC should work closely with the Extension Division of the Community College of Micronesia to provide adult education classes on an area-wide basis.

### FACULTY

The MOC administration is proud of the achievements of its faculty. Each academic year, one or two faculty members are granted study leave with full financial support. In addition, visiting professors from

the University of Hawaii system have made possible upgrading opportunities for MOC faculty during the summer months. Scholarly qualifications of MOC's faculty will continue to improve under the continuing pressures for increased educational advancement in Micronesia.

As recently as five years ago, the Center was staffed by one American for every two Micronesian faculty members. Today only one American is employed for every ten Micronesians on the teaching staff. The total of 41 faculty persons is comprised of 30 Micronesians, 2 Filipinos, and 3 Americans. The head of the Dental Nursing program holds a DDS degree.

### THE STUDENTS

Approximately 1300 students have been admitted to the Micronesian Occupational Center since its inception in 1969. Although the institution has been co-educational from the beginning, women comprise the smallest segment of the student body. The average entering age is 20 years, though no maximum age has been set. Students come from the Northern Marianas and the six districts of Micronesia: Kosrae, Marshalls, Palau, Ponape, Truk and Yap. Although a number of students come from the economically more advanced district centers, many others come to MOC from outlying islands. All students who apply for admission to the Center must have achieved a reasonable proficiency in English, though significant differences exist among students. All entering students come to receive a vocational education and many of them have had no previous vocational work experience. MOC does not profess to be a graduate school for atomic scientists, or an ivycovered citidel where students can learn to solve the sociological problems of the world. The philosophy and administration of MOC rather dictates that, on a dark night all by one's self, perhaps an atomic scientist's car might break down.

True, no graduate of MOC can solve the scientist's problems with regard to atomic theory... but that same graduate of MOC, should he chance to happen by, can probably fix the scientist's broken down car, thus enabling him to proceed to that important meeting he is probably late for.

Or, if a fisherman is forced to return to port and thereby misses a really good catch because his outboard motor conked out, there is a very good possibility that the young man who will fix it for him was a graduate of MOC. Every time something like this happens, it is another "giant step forward" for MOC, and for Micronesia.



# Odyssey to the Outer Islands

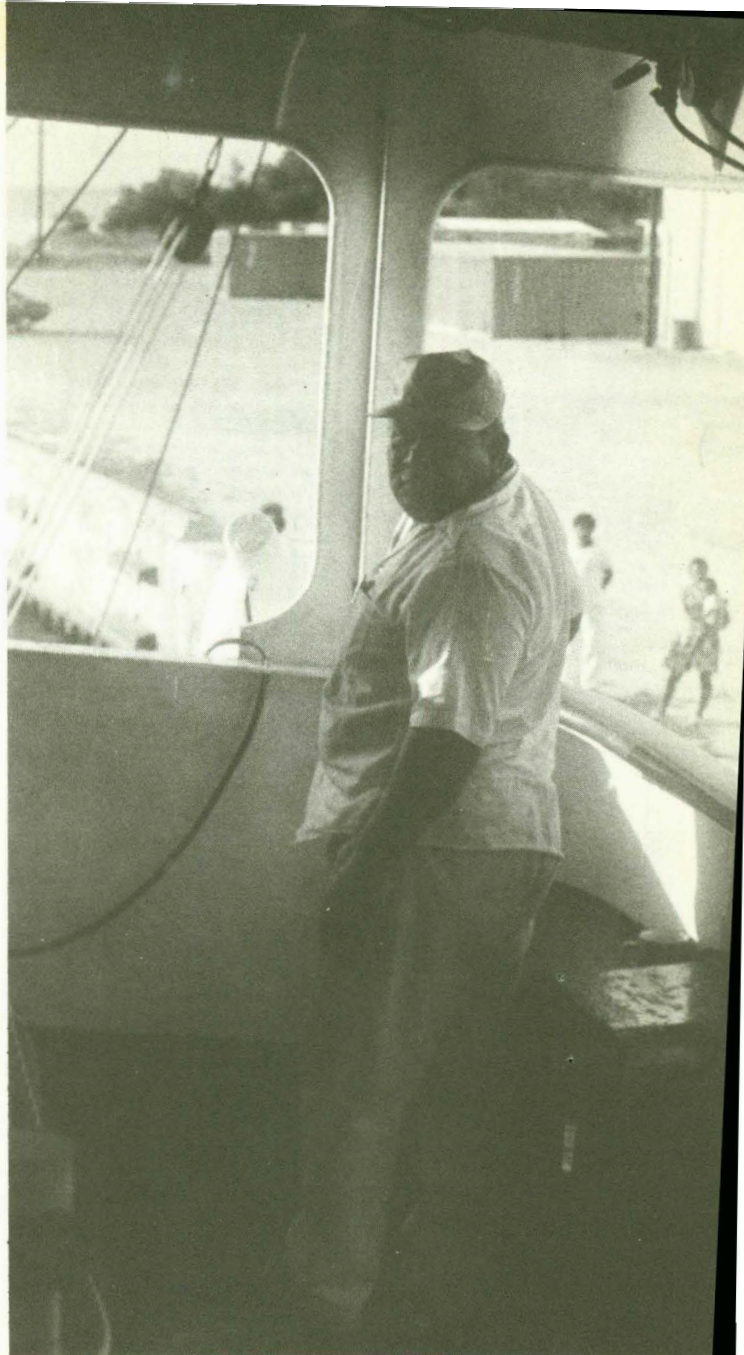
by Val Sengebau

It was Sunday, and word was circulating that the MS Kaselehlia would be departing to Mokil and Pingelap, outer islands of Ponape District, at six o'clock in the evening. Five o'clock was boarding time.

Well, at last! The field trip had been delayed almost a week due to some mechanical problems. And although indulging oneself in Kolonia presented no obstacle at all, it was the mere fact of waiting for the commencement of the field trip that inflicted the mind with frustration, restlessness and anxiety.

Five o'clock came, and the passengers rushed to Takatik harbor to get on board. And by head count, about 150 passengers got on the ship. The majority of the passengers were students going home on Easter vacation. There were elderly folks, young couples, children and babies too. Also among the passengers were three Seventh Day Adventist couples and their children. And cargo was something else—live pigs and chickens, imported commodities to supply the needs of the Mokilese and Pingelapese. There were also drums and drums of petro-gas for the people.

Six o'clock was announced by three blasts of the whistle from the Kaselehlia, and then the ship steamed out of the western channel into the approaching darkness. Soon the ship was out in the open sea and people who were watching the island of Ponape with the bright light from Kolonia town illuminating the sky began claiming spaces to sleep during the night. Swells began to increase in size as the wind blew steadily from



*Captain Salter Olter of the MV Kaselehlia on the bridge of his ship, giving orders to the first mate at the wheel while maneuvering the boat out of the harbor at Ponape.*

the northeast. The Kaselehlia groaned, swayed and plunged into the undulating waves wearing white caps as they marched to meet the vessel. One by one the lights on the ship went out as the passengers went to sleep. There was no other sound except the ship's laboring engine, the spraying of the waves and few seasick passengers. Otherwise it was a lovely night with a magnificent moon ruling the sky and scattered stars and constellations competing for the heavenly domain. The ship was expected to sight the island of Mokil early next morning to discharge some of its passengers there.





*Captain Olter and his crew loading SDA bags of cement into his boat to be off loaded on Pingelap.*

*Taro patch in Mokil is well tended with decomposed organic materials, to make the soil fertile. Four ridges planted with taro belong to one family.*



Early at dawn, the Mokilese and other passengers got up only to find to their dismay that Mokil was nowhere in sight. The worried passengers exchanged questions. Of course, normally a group of islands does not just disappear overnight.

Captain Salter Olter changed course, and now the ship was sailing back toward Ponape. I approached the skipper and asked what was going on. I was wondering if something came up during the night and we were going back.

Olter just flashed his big smile and said, "No, we were going to Mokil".

I said, "I though Mokil was due northeast, but we were going southwest!".

He replied, "Yea, I know. But the two boys on watch last night dozed off, and the ship went off course, and we passed by the island about five in the morning."

By seven o'clock, Mokil was sighted. Everybody cheered. The ship went to the southern end of the island which was calmer to discharge the passengers. And all of a sudden a fleet of about 50 outboard motorboats started pouring out of the reef to the ship. Even a young boy and a girl of about 10 years of age drove their six horsepower boats to meet the ship. The excited passengers tossed their luggage, boxes and sleeping mats to the waiting boats. Soon the Mokilese had cleared off and rushed home, and the ship continued on its journey to Pingelap some 65 miles away.

#### PINGELAP:

Arriving at Pingelap islands at 5:30 in the evening gave the passengers ample time to get off the ship and go home. Pingelap did not have as many outboard motorboats as Mokil. But it did have one big boat with a 20 horsepower engine, and it could carry a lot of people. At one time it carried 50 passengers from the ship ashore. The ship anchored off the reef where the water was calm. Captain Olter announced that the ship would depart the next day (March 21) at seven o'clock in the evening.

The night was peaceful and beautiful. The island of Pingelap reposed lazily dark and silent under the spell of the silverly moon. Some Pingelapese fishermen were paddling their narrow outrigger canoes close by the ship, trolling for pampanos and small jacks. The crew of the ship and the skipper also tried their luck at bottom fishing with but very little success. Toward dawn when the moon had gone beyond the western horizon, a new fishing activity began. The islanders began fishing for flying fish with torch and scoop net . . . a breathtaking sight to witness.



Very early Tuesday morning Captain Olter got into his 20 hp outboard boat and went trolling. He returned about 9 o'clock, his boat loaded with yellow fin tuna, wahoo, and rainbow runners.

I went ashore about 9:30 in the morning with the field trip officer, Bilimon Else. We toured the entire village in less than an hour. The houses were beautiful. Most were concrete buildings, and each house had a concrete water catchment. To the southeast and behind the settlement was the only taro patch for the entire island. The main island contained a lot of banana trees, breadfruit trees, pandanus trees, and occasional papaya plants. There were not many chickens, but hogs were plentiful and were tied at each house. They were not penned.

The 1,200 foot emergency runway at Pingelap was progressing rather well. The people had been carting coral stones from the surrounding reefs on rafts for construction of the runway. It's hard work.

There were two pickup trucks, one jeep and a couple of motorcycles on the island of Pingelap. There are three roads on the island: the taro patch trail, the middle road in the center of the island, and the main road with the island's only road sign, which reads "Speed Limit 5 MPH". The landmark of Pingelap is the Protestant Church which dominates all the rest of the buildings on the island.

Toward noon, Else and I walked to the municipal building. I sensed that something was brewing between the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) people and the inhabitants. Unfortunately I could not understand the verbal exchanges which were conducted in the local vernacular. Later I asked the field trip officer what was going on. Else said that the people refused to grant permission to the SDA people to build their church. He added that the people had given them permission to build their dwelling house, but not the church.

We soon learned that the Pingelapese meant business . . . no is no, period. There were no two ways about it. The people refused to help unload the SDA building materials, and forbade any Pingelapese under pain of having his name removed from the church membership from helping the SDA people.

All the island boats were moored idly at the beach. Now the Captain and crew of the Kaselehliia had to help the missionaries unload the materials . . . a very slow and painful project because the skipper's boat was small. And to unload eight tons of materials against time and tide was just like asking for a miracle to take place. The cargo included nails, bags of cement, rebars, plywood, lumber, wheelbarrows, cement mixers, and electric generator, shovels, rakes, tin roofing, etc. It

became clear that the ship would not leave until Wednesday. It did not.

Captain Olter and his crew labored until the evening of Tuesday, and the whole day Wednesday. Olter drove his boat between the shore and the ship carrying the maximum load his boat could hold. As for the plywood and lumber, it was piled in the water, and the missionaries jumped into the water and pushed it ashore . . . quite a long distance from the ship. When the last cargo was off-loaded, the skipper blasted the ship's whistle announcing the approaching departure time. Those going back to Ponape began boarding. The ship left at seven in the evening.

#### **MOKIL:**

Sailing back to Mokil on the last leg of the field trip was an anticlimax. Everyone was dog tired and went to bed early. Somewhere toward morning, the ship arrived at Mokil and moored at the southern part of the island where it was calm. When the morning came, a few boats came to the ship because it was low tide. Toward noon when the tide became high, hoards of boats began arriving at the ship to unload the cargo. The field trip officer and I took the municipal boat back to the village. But first we made a stop at the location of the air strip which was near the reef at the southern end of the main island. Mokil is a romantic island. As the boat entered the reef, there was a deep blue lagoon that ran all the way to the shore of the main island.

At a distance one could see a neat row of canoe houses along the shore. There were several small docks extending out from each canoe house where the boat could moor. The houses on Mokil were similar to those in Pingelap. Most were cement blocks. And also like Pingelap, the island's only taro patch was located just behind the settlement. There was an abundance of bananas, papaya, coconut and pandanus trees on Mokil. The main road was well kept, with canoe houses built by the shore line and the dwelling houses on the higher ground level. The people have a copra warehouse that belongs to the co-op, and a co-op store. There were a lot of chickens and pigs on the island. . .

There were many young people on both Mokil and Pingelap. However, I was told that most of these young men came back home because of the air strip project on both islands. It was speculated that when the projects were completed, these same young people would be attracted by the bright lights of Kolonia. A sad thought, but it bears a lot of truth throughout all the districts.

After completing the tour of the main island, we returned to the ship. The people by then were loading



bags of copra and empty drums to be brought back to Ponape. Toward six, the passengers from Mokil got on board and at seven, the ship lifted anchor and steamed homeward to Ponape. The skipper promised us that his ship would be at Takatik harbor by six in the morning, Friday.

Assured by this good news from Captain Olter, we lingered at the bridge watching the sunset, and the descending darkness with the moon peeping between the clouds. As the night progressed toward midnight and the brilliancy of the moon was at its peak, one by one the passengers and crew dozed off into sweet slumber, dreaming about stepping on solid ground early the next day.

Most dreams fail to become reality. And this one was no exception. The next morning came, and there was no Takatik harbor, not even the big island of Ponape. Oh, no! Not again. Where was Ponape? Or better yet, where were we? The ship almost made it to

Ant or Pakin atoll several miles west of Ponape island. How did that happen? You have heard the story of the blind man leading another blind man. Well, this one had a similar ring but not quite. In this incident it was the blind man leading the one who was not blind.

The story went like this. Sometime during the night, the field trip officer went to the bridge and the Bosun (Boatswain) was on night watch. After some friendly conversation, the field trip officer told the Bosun that he was on the wrong course to Ponape. He said, "You see that moon, just follow that direction and go, go, go-you reach Ponape". Somehow the Bosun was convinced by the persuasive argument, and followed the direction of the moon. In the morning no Ponape. I asked the Bosun and Else what actually happened. The Bosun just smiled and shook his head. Else quipped, "You and I talked about turtle a lot on this trip. Pakin has *plenty* turtle."

Some turtle. I missed my Friday flight to Saipan.

*Mokil elementary school is located at the northern end of the main island by the seashore.*

