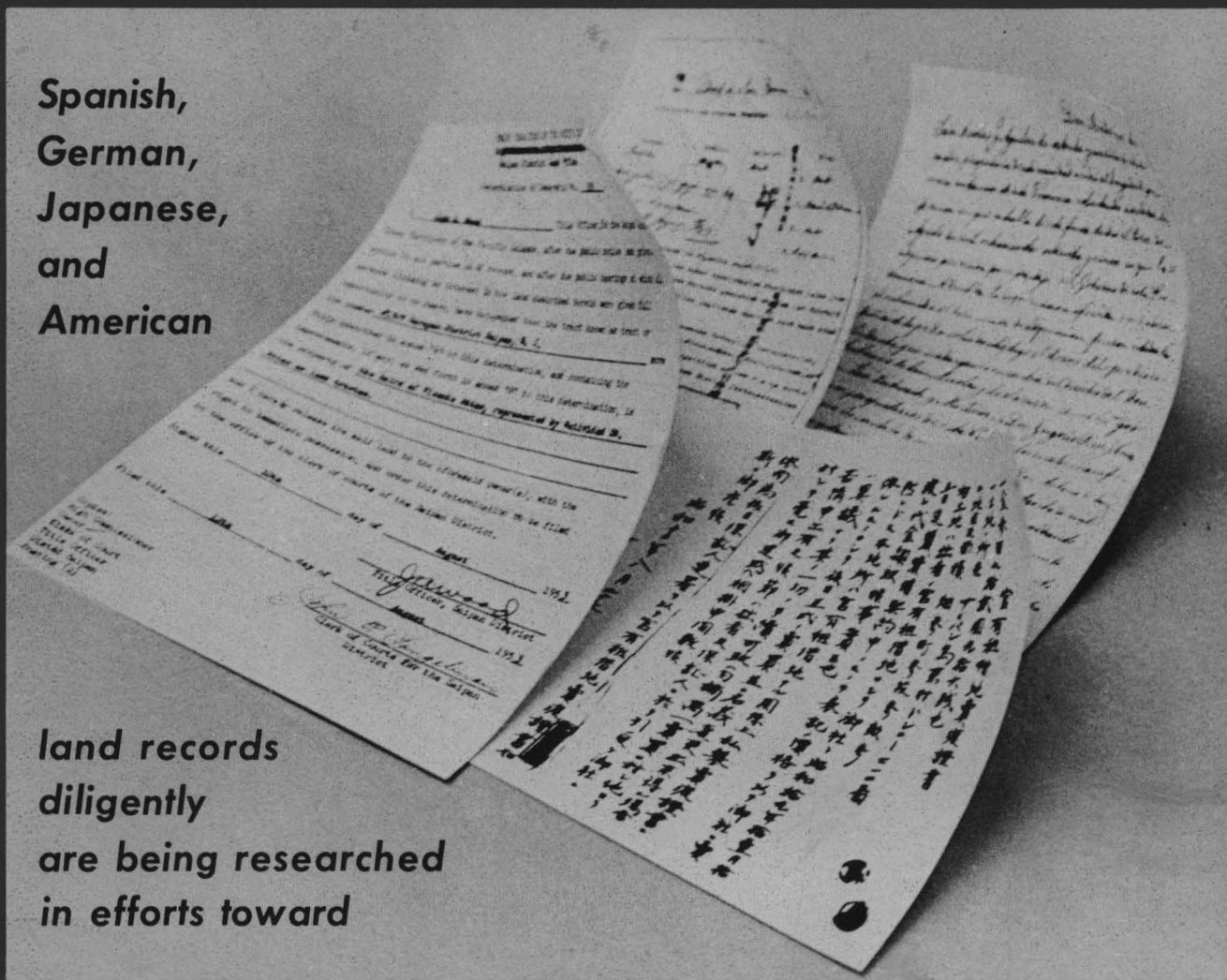


# Micronesian Reporter

FIRST QUARTER 1971

**Spanish,  
German,  
Japanese,  
and  
American**

**land records  
diligently  
are being researched  
in efforts toward**



## Resolving the Land Dilemma

see page 9

cover story:

RESOLVING THE LAND DILEMMA *by William A. McGrath* — 9

articles:

THE BATTLE OF KWAJALEIN *by Grant T. Doe* — 17

CAUGHT IN THE SQUEEZE *by Chuji Chutaro* — 26

FROM MAINE TO MICRONESIA *by Gwyneth G. Donchin* — 35

departments:

THIS QUARTER'S WORTH — 1

WHO'S WHO — 1

INTERVIEW: ROSE KAUMAI MACKWELUNG — 2

ON THE GO: MAJURO — BETWEEN FLIGHTS *with Charles Singletary* — 31

DISTRICT DIGEST: — 39

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# This Quarter's Worth

Fancy Facts  
or Just Plain Fancy?

A recent issue of *The Washington Monthly*, a magazine which dedicates itself to "disciplined fact-finding" carries an interesting article by ex-Peace Corps staff member Jerry Fite. The story begins with the author telling at some length of being deviously and circuitously led to an "Air Force base—rows of camouflaged tents. . ." at idle Isley airfield. The reason for the encampment allegedly could not be learned by the author. His advice to the men was "to not hide in the underbrush" if they wished to avoid suspicion and mistrust.

It makes an intriguing tale, the way it is told, but it doesn't speak well of the local news media which believed (at that time) it had saturated the airwaves and press with announcements that a 20-man Air Force Engineering Survey Unit was on the island to assist the TT Government in preparing its plans for moving airline operations from the deteriorating Kobler Field to the longer runways of Isley.

The article has a variety of other "disciplined facts" that will be of great interest, particularly to Micronesian and American residents of Capitol Hill, Saipan. For one thing, "Capitol Hill houses are built on various levels," (this certainly is a fact), but "When an employee gets a raise, he moves some 50 yards to new level." And to make sure he does it, "Micronesian laborers from the Public Works Department bring a truck, load all the household goods, drive 50 yards, and unload. The employee is welcomed into the social whirl of his new level."

Also revealing to Capitol Hill-ites is that their housing area is "on the top of a mountain 13 miles away from Micronesians." This would mean an awful lot of driving in circles for an American to reach the house of his Micronesian next

door neighbor. Further, in any place in the world, a 13-mile drive from the middle of a 15-mile-long island means that about the last five miles of the journey is going to be underwater.

The article will bring many laughs to readers who know Micronesia. But it's cruel to inflict such impressions upon others who are led to accept them as "disciplined fact-finding."

\* \* \*

In this issue of the *Reporter* we present a land tenure outline which traces the zig-zag path of Micronesia's land holdings beginning with the time non-Micronesians first began involving themselves in the administration of these Pacific islands. It is intended that this well-researched historical review will bring into focus the varied land developments of the past 100 years....a sequence of events as broad in scope as the scattered geographical location of the islands under discussion.

Also, this quarter offers readers a peek into the lives of three Peace Corps Volunteers serving in the relatively-urban community of Saipan; the thoughts of a young man of Micronesia voicing his concern over the pressures from a changing world; a moving account of the costly week-long battle which wrested Kwajalein Atoll from Japanese control during the early stages of World War Two; a visitor's guide to Majuro Atoll, and the first of several *Reporter* features covering Protestant and Catholic missionary presence in Micronesia. The District Digest, for the first time, has been expanded to provide photo coverage of the somber Feb. 20th fire at the Congress of Micronesia headquarters on Capitol Hill.

While the editorship of the *Reporter* will change after this edition, the magazine will continue to follow its aim of addressing itself to an audience of interested readers within and outside the Territory, reporting developments in politics, society and business, commenting on travel and culture, and providing a forum for expressing a variety of viewpoints concerning the administration, the Micronesian legislative bodies, and other forces influencing the direction of the Territory. C.M.A.

# Who's Who

...in this issue of the Reporter

**WILLIAM A. McGRATH** has been deeply involved in land administration since joining the T.T. Government as Realty Officer in 1966. He is currently Chief of the Land Administration Branch at Headquarters, but at the moment is temporarily serving as Land Commissioner for Palau District.

**GWYNETH G. DONCHIN** is the wife of Peace Corps physician Dr. Jerome Donchin, assigned to the Marianas. Most recently from San Francisco, the busy Chalan Kanoa housewife/mother/authoress has found time to investigate the successful lives of three Peace Corps Volunteers.

**GRANT T. DOE** was Deputy Peace Corps Director at Truk and Yap during the 1967-68 years. Now working for a Washington, D.C. education company, he devoted much of his free time to researching the Library of Congress files for the material on which his *Battle of Kwajalein* is based.

**CHUJI CHUTARO** is Programs Administrator for the Health Services Planning/Evaluation Division. Readers will remember him as one of the three essayists who discussed Micronesia's future political status in *The Reporter* of one year ago.

**MIKE ALLEN**, a McCall, Idahoan, is an ex-Peace Corps (Micro I) member who returned to Micronesia in 1969 as District Land Management Officer for the Marshalls.

**CHUCK SINGLETARY**, since 1960 a communications staff member at Majuro, is now an Electronics Technician Supervisor in the Broadcast Division. His current assignment still keeps him in Majuro most of the time, and it is from here that he presents this issue's *On The Go*.



# INTERVIEW:

*Rose Kaumai Mackwelung*

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*Whaleships began entering the Pacific at about the time the Thirteen Colonies and Britain were engaged in the Revolutionary War. The years that followed 1776 saw crews of lusty seamen, plundering pirates and occasional traders moving westward through uninvestigated Pacific islands. By the early 1830s, the wandering sailing ships are said to have reached harbors of Kusaie and Ponape. While these islands, especially Kusaie, were favorite refreshing ports of the whaling fleets, there were frequent conflicts with the islanders. Numerous killings bloodied the lagoons. The intruders' seizure of women, rape, attempts to take over the power of chiefs, and even the drowning of a chief's daughter brought reprisals. Entire crews were massacred and ships burned.*

*By the 1850s, a different kind of American began arriving. These were the Protestant missionaries from Boston who generally came by way of Honolulu or other Polynesian islands. They were joined some thirty years later by Spanish Capuchin priests and brothers from Barcelona. Together, these missionaries created a lasting, significant relationship with Micronesians that has continued through three wars and four foreign administrations. While the missionaries' primary aim was to spread the teachings of Christ, they also contributed greatly to social, economic and political developments within the island territory. Medicine, written local languages, local dictionaries, school classes, strict codes of conduct, all came with the missionary presence in Micronesia. The early days were not easy for the Christian ministers. Some whalers, who realized that changes were coming, sought to discredit the missionaries. For years the churchmen were locked in combat with the seamen over missionary attempts to stamp out alcohol and sakau drinking, tobacco, tatooing, semi-nudity, sexual laxity, frivolity (particularly on the Sabbath), and the many other worldly pleasures that detracted the people's attention from the rigidly austere fundamentalist teachings of the early clergymen.*

*Many tales have been spoken and written about the firm, dedicated Protestant pioneers who arrived aboard a series of Morning Star sailing ships beginning in 1856 and continuing for the next century. Among the many fascinating stories is this one being told through an interview with Rose Kaumai Mackwelung, born in the Gilberts, raised in the Marshalls, and now of Ponape. Rose, as she prefers to be called, was adopted in her early childhood by one of the best-known missionaries in the Pacific, Miss Jessie Rebecca Hoppin. Brought to life through Rose's delightful anecdotal recollections is the era of the early mission schools of eastern Micronesia and of the people, such as Miss Hoppin, whose influence has shaped the performance of many of the Territory's leaders of today. "Mother" Hoppin was 25 years old when she arrived at Kusaie in 1890 aboard the Morning Star IV. A mission teacher in Honolulu for the previous two years, she founded the girls school on Kusaie and remained there until 1914 when the Japanese moved her to Jaluit in the Marshalls. A year later she was on board a ship passing through the Gilbert Islands. . . .*

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**REPORTER:** Do you recall when you first met "Mother" Hoppin?

**ROSE:** I remember there was this big ship. And "Mother" Hoppin had just landed at the island where we were on. I can't remember what island it was in the Gilberts, but she was on board and so we went to visit her. My mother just told me do I want to go with "Mother" Hoppin. Well, I was just a little kid then and I just went up to her and from that time she took care of me.

**REPORTER:** Did "Mother" Hoppin know your parents?

**ROSE:** Yes. They were her students up at the mission school at Mwot on Kusaie. My parents were Gilbertese students. They got married at Mwot and became trainees for mission work there; in fact, they stayed on Kusaie for about ten years before they came back to the Gilberts.

**REPORTER:** Tell us about "Mother" Hoppin and the work she was doing.

**ROSE:** She was an American missionary who came down on one of the Morning Star ships around 1890. She was in Hawaii from about 1888 where she had

been sent by the American Board of Foreign Missions. I think she must have been in her early 30s when she arrived on Kusaie. It was 1915 when I was adopted by her and she took me to the Marshalls where I grew up. By 1915 she already had started her missionary work in the Marshalls, on Jabwor in Jaluit Atoll. At that time she was the traveling missionary for the Marshalls, Kusaie and the Gilberts.

**REPORTER:** That was during both the German and Japanese administrations. How did she get from place to place?



**ROSE:** Oh, there were English vessels that carried cargo and passengers during the German time. By the time I reached Jabwor, the Germans had left, but the Japanese had not come in yet. There were a few Germans there, like the governor, the people at the Catholic mission and a few members of a German firm. One English ship I always remember was the *Mauno*, a trading schooner between the Gilberts and Marshalls. Later she traveled on the Japanese ships.

**REPORTER:** Who were the missionaries before "Mother" Hoppin?

**ROSE:** There were Jennie Oleen, a Miss Wilson before her, a Miss Welsh, and later, after the Japanese time, Eleanor Wilson, another missionary lady came. She had been there before World War One and came back again after World War Two. Dr. and Mrs. Snow were about the first to come from Boston to Kusaie. From there the mission spread to the Marshalls. Most of them came out on the Morning Star sailing ships that were financed by the children in the states who contributed their pennies and nickels to send the missionaries to Micronesia.

**REPORTER:** It sounds like so many of the missionaries were single women.

**ROSE:** Miss Welsh got married later on with a missionary from the Gilberts, named Woodward. Others did, too. There were some married couples as well as a lot of single men and women. "Mother" Hoppin never did get married. She was there the first time from around 1890 to 1932, then came back again about 1934 and stayed until just before World War Two started. After the war, she had received permission from the Navy to come back again, but she was very weak at the time and she was unable to make the trip back again. She wanted so much to return to Micronesia.

**REPORTER:** What was your life like when you first went to Jaluit in 1915?

**ROSE:** I came to Jaluit with a group of older girls, including my older sister. All the other girls went to Kusaie to school, but I stayed with "Mother" Hoppin on Jabwor. I used to go back and forth to Kusaie to attend school there and then go back to the Marshalls to live for a while. I think I went back



and forth about three times until 1922 when I decided I didn't want to go back to attend the school again. It was in 1922 when she sent me to the States.

**REPORTER:** What was the difference between the schools on Kusaie and Jaluit?

**ROSE:** The mission school on Jaluit was mostly for students who finished studies at Mwot, Kusaie. The Kusaie school didn't go by grades but by how much you knew. They taught Bible, music, hygiene, physical education, arithmetic, geography, and not much history. It wasn't really training for missionaries, but they did concentrate more on Bible studies. The school on Jaluit was mostly for those who finished at Mwot. . .it was more of a mission station from where they went home.

**REPORTER:** Do you know what percentage became missionaries?

**ROSE:** I think most of the Gilbertese in the first group got married at school and stayed on as missionary trainees. That was under Mr. Shannon and some other married couples who ran the school. But afterwards, when the single missionaries were there, they didn't run the same plan as before. Some students got married, but they weren't called on as missionaries. The Kusaie graduates stayed for a while as teachers at Jaluit where we had one Protestant school besides the Catholic mission school. Most of the people were Protestants. The

people on Likiep Island were mostly Catholics and there were also a few on Jabwor. The Protestant school was for both boys and girls. Later on, after the first world war...about the beginning of the '30s...they also had the Jabwor Training School, the JTS, for boys only.

**REPORTER:** Now, let's see...you were three years old when you came to the Marshalls in 1915. And in 1922 you were sent to the States?

**ROSE:** Yes, I was ten. I first went with "Mother" Hoppin to Japan on a Japanese boat which stopped at Kusaie, Ponape, Truk, Saipan and on up to Japan. We waited in Japan for six or seven months with a missionary family that was going back to the States. It was the Beam family. They took me to Claremont, California, where there was a missionary home. I stayed there until 1925 when we moved up to Pasadena where I attended grammar school. It was in the second grade that I started...in the Mexican class. Oh, they looked at me when I first came in and said, "negrita." I didn't know what it meant...and I really didn't care anyway. But I still remember there was one Mexican boy who sort of teased me a lot. In fact, we had fight in the schoolroom, this boy and I. I was sitting in the last row and he was in the front and I had to pass him every time I sharpened my pencil. He always used to say "negrita" as I passed by and jabbed me with his pencil. One time I just got hold of his pencil and broke it and gave him a slap. That aroused the whole class. Well, they took me to the principal and I was the one who had to go back and apologize. But I told him if he hadn't bothered me I wouldn't have done anything at all. He talked nicely to me after that but I refused to talk to him. He always seemed to know more English than all the rest. I said to myself, "allright, I'll get even with his English." And I did. I tried real hard. Because I was living with this American family, I had the advantage over him. I finally did much better than he did.

**REPORTER:** Was it difficult for a ten year old who couldn't speak much English?

**ROSE:** I knew English fairly well, but there was one thing about English...I never used to like to speak it. "Mother"



Hoppin used to have the girls from the Kusaie mission school teach me English, geography and arithmetic. I knew English and could speak it before we left for the States, but I would not speak a word of it. She always talked to me in English and I answered in Marshallese. I still remember when we were waiting in Japan, the bread boy used to come up, as they do in Japan to peddle their foods, and I ran up to "Mother" Hoppin and said in Marshallese that the bread boy is down below. She said, "All right. Say that in English." But I would not say it. I told her, "He'll be going pretty soon." She said, "Say it in English if you want us to buy any bread." But I refused and he finally went off. This went on day after day and I didn't use my English the whole time we were in Japan.

**REPORTER:** Did you ever get any bread?

**ROSE:** No. "Mother" Hoppin was just as stubborn as I was and we never got any bread. But when I got on the boat, I had to use my English because "Mother" Hoppin was no longer with me and nobody spoke Marshallese.

**REPORTER:** Were there any other things that made it rough for a young Micronesian girl in California?

**ROSE:** Well, I didn't like the vegetables at first, but I got used to it. And I spent a lot of time out of school during my first year that I was there because of

sickness....whooping cough and things like that. When I had lived with "Mother" Hoppin, I never had to do any work. I never had to wash my clothes and things like that. But when I went to the Beams, I had to do most of the work, washing clothes, ironing, washing the dishes and all that. So sometimes I rebelled. When it got to where she couldn't do anything with me, she decided to send me to a mission boarding school for girls. I stayed there for about three years. That was when I settled down and did my first real work. Work was assigned for about a month. It was hard at first, but then I began to enjoy it. One of the other reasons they wanted to put me in a mission school was that during the first few months that I lived with the Beams, I learned some bad habits at school. One day I came home very excited about something...what it was I can't remember...but I said, "Oh, boy!" The lady said, "What did you just say?" And when I repeated it, she said, "Don't you ever use that expression again!" They were very strict in the missionary families at that time.

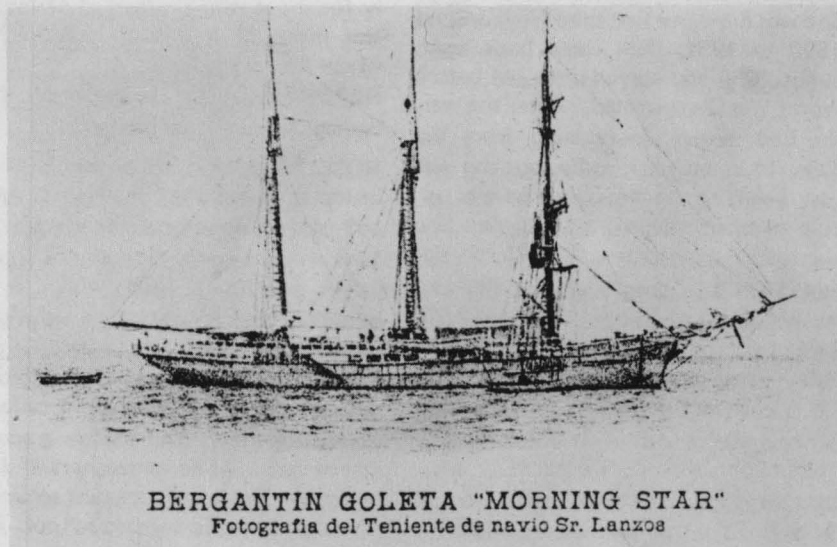
**REPORTER:** Did you ever say "shucks" and "gee whiz?"

**ROSE:** Oh, yes...and they thought that was really terrible. They didn't like it at all and decided that mission school would be better for me than public school.

**REPORTER:** What kind of clothing did you wear in California?

**ROSE:** "Mother" Hoppin used to sew up sort of foreign patterns. I used to wear those before I went to the States. When I reached California, my clothes were quite old fashioned. I used to wear those high shoes that were laced up. There was a nice group of people at the mission school and since I was about 13 years old, they told me that I was not going to wear that kind of shoes any more. They also wanted to make me to use lipstick and rouge, but no, I refused...I would not touch it. Then one day when it was nap time in school, they came over where I was sound asleep and put on powder, rouge and lipstick and just painted my face all over. I didn't feel anything. When the bell rang, I woke up and happened to look in a mirror and everybody started laughing.

They said I should do that every day and from that time on I started using makeup. I also used to wear my clothing much longer than the way they had theirs. And this was changed, also. So when I went home from mission school for Christmas vacation, the family saw quite a change. They said they just had to get me out of that mission school and I went back to public school. But when I went back to live with the family, I no longer had bad feelings about doing work around the house. In fact, the father wrote to the mission school asking what had been done to make me change so much in my work habits.





**REPORTER:** After graduation from high school, then what?

**ROSE:** Then I was invited to live with "Mother" Hoppin's sister in Wisconsin.

**REPORTER:** Had you made up your mind by then what you wanted to be?

**ROSE:** I already knew the second week that I was in grammar school that I wanted to come back as a teacher. In fact, what made up my mind was the arithmetic teacher in long division. She explained it so well that I said to myself, "I'll bet this is what we lack in the Marshalls...teachers who could explain the problems clear enough so they could be followed." That thought stuck with me until I graduated. Well, when I went to Wisconsin, "Mother" Hoppin's sister told me that "Mother" Hoppin wanted me to go to train in a hospital nursing school. I said, "I'm sorry, but I don't think I'll make a good nurse"... because I remember back at high school one time I was selected to accompany three girls who were going to have their tonsils taken out. After the operations and when they came out of the ether, they all vomited all over the place, and I said nursing is not for me! Well, in Wisconsin, "Mother" Hoppin's sister told me, "I've got some very good news for you. Even though your skin is dark, you're going to be admitted to train as a nurse in the Lutheran hospital." And I said, "I've got news for you. I'm sorry but I'll never make a good nurse." Instead, I decided to go back to California and work my way through college to get an education degree. But just a week after I arrived in California, I received a telegram from the American Board in Boston, asking me if I would be willing to go back to the Marshalls as a missionary. They would pay my way. I said I certainly would be glad to. When I got on the ship going between San Pedro and San Francisco, I got a letter on board from "Mother" Hoppin. She was in Honolulu. She asked me to stay with her sister until she got to the States. I sent a telegram right over to her telling her I was on board the *President Hoover* and she met me at the dock in Honolulu. We talked a lot with each other and she tried to persuade me to go back to the States. I told her that this is God's way that I should go back to the Marshalls



and I continued on. That was in 1932. My first assignment back home was to take care of the girl's school at Jaluit but on a different island than the Jabwor boy's school.

**REPORTER:** During the ten years you were away, did the schools at Jaluit change very much?

**ROSE:** Oh, yes. Now all the girls were in one and the boys were in another. There were a lot more subjects and activities. The old school was very strict in the mingling of the boys and girls. They couldn't even talk to each other without permission. But it seemed in my case, in those early days before I went away, that "Mother" Hoppin never held me back. When the boys used to go out fishing, she used to let me go. Of course, I was quite a bit younger than most of the other students. I think she might have put me as sort of a guard or policeman so that the boys wouldn't cause trouble. When the girls went out, they always had to go together in a group or with a chaperone. I guess I was the chaperone sometimes.

**REPORTER:** When you returned in 1932, did you come back with a painted face and bad words like "holy smoke" and other bad habits?

**ROSE:** Yes....I wore makeup, had short dresses and short hair. In fact, sometimes I couldn't take my hat off. I wore a beret while I was visiting on Kusaie because the Baldwin sisters were

there and they were missionaries who were against all of these things. But there was another family, the Hermans... an American businessman married to a Kusaiean lady, and when he saw me, he must have known because he warned me to keep by beret on when the Baldwin sisters were around. Of course, I did.

**REPORTER:** When you were put in charge of the girls' school at Jaluit, did you bring about any changes?

**ROSE:** Yes, I did. And perhaps I tried to change things too quickly. The first thing was that we put the girls into uniforms and then we started cutting the girls' hair. When the girls saw my hair, they also wanted theirs short. I said, "why not?" ....but, I forgot to discuss this with Reverend Carl Heine who was there then. He heard about it and sent word to please stop it. I did right away. In fact, we were in the middle of cutting one girl's hair and for a while we weren't sure whether to finish it or not. But we did. And that was the last one. Over in the public schools, where the Japanese students were, the girls hair was always short. It was the rule...so short that it was cut way up over their ears. They had to. The parents had nothing to say about it. Another change was that I started the girls in playing baseball and tennis. This was unheard of before. And even worse, I used to wear my gym clothes when I was out there playing





with the girls. This aroused all the neighborhood and everyone came out to see my bloomers. Well, the girls liked it and we ordered a lot of material from Japan to make gym bloomers and waists. But when Reverend Heine heard about it he went straight up in the air. So, when the materials arrived, we gave some to the boys and used the rest for uniforms for the girls. I never had enough nerve to try letting the girls use makeup.

**REPORTER:** But you came back as a young lady with scarlet lips, laced petticoats and bobbed hair. You must have looked like a real flapper; in fact, you must have looked like a different kind of missionary than those the students had been used to seeing.

**ROSE:** Oh, they used lace on their petticoats way back.

**REPORTER:** You say "they." What about you?

**ROSE:** I remember I used to covet the lace on the petticoats of the women but "Mother" Hoppin wouldn't let me do it. Lace was common among the Micronesian women in the Marshalls, Kusaie and Ponape, too.

**REPORTER:** Why couldn't you? Was it considered a sin?

**ROSE:** I don't know. "Mother" Hoppin just refused. Lace and perfume were terrible things.

**REPORTER:** Don't tell me you didn't try to sneak a little lace or perfume....

**ROSE:** Oh, yes. I just loved to wear a

little piece of lace. I remember one day I was cleaning around and I saw some lace on an old petticoat somebody had thrown away. So I just went and took that lace and put it on my own petticoat. I started wearing it around and was really happy about it. Then "Mother" Hoppin saw it and said, "Where did you get that petticoat you're wearing?" I said, "That's my petticoat." She said, "Where'd you get that lace?" And when I told her what I had done, she just said, "Take it off right away." I must have been less than ten years old at the time, but I remember how she threw it away. Perfume, pomade, Brilliantine, any kind of smell...you just couldn't use it, except talcum powder. You could use that....empty the whole can if you wanted to....but no perfume.

**REPORTER:** How did people receive you with your modern ways? How about the old timers?

**ROSE:** When I came back, I noticed there already had been some change. But I was the first native to practice those things and they didn't seem to object.

**REPORTER:** What was the difference between your school at Jaluit and the Japanese school?

**ROSE:** They didn't teach anything besides Japanese, reading, and writing. No geography. They did teach arithmetic up to division, but no fractions. Some Marshallese attended that school. It

was open to the public. There were no Japanese in the Protestant mission school except Reverend Hirata and his family, missionaries. He ran the school along with an American family, the Lockwoods.

**REPORTER:** Did the Japanese try to change your school or take a strong hand in running it?

**ROSE:** No, not to my recollection. They permitted the school to teach the Christian religion. They permitted it while I was in the Marshalls and also when I moved over to the mission school on Kusaie a few years later.

**REPORTER:** Were you on Kusaie when the second world war began?

**ROSE:** Yes. In 1943, the Japanese military governor took me from the mission school and sent me to the Japanese colony on the other side of the island where I was asked to teach the Ocean Island children. At that time there were many Gilbertese laborers who had been brought over as agricultural workers. I stayed in the Japanese colony and taught the young men Japanese songs and also went over to teach the Ocean Island children simple Japanese. That was during the war. Once a week a Japanese school teacher would come over to the school and he used to give simple arithmetic. He taught in Japanese. I stayed there until 1945. The war was getting worse and we had to move away from that place. There was no fighting on Kusaie, although there was a lot of bombing, particularly this Japanese town.

**REPORTER:** Before the war, what kinds of crops did the Japanese grow on Kusaie?

**ROSE:** They grew almost anything.... melons, eggplants, sweet potatoes, tapioca, corn, string beans, green beans, green onions, almost everything. They shipped this off, somewhere I don't know. It was loaded on the ships that used to come in.

**REPORTER:** Then after the war?

**ROSE:** The people grew only what they needed to live on. There was a lot of work going on by the Navy in fixing roads and things like that. But for the people there was nothing much to do. We started schools for all the children and I became the island's superintendent

of elementary schools. About 1952, I came to Ponape as a school teacher.

**REPORTER:** Since then you've been an assistant superintendent of schools for Ponape and later adult education supervisor?

**ROSE:** Yes, that was about 1959 and now, since 1965, I am women's interest officer for the district.

**REPORTER:** You have seen people educated in German schools, Japanese schools and American schools. Hasn't it been rather difficult for them because of all these different languages.

**ROSE:** One thing is that many of these older people who are very capable of doing the work that they were taught during the Japanese time, they couldn't do very much during the American time because they could not communicate in English. They had to try to adjust to the use of English. Sometimes they would say, "Oh, if my Japanese could only turn around and come out English, I could do a better job than this!"

**REPORTER:** What are the subjects you have been stressing in adult education?

**ROSE:** We used to go around the is-



lands and I think what I have stressed for them more is to learn more English. As soon as they could catch on to the English, I kept telling them, they would understand more of what was going on. But, in fact, that sort of pulled them away from the education programs. They think that when we say we're going to start English classes....they just

say they don't think they can learn another language. So they stayed away from the classes and we had to change the approach to our courses. Most of all they would like to take cooking and sewing and subjects like that. But there are some of the younger ones that are interested in learning English and so we teach them. We also give them lessons in math, whatever they left off at school. We also had some of the older people who knew the story of the islands better than the others...they used to come out and tell them the old stories of Ponape.

**REPORTER:** You have been closely tied to the church through all of your life. Do you think that Christianity has changed the Marshalls and Ponape very much? I'm thinking about the culture and manner of living.

**ROSE:** I think that Christianity has changed a lot of the old culture of the Marshalls and on Kusaie. It has changed them from old heathen customs and brought in different ideas. And strange, that on Kusaie especially, the old, old religious teaching seems to have stuck more than other places. Some examples? Well, you can't cook anything on Sundays...you shouldn't do any recreation on Sunday...but it has changed just a little recently because you now can get up before sunrise on Sunday and do some cooking for the day....but you can't make a big fire.

**REPORTER:** Can children play...can you go to movies, or play cards, or smoke, or drink liquor?

**ROSE:** The children do play, but they are called down and told, "Don't play. Today is Sunday." Smoking is bad, You can't be a Christian if you smoke any day of the week, or drink. Playing cards is changing. Many are playing cards, but they are not supposed to gamble. Although some do gamble a little, they are not considered Christians. Kusaie is still a very strict place, but the younger generation is trying to bring about change.

**REPORTER:** Do you feel the interest in church here today is as great as fifty years ago?

**ROSE:** Well, let me say it this way. Many of the old-time missionaries, when they came, especially to Kusaie, they taught the people that if any new reli-

gion would come in, they should not believe them because they are false. And so Kusaie is the hardest island for them to change from their fundamental religion. So they've stuck to that. I, myself, am a Bahai.

**REPORTER:** Well...that's certainly a surprising switch. I mean, it's surprising to me because of your background.

**ROSE:** People have asked me many times why I have changed and I tell them I have changed to improve my



Christianity. People say, "You mean you have changed from the religion your mother has brought you up in?" And I say that I have, but I have not forsaken Christianity. I couldn't do that. I've even told the folks in Bahai that I grew up in the Christian faith as did my father and grandfather and the lady who adopted me. I went to school with a missionary family, attended missionary school, and came back a missionary and taught in a mission school. I can't give that up completely. The Christian prophet that I have grown up with and know...I don't think I'll be able to change that. But in the other beliefs and doings of Bahai, I approve and I accept. But in my own prayers and things, I think I will just go on with the same person I've prayed to since I was a child. God is the same for Christians and Bahais.

**REPORTER:** Do you think the influence of the church here is less than it was ten, twenty, thirty years ago?

**ROSE:** Yes, I believe it is.





**REPORTER:** Any hope for an increase?

**ROSE:** We have many new religious groups coming in, as you know...Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, Baptists....they're all working hard along with the Congregationalists and Catholics already here.

**REPORTER:** In what other ways do you feel Ponape is changing or already has been changed?

**ROSE:** One thing is that when you come to the island where the king or main chief is living, you can't walk straight. You just have to almost crawl to go past the front of his place. You could get up when you passed it. There were customs like this that are disappearing.

**REPORTER:** What I'm trying to get to is this: sometimes you hear people say it was better in the old days. Do you think people here would like to go back to the time before the Christian missionaries arrived?

**ROSE:** No. I don't think you'll hear that anywhere. But you might hear people say that today is not like the Japanese time. The older living people might say that.

**REPORTER:** What was so nice about the Japanese time?

**ROSE:** The people seemed to have more money in their pockets than now. The roads were clean and neat all around the island. Of course the Japanese had their reasons, but his meant more jobs. The

people could bring in more of the native tropical products and make money because the Japanese would buy them and export them. I think the money is the main reason. There were stores everywhere. Another reason might be the discipline. It seems there's a lot of trouble now-a-days with school children and their discipline. But if this were the Japanese time, why these kids won't do anything that's out of order. They would be beaten up by the teachers. Most of the older people feel there wouldn't be the problems of juvenile delinquency if the Japanese were here.

**REPORTER:** What were the things people didn't like during those days?

**ROSE:** That same thing...the beating of the people. The beating, they felt, was good because it meant discipline, but it made the people also feel just like animals...like they weren't human beings. Another thing, they didn't like the education. They didn't have the opportunities they have today. You couldn't think of many Micronesians going up to Japan to high school or even going to another island for school. College was out of the question. Another thing, the people had no right to explain for themselves...if they were late or something like that, they couldn't say a word...just take the punishment. You had no chance to prove yourself innocent.

**REPORTER:** How do the older folks feel about the American administration?

**ROSE:** I think the older people now see the difference in the young people now as compared with the Japanese time. The older people have learned more, they have taken on more responsible work and they are really grateful that the Americans are giving younger and older Micronesians these opportunities that they didn't have during the Japanese time. I think some of them may be dubious about which country is best, America or Japan or Russia or England or some other countries that sometimes are mentioned. But they have no question that America will give them more liberties to be individuals.

**REPORTER:** Have you thought much about what the American administration could be doing to make things better for Micronesia?

**ROSE:** Yes, but I think that if the people themselves would look to see what really was needed to be done and then do it themselves if they could. For instance, here in the schools, when the students apply for any training at all, it seems all they want is administration work or as teachers or for public health. They don't seem to think of any other kind of work for training. We need mechanics and construction workers. Nobody seems to apply for architect or for constabulary work or other jobs that have to be filled. They just don't seem interested. The MOC (Micronesian Occupational Center) is a help, and you know, I wish something more could be done for the women. The women here are much more behind than the men. I think the Micronesians, when they send out students, they only think, "Send the boys. There's no sense in sending out the girls." So now we have trouble finding women to take on responsible work. With some exceptions, they haven't gone beyond high school and all they have to think about is getting married. There are now some opportunities for women at MOC but I just wish they had a college for women....only women.

**REPORTER:** Could yours be the voice of the first president of Micronesia's women's liberation movement?

**ROSE:** No, I'm too old to head women's lib...but we need it. I can't help it, but I just feel so strongly that it's needed. If you ask me what Micronesia needs the most, the answer would be that we need more women educated so they can do more things along with the men. I think there are many younger women who feel we need women's liberation. Yes...I'm sure there are many who feel the same way.





# Resolving

# the Land Dilemma

by William A. McGrath

## AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF LAND TENURE DEVELOPMENT IN MICRONESIA

Today's complex land tenure systems and land use patterns in Micronesia, which have evolved over the last 100 years as a result of drastic external influences and internal elements, now seriously hamper the future political development and to a great extent the economic progress of this Territory. However, this Administration implemented a multi-million dollar Land Cadaster Program in 1970 which has as a goal, when completed, the resolution of most of the major outstanding land problems.

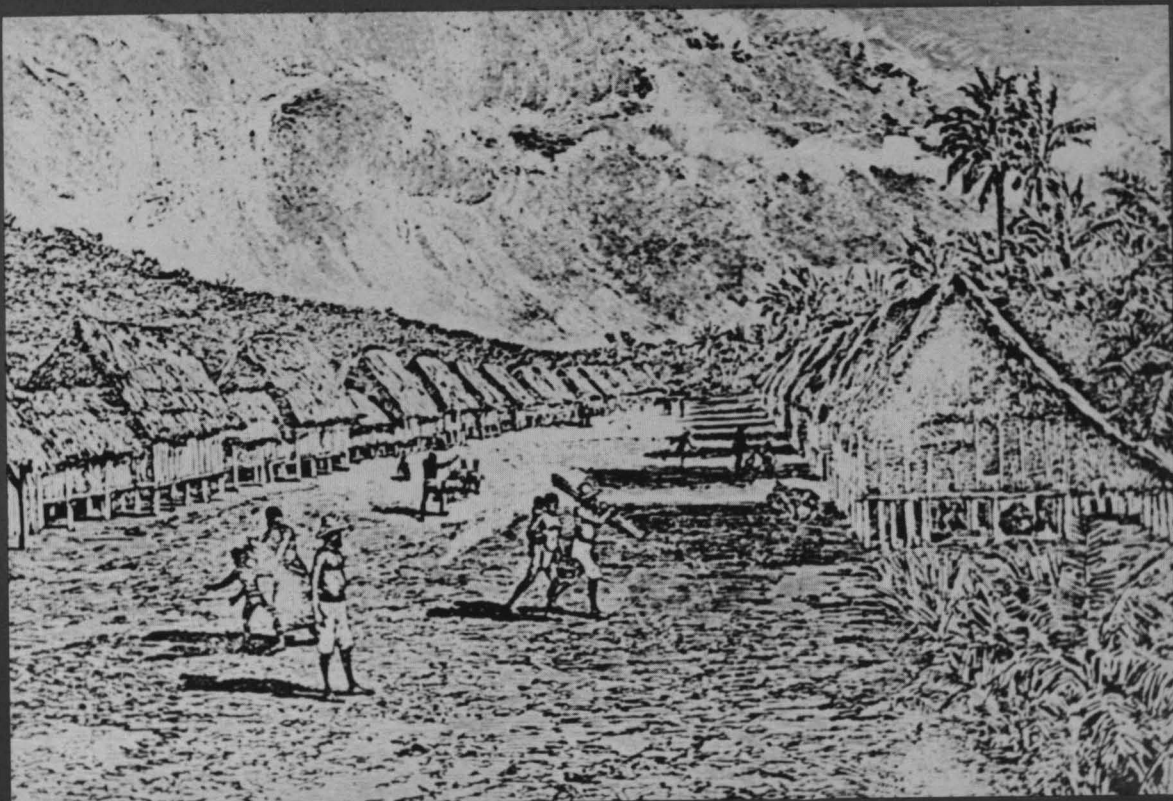
The U.S. Military Administration in 1944 during the Pacific War inherited the myriad land problems caused by three foreign administrations (two European and one Asian) in a time span of only 60 years. The Pacific War with all its devastation and widespread dislocation of people and destruction of land records and survey monuments, has greatly added to complexity of the problems and existing patterns.

Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese navigator in command of a Spanish expedition has the distinction of discovering Guam in 1521 but not until 1668 did the Spanish attempt to administer and missionize all the Mariana Islands. Spain did not develop the entire area of the Mariana and Caroline Islands over which they claimed sovereignty. The Spanish authorities did not engage in any lasting attempts to settle or missionize the Carolines. Only after 1885, did they establish administrative and trading centers on Ponape (in the Eastern Carolines) and Yap (in the Western Carolines). Spanish interest in the Northern Mariana Islands was primarily in christianizing the Chamorro and to facilitate this, beginning in 1698, they forcibly depopulated all the islands and settled the native population on Guam. The vacant Northern Mariana Islands then became Spanish Crown Land and the resettled Chamorros on Guam underwent great

cultural changes and most succumbed very quickly to disease. After several devastating typhoons in the Central Carolines, the Spanish Government resettled some Carolinians on Saipan about 1815 and later in 1845 they encouraged a few Chamorro families from Guam to resettle on Saipan by offering substantial land grants. These lands were readily accepted. To obtain land, an individual merely took possession of an area and filed with the Spanish Administration on Guam an application for a "Possessory Title" describing as best as he could the land he occupied. Under Spanish law it took 20 years before a person could then request a Crown Grant on the basis of his possession, use and development. These Spanish Crown Land grants form the basis of today's titles and most are not the subject of title disputes (inheritance disputes do occur).

Before the beginning of this century, only small amounts of land had been acquired by Spanish and German interests in the Carolines and Marshalls respectively for administrative and mission purposes and for trading stations and plantation companies.

These land acquisitions were documented and there are a number of land transfers that occurred before the turn of the last century where the documents

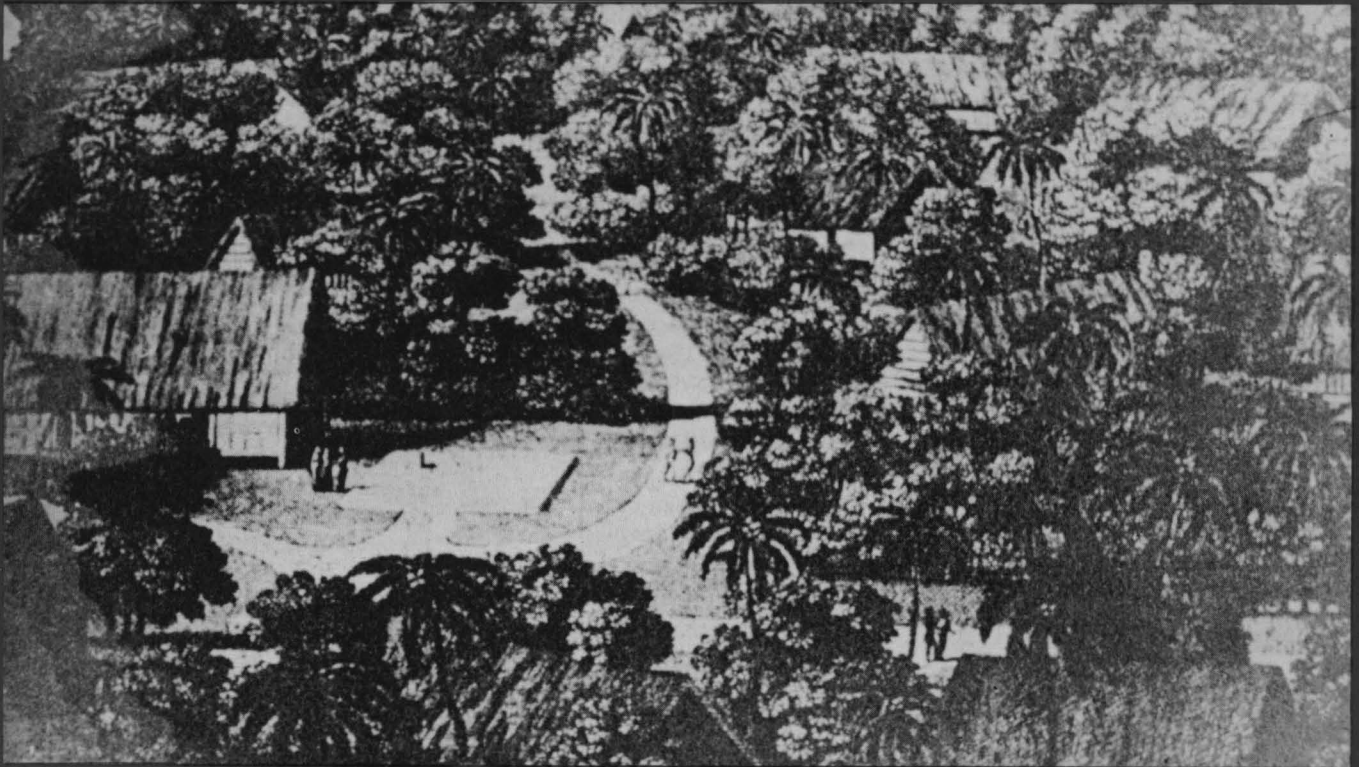


Village of Saipan, 1892

View of Tinian Island, 1757







Koror Village, Palau, about 1783

Lukunor Island, Truk, about 1835



*Up till the end of the 1800s, land tenure in Micronesia generally was complex but well known. Individuals were born into land holding groups or families and their rights were usually recorded in legends as well as in the memories of land heads and village elders.*



were recorded by the Spanish in their Manila Land Registry. Today these documents are mainly in mission archives and are recognized by the successors and descendants of the parties involved.

The two centuries of Spanish rule, which was terminated in 1898 as a result of the Spanish American War and the subsequent Treaty of Paris, was a period of tremendous population decrease in the Mariana Islands. While resettlement on Guam and subsequent reduction due to disease relieved pressures on land, it practically eliminated the traditional land-holding system in the entire Mariana Islands. Spanish influence had virtually no impact on land tenure practices in the Carolines and only a few thousand acres were acquired by foreigners.

The German influence was first centered in the Marshall Islands because of their trading operations. The Germans claimed sovereignty of the Marshall Islands in 1885 and following the Treaty of Paris in 1898 Germany added all the Carolines and the Marianas (except Guam) to their Pacific Empire by purchase of these two island chains from Spain.

The German Government adopted a general policy that all suitable land was to be used for economic development and that land not put to active use be acquired by the Government for development by others. Their program of development was carried out on all the major islands of the three island groups. To date only very few claims have been filed by Micronesians claiming that the German alienated these lands unjustly or without adequate compensation. However, on the other hand a significant number of Micronesians today hold title to what is now private land as a result of the German land program. In their desire to stimulate production of tropical crops, the Germans drastically altered the traditional land holding systems on Ponape and Saipan and to a lesser extent on some other islands by the redistribution of the nobility's land holdings and

the grant of title to individuals who previously held a lesser interest (such as a use right) or no previous interest at all in the land. The German land reform program in Ponape which began in 1912 made a significant and lasting impact on the land holding system on Ponape Island by introducing into Ponape the concept of private (individual) ownership of land. Land boundary surveys were carried out on Ponape Island between 1910 and 1912 and 900 conditional fee simple land titles covering 9500 hectares were issued to individuals between June 1912 and September 1914.

Deeds were printed in both the German and Ponapean language and contained a comprehensive outline of the new land code including far reaching changes in the inheritance pattern and the reciprocal obligations of the landowner to the nobility of the area. Coupled with the desire to stimulate economic development, the Germans used land title reform to reduce certain powers of the nobility in respect to land.

Direct and indirect influence of foreign rule in Ponape has resulted in drastic changes to the system of holding and using land there, and a series of recent legislative changes repealed all of the provisions in the German land deeds except those pertaining specifically to proprietorship.

There are a number of Ponapeans (mainly the nobility) who consider that steps should be taken now to modify the effect of the 1912 land reform program and return the source of 'land rights' to the nobility. This in itself, if it was implemented even in part, could cause a major upheaval in Ponapean land tenure patterns of today.

The "Island Sphere", as Micronesia was then called by the Germans, was administered from the capital at Rabaul in German New Guinea. The Australian Military Forces occupied Rabaul in 1914 and shipped the bulk of the German records of Micronesia to the Australian National Capital in Canberra, where they are today. Records of the German period in Micronesia do exist also in the German Government Archives at Potsdam in East Germany.

The Japanese seized Micronesia in 1914. They immediately recognized most of the German land acquisitions and followed the same land policies with certain modifications which in themselves had far reaching effects, especially on Ponape. The Germans, though forceful, were thorough administrators in their short few years in Micronesia. They documented their land administration program as they encompassed new areas into their overall land development and tenure reform plan.

When Japan was granted a Class C Mandate of the South Sea Islands by the League of Nations in 1922, it began an extensive developmental program which centered around the Mariana Islands where the large and undulating areas of fertile farmland on Saipan and Tinian were admirably suited for sugarcane production. The Japanese took over the German Government lands and other expropriated property and also purchased or leased other areas from Micronesians so that, as a practical matter, most of the agricultural development of Saipan and Tinian was controlled by Japanese interests and used in agricultural production for the home islands. Trade and commerce during Japanese times were controlled almost completely by a few large Japanese corporations, with support from official government sources.

The Nanyo Boeki Kaisha (N.B.K. — South Seas Trading Company), formed in 1906, took over the assets of the German Jaluit Company in 1914. It operated the major steamship lines, maintained agents on most islands and atolls, handled nearly all copra for export, and brought the majority of imported goods into the islands. The Nanyo Kohatsu Kaisha (NKK—The South Seas Development Company), formed in 1936, represented amalgamations of earlier commercial interests. The Japanese South Seas Government held a majority control in the stock. These companies were concerned primarily with land development for sugar and exploitation of the natural resources such as phosphate, bauxite, copper, etc.

The Palau area was also developed extensively. Large areas were either

taken over as being "public lands" under the Germans, or purchased from Micronesian individuals or groups. On the island of Angaur the Japanese acquired the phosphate mines established by German interests and continued to operate them. Phosphate ore mined was exported to Japan.

In the rest of the Caroline Islands the emphasis was mainly on increased copra production, although the Truk Atoll was later also developed as a Japanese fleet anchorage and military bastion. Copra production was primarily in the hands of the natives on their own land and Japanese commercial interests did not purchase extensive land areas. An exception was in Ponape, where certain areas did lend themselves to the Japanese type of large scale commercial agriculture and some lands were either purchased from the natives or developed under the original German claims of title.

In the Marshall Islands, the Japanese concentrated on copra production and acquired such land only as required for administrative and trading purposes. Their main administration center was on Jaluit which was formerly the old German headquarters for the Marshalls.

As the Japanese Government began to embark on a military expansion program toward the end of the 1930's, increasing areas were taken over in all island groups for the use of the military, air and naval forces of the Japanese Empire. During the first phase, private lands were purchased or else were taken under eminent domain proceedings, and compensation was paid to the owners. Investigations have shown that in most instances this compensation was adequate although the owners were very reluctant to dispose of their lands.

After the Pacific War began in December 1941, the need for land for installations and facilities became so pressing that the Japanese military authorities apparently began taking over certain parcels of private land without compensating or completing compensation payments to the owners. On some lands elaborate concrete installations were placed, which permanently destroyed their use for agricultural activities.

After initial setbacks in 1941 and 1942, the United States Armed Forces and their Allies began their island-hopping comeback across the Pacific. The Mandated Islands, lying directly in their path to the Japanese Mainland and other Japanese occupied outer island groups, were subject progressively to bombardment, deprivation of supplies, and ultimately, in some cases, actual invasion and almost complete destruction. As Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Uliathi, Peleliu and Angaur were conquered in turn, the United States built up strong military bases and supply complexes in each place. These bases were extensive and used almost the entire land area of each island and island group occupied. In some cases, the land itself was not seriously damaged, but in others the erection of airfields, military roads, concrete foundations, and other permanent type facilities, completely destroyed some of the land for agricultural use.

During combat, it was impracticable for the Armed Forces to take the time to document ownership and compensate the owners for the use of their land; but with the establishment of U.S. Military Government, Land Titles Investigating Commissions were set up in each district to conduct a thorough investigation of existing rights in land, including those of persons of Japanese and other nationalities, to set land values and establish the procedures for payment of land rentals and land damage claims to private landowners. However, with the widespread demobilization in the latter part of 1945 and early in 1946, personnel were removed from the field so quickly that the land and claims programs were never completed. With the closing down of military bases and installations, many of the Japanese land documents and new land records were transferred to storage or disappeared entirely. At the time of the establishment of the Trusteeship in July 1947, the active work of the Land Titles Investigating Commissions had been virtually abandoned except on Saipan due to the pressure of more immediate economic and social problems.

After the Trusteeship was set up, the personnel situation of the U.S. Naval Administration of the Trust Territory improved somewhat but it was still critical, and the land and claims program was again forced into the background until an organization with sufficient resources (mainly experienced and qualified land personnel) could be set up and firm working policies established.

Towards the close of 1949, funds and personnel were finally obtained for the establishment of a Land and Claims Section in the Office of the Attorney General on the staff of the Deputy High Commissioner in Honolulu. The section originally consisted of one man, who was appointed as Land and Claims Administrator. His first job was to analyze the outstanding problems and to establish a priority system for handling them. It was determined that first priority should be given to processing the present and future land requirements of the military and the return of formerly military occupied lands to private owners; second priority to the collection of information on land rentals and 'post secure' land damage claims against the United States Government, and third priority to the collection of data regarding the Japanese use or occupation of private land. Since the most seriously affected area was Saipan, where the entire island was used by the military, the Land and Claims Administrator was assigned to Saipan.

It was meanwhile found that countless land problems existed in every district. However, only in Saipan was serious dislocation being caused by the lack of agricultural land for subsistence farming, and uncertainty of tenure to the land already allocated by revocable use permit. Prior to the departure of the bulk of the U.S. Military and Naval Forces from Saipan, it was possible for the people to obtain employment with these forces and to purchase the necessities of life from local retailers who could be supplied from Guam. As employment decreased it was necessary for the people to return to the land and subsistence farming.



The American policy toward prewar land ownership was established by the Naval Administration when it issued Trust Territory Land Policy Letter P-1, dated December 29, 1947, and the policies set forth therein are followed to this day.

Briefly, on land ownership, decisions reached by former governments prior to Japan's resignation in 1935 from the League of Nations are considered binding unless the claimant can show his case was never finally settled by a Japanese court. All rights to lands acquired by the former Spanish, German or Japanese Administrations now belong to the Trust Territory Government. (Although the United States of America is the Administering Authority, the Trust Territory

Government holds title to the lands in trust for the people of Micronesia). Lands transferred from the public domain to Japanese corporations or Japanese nationals after Japan's resignation are considered invalid. For the same period, private land transfers to the Japanese Government, corporations, or nationals are subject to review: if the owner can establish that the sale was not made of his own free will or that he did not in fact receive just compensation, title will be vested in him upon the condition that he repay to the Trust Territory Government, the amount of the sale received by him.

On September 27, 1951, the Attorney General of the Trust Territory issued a vesting order. By its terms the Area Property Custodian of the Trust Territory Government acquired custody and

title to all former Japanese interests in all real and personal property located within the Trust Territory.

The U.S. Naval Administration in 1950 started to make specific determinations of ownership of properties suspected of being Alien Property. However, the work was barely started when it was abandoned in 1951 as the problem was immense and the Administration wanted to get on with other more immediate programs. The suspected parcels were considered to be vested in the Alien Property Custodian without a formal hearing and action. Furthermore, the land had been used in the various land programs without being divested from the Alien Property Custodian. This situation has been rectified since 1967 and all parcels are now being divested formally prior to disposition.

*Somewhere in the wartorn town of Garapan, (photo at right) lay the charred remnants of the government land records of the Saipan district. Fortunately, the Japanese sugar company records were stored in Chalan Kanoa and today they form the basis of the real property structure of Saipan. The photo below shows the settlement of Garapan during the 1930s.*





The present Administration (Government) of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands administered by the Department of the Interior was created by Presidential Executive Order 10265 dated June 29, 1951. This Executive Order transferred the Administration of the Trust Territory from the Navy to Interior. The President conferred on the Secretary of Interior the responsibility for the administration of civil government in the Trust Territory including all executive, legislative and judicial authority, except in the areas of security, defense and foreign policy.

Various Secretarial Orders issued by the Secretary of the Interior since 1951 outline and amend the extent and scope of the executive, legislative and judicial functions of the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The Administering Authority has been most conscious of its responsibility ".....to protect the inhabitants against the loss of their lands and resources....."

(article 6). However, the Trusteeship Agreement also provides that "in discharging its obligations under Article 76 (a) and Article 84 of the Charter, the Administering Authority shall ensure that the Trust Territory shall play its part, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in the maintenance of international peace and security. To this end the administering authority shall be entitled:

"1. to establish naval, military and air bases and to erect fortifications in the Trust Territory;

2. to station and employ armed forces in the Territory; and

3. to make use of volunteer forces, facilities and assistance from the Trust Territory in carrying out the obligations towards the Security Council undertaken in this regard by the Administering Authority, as well as for the local defense and the maintenance of law and order within the Trust Territory (article 5)."

Those sections of the Trusteeship Agreement quoted above are not neces-

sarily incompatible, and while areas of private land are presently being leased to the United States for military purposes, the Administration has been most active in confining and maintaining military reservations to a minimum acreage conducive to their present and foreseeable future requirements. The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory participates in a five yearly joint review of the need for continued use by the United States for each parcel of land leased to the United States, if the term of the lease agreement is for a period in excess of five years. It is appropriate to note here that a good percentage of the acreage involved in lands leased for military reservations are in fact used for the benefit of Micronesia. Airports at Saipan, Tinian and Kwajalein are used by Commercial airlines and a number of grazing permits cover other vacant areas.

The Bill of Rights for the Trust Territory states in part "...No person shall be deprived of . . . . property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use,



without just compensation . . . . .”

Under Public Law 1-6, enacted by the First Session of the Congress of Micronesia in July 1965, the Territorial Government has primary responsibility for problems of a Territory-wide nature including, *inter alia*, the acquisition of land for public use and public facilities, uniform land title registration, public land administration (such as homesteading and leasing of the public domain), etc. The Code of the Trust Territory also provides that all six district governments shall be primarily responsible for, *inter alia*, land law and inheritance law. The Code also provides that all municipalities (local governments) have a primary responsibility and power, for *inter alia*, to impose and collect real property taxes.

It should be clearly understood at this point that all public lands in Micronesia are vested in the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and NOT in the United States nor a federal agency thereof. The United States does not hold title to any land in Micronesia. If a U.S. federal agency wishes to acquire an interest in private or public land, it can only lease this land through, or from, the Trust Territory Government. Land leased, purchased or otherwise acquired from a private land owner by the Trust Territory Government is then leased to the U.S. federal agency. In the case of a tract of public land required by a U.S. federal agency, it is allocated by way of a direct lease. In all instances the U.S. federal agency has either made a substantial lump sum payment for the use of the land for the entire term or pays an annual rental for the use of the land to either the Trust Territory Government or to the private owner through the Trust Territory Government.

For the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1969 and for succeeding fiscal years, the Secretary of Interior ruled that sale and rentals received from public land (both improved and unimproved) and lease rentals received from public facilities and military reservations are to be made available to the Congress of Micronesia. These rentals have provided increased revenues for the Congress to use for local projects.

In July, 1965, following a reorganization of the Executive Branch, a Department of Resources and Development was created and a Division of Land Management was established within that department.

The budget for the Division of Land Management for its first year (fiscal year 1966) of operation was \$178,000. Recognizing the importance of the land program, the Administration has progressively increased the funds each year and the current year's (fiscal year 1971) appropriation is \$1,700,000.

In May, 1969, the Secretary of Interior made the entire "land question" item seven on his twelve point program for the administration and development of Micronesia. That same month Representative Chutomu Nimwes of Congress of Micronesia, in his address before the United Nations Trusteeship Council meeting in New York, made this plea:

"A realistic approach to accelerate development cannot be obtained unless our Trust Territory Government comes to grips with circumstances surrounding land rights, title and recording boundaries of both public and private lands in the Trust Territory. If social and economic development in Micronesia must ultimately depend on the land for space, structures, and facilities, then it is my opinion that solutions to land problems should be foremost in our order of priorities. There are said to be approximately 348,000 parcels of land privately held in the Trust Territory. But for all these holdings of lands, not one certificate of title has been issued and not one has been officially registered. A survey by metes and bounds has been made of only 16% of these thousands of privately held lands, and a re-survey will probably be necessary once the rights and titles of these lands have been adjudicated. In most districts, surveys of lands owned by the Government have not been made and in certain lands, such claim has been contested as to either ownership, title, use or easements. It is, therefore, obvious that land problems in Micronesia should be resolved at the earliest possible time, in order to insure the orderly economic and social growth of Micronesia. For unless the people and the Government have security of title and own-

ership and assurance of what constitutes private and public domain lands, no viable economic and social development scheme will ever have any likelihood of succeeding."

The Secretary of Interior in June 1969 appointed a number of experts, headed by Dr. Paul Cook of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to the "High Commissioner's Development Coordination Committee" to assist the High Commissioner in achieving President Nixon's program for the Trust Territory. Grover Torbert, a cadastral surveyor from the Bureau of Land Management, was a member of this 6 man committee because of the importance placed on land problems. He recommended the setting up of a "Micronesian Land Cadaster Program" to tackle the land problems and expedite the registration of title to private and public lands which, at that time, was being undertaken (on limited funding) by District Land Commissions established by Public Law 2-1 by the Congress of Micronesia in 1966.

The draft of this act was developed by Chief Justice Edward P. Furber (since retired) in co-operation with former Attorney General Robert K. Shoecraft and William A. McGrath who was then (1966) Director of Land Management. This draft was unanimously recommended by the Committee of the Code for inclusion in the Administration's 1966 legislative program. The passage of this act is seen as a recognition by Congress of the high esteem it held for Judge Furber and it is the most significant land legislation signed into law in the last twenty years.

In his January 18, 1971, State of the Territory Message delivered by High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston to the Congress of Micronesia, particular mention was made of the Micronesian Land Cadaster Program. He reported "considerable progress has been made in the ensuing months and by the end of September 1970, we had issued 658 preliminary titles, 262 final titles and had held preliminary inquiries for more than 1200 parcels of land."

The stated goals of the program are to establish within eight years a Territory-wide land cadaster which will result in the survey and registration of every parcel of land on the main islands of the Trust Territory.



# THE BATTLE OF

## KWAJALEIN

*by Grant T. Doe*

The strategy of the American drive across the Pacific to Japan during World War II called for a two-pronged effort. A southern attack route, directed by General MacArthur would move through the Solomon Islands, New Guinea and on through the Philippines pushing north to Japan. As part of this southern thrust, the battles of Peleliu and Anguar were fought. A second force was necessary, however, to break up Japanese control in the northern Pacific; thereby preventing the enemy from cutting at will, the American supply routes to the south. This northern line of attack was routed through the Marshall Islands with the objective of destroying Japanese bases in the area and crippling her air

and naval power. In time this northward spearhead moved on to Guam and Saipan but its first objective was the neutralization of the enemy forces in the Marshall Chain.

It was in preparation for the conquest of the Marshalls that the famous battle of Tarawa Atoll was fought. It was recognized that a foothold must first be established in the Gilberts in order to make possible a strike into the Japanese held territory to the north. The landing on Tarawa was the first landing of its type for the naval forces and during this bloody battle many lessons were learned that would be applied in the campaign in the Marshalls, the most important of which was the need for extremely heavy bombardment and shelling prior to the landing of troops. As a result of the Tarawa lesson, there would also be more

reconnaissance, more ships and landing craft and more extensive training for every one in the next such landing.

No positive decision was reached regarding which of the Marshall islands would be the site of the invasion force until December of 1943. At this time a reconnaissance flight from the American held Tarawa showed a nearly completed bomber strip at the southern end of Kwajalein Atoll. As the Americans would need to capture an atoll on which they could quickly prepare a bomber strip, Kwajalein, center of the Japanese Marshall Islands defense system would be attacked. The final plan called for Majuro, which was believed to be lightly defended, to be invaded on January 31st providing a backup harbor, with the attack on Kwajalein to commence the very next day.



Press Prepares Japan For Battle  
News  
the Time  
**Honolulu Star-Bulletin**  
16 PAGES—HONOLULU, TERRITORY OF HAWAII, U. S. A. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1944—16 PAGES

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# MARSHALLS INVADED

U. S. Forces Land  
On Kwajalein Atoll

KWAJALEIN

U. S. Battles To Victory On Kwajalein

Biggest Naval Force In History Strikes

These Men Are Leading  
U. S. Attacking Forces



Christian R. Holmes Dies In New York

BEST ANSWER  
TO JAPAN  
BUY WAR BONDS!

**Honolulu Star-Bulletin**  
20 PAGES—HONOLULU, TERRITORY OF HAWAII, U. S. A. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1944—20 PAGES

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# KWAJALEIN FALLS TO U. S.

LATE NEWS

and Leader Harry James Reclassified I-A

and Calls For Increased Gun Production



U. S. ASSAULTS  
IN MARSHALLS  
WORRY JAPAN

Tokyo Tells Japanese  
Americans Invading

19 Islets In Atoll  
In American Hands

Admiral  
Gen. R  
Visit

The plan was daring strategy and required that Japanese air power on such intermediate islands as Wotje, Maloelap, Milli and Jaluit be neutralized. It also meant that three attack forces would be necessary, two forces to strike at the north and south ends of Kwajalein and one small force to occupy Majuro. Air and submarine reconnaissance continued in December and January and so did bombing. Hundreds of tons of bombs were dropped on the islands in an effort to destroy as much aircraft and shipping as possible. Milli, Wotje, Maloelap and Kwajalein's Roi-Namur each received about 200 tons of bombs in January alone. Japanese attacks at Tarawa and on American ships were kept to a minimum by strong American air patrols. By the 27th of January, the Japanese possessed about 150 serviceable planes in the Marshalls. At this point carrier based air strikes strafed and bombed the remaining enemy aircraft to total destruction by the end of January.



*Two days before the major assault on Kwajalein, the atoll is softened up through aerial bombardment.*



*Invasion strategy is studied by men aboard the transport ships lying southwest of the atoll.*



**M**ajuro — On the 31st of January, 1944, the American marines landed on Dalap and Uliga in Majuro Atoll without resistance. The marines expected to find a few hundred Japanese soldiers owing to a misunderstanding that took place during a daring scouting expedition on the evening of January Thirtieth. When the Majuro Islanders explained to an American intelligence officer that the Japanese troops had abandoned Majuro atoll in 1942, the Gilbertese-speaking officer thought that he was hearing about Japanese soldiers then present on the islands. This confusion resulted in needless shelling of the island Darrit for about half an hour after sunrise. However, it was soon recognized that the Japanese were not present (except for three stray Japanese soldiers who were captured) and by 9:30 on the morning of the 31st the atoll was declared secure. Thus Majuro, a protective anchorage for American ships, free from the threat of submarines, where naval refueling could take place, was occupied without a casualty one day before the major assault on Kwajalein.



**K**wajalein — Japanese strong points in Kwajalein were known to be in two areas -- one at the northern tip of the atoll, on Roi and Namur islands, and one at the southern end of Kwajalein Island. The plan of attack called for two simultaneous landings on these two ends of the atoll. Both these attacks followed a similar plan. Although the first landing parties were to occupy Kwajalein from the ocean side, the general plan was to capture the islets which flanked both sides of a pass in the reef, move ships into the lagoon while setting up support artillery on the captured islets, and land troops on the lagoon beach at one end of the island. The fighting would then proceed across the occupied end and then down the length of the island. It should be pointed out that the Japanese were prepared to, and did for the most part, fight to the last man.



*Still standing today at Roi-Namur are these twin-mount 5" Navy electric turret guns manufactured by the British and originally installed for the defense of Singapore. When Singapore was captured by the Japanese in 1942, six sets of these guns were transferred to Roi-Namur for use as coastal defense guns. They served unsuccessfully with the 3,500 Japanese defenders at the northern tip of Kwajalein Atoll.*

**T**he Northern Attack — The plan to capture Roi-Namur followed the plan described above. It called first for troops to land on Ennuebing and Mellu securing the North Pass. Troops would next cross the lagoon and capture the small islands of Ennumennet and Ennubirr and artillery would be established on all these islets. Then, the next day, transport ships would enter the lagoon and the landing would occur on the lagoon beach.

Defending Roi-Namur were 3500 Japanese soldiers. By the time the battle started their air power had been completely destroyed and much of their artillery was unworkable. However they fought on, mainly with small arms, forcing the American invaders to fight for every inch of the island.

During the early morning of January 31, 1944, ships of the naval fire support and transport units gathered in their assigned places west of the atoll. Naval bombardment of the northern islands

commenced at 6:50 a.m. The landing troops were delayed several hours by problems of organization and heavy seas, however by 10:00 a.m. the first landing team hit Ennuebing finding only two dozen Japanese. The landing on Mellu was slowed when an LVT (amphibious troop carrier) capsized on the reef. Finally the small force entered the lagoon and landed without resistance.

Immediately, minesweepers and fire support units with LCI gunboats steamed through the North Pass, slowly crossed the lagoon and reorganized for the landings on Ennubirr and Ennumennet. Both these islands were lightly defended and the Marines landed and secured them quickly, although they were by now some 4 hours off schedule. It was 5:30 p.m. The islet of Ennugarret was also occupied by Marines from Ennumennet in a quick maneuver. Then long into the night the artillery that would support the next day's landing on Roi-Namur was set in place.

During the night, bombardment of Roi-Namur continued while all ships

were readied for the assault and a reconnaissance by rubber boats was made of the landing beaches. More bombardment filled the morning as the reorganization of troops delayed the lagoon side landing. Before noon, however, the 'go' order was given and assaulting Marines beached on both Roi and Namur at noon on February First. On Roi Marines encountered light resistance and by late in the afternoon the Japanese soldiers who had been holding out in the drainage ditches along the air strip were killed.

The resistance on Namur was much stronger, and early in the afternoon a massive explosion rocked the island and stunned the stalled troops. Apparently a Japanese ammunition dump was detonated. The Marines fought until dark pushing the enemy back. The Japanese infiltrated in small groups during the night and also staged a series of small banzai charges in the morning. With the additional aid of medium tanks the Marines moved forward again the next day. By noon they had reached the northern shore and subdued the last organized resistance on Namur.



**K**wajalein Island — The plan of attack on the southern islands of Kwajalein Atoll was very similar to that mounted in the northern area with one variation. The islets of Ninni and Gea were to be occupied on January 31st to secure the westerly Gea Pass. Enubuj and Ennylabegan would then be taken. Artillery would be placed in these islets and the landing force on Kwajalein Island, unlike that on Roi-Namur, would come from the sea side south of Enubuj and beach on the west end of Kwajalein on February First.

In the early morning of January 31st, a small group of soldiers rowed ashore in rubber rafts landing on Gea at day break and captured the islet from its 26 Japanese defenders. Another landing group dispatched for Minni landed mistakenly on Gehh where they encountered 125 armed Japanese. After a battle here the Americans retired to Minni where, it was discovered there were no enemy troops.

There is an interesting and significant event that occurred on Gehh that can be inserted at this point in our narrative.

Returning to Gehh to secure it the next day, the American soldiers discovered in a beached Japanese patrol boat, 75 se-

cret charts of Japanese held lagoons and harbors. These charts were of great importance to later operations in the war.

*Tanks were moved from point to point during the battle, making direct assaults into Japanese strongholds.*



*Prior to the landing on Kwajalein Island, artillery units were set up first on nearby islets.*



# W

hile the troops were rowing ashore in the early morning of January 31st, transport ships were taking their places southwest of Kwajalein. At day break small assault waves landed on Ennylabegan and Enubuj encountering only light resistance. These islets had undergone heavy bombing and shelling that had continued until the troops were ready to land. Once they were secured, artillery was brought on the islands and was set in place by noon. Heavy artillery was brought ashore throughout the night and into the morning of the First.

By the time the assault on Kwajalein was ready to be launched, bombing and naval shelling had literally reduced the island to rubble. For two days before the assault, bombardment was almost continuous. Bombers from Tarawa dropped 2,000 pound bombs on the beach area while battleships and the artillery on Enubuj pounded away. Ebeye also receive some shelling.

The southern attack force carried out its action with better organization than did the northern group and by 9:00 the first assault waves were ready to move from their position, some 5,000 yards from the beach, to the southwest. The beach on the western end of Kwajalein was viewed as two assault wave areas, each area comprising about half the western tip of the island. Four waves of landing craft hit these beaches between 9:30 and 9:45 on February 1st. Each flank of the first wave was composed of 8 LVT-28 (Troop Carriers) and 8 (LVT-A1) (amphibious tanks) with a landing craft control boat guiding in the flanks. The SC-1066 and SC-539 stood by as control vessels on the line, flagging the waves off at four minute intervals. Three LCI gunboats offered close fire support running in two hundred yards ahead of the line. Firing until they neared the reef, these boats then moved to the flanks and stood by for call fire support.

During these moves, destroyers inside and outside the lagoon continued to fire on the beaches. Four waves, moving at five knots approached the beaches and,

crossing the reef, the first wave struck the beach at exactly 9:30. In twelve minutes 1200 men and officers were ashore without a casualty. Bombardment had been so effective that enemy resistance was confined to small arms fire.

The American troops, supported by a creeping barrage of artillery fire from Enubuj moved up the island steadily for two hours. By 11:30 however, well organized Japanese resistance was encountered and after three and one half hours the Americans had advanced less than one thousand yards. Moving slowly the army troops continued to call in artillery fire and patiently picked away at Japanese hiding places while moving inch by inch up the runway that divided the western end of the island. At 6:00 p.m. a night defense was established and the 11,000 American soldiers that were now fighting on the western third of Kwajalein island paused for the night. At 11:00 p.m. and again at 1:35 in the early morning of the 2nd, Japanese troops mustered counter attacks, although with only limited results.





The Americans began pushing forward again at 7:15 a.m. on the morning of February 2nd. Tanks moved forward to force the enemy from a very strong position near an H-shaped pier in the center of the lagoon beach. The tanks were then moved across the island to another strong point farther up the ocean side. The Army troops fought their way near the ocean meeting strong resistance at the end of the air strip. Fighting was slow and disorganized, so at the close of the day the Americans held about two thirds of the island.

The Japanese fought bitterly against the overpowering American forces. Having no anti-tank weapons they often tried unsuccessfully to inflict damage by holding a grenade against the side of a tank until it exploded thus killing the soldier but registering no harm to the tank. At one point five Japanese officers vaulted from a pill box and attacked a tank with

their long swords. Bombardment continued long into the early morning of the 3rd, and the enemy countered with fanatic attacks until day break.

Again at 7:15 a.m. the Army forces pushed against stiff resistance. In the center of the island, where the land turns northward, stood a Japanese blockhouse. It was as yet only partially damaged although bombardment had denuded the entire island. Here the Army encountered the strongest fighting it met on the atoll. The twisted rubble offered excellent protection for the defenders. Each group had to be sought out and destroyed. The night's defense line was drawn just south of the long pier that the Japanese had constructed on the northern quarter of the island.

On the morning of the 4th, the Army commenced once again with heavy artillery support. By 3:00 p.m. the last hard battle was fought, and by 4:30 Kwajalein had been completely captured from its 4,500 defenders, all but a handful of whom had been killed or wounded.



*Of the 265 prisoners taken, nearly 200 were Koreans. In total, the Japanese defenders suffered casualties amounting to more than 16,000, almost half of them deaths. Some 372 Americans were killed and another 1,582 wounded in the one-week battle.*



**T**he slow steady method of the military operation on Kwajalein was typical of Army tactics. Army units, not Marines, had landed on Kwajalein Island and their methods of fighting called for as much shelling as possible in any area preceeding the movement of troops. It must be recognized that Marine forces might have crossed the Island faster than the Army did. However, the incredible resistance that was maintained by the Japanese demands acknowledgement with sad respect. Theirs was a valiant fight for a hopeless cause.

**Ebeye and Other Islands** — While the battle was being waged on Kwajalein Island, other operations of smaller magnitude were in process in the lagoon. On the February 3rd morning, two battalions landed on Ebeye where naval and air bombardment had also prepared the way. Determined resistance was dis-

covered on Ebeye and by the evening of the 3rd about half of the island had been captured by the invaders. The Japanese countered by night, as they had done on Kwajalein. In the morning the attack was resumed and by noon of the 4th the last gun was silenced on Ebeye. During the 4th and 5th, Loi and Gugewe were both occupied. There were about two hundred enemy troops on Gugewe; and a small number of Japanese laborers and 25 Marshallese on Loi.

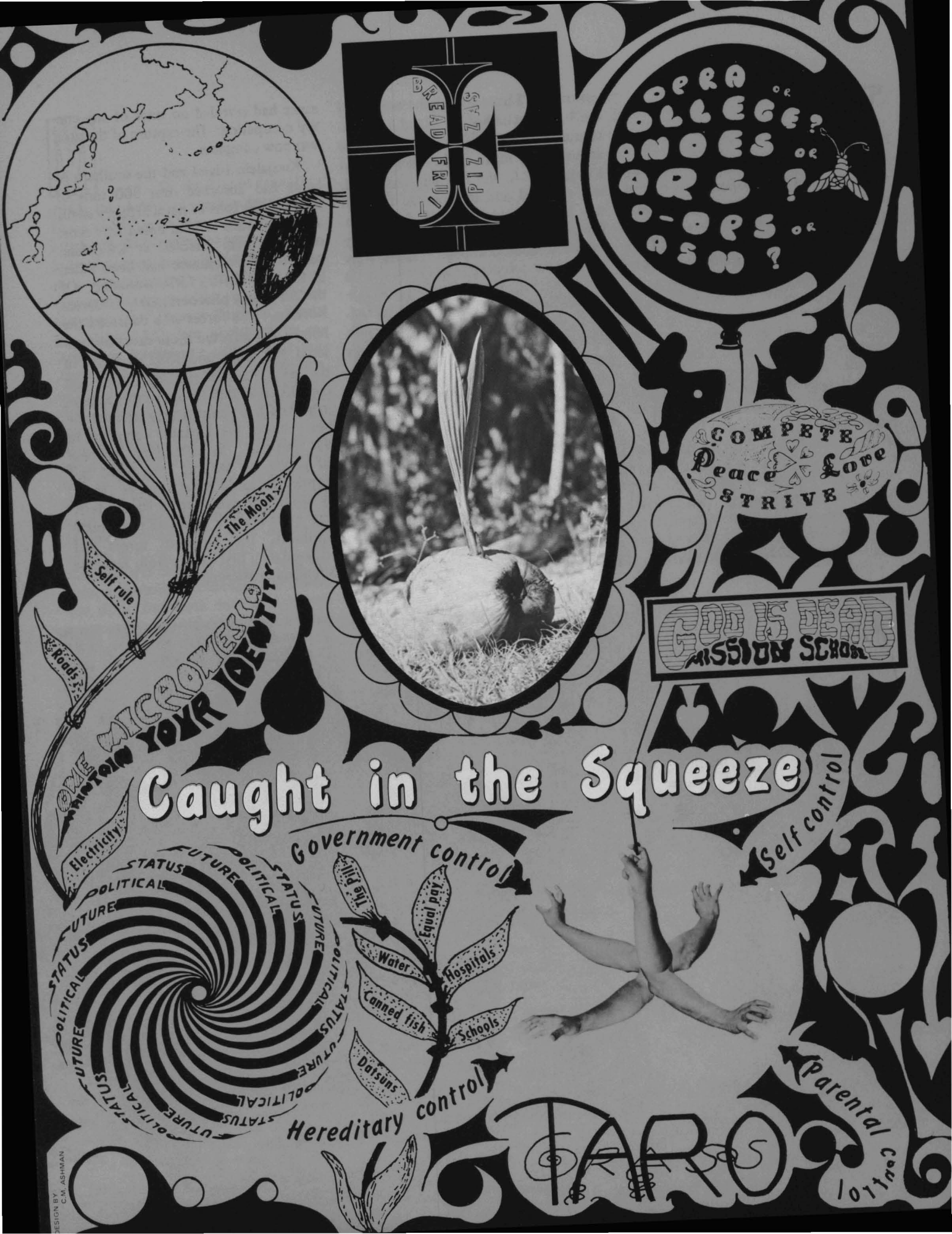
On the islets of the northern portion of the atoll only Marshallese civilians were found when these areas were explored between the 4th and the 7th of the month. In the southern sector, many of the islets like Gugewe were occupied and defended by Japanese soldiers. Bigej, to the north east of Gugewe contained 100 defenders. By the time of sun set on the 6th, however, it was believed that all the Japanese on the atoll were either dead or captured. The islets of the western arm of the lagoon were left untouched until later as reconnais-

sance had revealed no trace of any enemy occupation. The capture of the atoll was now complete.

Kwajalein Island and the southern islands had absorbed over 300 tons of bombs, 400 tons of naval artillery shells and 1300 tons of land based fire, most of which was directed at Kwajalein. About 8,675 Japanese had been killed in the atoll battle, 7,870 wounded. Of the 265 enemy prisoners nearly 200 were Koreans. The forces who delivered the bombs and inflicted those casualties suffered 372 killed and 1582 wounded in the seven days of fighting. They had committed 41,000 troops to this engagement and had painstakingly stitched the heart out of the Japanese command in the Marshalls. By destroying Japanese air power, by striking with speed and surprise to avoid naval counter attack, by landing troops deep in enemy territory after massive arial and naval bombardment, the American forces had achieved their first victory from Japanese defenders in Micronesia.







READ FRUIT  
SEEDS

OPERA  
COLLEGE?  
AND  
ARS?  
POPS  
AS?

COMPETE  
Peace  
Love  
STRIVE

GOD IS DEAD  
MISSION SCHOOL

# Caught in the Squeeze

Government control

Hereditary control

Self control

Parental Control  
1011  
1960

TARRO

# Caught in the Squeeze

*"The great  
and  
seemingly never-ending problem  
which Micronesia faces  
is the struggle for survival,  
for perpetuation of its people,  
for maintaining its identity."*

*by Chuji Chutaro*

**T**he transition of Micronesian society from its old ways into a more modernized pattern of life brings with it a series of major problems which demand a serious consideration on the part of the indigenous people and the administering authority. The four general problem areas discussed here, in every respect are fundamental contributing factors to an identity crisis that leads further to the specific problem of juvenile delinquency.

Micronesia is undergoing a grave process of cultural change. And as Micronesia progresses, the social, educational, economic and political malfunctions are contributing to the growth of an identity crisis. It is this crisis which must be studied in order to assist Micronesia in its struggle for survival and the perpetuation of its people.

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## *The Social Factor*

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**J**uvenile delinquency has become one of our biggest problems. It has become more so with the educational, economic and political effects on it. Such social problems as delinquency, crime, low morale of the people, excessive drinking, the breakdown of family relationships, and disorganization of island communal welfare are not only common, but severely pronounced, each varying in degree according to indigenous involvement.

There is a change in aspiration already. That is, persons want to build houses that last longer, want to have big cars, want to have boats with motors, want to wear good clothes, and want to have an education of the Western type.

The increased gap between aspirations and job opportunities will probably continue to be a long range problem.

Thus, striking changes must be expected to be made to prepare for the future. Several more decades of progress of the Western influence will probably be compressed into the Micronesian society. Confusion occurred through all of these changes in the past, and will continue through the more drastic ones to take place in the next few years. The so-called old way of life is already changed as well as the population, which has made the local subsistence food supply inadequate.

There is no possibility of carefully preserving the culture as it was. The cultures are now in contact with other cultures within and without, and will continue to be. In fact, contacts will accelerate.

The above-mentioned social problems, particularly juvenile delinquency and all other related problems, are not only common but also recognized by many Micronesians and Americans. In many cases the older generation claims that the problem of juvenile delinquency is more pronounced than it used to be in the past. It is hard to say whether this accusation is true or otherwise. In any case, it is subject to discussion. Yet, at this time, if I were to draw my own conclusions based on personal observation, I would be inclined to think that such an accusation is not without some validity.

Juvenile Delinquency is a new word which has been introduced recently into the Micronesian social vocabulary. Because of its newness, the Micronesian communities have never learned to cope with its impact. Many Micronesians seem to think of juvenile delinquency as one of the modern ways of living.



Some indicate that it is just another new taste of the pepsi generation. Others blame the movies, bars, and the educated few who brought in the new way of doing things.

At the same time, it would be naive to assume that the people of Micronesia can ignore technological change, or that many are immune to it. The radio, T.V. (Saipan), press, films, jet planes, tourists, and returning scholars have already made an impact that can be neither denied nor removed. The effects are already felt in social change, the urban drift, or the migration to metropolitan areas. For instance, in the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Ponape, Truk and Palau the statistics show that a great number of the young people moved to the district centers. Ebeye in the Marshalls is evidence of this change. If we cannot avoid technological change, both because it is so ardently desired and because it is impossible to reject, we must prepare for it.

It is socially obvious in the changed patterns of our present family life. We are now engaged in a battle for survival of ourselves as a people, for the survival of things that are dear to us, and for the preservation of the way of life that has sustained us since the beginning of Micronesia. Our different islands systems for many generations provided for the aged, the homeless, the sick, the hungry, the mentally ill, and even the delinquents. This system prevented the poor and destitute from isolation of human relationship as in the so-called "civilized country", a system of control and guidance unequalled elsewhere in the world, which is now being challenged by a strong individualistic attitude. The pressures of the new needs and desires and the influx of an alien way of life are creating a number of new problems. Many of us are not prepared either by training or by temperament to face the new problems. It seems to me the Western ideology has encouraged many of us (Micronesians) to copy a metropolitan way of life without providing adequately for us to cope with and to adapt to this new way of life.

In recent years, there has been a tremendous increase in the number of children to a family, resulting in parents unable to fulfill the psychological needs of the children in terms of love and security. In turn, these children, deprived of this security, have looked for other means of social acceptance, a factor which may or may not lead to juvenile delinquency. This effect then developed new social pressures for the young people to reject or neglect the traditional customs as much as possible. As a consequence, many times they disobey public laws. Because of this, the old people or parents are no longer effective in ruling their youngsters. Many parents complain because their youngsters are no longer obeying them.

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## The Educational Factor

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**T**he rapid changes in Micronesian communal setting have created a tremendous mental conflict. Administrators and educators look with pride on their achievements so far in educating the Micronesians. Unfortunately, until recently such education offered had been little more than a slightly modified metropolitan syllabus from a temperate climate, -- a syllabus designed for a particular group with specific needs that had been transplanted, with as few modifications as possible, on to a group of people whose needs, cognitive processes, language, social structure, culture, and climate were totally different. As it is, many youngsters who failed to perform efficiently might have been classified as failures.

Many times there was no consideration of such a youngster's background. Even if there was such a consideration, there were no programs set up for those who needed that kind of help. Does this mean anything to us? In many cases, we had been teaching children without even a basic understanding of their different island people's values and of their fundamental cognitive processes without reference to culture and social structure. Many of the programs that had been done capitalized mostly on United States or other American territories' standards.

However, I am not disqualifying the fact that there is tremendous enthusiasm for education among the Micronesians. This is not knowledge for its own sake, but for the advantages that follow in its wake, and for the prestige it may endow. I would like to quote one of the dropouts from the Marshall Islands High School--

*"I came from the outer islands. I have no good English. I cannot read good or write. On my island I am considered a man, yet I attend class like a child and treated like one. In my home I have been carried out many responsibilities similar to my father, but since I arrived in this school I have been 'a baby feeding at his mother's breast'. On my island, the young men of my age could build houses, mend or know how to make fishing net, know the time and tide for fishing. We learned this not only by listening to our elders but also by doing. I have noticed many of my classmates could name some of the resources we have, but do not know how to make them."*

I would like to ask, do we teach for examinations? Is that the purpose of education? If so, is this preparing the young Micronesians to live and serve Micronesia?

We must have modern education systems which develop in our people the intellectual tools which sustain modern technology and at the same time incorporate the best parts of the past. It is educationally obvious in the increasingly high standards demanded of the graduates of our schools.

Our primary education system has been to prepare children for secondary education. In some districts only a fraction of the graduates get there. The majority we now classify as failures, according to the Western standards, instead of saying that they have finished their schooling. The few that go on to secondary school feel that they have deserved a prize of high wages, comfortable employment in the district centers, and personal status in the community. It seems that primary education has been for the few who are intellectually stronger than their fellows. It creates a feeling of superiority among the 'passed' and leaves the majority 'failure', with little or no hope. They feel inferior and often produce a society of unhealthy minds, - or juvenile delinquents.

And what of those who go to the secondary school? Perhaps they may come into conflict between a desire for respect because of their schooling and traditional respect for age, where the young have no place. Many of these youngsters then rebel; they leave for the towns, where employment is often not available, and there they develop into disgruntled delinquents living on their wits.

In conclusion most of the Junior High School graduates in all the six districts in Micronesia do not go to Senior High School. Among the 600 to 700 high school graduates within or without Micronesia during a school year only a fraction of this number are awarded scholarships (T.T. or Congress of Micronesia). However, the most tragic thing is the fact that those who have graduated from high school often cannot find jobs. Those who find jobs still have another problem. Their educational preparation for job orientation is nil. Those who have completed some vocational and occupational training still may find that the job which they are about to take is foreign-oriented in application and qualification, which may or may not disqualify the Micronesian.

Furthermore, most of the occupational jobs which now exist in Micronesia have been classified in the "blue collar" category. This makes it difficult for our vocational and occupational training programs in the Trust Territory to become recognized and even productive.

As a consequence, this imposes a serious problem of labor shortage in Micronesia. Statistics show that the majority of our labor force in the areas of construction, mechanics, etc., are imported. This greatly shows the imbalance of our modern and technological growth

and development. However, I would like very much to say that we are fortunate that part of our educational system in the Trust Territory is aimed at the vocational and occupational needs for the Trust Territory. Examples of this are the Micronesian Occupational Center (MOC), Palau, and the Ponape Agricultural and Trade School (PATS), Ponape, along with new plans for occupational training in the district centers in connection with the high school curriculum.

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## *The Economic Factor*

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**W**estern standards have led Micronesians to believe that education will lead to a "white collar" job which is superior to their subsistence agricultural economy. That ideology has already destroyed the dignity of subsistence agricultural economy by the selection of the most able for academic and technical education at the expense of capitalized agriculture. It then further encourages many Micronesians to plant cash crops using the same methods as the American farmers. Because climate, land and natural resources are not suited to such a method, the Micronesian often finds himself trapped. Where he once spent his energy gathering and growing food for himself and his family, he now spends that time to grow a cash crop, which often offers such inadequate returns that the adventurer cannot afford to buy adequate food for a balanced diet. He then must rely on canned food.

In the transfer to a cash economy, development has caused problems of marked deterioration of general nutrition and dental problems. Micronesians who are now living in the population centers live almost exclusively on imported foods. Majuro, Saipan, Koror, and Ebeye are examples of such development.

Money economy is evidently desired by all; but the unwillingness to acquire it is a developing conflict in the urbanized districts.

Today, the money economy comes into conflict in many ways with the traditional standard. In past times, the extended family was close-knit and economically interdependent. In this way all persons were adequately provided for, even those who could not contribute substantially, because the family head, and sometimes even the chief, provided for him.

With the coming of a money economy, the young men, especially, have gone to the districts to earn a living, but tradition still follows them. Some of a young man's relatives may also be drawn to the district center. If they cannot find jobs they look to him for



support-housing, food, and clothing--while they help him in the traditional manner: housework, child tending, cooking, etc. Because of the high price of the canned, less nutritive food, and his relatively low salary, whether he is a government worker or a local one, he is sometimes only able to buy rice, but no meat. Not only are his ambitions thwarted but his standard of living is greatly lowered.

Another conflict with the traditional comes from the fact that most workers in the district centers do not own their own land. In many cases it cannot even be bought. Good examples of this are Majuro, Ebeye, Colonia, and Moen. The worker, in many cases, must pay rent or else pay a certain percentage of his salary to the land owner. This can become just another added burden to his already distressing financial situation.

Thus, the money economy comes into conflict with the traditional values. If one refuses to aid his relatives he may well become a social outcast, losing the trust of his people. Many times there seems to be no solution or middle road to solve this conflict of values.

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## *The Political Factor*

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**T**he future political status of the Trust Territory has yet to be determined. Although determination is not set, the subject is being discussed with increasingly mixed feelings. Initially, the economic stress of a money economy would undoubtedly mean less money or no money for those who have not completed high school, and particularly the unemployed. Whether such financial considerations would be outweighed by a strong feeling of nationalism in terms of political free-associated state is debatable.

The changing of cultural and political patterns requires a great deal of time. Indeed, the unification of Micronesia is essential, though it may take twenty-five, fifty, or even a hundred years. The exclusion of the aim for unity, the disillusionment and disorganization of our race, and thus of our entire culture, may bring a future with no common purpose.

Unless we are uniformly unified in our interest for a common future, our Micronesian culture will probably give nothing of importance to our coming generations. Delinquency and other types of modern crimes are now becoming day-to-day social problems. Other effects of the Western influence are evident. For instance, instead of eating the fresh tuna out of the nearby lagoon, some now prefer it from the can, perhaps because Americans acquire it that handy way. A rem-

nant of the Japanese occupation is the great appetite for rice, which is not grown at all in several of the main islands in Micronesia since the Japanese left. Problems of this sort are serious, since there are not enough cash products to exchange for imported foods.

Today, there is little social mood for identification as one people rather than as Saipanese, Marshallese, Ponapean, Trukese, Yapese or Palauan. It is to these social problems that I wish to encourage more thought among those who are concerned about Micronesia, because I believe that we have a problem which requires a solution. We do not have enough human resources (educated Micronesians) but we have our Congress of Micronesia, and our administering authority, and the United Nations, to find fundamentally new answers for the unification of our people.

The question is who we are, where we are going, and how we together should accomplish our future. Again, our problem is not, and will not be, that we do not apply our human resources and institutions, but that we do not try to question or ask what is required of us to find new ways for new problems. I realize that facing out what I call reasonable concern for the future of Micronesia is infinitely more difficult than doing what we know we could do without any political conflict. I guess part of this drawback is the result of a disunified realm in a diverse cultural background.

Micronesia is facing a problem that is different from any Trust Territory yet encountered. Our basic problem, really, is not that of supporting comfortably the distressingly large numbers of people whom we now know will inevitably inhabit the tiny islands in the decades ahead, but our basic problem is that of identifying ourselves in terms of getting from here to there successfully with a minimum of chaos and human suffering. We are now in the most difficult transition the community of Micronesia has ever discovered -- that of bringing island cultures in balance with the democratic principle which has been demonstrated by our newly-born Congress of Micronesia. Although this transition is feasible from the political point of view, it might well turn out to be impossible economically and socially.

Only wide understanding of our identity can support the great cultural changes that this new demand has brought on Micronesians. Only a wide social, cultural, political, and economic unification can help develop Micronesia and bring it closer to whatever destiny she may wish.

In conclusion, the great and seemingly never-ending problem which Micronesia faces is the struggle for survival, for perpetuation of its people, for maintaining its identity. This means that Micronesia must successfully remold its environment--to meet its food, or economic needs, its educational problems, its social problems, and its political problems; otherwise, it perishes.

# ON THE GO

## Majuro - Between Flights

by Charles Singletary

*Yokwe Yuk!* Welcome to Majuro, the gateway to Micronesia. You have arrived and now have at least a few days to explore this last bastion in the advance of the 20th century. Your plane has landed at a community called D-U-D. The initials stand for Darrit-Uliga-Dalap, the three small islands that make up the Marshalls district center on this Majuro Atoll.

First of all, unless you have made advance arrangements, there is the immediate problem of where to stay and later on, where to eat. As of Spring 1971, there are two hotels on the atoll. One, the Mico Hotel, named for its owners the Marshall Islands Import-Export Company, offers rooms (both natural breeze and air-conditioned) with rates starting at \$8.00 single. It's located in the center of town. The brand new Eastern Gateway Hotel, closer to the airport, offers 14 doubles, two triples and two apartments, with single rates starting at \$12.00.

Good food, both Micronesian and American meals, is served in six district center restaurants. In addition to the Mico Hotel second floor dining room, there are: Kitco Bar and Restaurant on the main road as you enter town from the airport, Whitney Brothers about a hundred yards north of Kitco, Clara's Restaurant (Calco) further to the north on the main road in Rita Village, the

Lula Restaurant just a little south of Marshall Islands High School, and the Tibrik Restaurant towards the end of the road. At the very end of the road-way is a snack shop.

Before or after dinner you may want to relax (??) in one of several cocktail lounges or clubs that dot the area. The Mico Lounge is entered through the hotel dining room and the Kitco Downtown Club is adjacent to its restaurant. The Coconut Rendezvous Club, in the staff housing area, is a membership club that opens its doors to non-member visitors: those who are on the atoll for less than 30 days. Taverns are the "old" *Mico Club* located on the lagoon about 300 yards north of the hotel, the *Rock-O-Town Club* across the street from the Mico Club, and the *Blue Lagoon Club* found on the ocean shore 300 feet north of the *Rock-O-Town*. Many of the establishments serve pupus and occasionally some have live music for listening or dancing. Usual opening time is around 4:30 p.m. and doors swing shut around midnight. All of them are closed on Sundays.

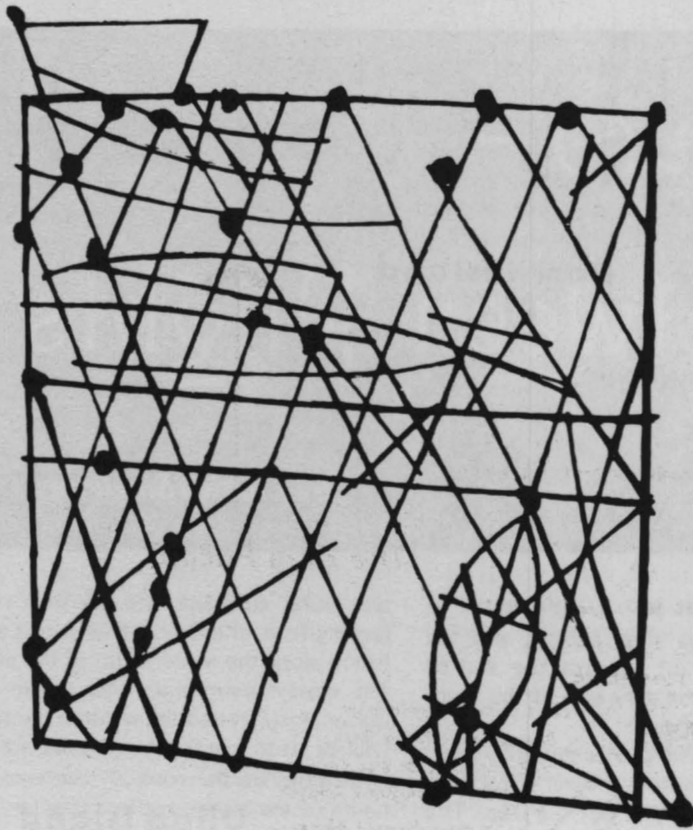
Now that you have these essentials plotted, it's time to plan your activities for the next few days.

Maybe you'd like to take in some swimming, shelling, snorkeling or SCU-BA diving. . . all of which are excellent here in the Marshalls. The better beaches

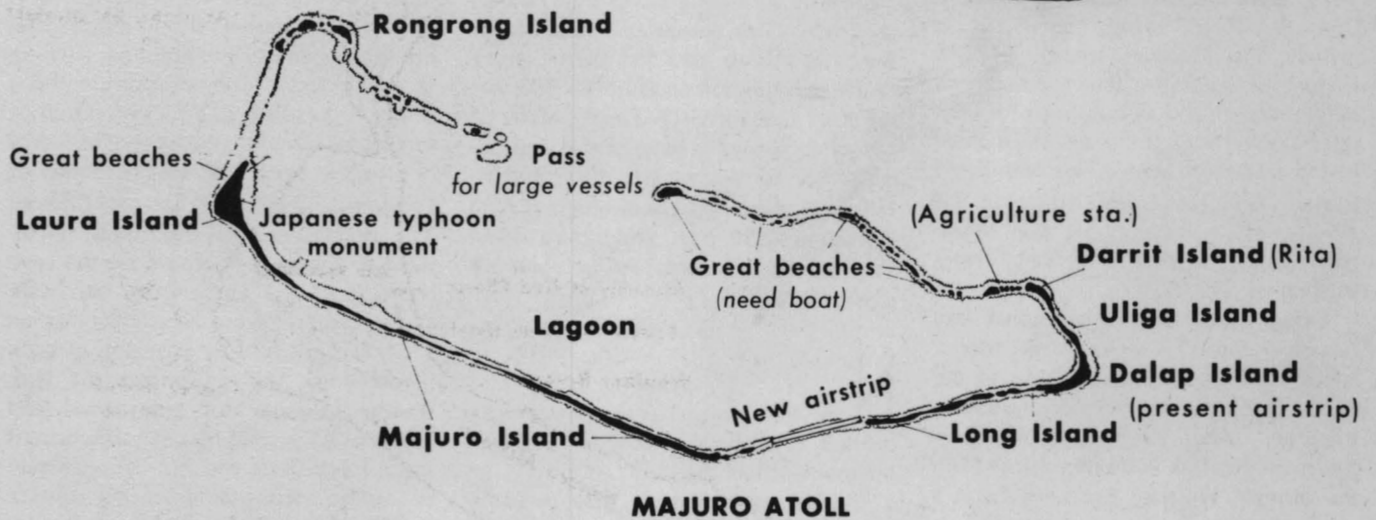
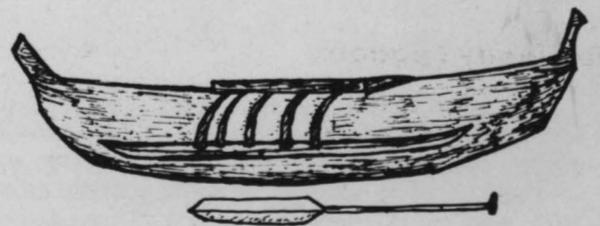
are found alongside the 35-mile road leading from the D-U-D area to Laura Island along the western rim of the atoll. The closest swimming areas are in the lagoon, just beyond the weather bureau's facility at the airport. Others are on both sides of the road all the way to Laura where more excellent beaches can be found between the end of the road and the tip of the island. The road has been substantially improved and can be an enjoyable drive. . . unless recent rains have pot-holed the surface and maintenance crews have not yet arrived. Then it can develop into a ride you may want to but can't forget.

It's advisable to wear some kind of foot covering, such as canvas shoes, at most of the beaches and to stay within the reef areas while swimming, shelling or skin diving. For information about where to possibly find specific kinds of shells, ask any of the island residents or stop by at the Women's Handicraft Center near the Uliga Protestant Church. You might want to try hiking northward to the smaller islands on the eastern side of the atoll. You can walk across the reef from Rita Village when the tide is low, but by all means be back before high tide. Contact the U.S. Weather Bureau for tide times and heights. Almost all beaches are pleasant spots for picnics and box lunches may be ordered from some of the district center restaurants. Please remember that while at just about all the beaches and coconut groves, you're a guest on





This way to small islands,  
good beaches, good shelling--need boat.



MAPS BY MIKE ALLEN

DESIGN BY NICOLAS C. GUERRERO





someone else's private property and it would be nice to carry your trash back to the hotel for disposal.

War remnants are few in the district center. Some old pillbox fortifications remain near the high school on the ocean side of the road. At Laura Island, Japanese aircraft are lying on the reefs at both the lagoon and ocean sides of the island. At this island's highest point of elevation, about 20 feet, is a monument erected by the Japanese government as a memorial to the people that were lost during a typhoon in the mid-1920s.

On Sundays, church services are held at 10:00 a.m. at the Uliga Protestant Church, United Church of Christ, and Assembly of God. The Catholic Mission masses are said at 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. on Sundays and at 7:00 a.m. on other days of the week. Jehovah's Witnesses meet Tuesday and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., 7th Day Adventists gather in Laura Village on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. and members of the Bahai World Faith can get information about their gatherings from Betra Laipen at the Marshalls Community Action Agency (MCAA).

Various forms of transportation are readily available. A stream of busses and taxis flows constantly during the waking hours. A dime will take you almost anywhere on the bus, and taxis normally charge 20 cents per passenger . . . and don't be surprised if your cab is shared with several other riders going in the same general direction. A few taxi operators have instituted reduced fares for people on their way to church.

For U-drive sedans, small busses or pickups, contact the hotels or Robert Reimers Enterprises on the mezzanine of the Robert Reimers supermarket. Rates start at \$8.00 per day. Water transportation varies from 14 to 16-foot outboards to the large 46 and 49-foot motor-sailers. A 36-foot diesel powered launch sometimes is available through

the office of the assistant district administrator. The outboards can be rented from Robert Reimers, the 46-foot *Little Bear* from Micronesia Tours, and the 49-foot *Mera* from Julian Reimers.

The Marshall Islands district is made up of 29 low-lying coral atolls and 5 low coral islands scattered over a Pacific Ocean area of half a million square miles. The total land area is a mere 70 square miles. Geographically, the islands lie in two parallel chains running some 800 miles northwest from the vicinity of the equator. They are roughly 150 miles apart. The Marshallese have given the two chains the colorful names of *Ratak* and *Ralik*—sunrise and sunset. The usual atoll is an irregular oval shape, about 25 miles in length. It consists of a coral reef enclosing a lagoon, with the circle of islands standing as part of the reef area. There are more than one thousand islands clustered in the 29 atoll groups of the Marshalls and the Kwajalein atoll is the largest in the world with its 840 square mile lagoon.

Spanish voyagers claimed the Marshalls in 1592 for the Spanish crown. Spain gave practically no governmental supervision for the next 300 years, but this was the period when the history-making pioneers of the Pacific, whalers, traders and missionaries, reached the Marshalls. Western civilization had its impact on a stone-age culture with the introduction of metal tools, trade goods, the development of a written Marshallese language and Christianity.

Germany purchased the area from Spain after the Spanish-American war in 1899 and immediately set about disarming the Marshallese and establishing law and order. Tribal warfare was abolished, a health and education program was started, and trade and commerce was developed.

The islands were taken over by the Japanese government under a mandate

from the League of Nations following the defeat of the German empire during World War One. The Japanese, in developing the islands commercially, brought rapid changes in the life of the people. Their administration ended abruptly in February of 1944.

The Allied forces then occupied the Marshalls and the islands have since been administered by the U.S. government; currently under a trusteeship agreement with the United Nations that began in 1947.

If you have many days to spend during your visit and wish to see some of the outer islands, arrangements can be made with either of the two local air companies for flights aboard sea planes, or with the ship owner/operator of the trading vessels in the district. The shipping companies and their motor vessels are: Molik Co., *Tetami Maru* and *Etai Maru*; Acme Importers, *Mieco Queen* and *Yap Islander*; Mieco, *Ralik Ratak*; Bilamon Store, *Melajon*; Julian Reimers, *Mera* and *Makua*, and the district supply officer for the government operated field trip vessel *James Cook*. Rates start at 5 cents per mile plus food and lodging. MILI (Micronesian Inter-ocean Line, Inc.) operates cargo/passenger ships from the west coast of the U.S. and from Japan through Majuro and the other ports of the Trust Territory. A MILI agent can give details of possible bookings. Ground arrangements, including land, sea and air, can be handled through the Majuro office of Micronesia Tours.

You'll find that your trip to Majuro will afford the opportunity to visit a last frontier in the 20th century. Here western civilization is looking for someplace to set its feet and is still found trying. The pace is still a leisurely one, where time doesn't mean a lot, and missing an appointment by two or three hours is considered normal. Just finding and enjoying the restful atmosphere here in the Marshalls is well worth making the trip.

# From Maine

**V**olunteers Dianne and Cliff York and Charlie Frear made this jump half-way around the world when they joined the Peace Corps, to find that life in the villages of Chalan Kanoa and San Vicente, Saipan, is quite similar in social patterns to their home towns in Maine.

Whenever we, particularly in the over-thirty bracket, think about a Volunteer we tend to envision an outer island, a lone Volunteer immersed in its culture away from all the stresses and problems of modern society. We may even envy the time-space which permits the young person to undertake such a venture. Micronesians from the outer islands also have a picture of the Volunteer, one they have formed from sharing family life with them.

What about the volunteer in the district center, working along side Americans as well as Micronesians? How are they viewed and received? Do they find the same kinds of rewards and what is their daily experience like?

Volunteers are young and youth is notoriously impatient for time to pass, for problems and frustrations to be tions we hear most about, yet over a thousand Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Micronesia with patience and understanding. Many come from the small rural towns of America. Some with specialized backgrounds, others with liberal arts college degrees. Their reasons for joining vary as much as people vary but they do have in common the hope that they can help by improving the lives of others.

The Yorks and Charlie Frear are Volunteers in Saipan. They have different backgrounds, interests and assignments; still, they reflect the same attitude toward their tasks--and Maine. This lovely small wooded state in the northeastern corner of the United States, with its ruggedly beautiful coastline (not unlike the windward side of Saipan), its biting-cold winters, fragrant summers and quiet towns seems an unlikely place to find the adventuresome. Maine people have a reputation for pragmatic wisdom

and personal rectitude. They founded and have lived in the small isolated towns since the late 1700's, and Cliff and Dianne's family are no exception. Their families have lived in Bryant Pond for a hundred years and most of the townspeople are related to them. The extended families of Saipan were no surprise to the Yorks and they see familiar personalities and family responsibilities operating in the village of Chalan Kanoa.

Bryant Pond, the York's home town, is a lumber town, nurtured more by its residents' appreciation of its beauty than its prosperity. The only major business is a paper mill in which Cliff's father and four brothers work. It has changed little over the years and Cliff notes the only addition to the town high school since his grandmother graduated in 1922, is an oil heater. He and Dianne attended this school and upon graduation entered the University of Maine. Cliff earned a degree in mathematics (and a teaching credential), Dianne her nursing degree. They married after college and when

by Gwyneth Donchin

# to Micronesia



they joined the Peace Corps it meant their first plane flight and their first experience away from Maine.

Charlie Frear was born in Bimington in upstate New York and now claims Maine as home. Since his youth he has had a consuming interest in growing plants. His parents encouraged him by giving him a room in their home for his experiments and he haunted the woods and fields of Maine for specimens. He studied horticulture at a junior college in New York State and received his degree in horticulture from the University of Georgia. His only sister is a teacher.

These three volunteers all express the view that they influence people by displaying a sincere interest in the tasks and the people with whom they are working. Let's take a look at what they do by starting with Dianne.

**D**ianne is a lovely, fresh-faced young woman who keeps house like any other young wife. She begins her working day by riding to work with a neighbor. As

an instructor at the Trust Territory Nursing School in Saipan, she has both American and Micronesian co-workers. The nursing students come from all districts of Micronesia and upon graduation, many of them face greater demands than one usually anticipates for nurses. They may return to a remote outer island. They may have to diagnose and treat, frequently without a physician or a hospital to turn to. They need very specialized training and all the additional help they can get. Dianne finds them warm and friendly, and so likeable that she finds it hard to be annoyed with them when they do not fulfil their assignments. English is a second or third language to these students and this creates problems for them and their instructors. They prefer to translate to their own tongue and then teach each other, thus losing many of the benefits of group learning or individual instruction. They are not always motivated to nursing as a career. A scholarship to the school has meant a chance for improvement for them and may not necessarily reflect a liking or an understanding of

the nursing profession. Dianne believes, however, that these young men and women can do well and she feels comfortable and happy in her relationship with them and her fellow instructors.

The Yorks live in the heart of Chalan Kanoa village on Saipan. When they try to explain their Peace Corps allowances to their neighbors, they receive the reply, "You don't have to pretend to be poor, we like you anyway." Unlike the outer district Micronesian, those on Saipan find it hard to believe the Yorks do not earn a standard American salary. Dianne and Cliff each receive \$140 per month living allowance from the Peace Corps. In addition, they will receive \$75 each for every month of service. This is a readjustment allowance to help them resettle in the United States upon completion of their assignments. Dianne enjoys her house and living in the village. She sometimes wonders if she should spend more time with the people of Saipan, but her day is full. Her neighbors help her in numerous ways and she feels at ease with them.



*Good communication comes from mutual respect and genuine friendliness. There is no doubt about the warm friendly feeling seen in this exchange between nursing student Brysin Salomon from Pingelap, Ponape, and nurse-teacher Dianne York.*

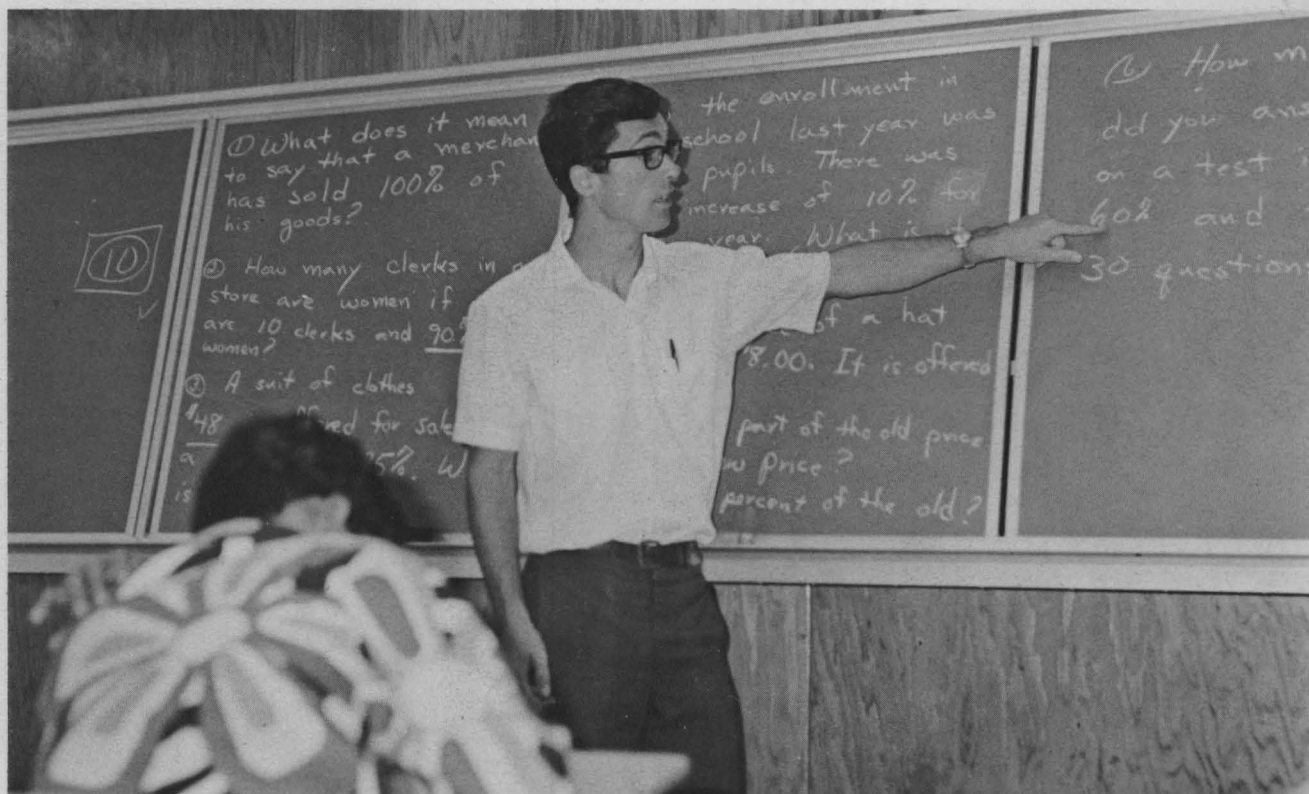
**A**t Marianas High School, Cliff teaches math to all grades. Like Dianne, he is convinced his students can do well and is distressed by the attitude he sees among some teachers and administrators toward students. The students are intelligent and can learn, he says, and they need to develop good study habits and to strengthen skills such as following directions. With the current emphasis upon strict attendance, there are bound to be students who would benefit more by vocational training than from the academic work offered. Cliff feels it is a matter of how ready the student is for serious work. When a course is given, he believes it must maintain good standards even if it is hard for the students at first, for in the long run they will benefit. It's a challenge for him to develop these students' competencies, for they are the future of Micronesia. At the end of the school day, he joins them on the ball field and like other teachers in Saipan, he would like to see a vigorous athletic program.

*Algebra I at Marianas High School. Cliff York teaches all levels of math at the new school and insists that high standards, even if difficult at first, will serve for the student's benefit in the long run.*

Perhaps this dedication to the student that both Dianne and Cliff demonstrate, is the biggest communication bond between them and Saipanese. Parents do want their children educated to the best of their abilities and they appreciate the help being offered.

**I**t is also true that the bond one sees operating between Charlie Frear and the farmers he serves, lies in his dedication to the land and what it can produce. Farming is demanding work everywhere in the world and Saipan is not unique. Weather, insects, and disease are no strangers to local farmers and it is not surprising they are reluctant to change time-honored methods.

Charlie and his good friend and co-worker, Francis Villagomez, work for the Agricultural Extension Division. Their task is to improve the productivity of the farms by helping the farmer test and introduce disease resistant strains, by adopting wise use of fertilizers and





by recommending insecticides. Every two weeks they try to visit the 70 farms of Saipan. It's quite an experience to drive with them through the much-maligned tanga-tangan (this plant protects the ground while its shedding leaves build up top soil). The road suddenly opens and before you lie the farms of Ignacio P. Villagomez and his son Francis (Charlie's co-worker). It is hard to realize you are in the center of a Pacific Island. Mt. Tagpochau rises to the north and the blue-green line of Tinian to the south could be any distant mountain range. These well organized farms demonstrate what can be done by hard work, selective planting and the scientific aids of insecticides and fertilizers. All the work on the elder Villagomez farm is done by the senior Villagomez and his wife.

Most of the farms on Saipan are small and their owners referred to as part-time farmers . . . a misleading term for, in order to maintain a farm, long hours are necessary, even if undertaken after a day's work at another job and during weekends.

Charlie respects the effort and determination it takes to farm on Saipan. Many of the farms, including the Villagomez farm, do not have water for irrigation. They produce three crops a year which could be doubled if water were available for the dry season.

You watch Charlie walking through the fields checking for insects and slipping those he finds into plastic bags for identification, inspecting a field struck by disease, talking to the farmers about their problems, breathing air as clean as Maine in a land differently beautiful, and you know he is fortunate to be doing "his thing" in a real sense . . . to be contributing to the future of farming on Saipan. He wishes he had the time for other projects but now that his co-worker, Frank, has left for Hawaii for four months of training, he faces longer hours and additional study in Chamorran agricultural terms.

Charlie lives in San Vicente village and, like any young single man, can be lonely at night although he is welcome in the neighborhood homes. Living is not as primitive as he expected when he

applied to the Peace Corps for an agricultural assignment. It has proved satisfying for him and he is grateful to the District Agriculturalist, Lester Weaver, for permitting the freedom to apply his training in horticulture to the problems of the local farmer.

*T*hese volunteers may not leave their assignments seeing earth shaking changes occurring. They will have helped a student or a farmer and will have left memories in the minds of Micronesians. Multiplied many times by the other volunteers serving in a variety of capacities, on outer islands as well as in district centers, such a contribution has made an impact upon Micronesia. The volunteers also are rewarded by the satisfaction they feel in their daily tasks and the dimension their experiences bring to their understanding of Micronesia and its people.



*Saipan farmer, Ignacio P. Villagomez, his son Francisco and Charlie Freer admire cucumbers grown on the Villagomez farm. This is a disease resistant strain that grows well in the Marianas. Well organized farms are demonstrating what can be done by hard work, selective planting and the scientific aids of insecticides and fertilizers.*

# DISTRICT DIGEST

*a quarterly review of news and events from the six districts*

## Marshall

The district legislature, also known as the Marshall Islands Nitijela, was called into special session by the DistAd in December to consider and take action on the district administration's proposed five year program and budget plans. This was the first time the legislature had been asked to participate directly in making recommendations for the district's budget. ..Majuro's new airport is under construction with land already cleared and causeway filling underway.

As part of their contract, the builders, American International Construction Co. of Seattle, also are surveying the district center's main roads in preparation for their being paved. American International also is in the beginning stages of construction of the new Ebeye sewer treatment plant and hospital.

..Steps forward in communications include the public works construction of a new telephone building and the February inauguration of the telephone link to Saipan. The district's leaders gathered in Majuro to place the first call to the High Commissioner. ..The site has been cleared for the new Marshall Islands High School at Majuro and pouring of cement is about to get underway. In the outer islands, school construction is complete on Milli Atoll, and the Jaluit and Ailinglaplap school construction materials are in the process of being transported to the atolls. The Army Engineers has been asked to prepare designs for the Jaluit High School. ..Calvary Bible Institute (CBI), one of the district's mission schools, was closed in January due to lack of financing. ..The fourth Civic Action Team for the district arrived on Majuro to replace the departing team which has been working for the past half year on a multitude of projects including the Arno, Laura and Jaluit roads. The new team will be start-

ing on road construction at Ailinglaplap Atoll as requested by the Nitijela. ..With the discontinuance of Air Micronesia flights to Nauru, the Nauru Airways is planning to provide direct service to Majuro every other Sunday. ..Meanwhile, the Federal Aviation Agency has qualified the planes of two local charter airways, Lagoon Aviation and Marshall Islands Air Taxi Service, and they have begun flights between islands and atolls. ..The Eastern Gateway Hotel welcomed its first guests in February. The new hotel, located near the airport, adds eighteen rooms to Majuro's meager supply of accommodations. Two new restaurants have been opened on Rita, bringing the total number of district center restaurants to six. While the snack shop at the airport has closed, a new one has been started near the end of the road in Rita. And a fourth movie theater in Majuro opened in January to add more evening pleasure for residents.

..Kitco's fabulous air-conditioned warehouse has opened for service. ..The Ebeye Cooperative topped the half-million mark in gross sales according to its annual report. ..Field trip service is improving further with the addition of the new 100-ton MV Evangeline, owned by the Ajidrik Wholesale Company, and the arrival of the MV James Cooke to replace the MV Yap Islander sent away for dry-docking. All vessels in the service are bound to benefit by demolition work which has started on widening passes and channels in the Marshalls. ..Island beautification is being boosted with a joint cleanup effort and weekly inspection by the DUD municipal council, district administration and division of sanitation. ..And Majuro is getting its two new fire engines to replace the former "psychological fire truck" which used to come out to watch the fires in the district center.

## Ponape

Kapingamarangi water crisis continues—with major agricultural damage to the atoll—with only light rains during the past nine months. M/V Kaselehlia made its second water-hauling trip to Kapingi. Personnel wants to hire a Rain-making Spirit to work on the problem. ..It looks like everyone's gotten his fill of Ponape for the present as there've been no conferences here recently, in contrast to overlapping all-Micronesia meetings in the first months after our Jet Strip was finished. ..Second Seabee team bid fond goodbye and team number three is in the middle of its tour, working hard on roads, mass producing culverts, training NYC youth, and cooperating with Health Services on field medical assistance. They also furnished the technical skills which brought to completion the Danpei Village (Sokehs) water project, including all-weather, protected-source water (100 gallons per person, per day, no less!) to 35 households, 300 people. The Seabees have stationed their crane in Uh Municipality, taking coral off the reef to build road both back into Net and onward into Uh. This is implementation of the leap-frogging plan PTB has developed for road development. ..PTB (formerly Ponape Transportation Authority) has been building schools all over Ponape and recently completed the new all-steel, turquoise and orange post office building, with night lighting that makes it a new social center for the kids. PTB is also pushing new, widened roadway south out of Kolonia, toward Paliker (and the new Community College of Micronesia site, on the Sokehs/Kitti border—fantastic country down there).

PTB also built Mobil's new office. They just completed a two-week school for explosives handlers with representatives from all districts, with a leading specialist in teaching this difficult business in



charge. Needless to say, it was a real blast. PTB has also been engaged in training construction foremen and crews for these recent building contracts. ..New water main going in for Kolonia, big asbestos-cement pipes look like they'll carry the whole Nanpil River into town. This, with power poles getting placed, mean that more sections of Kolonia will soon be enjoying modern utilities. The price in trees for power lines is awful tho—we've got to find better methods, particularly with such a cool, beautiful town as Kolonia. ..DistAd Mackenzie showing remarkable vigor in guiding programs forward with local leadership, following return to duty in November. ..PATs (Ponape Agriculture and Trade School) starting up new program to train vocational education teachers, one from each district. A first in TT. ..Land Management fighting its way thru all the work necessary for clearing lands to permit start of the many, many new capital improvement programs. ..Kolonia Land Advisory Board very busy making recommendations on houselots in the Town, plus working out basic regulations and procedures for new construction by homeowners. ..Kusaie pushing forward with road access to Tofol area, site of new hospital, high school and other facilities, across the beautiful bay from Lele Town. Kusaie's recently completed master plan supporting this and other developments there, as community water improvements in Utwe and Tafunsak, with backing from Public Works in pipe department. ..M/V Tungaru out of service for the long count, but M/V Hecate bops in from the Marshalls, suggesting a new service: Majuro-Ebeye-Kusaie-Ponape and return, which should be useful in produce shipping, among other values. ..PPCA (Ponape Producer's Coop Association) has gotten re-organized and is focusing on selling agricultural products, including vegetables in Kolonia, with export of pepper, cocoa and bananas, the latter by air. ..CAA going into second phase of training for furniture manufacture, using those elegant mangrove woods with the super grains and colors (we expect to sell in Denmark within a decade). ..CAA also pushing women's skill training in domestic and commer-

cial skills, along with CD on this. ..Ponape's four privately-owned hotels doing heavy business—seems everyone wants to visit from Kwaj, in addition to business people and just plain tourists from the States, Japan, and even Europe. Nan Madol is still the biggest special attraction, after Ponape's beauty, hospitality—and could it be those 21 bars? ..Incidentally, those hotels, small ones, have had no outside-Ponape financing.

**Truk** The Truk Continental/Travelodge officially opened on Dec. 10, with 31 news and travel writers and travel agents from Hawaii, U.S. mainland and Japan attending the grand opening. Local leaders and government officials along with the Truk delegation to the Congress of Micronesia also were on hand for the festivities. One of the greatly appreciated features was the performance of local dances by students of Truk High School. ..The new electric power line project has been completed with the line extending from the power plant, through Mwan Village all the way to South Field. ..The District Legislature was called into special session by the DistAd for a five day meeting. One of the major actions was the appropriation of \$3,000 for the much needed renovation of Faupo School. ..Christmas drops by Air Force planes in the Western Islands, Namonuitos, Halls and Mortlocks were successfully carried out just before the big day and another distribution of gifts by Santa aboard a Navy plane was made to a thousand school children gathered at the Moen airstrip. ..Construction on Truk High School classrooms and new dormitory is nearing completion. The contract was awarded to Island Development and Construction Co., a locally-owned firm. School construction also is underway on Fefan, Ulul and Satawan. ..The nurse's aide training program under the supervision of Sr. Francella at the Truk Hospital was completed with 25 young men and women receiving certificates of completion. ..Congressman Raymond Setik's new, large supermarket opened for business on January 23. The 31—room hotel section on the second floor of the building also has recently been added to the

growing economic scene. ..Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York, arrived on Moen for a brief visit accompanied by Bishop Flores of Guam, three Air Force chaplains and other members of the Church's Guam staff. The Cardinal was greeted by Bishop Kennally and DistAd Juan Sablan. He visited the sick at Truk Hospital, was honored at a community reception, and co-celebrated mass with the Bishops, the priests in his party, and the Jesuit priests at Tunnuk. This was the first time a Cardinal had visited the island. ..A Seaman Apprentice Training School has been started under the Manpower Development and Training Act (MDTA). The one-year pilot program aims to train a total of 40 Micronesians to qualify as Able Bodied Seamen. First 40 students are all from Truk.

**Yap** The first deposit of money at Yap's new Bank of Hawaii branch office was a huge piece of traditional stone money brought in by Chief Andrew Roboman. The deposit marked the Dec. 19th grand opening of the first bank in the district since Japanese times. The ceremonies included speakers representing the district administration, and High Commissioner's office, Congress of Micronesia, and district legislature, dancing by students of Map school, and a local "rock" musical group called The Coconut Crab. ..During the same weekend as the bank festivities, the Navy Seabee team worked from sunrise to sunset each day, replacing a portion of Yap's airfield. ..Two other events are still being talked about: UN Day was celebrated for two days with sports competition, dances and a special treat being the music of a Navy Seabees band flown in from California. Guest speakers were Sen. Lazarus Salii, chairman of the Future Political Status Delegation, and Adm. Smith, commandant of the Seabees forces. The other event was the combined Christmas flights from Guam, one by the Air Force to outer islands where gifts were parachuted and the other by the Navy which brought presents for children gathered at Yap airfield. ..Visiting the district for several days was Mrs. Elizabeth Farrington,

Director of the Office of Territories who met with many people during her stay. ..The businessmen of Yap have been holding meetings to discuss the formation of a Yap Chamber of Commerce. ..Dr. Joseph Nonemacker, the Peace Corps Volunteer dentist assigned to Yap, passed away due to heart failure on Dec. 24. The 65-year-old community befrienders had been on the island for just a few months. ..The Rai View Inn has been turned over to the Yap Hotel Corporation, a wholly-owned Micronesian firm, headed by Joseph Tamag. The former government operated hotel is expected to be expanded beyond its present ten rooms. ..A 6-man team spent about a week in Yap proper and then traveled to Woleai Atoll in the outer islands to gather the remains of Japanese war dead for enshrinement in the Tomb of the Unknown, Yasukuni Shrine, Tokyo. ..On Jan. 23, another fire left the district short of food, auto parts and other supplies. The Yap Cooperative Association food store was completely gutted along with the buildings housing the auto parts warehouse, garage and shop. Estimated loss was \$190,000. This was the second such disaster to hit the island in less than a year.

**Palau** During the quarter, the Palau Community Action Agency sponsored a two-weeks chiefs' conference. The first of its kind, the meeting brought together the first and second ranking chiefs from all of the district's 16 municipalities. The purpose was to discuss Palauan history, to separate legends from historical events, and to make a recording of the discussions for use in schools. Under the able leadership of Katherine Kesolei, the project was a success and the results of the conference will soon be published. ..The aftermath of the 1970 general elections for the Congress of Micronesia exploded in violence with two persons physically injured. The supporters of both the victors and losers engaged in bitter arguments that for a two-week period held the town of Koror on the verge of further violence. Calm and peace was restored when the two paramount chiefs

of Palau, Ibedul and Reklai, stepped into the picture and called for cooling of tempers on both sides. The two chiefs issued a joint declaration, the first of its kind during the American administration, to restore peace to the islands with a threat of social and cultural ostracism for anyone who continued engaging in political agitation. The issue was eventually resolved by the Congress of Micronesia when the Senate voted to seat Roman Tmetuchl and the House of Representatives called for new elections to fill the House seats. ..The Korean-based construction firm of Mitsui/Central Mills, Inc., commenced work on the million dollar water and sewer system for Koror. The project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

..The Palau Continental/Travelodge has opened its doors and has become the second Travelodge operating in the Territory. ..The power outages that were regular events on Koror early in the quarter were relieved with the installation of an additional generator. ..Mrs. Elizabeth Farrington, Director of the Office of Territories spent several days in January meeting with district leaders.

..The Micronesian Occupational Center (MOC) was inaugurated during ceremonies held in the new dining hall. The nearly completed facility enters its second phase with its student body increased to 300. Twelve new vocational areas have been added to the present curriculum. ..Work on the MicrOlympic sites continues with the new Civic Action Team. The first Navy Seabee team completed its tour of duty and has left the island. ..The MicrOlympics, set for Aug. in Palau was postponed primarily due to uncertainty of funding by the abrupt adjournment of Congress. ..The field trip to the Southwest Islands caught a foreign fishing boat poaching at Helen's Reef. Six crew members were taken aboard the field trip vessel and the captain of the fishing boat was instructed to sail his vessel to Koror. Instead, the captain abandoned his six crewmen in custody and disappeared with his booty: tons of giant clam muscles and hundreds of turtle shells.

## Marianas & Hdqrs.

Politics rated the boldest headlines in the Marianas this quarter both at the district and territorial levels. While the Congress of Micronesia was first having its difficulty organizing and then found itself having to adjourn before work was completed (see story that follows) the District Legislature took several actions leading toward possible separation from the Trust Territory. By resolution adopted unanimously, the Legislature informed the United Nations that the Marianas District intends to "secede" from the TT, by force of arms if necessary. Legislature President Vicente N. Santos, in his closing address, said "continued co-existence within the present political framework of the Trust Territory is virtually impossible." While the desire to secede is primarily economic, he also cited grievances with the Congress of Micronesia, particularly with regard to taxes and pointed out that in three plebiscites since 1961 the people of the Marianas District indicated they "are pro-American and want out of the trusteeship arrangement." Santos proposed negotiating with the U.S. about the future status of the Marianas, followed by a "proclamation of secession" similar to the U.S. declaration of independence. He added that if a reasonable timetable for a TT-wide plebiscite to terminate the trusteeship agreement is not set, then "we take the position that we are not signatories. . .and are not bound by its provisions." ..In other district news, two new public buildings were dedicated in the past few months. The new, large post office took its permanent place in Chalan Kanoa near the site of the old post office and Saipan's new telephone exchange went into operation in December with increased capacity

### District correspondents:

Marianas, Patrick Mangar; Marshalls, Laurence Edwards; Palau, Bonifacio Basilius; Ponape, Peter Hill; Truk, Fermin Likiche; Yap, Wilfred Gorongfel.



and improved service. ..David Q. Maratita, former district Economic Development Officer, has become the new district Public Affairs Officer replacing Herman Q. Guerrero who now serves in Congress. ..The SS Oriental Queen, on runs between Japan and Guam, is making twice-monthly stops at Saipan, giving passengers an all-day visit on the island.

The first arrival in December was greeted with Carolinian dances by residents of Saipan. The ship, on its Jan. 15 call, ran aground entering the harbor and while tourists were enjoying the day ashore, everybody else seemed to be busy trying to pull the ship free, including a passing Coast Guard vessel called in for assistance. The Queen left a day late with no apparent damage. ..A step to perpetuate the Carolinian culture in the Marianas was the erection of a monument on Managaha Island, burial site of Chief Aghrub who brought a group of early settlers from the Carolines to the Marianas. ..At Headquarters, a group of 33 Micronesians working for the Executive Branch were invited to Washington for a week-long, November

executive conference. Meetings revolved around three basic themes: Federal agency participation in Micronesia, the budgetary process, and an afternoon briefing on political status negotiations to date. Decentralization, district planning and local construction also was worked over by representatives from all districts. ..A legal services program has been established to provide services to people who cannot afford a lawyer and to inspire and train Micronesians to become lawyers. Funds will come from OEO. Eight attorneys will be working in all districts. ..A Micronesian Dental Association has been chartered and a planning conference during the quarter sped preparations for the new Community College of Micronesia on Ponape. ..A Territory-wide Board of Education has been appointed. ..Jonathan Koshi-ba, of Palau, has been appointed Assistant Executive Officer on the HiCom's staff. ..Yosiwo P. George, from Kusaie, is now heading the Territory's Social Security System, making that department an all Micronesian operation. ..Dignitaries visiting the T.T. during the

past few months included Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall, Chairman of the U.S. House Interior and Insular Affairs committee, Mrs. Elizabeth P. Farrington, Director of the Office of Territories, Michael T. Somare of the New Guinea House of Assembly touring as part of a U.S. State Department Leader Grant, Dr. Harold Robbins, the first legislative counsel to the Congress of Micronesia, and H. Roger Betts, Regional Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, who was in the Territory to talk with OEO coordinators and Community Action Agency leaders. ..An agreement has been reached between the TT Government and the Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America, to develop a "truly Micronesian" scout program in the Territory. And Miss Eleanor Moniger, national field representative for the Girl Scouts, called at all six districts to meet with leaders who have been conducting GS programs since 1965. ..The California-based Sierra Club has started a series

## Congress Buildings Burned -----

*Most of Micronesia lay sleeping as flames swept through the meeting halls of Congress. In the early morning darkness, a dozen bystanders are seen watching fire-fighters sifting through charred and burning rubble. Electricity in the Congress area of Capitol Hill went off between 4:30 and 5:00 a.m. and the first report to the fire department came shortly after five o'clock. The fire evidently had been burning for more than an hour before it was noticed. By the time firemen and the first spectators arrived, nothing much was left of the building other than the corrugated roofing and sides, and a few metal chairs and tables.*

*At daybreak, the last cornerpost, with flames still flickering, begins to topple. "It was only a structure," one Micronesian commented. Another observed, "No, it was just about the only thing that we Micronesians could call our very own."*





*Both the Senate and House chambers, in one structure, were completely demolished. Small fires were set in the Senate offices located in the building shown standing. While most of the bills and resolutions destroyed by fire in the Senate office building can be duplicated, a more severe loss was in notes, memos, records on bills, and committee testimony and reports kept by legislators at their desks in the totally destroyed chambers.*

of five "wilderness outings" to all districts. The 15-member tour groups will be exploring, hiking, living on the ground and, fortunately for Micronesia, the conservation-oriented campers probably will leave the areas they visit nicer than when they arrived. ..Air Micronesia has revised its schedule because of losing its landing rights on Johnston. Principal changes are an earlier departure from Honolulu and later arrival at Saipan, landing first at Kwajalein before Majuro westbound and the reverse when eastbound, and a stop at Midway on the flight from Honolulu but not on return. ..At the top of Capitol Hill, the Fourth Congress delayed its organization due to problems in the certification of newly-elected members from Palau. Because of election irregularities, credentials of one senator and three representatives were challenged by Palau's Progressive Party. The Senate approved Roman Tmetuchi's credentials and he was seated on Jan. 29. The House declared the election for representatives null and void and a special election will be held March 30 to fill the three seats. ..In other Congress news.

The Congress ended its session abruptly on Feb. 20, with nine days remaining of the 50-day session. Early that morning, sometime before five o'clock, a disastrous fire completely demolished the building housing the Senate and House chambers, and less extensive fires were started in the Senate offices. It was clearly the work of arsonists. As of mid-March, Public Safety officials were still conducting an intensive investigation with no public statements made. Deplored by many, were the efforts by off-island press to sensationalize the incident with speculation, misinformation and headlines reading "Trust Territory Shaken by Arson and a Rebellion," "Heavy Guard on TT's American Community," and attempts to link the fire to actions of the Marianas District Legislature with statements as "The fire is believed to be a protest against the legislation."

Both houses of Congress, meeting on the afternoon following the fire, approved a resolution to adjourn without fixing a date for meeting again. It is expected that a special session would be called some time after the Palau elections



*Committee reports, pending legislation, and valuable Senate records were piled on desks and floors of the Senate offices and then set afire. In addition to the loss of current material, much of the official record of the prior Third Congress was lost in the bonfires.*

for the purpose of considering all bills and resolutions introduced into the Fourth Congress on which no final action had been taken.

Much of the legislative work remains to be finished. In total, 115 bills were passed by the Senate and 110 in the House, but only three had been approved by both houses and two signed into law by the High Commissioner. One enacted is the income tax bill which, beginning July 1, levies a 3% tax on wages, and a tax on businesses amounting to \$40 for gross income up to \$10,000 and 1% of income above \$10,000. Also approved was a measure lowering the amount of liquor a person may bring into the TT tax-free from one gallon to two fifths of a gallon. Not approved was an act declaring certain public land on Saipan available for homesteads.

Some 40 Senate joint resolutions and 44 House joint resolutions were proposed, as well as 11 Senate and 19 House single resolutions. In total, eight joint, two Senate, and 13 House resolutions were adopted. Up to the date of adjournment, economic development re-



ceived more attention than future political status. However, a Senate resolution did invite the Committee of Twenty-Four of the UN General Assembly to visit the TT "to look into the present and future status of self-government in Micronesia."

Among the chief measures not passed was the Merit System Act which would place the government's employees under a single salary system. (In early March, the Executive Branch instituted a 6% wage increase for Micronesian government employees retroactive to last July 1. The action by the HiCom was separate from any wage adjustments contained in the proposed single pay plan.) Also awaiting further action by Congress

was a series of measures giving Congress advice and consent powers over administrative appointments in the Executive Branch, down to and including division heads; providing penalties for violation of election laws; dealing with firearms registration; providing for motor vehicle financial responsibility; liberalizing abortion; legalizing marihuana along with betel nut and sakau (kava), and approving the members of the first Micronesian Board of Education.

Also delayed in implementation will be the appropriation measures introduced in both houses. These cover appropriations for projects and items ranging from activities of Boy Scouts and the planned 1971 MicrOlympics, to

vitaly needed public works projects and a supplementary appropriation covering the costs of the Congress itself. None of these measures had received final approval.

In short, the untimely death of the First Regular Session of the Fourth Congress has far-reaching impact. Vitally needed projects may be delayed; important changes in laws and procedures will have to wait; improvements in the working conditions of government employees may not be made as quickly; and not the least of all, the construction of a new building and the extra costs of a special session will mean considerable additional expense for the Congress and the Government.

*The building which was burned is the one to the right. Senate offices in the near end of the building at left had small fires set on desks, floors and in file cabinets. The third building was not touched. Original cost of the three-building complex was \$39,000 when it was set up for the 1965 session of Congress. The site is on the highest point of Capitol Hill. Most of the Congress' year-round work is carried out at the nearby annex, just below the legislative halls. The annex buildings (former Toppa Tappi Club) were not touched by the vandals.*



## **Back Cover**

A lazy afternoon's  
three-way contest  
of shell checkers  
being played  
in the cooling shadow  
of a family's canoe house  
at Kapingamarangi Atoll



