

MicronesianReporter

FOURTH QUARTER 1970



The Many Hands of Community Development

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This Quarter's Worth

Some new highs were recorded in the Trust Territory's book of statistics when the fiscal year ended June 30th. Population had passed the 100,000 mark, reaching 102,250. That's about 4,250 more than a year earlier. Export income, counting the "invisible export" of tourism, soared over \$5.5 million (49% copra, 24% tourism, 18% fish, 3% handicraft, 3% meat and vegetables, 3% others).

Imports approached an amazing \$21 million, with little percentage change in consumption of rice, flour, sugar and alcoholic beverages . . . but a surge of 75% in canned meats and fish, 50% in building materials and tobacco, a doubling of imported clothing and textiles, and a fantastic 240% rise in petroleum products, from \$953,000 to \$3.2 million.

Micronesian ownership of cars went up 18%, from 3,577 vehicles to 4,218. About 80% of the increase was sedans and pickups and 15% motorbikes and scooters. The number of Micronesian-owned jeeps, on the other hand, dropped 20% during the year.

Also noteworthy, Micronesian wages jumped to a total of \$20.5 million.

A quick summary of statistics would indicate that residents of Micronesia are eating more protein foods, smoking more, increasing their wardrobes, improving their homes or building new ones, as well as driving more cars for many more miles.

All of this (aside from the population increase) tends to reflect the energy and achievement of government employees, working on government programs, during government working hours, or individuals performing jobs for wages in the private sector.

But there is considerably more development taking place that draws on the cooperative and volunteer spirit of residents of Micronesia.

This issue of the *Reporter* looks at a number of self-help efforts. Our *Interview* with Robert Reimers reveals the triumph of individual initiative. The *Decentralization* feature describes how a district legislature, now that it has been handed the ball, attempts to carry it. *Saladak School* is a portrait of concerned parents and educators trying to achieve results not covered by a limited budget. *Golden Anniversary* gilds a full lifetime of unselfish community service. And the story of *Many Hands of Community Development* is a comprehensive review of the almost countless programs involving young people and adults in self and community development . . . often without the incentive of an hourly wage.

This quarter also presents, as companion features to the *Interview*, a sketch of Jaluit Atoll in the Marshalls and an overview of that district's hereditary iroij system.

Who's Who

...in this issue of the *Reporter*

DR. JACK A. TOBIN, community development advisor for the Marshalls, possesses a treasure chest of facts and folklore about the district he has called home since the 1950's. A Stanford University graduate who first saw the area as an anthropologist with a scientific research team, he spent the 1950-57 years as district anthropologist and officer-in-charge of rehabilitation projects for displaced Marshallese. After earning his doctorate at the Univ. of California, he returned to continue his dedicated work.

GERALD CRADDOCK has been cultivating and expediting community development projects since 1963 when he arrived as Palau's Adult Education and CD Officer. At headquarters since '68, the Wayne Univ. grad with a master's degree in humanities, is now Ass't. Chief, Community Development Division.

REV. HAJIME HIRATA is a retired Protestant missionary who directed the Jabwor Training School, Marshalls, during the early 1930's. He visited again this December, bringing with him his albums of snapshots and memories which he graciously shares with readers.

CHARLESSICARD is a Californian who, for the past five years, has been engaged in TT economic development programs. Formerly Cooperatives Officer for Truk District, "Chuck" now is the Territory's Business Organization and Management Officer operating out of Saipan headquarters.

JOHN BREWER, with a bachelor's degree in communication, followed his 1968 graduation from Stanford with an enlistment in the Peace Corps. He since has been a member of Ponape's Saladak School staff from where he comments on the school's progress during the past ten years.

FERMIN LIKICHE, from the Mortlock's Lukunor Atoll, Truk, is now Public Information Specialist for his home district. In 1957, after graduating from Xavier High School, he began government service, spending time in finance and economic development posts before taking over the district information office leadership this year.

REV. WILLIAM McGARRY, SJ, is Jesuit Superior for Ponape. A New Yorker by birth, educated in St. Louis and at Woodstock College, Maryland, he has been serving from the Ponape Catholic Mission for more than a dozen years.

INTERVIEW:

Robert Reimers

It was hard to believe this was Majuro. Could it be that on this shoestring-wide atoll, where quonsets and coconut palms prevail, where the nearest big town is many thousands of miles distant, and where fresh fish and breadfruit still are favorite staples . . . that here there was a supermarket . . . a real, live, big supermarket with air-conditioning, pizzas, perfumes and pancake mixes? It was real. It was an innovation. It was reason for visiting the busy mezzanine offices of Robert Reimers' surf-side shopping center to spend a morning pleasantly chatting about the past and the many visible changes presently taking place in the district.



Behind us was the two-story high, 8,000 square foot warehouse section of the new merchandising complex. Through the wide glass windows before us was another 8,000 feet of space: the uncluttered shopping area in which we watched a variety of local homemakers pushing their stainless steel carts over tiled floors, selecting not only lamp wicks, rubber zoris, rice and canned milk, but also Hawaiian fashions, cosmetics, fresh vegetables imported by air, and frozen blueberries brought in by freighter. Of course, we happened to be there shortly after a shipment of goods had arrived. There are occasions, in between ships, when the shelves are more empty than full. And today, (we're told it's most every day) there was not enough electricity being generated to run the mammoth air conditioners. Every available ampere was being fed to the greedy freezers. While it was hot both outside and within the store, still it was very pleasant to be able to walk about, knowing that if you wanted to, you could buy some New York-made bell-bottom trousers, a bottle of Philippine beer, an assortment of hose and pipe fittings made in Michigan, English tea biscuits, French

perfume, Swiss cheese, New Zealand leg of lamb, Hongkong toys, Japanese tape recorders, Australian butter, Danish luncheon meat, California dates, Argentine corned beef, Taiwan artificial flowers, German tools, Italian olive oil, Hawaiian jellies, Marshallese handicraft, and a custard ice cream cone whipped up while you wait at the store's snack shop. All this regularly finds its way to this circle of tiny islands as it often does to stores in other districts. But nowhere in the Territory is it served in such an appetizing display and on such a grand scale as in the district center of Majuro. This urban symbol is neither the result of wealthy foreign investment nor a government-stocked commissary operation, but the achievement of a hardworking, island-born individual with considerable initiative and willingness to take a risk. In this interview, a companionable journey down the pot-holed road to success, as well as something of the history and culture of the Marshalls, comes to us through the softly spoken answers of a soft-sell entrepreneur.

REPORTER: When you were a young boy at Jaluit Atoll, did you ever think about the future and what you might grow up to become?

REIMERS: No . . . at that time, you see, I was in mission school and I just think about becoming preacher. Because in mission school they teach us only the Bible and all those things.

REPORTER: Then Marshallese boys at that time did not think too much about the years ahead or spend their time day-dreaming about becoming famous or rich. . . .

REIMERS: No, none of them think much about the future.

REPORTER: What year were you born?

REIMERS: In 1909. . . October 13. . . I'm now 61 years old.

REPORTER: Do you remember anything about the German days on Jaluit?

REIMERS: Well, I don't remember it. I was very young. But after war, I remember I saw some Germans. They worked for that company called *Jaluit Gesellschaft*. They were the manager and a couple of others that were kept on

Jaluit Island during Japanese times.

REPORTER: When the Japanese came you were about five years old?

REIMERS: Yes. It was 1914 and I remember the soldiers. They came on shore and I remember seeing them, but not too good.

REPORTER: Going back to the question about thinking of the future, it might be interesting at this point to find out about the *iroij* system here in the Marshalls and what opportunities it gave young men with initiative. You were what is called a commoner?

REIMERS: We say *kajur*. . . same as commoner. The *iroij* at that time are very powerful. They are the paramount chief. They are powerful in everything and rule everything. At that time we had only four in Ralik Chain, the western chain. The eastern chain, Ratak, has more than Ralik Chain because one island got four or five *iroij*, like Milli. They got four or five with different lands and everything.

REPORTER: An *iroij* is something like a king?

REIMERS: Yes, and down below in the next step they have small *iroij*, the *iroij erik*. But we don't have this in the Ralik Chain, only Ratak. The next level down is *bwirak*, son of *iroij*. And then comes the *kajur*, the commoner. *

REPORTER: Within this system, there must be opportunity for the commoner to move up because it has happened in your case. You are a successful, leading businessman. You have a fine reputation, good credit and status in the community. Is your rise only economically upward? Or are you given a position like a knight? Or do you now control land like the chiefs do?

REIMERS: No, we stay *kajur*. The only chance to own land is buy land from somebody.

REPORTER: With an island language that has so many sounds like *bwi*, *mwe*, *ijji* and *kuij*, I was surprised to see Robert Reimers is a Marshallese. It doesn't sound like a Marshallese name.

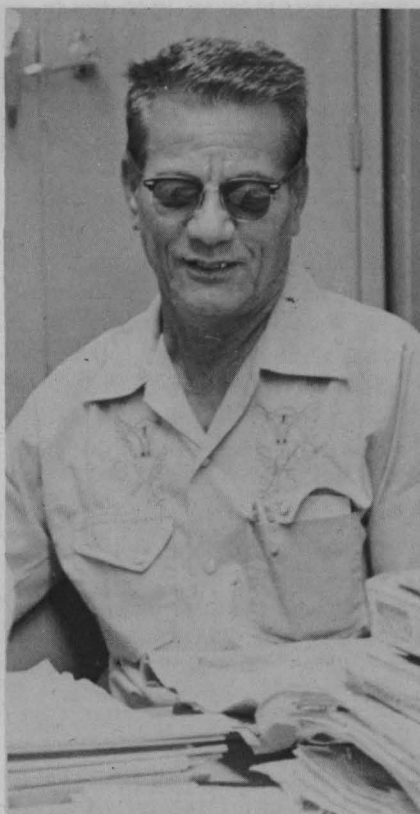
REIMERS: I got my name from my father. That was his first and last name. He was German.

REPORTER: Who was your father?

REIMERS: He was a clerk for *Jaluit Gesellschaft*, that German company. I don't know too much about my father.

REPORTER: Do you know what the problems were during the German days? Did your father ever tell you about these things while you were growing up?

REIMERS: I was very young when my father moved to some other parts of



south sea islands. I think he went to Nauru.

REPORTER: In Japanese times you were a teenager. What kind of problems did the Japanese have? What were the big problems in dealing with the Marshallese people?

REIMERS: Well, the big problem in islands at that time was that Marshallese people were scared of police. Because if you don't bow to them, they spank you sometimes . . . not many, but few of them did. But business was very good in Japanese times. . . but only run by Japanese. . . no chance for Marshallese. They grew copra like in German times. That was all there was to do.

REPORTER: Tell us about mission school . . . what you did and who your teachers were?

REIMERS: Mission school at that time was very poor, you know, and only a few students they can hire from other islands to teach at the school. They came from Kusaie and Jabwor. There was one American lady teacher at that time.

REPORTER: You mean that during the Japanese times there were American missionary teachers?

REIMERS: Yes.

REPORTER: Do you remember any names?

REIMERS: Miss Hoppin.

REPORTER: Mother Hoppin?

REIMERS: Yes . . . yes . . . Mother Hoppin is what we called her.

REPORTER: Tell us what you remember about her.

REIMERS: Well, I remember her as old lady, skinny, and a very good lady. When she is mad, well, she is really mad. Maybe she stayed in Marshalls too long. She was very strict. She didn't teach but she directed the school and the Marshallese were teachers, and some teachers from Kusaie. She could speak Marshallese but not Japanese.

REPORTER: How did that language problem work out during the Japanese administration?

REIMERS: The Japanese talked to her in English. Some, the police master and some business men, talked very good English they learned in university in Japan. They talked to her in English and she talked to teachers in Marshallese. And even though most teaching was in Marshallese language, in Japanese they taught some arithmetic, reading, a little bit about geography of other places. . . but the Bible only in Marshallese. Mostly they taught about the Bible.

REPORTER: And the Japanese did not try to stop that?

REIMERS: No, they did not stop that.

REPORTER: How many years did you spend in mission school?

REIMERS: I spent from years ten to seventeen.

REPORTER: Did they teach you any skills with your hands, like carpenter work or boat-making?

REIMERS: At that time we didn't have carpentering or boatbuilding. I learned that after I finished school.

REPORTER: How did they select students to go to school? Did everybody go . . . boys and girls . . . children of chiefs and commoners?

REIMERS: I don't know for sure how they select. . . I cannot remember. There

were a few girls. Most of the students I went with were children of teachers. There were small mission schools on other islands and they were the most popular for the most people. Jaluit had the main school where I went. My brother and sister, they have Marshallese father, went to school on Imroj. There was a big mission school there that Carl Heine was taking care of. That was the most popular school for the people of Jaluit Island.

REPORTER: How did it happen that you attended school on Jabwor and your brother and others went over to Imroj?

REIMERS: One of my mother's sisters adopted me. She was a teacher. She took me down to the mission school on Jabwor. She was educated in Kusaie mission school. She came back and stayed with husband and took care of me. During my time, Miss Hoppin left and Mr. Lockwood came from States and Mr. Hirata from Japan and they run the school. Mr. Lockwood left before the war started.

REPORTER: When you were a young boy, what was your greatest joy? What did you do for fun?

REIMERS: Well, at that time we go fishing and play Marshallese ball game. We make one round ball with pandanus leaves. And that was about all we did. We had to help in making copra. And that is my job after I finish school when I went to my mother's land. After about five or six years I came to Jabwor to work for Japanese company. I was storekeeper, cleaned up the area, and take care of goods. . . something like my father was doing except his was German company. My company was *Taiyo Shoten*. Then in about 1932 they sent me down to Wotje Island for taking care of that branch.

REPORTER: How many Japanese were on Wotje?

REIMERS: Only a few Japanese. . . one *Nanyo Boeki* (company) man, three more traders that have their own store business. They call me trader. They give a salary of about 50 yen a month and they give me two laborers that I can send to buy copra. The Japanese field trip ships come after every one or two

months to pick up copra and give me more trade goods so I can sell them in the store. There was no Japanese working in my branch. I was in Wotje for five to seven years and then they moved me to headquarters again. . . to Jabwor.

REPORTER: How many Japanese lived there?

REIMERS: At that time about four or five thousand. . . Okinawa fishermen, the big *Nanyo Boeki* Company, other companies, many children. . . but mostly government employees. That was District Center for Japanese government. There were no soldiers up to that time, 1937.

REPORTER: Was it a big town with streets and stores?

REIMERS: They had stores and bakeries. Cinema came from Saipan once in a while. There were many families with children. The Japanese got their own school and we don't play much with them. We didn't live in separate camps, but everybody lived on certain land. There was government land, company land, native land. . . all different places.

REPORTER: Was there a Japanese church for the people during those days?

REIMERS: No. . . I don't know.

REPORTER: Not even a *torii*?

REIMERS: They had one place to go and worship. . . one ground on Jaluit Island where they put one Japanese *torii*.

REPORTER: Did you ever hear the name Amelia Earhart?

REIMERS: Oh yes. I heard about that. The rumor we heard that time was that one Japanese fishing boat had picked her up somewhere in Pacific. The rest I don't know.

REPORTER: There has been some talk that maybe she crashed somewhere near Jaluit.

REIMERS: Well, I didn't hear about the crash. But I heard that in the middle of one Pacific Island, one Japanese ship saw her and picked her up. That was the story I heard at that time in 1937.

REPORTER: You mean people were talking about it at that time in 1937?

REIMERS: It was about that time they pass around the word.

REPORTER: Did they say where they took her?

REIMERS: Well, nobody knows.

REPORTER: I heard one story that her suitcase was found on one of the islands in or near Jaluit Atoll.

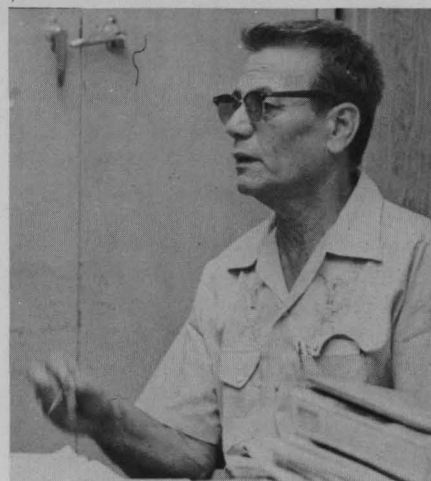
REIMERS: Oh? I never heard about that.

REPORTER: Well . . . do you remember the day the Americans first bombed or landed?

REIMERS: They started bombing at Jabwor in 1941 and then stopped for one or two years. And then they landed at Majuro first and then after that it was Kwajalein. But when the war began, the manager of the store where I worked on Jabwor told me to go to Likiep Island to start one job. During the war they began to make desiccated coconut. . . they ground it and put in a box and send to Japan to make cakes. It was like a factory but everything was by hand. They hired 20 Marshallese and ground all the coconut, dried it in the sun, packed it in box and send it to Japan. That lasted only about one year and they stopped. So I stayed in Likiep with my wife. She is from Kapelle family in Likiep Island.

REPORTER: Were there many Japanese on Likiep?

REIMERS: There were only nine Japanese and only for short time. Their patrol ship was bombed and they stayed on the island one month. And then they took one small boat and tried to go to Kwajalein. You know the time they start bombing Kwajalein? Well, we heard that bombing every day. So the nine Japan-



ese tried to go to Kwaj. Maybe they thought the Japanese were there. Nobody else from Japanese army was stationed on the island.

REPORTER: During the war what did the Marshallese people do all the time?

REIMERS: They just do nothing. Just make food. All they do is fishing and make food for the day. That is the big job: for make food . . . have to go fishing every day and come back and get some coconut sprout and boil it . . . that is the thing inside the coconut that is like apple. Sometimes they eat it not cooked, with fish. If the season is breadfruit, we eat breadfruit. And pandanus we boil and take all the juice and mix with corn starch and eat with fish. That's our life: make food every day.

REPORTER: What did you and your wife do on Likiep after the Japanese stopped making dehydrated coconut.

REIMERS: We just lived on the land until the Americans came. They elected a municipal council on the island and they elect me to be scribe for the magistrate, Antone De Brum. They changed everything after the war when the navy came. During the early navy days I worked for myself . . . like making handicraft and selling to the navy. They come around every month and collect all we make. We make cigarette case from Marshallese wood, black wood, very good wood, carved, with mother of pearl on top. And we make walking cane and Marshallese outrigger model canoe. Mostly the men work on that.

REPORTER: Did you make anything from the pandanus and coconut leaves like the baskets today?

REIMERS: That was ladies' job for weaving mats and baskets and hats that they sold to the navy.

REPORTER: What did it seem to you the navy was interested in doing for the people when they first took over the administration of the Marshalls?

REIMERS: Well, the first thing I think I saw was they wanted to teach, because they went hiring lots of students and took them to Ebeye to learn to teach so they can come back and teach the Marshallese students about English and everything. They went around the Marshalls and collected all the boys who

know little bit of English and were educated before and send them to Ebeye where they got school there.

REPORTER: What were the big problems for the people right after the war?

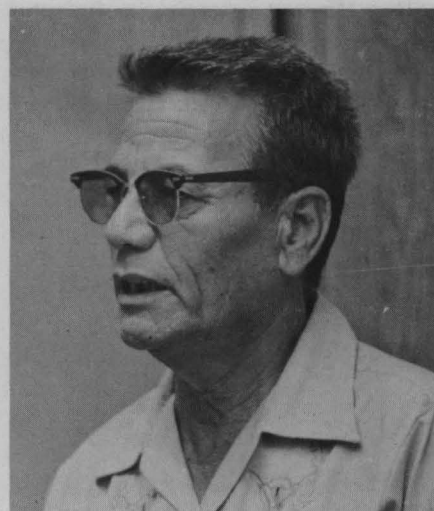
REIMERS: Well, the problem after the war was they need things because there were not many companies like before in Japanese times. During the war, you know, we didn't have anything. But before that every island has one, two or three companies. They would buy the copra from the people and sell goods to them. Any time you wanted something, you bring the copra and right away you can buy what you need. So that is their big trouble after the war because other islands don't have anything. They depend on field trip ship. They come every month, maybe every two months sometimes. They used the navy LCU's.

REPORTER: When did you leave Likiep and where did you go?

REIMERS: It was about 1947 when I went to Kwajalein. I just go down there to see the people and what they are doing at Kwajalein. And somebody helped me to work for them in the navy shipyard there. Some of the boys that worked there, the Marshallese, wanted to build outriggers for the Killi people. You know they moved all Killi people from Bikini and all the outriggers were destroyed when they loaded them on the LCU's. So I was there and one of the navy captains there hired me to work for that project because they know I can make Marshallese outrigger from frame and planking.

REPORTER: Had you learned that before you went to Kwaj?

REIMERS: Yes. I learned when I was in Jaluit before, from my brother-in-law. At that time I worked for the *Taiyo Shoten* company, they wanted to build some boats for other islands. So I talked to manager that I want to learn about carpentering and boatbuilding so he send me to my brother-in-law, Albert Kapelle . . . and me and one other boy worked for him. He was a boat builder for himself on Jaluit Island. He got a contract from *Taiyo Shoten* for building four ships for Arno, Ebon and two more islands. I was interested to learn and the



manager sent me there and I learned for two years.

REPORTER: How long were you on Kwajalein?

REIMERS: From 1947 to '51. I get a contract from the navy captain to rebuild the surplus ships. You know those 40 footer and 50 footer navy launches? We converted them for sailboats and sold them to the all councils in the Marshall Islands. Some were motor sailers, others just sail boats. We made more keel, because they were only eight inch and when you add sails you need more keel. Some we converted to ketch rig, some to schooner rig, others to sloops. Every council got one boat.

REPORTER: That was from the navy?

REIMERS: That was from the company. The navy told me that company was my company. I borrowed \$15,000 from the government and start that that boat repairing company at Kwajalein. And then the navy captain put me in that job. "That is your company," he told me. So I borrowed the \$15,000. That was the government's idea, not mine. A navy commander was handling all the books and I am the one who is supervise all the jobs.

REPORTER: And then were the boats given by the navy to the island councils?

REIMERS: No. That time I have to pay the worker from that money. I don't have salary. That is my company so everytime I need something I draw a little bit money. The council had to pay for the boats. Sometimes they cost \$3,000 . . . depends on how much we spend



on one boat because some boats is very poor and some is in good condition. What we do is put the cabin and mast and deck and it's ready to go. The cost depends on how long we spend and how much money we spend on the boat.

REPORTER: How many did you build?

REIMERS: We made about 13 big ones at Kwajalein and another five more here at Majuro when the Interior Department took over from the navy and I moved. They let me take everything, all the debts and everything. Until now the people owe me \$26,000 from that job. Every island got one thousand some they owe. It was around 1951 or '52 I moved to Majuro.

REPORTER: You have moved quite a bit in your life. Did the Japanese move many people around in the Marshalls... any groups of people?

REIMERS: No, not in Marshall Islands.

REPORTER: So the movement like yours was on an individual basis. It was because you were interested in doing something better and you went and applied for it?

REIMERS: Yes.

REPORTER: Do you know why the US Navy chose Majuro as the district center while the Germans and Japanese had used Jaluit?

REIMERS: That I don't know. We Marshallese don't like this place because it's hard for us to sail. There is only one pass through the reef. And it is very hard to come in to the main island here. Because our boats at that time were only sailboats, you know, and it is very hard for what we call "tack" in here. So

many tacks it takes to reach here. In Jaluit it was much easier. In 15 minutes you're in the harbor and if some big storm comes, in 15 minutes, you go to another island there and drop your anchor and wait for south wind and west wind. But here it is very hard to go to Laura at night because of reefs in between.

REPORTER: Your first business location at Majuro was down near the airport, wasn't it?

REIMERS: Yes. They moved all my equipment from Kwajalein and brought it to here on a navy ship. That was about 1951. And I stayed there on that land until now.

REPORTER: Do you own this land on which you have the store?

REIMERS: No, I rent it. I don't have land in Majuro except where I bought some land now, but it's not here. It's far away from here.

REPORTER: Somewhere along the way you were elected to office here in the Marshalls.

REIMERS: That was about 1956... the Marshall Islands Congress... for the Rita, DUD, district. I spent two terms, about four years. We had two houses: House of *Iroij* and House of Assembly. Every *iroij* was member and the Assembly depended on population... every 500 population you get a representative.

REPORTER: Did one House have more authority than the other... did they split on issues?

REIMERS: It was always majority decides with the *iroij* and *kajur* voting together. We had little bit debates and problems those times but not like today.

REPORTER: Well, now you have this great big, fine store here and U-drive and boat rental. You appear to be doing very well. It was interesting to me this morning as I walked around the store checking prices against a list of prices for the Marshalls District in 1960... ten years ago. We keep a list of basic food prices for June 30th of every year for each district. It was interesting to learn that in 1960 rice was 15 cents a pound and today it is 16 cents. Sugar was 15 cents a pound and today is still 15. Flour is 13 cents now and was 9 ten years ago.

Canned corned beef, all brands, is now 55 cents while ten years ago it was 43, but amazingly, last year it was 65 and has gone down 10 cents in one year.

REIMERS: That depends on the market, you see. Sometimes corned beef is very high. Right now it's very high. We have to sell it for sixty-some cents.

REPORTER: I thought I saw it marked 55.

REIMERS: That is only here. Other stores have to sell it for more.

REPORTER: Why is it you can sell it for little bit less?

REIMERS: Well, some things we have to hold back price. We don't make much profit on it but we keep that price because people was complaining about prices high and so we try.

REPORTER: Salt, I noticed, was 25 cents for a one pound package ten years ago and today is now only 17. Soy sauce was 50 cents and is down to 45 and canned evaporated milk was 20 cents and is still 20.

REIMERS: No, it's 25 cents now, someplaces 23. We have a lot we want to move it and so we reduce for 20 cents.

REPORTER: How much are sardines? There were none on the shelves.

REIMERS: Sardines is 25, 29, sometimes 30 cents.

REPORTER: Thirty cents was the price in 1960. How come with the increase in wages, the apparent rise in costs of everything else, ... how can you keep prices today so close to what they were ten years ago?

REIMERS: Well, ten years ago the wholesale prices were very cheap. And then we mark them up too much on everything. There were not too many companies but now there is competition, you know. That makes it very difficult. You don't make money....

REPORTER: I see. You make money now on the volume of what you sell. You mark up only a little and sell plenty. If you sell plenty at low prices and make only a little on each thing, that is better than selling a little bit at high prices.

REIMERS: Yes, that's it. That's the idea we learn now. But we have more tax now on everything than before... ten years ago. But we still use some old

prices now. We don't need to mark up like before.

REPORTER: For the people that is a good way of thinking. Do you believe that in other things, the Marshall Islands is going in the right direction?

REIMERS: Which direction is that?

REPORTER: In the direction that life is getting better for the people.

REIMERS: Yes, I think it is going in the right direction now . . . because we are more independent on everything. We can make our own decisions. We can talk. If there is something we don't want, we can complain about it to our Nitijela and our Congress of Micronesia. Now we have a voice as an individual and we have good help from the administration.

REPORTER: In your reaching this point here in your life, did you have good help from the administration?

REIMERS: Oh, yes. That was very good help.

REPORTER: Is there something that could have been done by the government to make it easier for you or for other businessmen?

REIMERS: Yes, the economic development loan fund can be very much help to us.

REPORTER: It is interesting to see some of the other statistics of change during the past ten years. In the whole territory, ten years ago, there were only about 1300 privately owned vehicles, mostly trucks and jeeps. Last year there were more than 4,500 and over 3,500 of these were owned by Micronesians. In the Marshalls alone, last year, there were about 325 cars . . . and 75 more new cars arrived here at Majuro a couple of weeks ago. Why do people want all these cars?

REIMERS: I really don't know. That is life now. Everybody needs something. If somebody else has it, they try to get one for themselves.

REPORTER: And it must be getting easier. The wages for Micronesians in the Marshalls last year totaled well over 3.5 million dollars . . . that is for a total population of about 20,000 persons. Ten years ago, Micronesian wages in the Marshalls totaled only a little over \$600,000.

REIMERS: Yes, as soon as the Marshallese get more money, they need more things to buy. That is the trouble here.

REPORTER: The figures prove it. Imports were around 3 million dollars last year while ten years ago it amounted to only \$800,000.

REIMERS: Well, that is different now because companies got more loans and people can get loans from the bank and credit unions.

REPORTER: Yes, the three Marshalls credit unions have over 1400 members with savings of more than half a million dollars. And while more than a million dollars went out in loans in 1969, more than half already has been paid back to the credit union.

REIMERS: Five or six years ago the people spend their payroll and in two weeks they don't have any more money . . . they're finished. Only few people would come and buy from other islands. But now is different. Never mind if it's not payday, they still buy sewing machines and everything. They go to the bank or withdraw from credit union and buy things they need. Different from five, ten years ago.

REPORTER: And I wonder how it will be ten years ahead from now. How many children do you have?

REIMERS: I have one daughter and seven sons.

REPORTER: In Marshallese custom is it better to have sons or daughters?

REIMERS: In Marshallese custom it is better to have daughters . . . that is what they say. Because the daughter will always stay with father and mother and sons always go with wife's mother and father.

REPORTER: In looking ahead ten years from now, what do you see for the Marshall Islands?

REIMERS: Oh, looking ahead is not very much you can do. You want to do something but you cannot do it. Your capital is too small to do every thing and no help from everywhere. That is very difficult.

REPORTER: Do you think more tourists will help the community?

REIMERS: Yes because we can all make more money from the tourists, but I don't know about our roads, our houses,

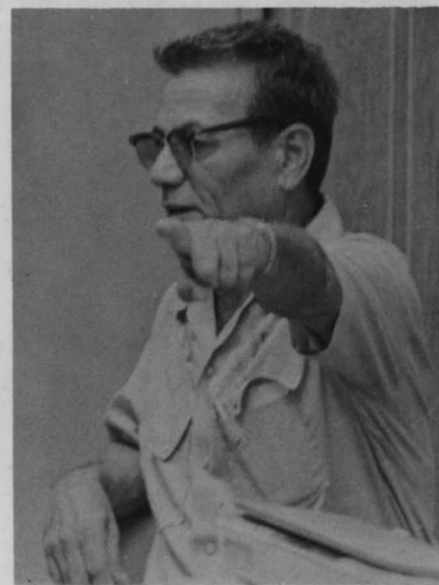
our water and our electricity and everything else. It's not ready for take care of tourists.

REPORTER: What can the government do to make things better down here?

REIMERS: Well, they have to bring more generators, make water catchment system to take care of all the rain water, and roads. I think these three things they have to take care of first and then after that they can do little by little another thing.

REPORTER: Isn't there another generator on the way down?

REIMERS: Well, I heard about that about six months ago and I don't know where it is now.



REPORTER: The water catchment problems may be solved with the new air strip getting under construction and plans to use it to catch rain water to pipe into the storage and distribution system.

REIMERS: Yes, that is what they talk about now, and we will wait and see. I hope that is real because it is really going to help a lot.

REPORTER: What can the people themselves do for their share in keeping things moving in the Marshalls?

REIMERS: Well, the Council has some little money but is not enough to do big things. The money is enough to take care of policemen and salary for the magistrate and only few small construction and repair of council house and

maintenance of truck they have. That's all we have now and can take care of.

REPORTER: Do you think your sons will have a good future?

REIMERS: I hope so. I think so. I will try to help them to something. My oldest son started his own business now . . . a separate store.

REPORTER: More competition?

REIMERS: In foodstuffs I give him wholesale but textiles and other stuff he orders himself.

REPORTER: Have your children received a good education?

REIMERS: During Japanese times education was good. I say that because be-

fore that was not good. It is good today, too. It has been my idea since before, when I was in Congress, that carpentering, engine mechanics, and those things we need more here. Because sometimes we don't have money. If we know how to build, all we do is buy material and do ourselves. But now, all the carpenters from Japanese times are getting old, and no more young ones to teach these carpenter jobs. From navy time till now, no school for them.

REPORTER: The Micronesian Occupational Center in Palau is one good step in this kind of training. . .

REIMERS: Yes, and now is alright here because they started the MCAA (Marshall Community Action Agency Skills Training Center). They should have started that ten years ago. Now we need the carpentering. We have to buy from outside. A few are learning from the Seabees and Army Engineers, but not many. Now we have companies and housing buildings coming up but we need more good carpenters to take care of this construction. We are slow on this one, now.

REPORTER: If you had one wish, what would you wish for all the Marshalls?

REIMERS: What is "one wish?"

REPORTER: It means that I make believe I am a magic man. I come to you and say, "Mr. Reimers, I have the power

to do anything you want me to . . . but . . . you can only ask me to do one thing." What would be that one thing you want to be done for the Marshallese people?

REIMERS: Well . . . I don't know . . . that is very hard question.

REPORTER: I'm talking about something good for all the people, including the other islands and atolls.

REIMERS: Something to change for the Marshall Islands? Well, I am a businessman and on the business side I think if we can build stores on other islands, then everybody is satisfied . . . something like in Japanese times. But now, you see, they depend only on field trip ships. Sometimes people make copra and stop because they don't have good house to keep copra. Sometimes they keep copra in the living house. If there is no room, they stop making copra. And sometimes if the field trip ship does not come, they eat the coconut. They worry and worry about how come this field trip ship is not here. So, I think if they got store in every island, it's going to satisfy every people. Because that is trouble every time they complain about short of food and things they need like kerosene, soap, and everything. This will help to solve problems in the Marshalls and make people more happy and satisfied.



The Iroij System of the Marshalls

by Jack A. Tobin

Editor's note: To reduce the Marshalls' system of hereditary leadership to a single-page written description is difficult enough. But to be asked in a last minute conversation to produce a complete but brief, off-the-cuff analysis is more than doubly difficult. Dr. Jack A. Tobin who has written volumes on the subject, when recently confronted with an unexpected, live tape recorder, did respond with the following impromptu authentic review. It is the iroij system according to the older Marshallese informants he interviewed during the early 1950's.

We must make a distinction between all of the "blood line" titles and the titles that are used directly in connection with the land, so as not to confuse the two.

The uppermost title used in connection with the land is *iroij laplap*. "Paramount chief" would be the closest approximation to *iroij laplap*. He is in charge of an island, or atoll, or a group of atolls, or, as in the Ralik Chain, certain sections of certain islands.

Below the *iroij laplap*, in the Ratak Chain, is the *iroij erik*, a functionary who acts as an intermediary between the *iroij* and the people below: the *kajur*, or commoners. He is sort of a representative. The *iroij erik* title is usually given to the younger brothers or, in some cases, the sons of the paramount chief. It was given many years ago to provide them with the title, with land, and position. It also is an hereditary title. The *iroij erik* title and position is used only in the eastern chain, Ratak, and is not used in the Ralik Chain of

western islands. In the Ralik Chain an untitled functionary serves in this intermediate positions. He is called either an *iroij in tel* or *leatoktok*.

Below this, in connection with land matters, is the *alab*. The *alab* belongs to the commoner class, the *kajur*, also referred to as *dri jerbal* or workers. The *alab* is the lineage head, the senior member of the lineage. In most cases it's the senior woman. Her eldest brother usually assumes her position as far as function is concerned. The word *alab* also is used for maternal uncle, which the *alab* of the land usually is, and is used also for denoting an older man.

The *alab* is like a foreman. He lays out the work, or represents the people who hold rights in a certain portion of land, or certain parts of lands or *watos*, as sections of land are called. He also may be representative for many portions of land. He is the senior man of the maternal lineage or *bwij*, as the Marshallese call it, meaning a group of people, usually very large, who claim descent from a known ancestress.

Corporate land holding is the norm in the Marshalls, with members of the lineage possessing undivided land rights. Although primary land use rights are inherited matrilineally, secondary use rights are inherited patrilineally.

The *alab*, as the lineage head, supervises the work and gets a share of the copra produced on the land, passes on produce in some cases, and money from percentage of copra produced from the land to the functionary under the *iroij laplap*. In the old day, the *iroij laplap* had reciprocal responsibilities. He would, in turn, redistribute the goods that were given to him to the people below, and of course, he had other functions as a leader. This is the system with regard with land.

The system, as far "blood line" titles goes, is analogous to that of feudal western Europe or closer to hand, to ancient Polynesia. This system was that each degree of rank depended upon one's birth. It was what could be called a title according to the "blood lines," to use the term non-scientifically.

Roughly, the socio-political system could be visualized as a hierarchical pyramid with the paramount chief, *iroij laplap*, at the top. The highest rank possible out here would be a rank called *bwio*, a child of an *iroij laplap*, paramount chief, and *leiroij*, chieftess of the highest rank. There are very few people like this.

This is a system analagous to ancient Polynesia where the descendents of a female chief and a male chief, or *alii nui*, were considered the very highest in rank. There are a few individuals like that, historically, known in Hawaii. This is one of the reasons for brother and sister marriages in Hawaii: to preserve the rank.

Marriage between siblings was prohibited here and, in fact, the prohibition extended past the actual siblings, or what we'd call cousins. However, there have been cases where the son of the paramount chief, *iroij laplap*, and the daughter of a *leiroij*, or chieftess, would marry. Their child would be called a *bwio* as explained previously and he would outrank his parents as far as social position and prestige were concerned. Marriage between individuals of the same clan was forbidden.

From the top of the pyramid there is a descending level of blood lines in rank. A person obtained his rank through his mother, with partial rank, a supportive rank adhering (or inherited) from his father, if the father were of non-commoner rank.

For example, if the son of an *iroij* married a *kajur* woman (commoner), their child would be of lesser rank than his father, but of higher rank than his mother. He would not be of *iroij* rank in this matrilineal society, because of his mother's commoner status. But he would be able to inherit some of his father's prestige or rank. He would be known as a *bwirak*.

Then as another example, if this *bwirak* in turn again married a *kajur* woman, their child would have a lesser rank, but if he married a female with higher rank, that child would inherit the mother's rank and he also would have some of his father's title and rank as well.

In this system, a person could marry down or he could marry up and inherit up or inherit down. There were several ranks below *bwirak*. *Bwirak inikmouj* is the next rank. And then, if individuals continued to marry lesser ranks in each generation, the order of rank of the issue (children) would *lajibjib*, *jibatok*, *jibtok*, and then *tibajer* or "depart from glory" as it was called, being the last rank. There are variations and various combinations possible within the system as you can see.

Nowadays, not much attention is paid to these intermediate ranks: people of *iroij* descent call themselves *iroij*. The term often is used loosely by individuals themselves or by others referring to individuals who are not actually of *iroij laplap* rank but do hold the political and social position of *iroij laplap*. They are termed *iroij laplap* even though they actually do have lesser rank.

OEO

PCV

TTG

HUD

CD

EOA

TEOO

UN

CAA

JC



The Many Hands of Commu

HA

TT

NYC

DOL

HEW

OoA

GIA

MCADO

CAT



A Palauan friend of mine likes to tell the story about how years ago an old man from an outer island was making one of his semi-annual visits to Koror town. After poling his raft for several hours, he tied up to the dock nearest the island trading company store. He was certain to find something good to buy with his family's copra savings. In particular, he had in mind to take home one of those glass lights that all you do is throw a switch and they go on or off and light up the whole room. All it would take is about 15 feet of covered wire, and a switch with the part that holds the round light that just screws in. The way it worked came close to being magic and it was no doubt well worth whatever the cost. It was also fitting that the old man honor his clan by introducing this wonder to the village.

fact that his village had no electric power system to light his light brings the story to a sadly humorous end. But we should all give the old man his due. He was just a bit ahead of his time. He was an innovator in that same great tradition as Ben Franklin (whose kite experiment, incidentally, could have most cruelly failed if a bolt of lightning had really hit that kite). Yet most significant for us today, is that the old man's son is now remarkably able to venture beyond even the dreams of Ben Franklin.

The mature Micronesian today has come to take for granted the wonder called electricity. It has not taken him long to catch on to the basic facts and ideas that nourish modern technical progress. Though only able to read English slowly as a schoolboy, he has almost leisurely taken in the vital insights painfully gathered by many peoples over the

that elections to the Congress of Micronesia are coming soon and he should be registered by now. A moment later he learns that a space satellite is now over Guam, moving in a stationary position relative to Earth and capable of relaying telecasts to almost anywhere in Micronesia. The news ends abruptly and Pete Seeger comes on quavering about how "the times are changing". The world on a raft in one afternoon!

Community Development: Change through cooperative effort

If the seeds of change had not existed from the outset in all human societies, community development programs would be impossible. Micronesia today displays a greater than average willingness to explore new ways (few of which, incidentally, are uniquely American). Appropriately enough, there have emerged a number of public and private agencies to aid communities fascinated with light bulbs or other schemes for altering their households or village routines with some assurance that the new addition will work and will probably make life better or at least certainly more interesting. When such changes occur nowadays through various cooperative efforts, we say that community development is happening.

Such efforts in the Trust Territory are a more or less organized way of helping people in communities make things work the way they would like them to. And this means everything from light bulbs to blasting a water channel to talking over ways of cooking a tasty and nutritious vegetable recipe. To ask any of those involved directly in community development to explain just who is responsible for such work in the Trust Territory, one must be prepared to listen to a dazzling description of diverse agencies, offices, and projects all aiming to improve things at the village level where the people live with their families--where the action is.

centuries. It is one great advantage that more and more developing countries have today: instant, available information about the past, present, and future. Able to compress time, the mature Micronesian has absorbed what would seem a mind blowing mosaic of impressions to where the Apollo moon shot last year seemed well within the order of things.

Yet it is fortunate that in many areas of Micronesia, one can still find an old man poling his raft to the district center and the betelnut still providing the same psychic companionship of yesteryear. But on his way down the coast he now has a chance to hail friends racing out to the channel with two 28 horses pushing a fiberglass hull (or is it now ferro-cement?) ahead of a majestic wake. And on his raft in an open wooden box is a Sony transistor radio, purchased by his son, reminding him in his own language

Shopping completed he squatted near his raft and opening a fresh coconut, took a long drink, wiped his grey whiskers, and let the remainder fall to the ground. Then with unrushed hands, he mashed a betelnut from his purse, powdered it with lime and squinting up the coast to where his family awaited his return, he fingered a *kabui* leaf around his chew and shoved it into his right cheek. Thus fortified, the old man tied his new purchase securely and poled his way homeward, hoping to hook up his light before nightfall.

I will spare the reader the details of how modern technology cruelly failed this trusting old man that night. The

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT—everything from supporting time-honored methods to teaching new ways of doing things. Above: a Grant-in-Aid provides materials to build a village meeting house. Below: a Head-Start staff member learns to construct office and playroom equipment for use in the district Head Start Centers.

by Gerald S. Craddock

Community Development

Alphabet Conspiracy

W

ith local radios and newspapers sometimes referring cryptically to OEO, CD, CAA, NYC, etc., there may even seem to be some kind of evil alphabet conspiracy afoot to keep the uninitiated wondering who does what and what stands for what. So allow the writer to quickly shed some light on certain key program abbreviations. As recent as five years ago, CD was the only abbreviation used for this kind of work, because "Community Development" nicely encompassed the narrow range of Trust Territory Government activities familiar to all and funded from only one source. Then came GIA (Grant-in-Aid) a new special program within CD deserving its own descriptive title. In 1967, a year after PCVs (Peace Corps Volunteers) joined in, our friends from OEO (U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity) were asked to help. It was the OEO, established by the EOA (Economic Opportunity Act) of 1964, that provided funds for Micronesia to have six CAAs (Com-

munity Action Agencies), one in each district. The CAAs are private, non-profit corporations. While the CAAs were growing, CD received a special grant from OEO to set up an NYC (Neighborhood Youth Corps) program. The CAAs agreed to administer NYC at the district level under the general direction of Headquarters CD. CD and CAAs also joined efforts last year to recruit, screen, and assist JC (Job Corps) trainees to attend the Koko Head Center in Hawaii. JC like NYC is a DOL (U.S. Department of Labor) funded program.

Meanwhile, the CAAs made impressive strides in their new HS (Head Start) programs for pre-school children. Incidentally, all the things that the CAAs do are known as CAP (Community Action Program). And a new organization formed last year, MCADO (Micronesian Community Action Directors Organization), operates to provide aid to all CAAs, mainly through a TAA (Technical Assistance Agency), a team of three OEO

experts.

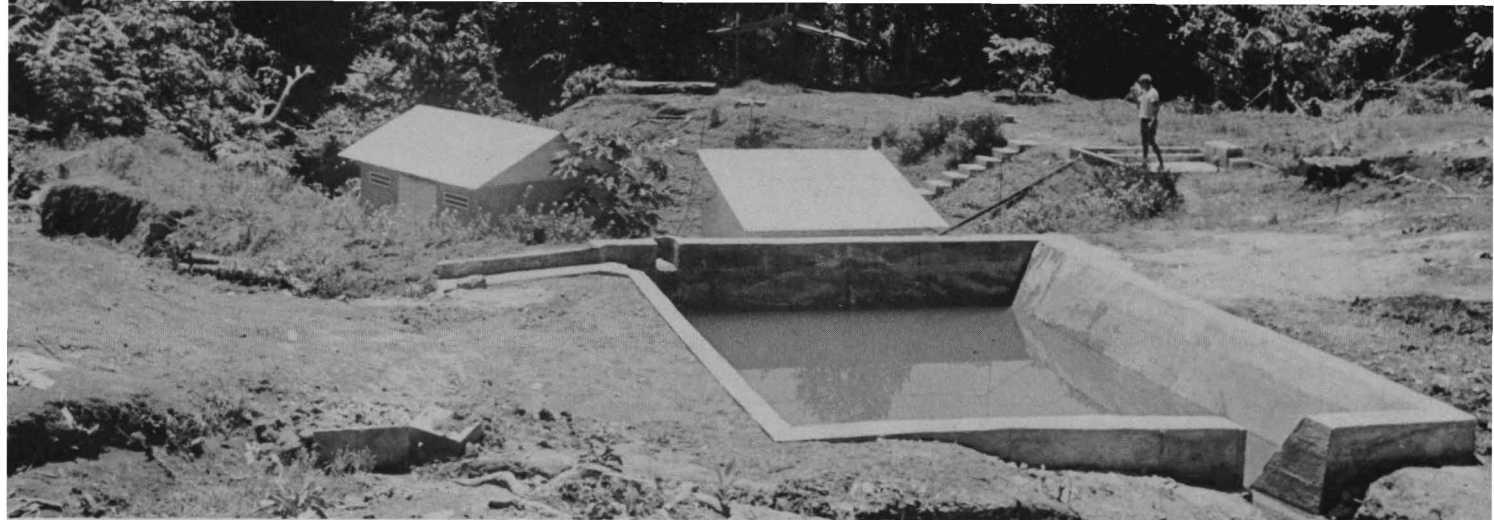
To help assure maximum program coordination and material assistance between the TTG (Trust Territory Government) and the CAAs, the CD office has established a TEOO (Territorial Economic Opportunity Office) with a grant from OEO. And if the CAAs have their HS programs for the pre-schoolers, CD now has its OoA (Office on Aging) program for elderly Micronesians funded by a grant from HEW (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare). Only a bit less cryptic because they do not use an abbreviation are the six Civic Action Teams (CAT anyone?). Each is a professional 12-man construction team from one of the three branches of the U.S. Armed Forces ready to pitch in on any community project needing their special kind of help. What next? Very likely CD will be looking to HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) for funds to augment the technical assistance it is now getting from the U.N. (United Nations) for developing the new low-income housing program in the Trust Territory (TT).

Puzzling as they certainly must be to many, the abbreviations simply reflect a growing sensitivity on the part of government to the actual complexity of social development problems and that many approaches are needed to deal effectively with them. Community development is finally catching up with this age of specialization.

Though almost any government department or private service agency in the islands could possibly find itself involved in some aspect of community improvement work, most of those people who "do it for a living" either work directly in the Trust Territory Government CD program or are on the staff of one of the six CAAs. Added to the diversity of these activities is the valuable work of the Peace Corps. Many PCVs are furnishing otherwise unavailable skills directly to CD and the CAAs while others serve in related community service fields, such as education and health services. The Civic Action Teams, similarly, must be considered another vital arm of community development.

Peace Corps architects work with communities to develop practical low-cost house designs.





The heart of the Melekeok water system, built as a Grant-in-Aid project, is this reservoir. Water from a small stream trickling down the hillside above the village enters through opening seen at front of photo. It's piped into the sand filter and chlorinator in the building next to the reservoir, while any excess runs off at left. The distant building houses the pump which feeds treated water up the hill to a 12,000-gallon storage tank.

Organizing for cooperative change takes time and patience

The government's Division of Community Development (CD) predates both the CAAs and Peace Corps by several years. And as might have been predicted, by 1967 all three agencies were vying somewhat for the bewildered affections of the beautiful maiden, Micronesia. Fortunately for the survival of all three, Micronesia was ready to respond to all suitors. Some Micronesians no doubt look back with amusement at the youthful competitiveness that characterized the early OEO, Peace Corps, and CD efforts to "help" Micronesia. And only within the last two years have they fully appreciated the complementary roll that each must play in aiding progress at the village level. For some time, the tendency was to see the problem of community development like the fabled blind men of India who described the elephant only in terms of the part they could touch. Older and less myopic now, each looks to the other for support, advice, and a sharing of resources. As a result, the communities benefiting from it all are having some happy experiences trying out new village technology and institutions.

In Melekeok, a Palauan coastal village about two hours by speed boat from the district center, a year and a half of hard

labor has produced a complete, treated water system, the first of its kind in an outer island community. Various jerry-built hollow bamboo or boondocked pipe systems had been used from time to time, but these were never very efficient and required constant maintenance. What was needed was the money and technical skills to build the kind of water supply that the forward-looking village elders had agreed they wanted to have. The village now had some money but not enough. They had some construction skills, but the engineering required was too much.

However, the times had changed. Someone was ready to help. The local Palauan Community Development Officer assigned the Peace Corps civil engineer in his office to work out the feasibility of a fully treated system with adequate water storage for the 47 houses lining Melekeok's coast. Several visits with the village elders led to decisions as to which water source was the most reliable, who would do the work, and how the system would be managed after completion. There was some anxiety on the part of the Community Development staff that the project might be too complex. Maybe the village was not yet ready to accept the responsibility for operating and maintaining a piece of technology which, although guaranteed to supply water to every house, would

not do so unless the diesel pumps were regularly given fuel and leaks were promptly repaired. Unlike Melekeok's ever reliable clouds above, the system was going to require some care. It was going to have to be taken into the community, accepted by the people as an organic part of village life, not as something that "they" brought in and, therefore, should be responsible for.

A Trust Territory Grant-in-Aid (GIA) would supply up to 90% of the cash needed but none of this could be spent for labor unless a specialist had to be brought in from outside. This policy would insure a marked degree of direct participation by the Melekeok villagers. The people would have to actually build their system, endure the labor and finally "give birth". After such an experience, it would be hard for a community to reject the new member of the village "family". As it has turned out, village and water system are doing fine.

The Civic Action Teams in each district also stand ready with bulldozer and tripod to help with any real knotty problems these kinds of projects might run into. At the same time, they give valuable practical training to semi-skilled Micronesians while doing heavy duty odd jobs in various communities. One major project in Palau involves site preparation for the second MicrOlympics to be held in Koror in 1971.

Not All Nuts and Bolts

In addition to introducing new technology, community development also requires that people sharpen their economic, political, and social skills. When well-intentioned outsiders (or insiders) bring about physical changes in a village or succeed in setting up a new institution such as a consumer cooperative, the results are doomed to decay unless the people are really "with it", to use an apt popular expression. Getting "with it" means that some changes must go on within the people so that the new thing or institution is part of them in the same way that the raft in our story was part of the old man. It means getting involved with the thing and doing something, achieving something, or making something that brings continuing general satisfaction.

Sometimes an outsider can demonstrate something totally new to a village like an improved fish smoking device and everyone will "get with it" immediately with very little guidance or persuasion. But some kinds of useful changes, such as the integration of school drop-outs with the world of work require special, often elaborate, program efforts. That is why in 1967 the Trust Territory Government chartered the six CAAs as independent non-profit corpo-

rations for the purpose of providing an agency at the local level with special resources for involving more people in skill-building decisions that shape village life and also bring them closer to all government agencies. Each CAA is governed by a board chosen to represent all sectors of the community: the government; community, religious and business groups; and the citizens at large. In the United States, these OEO-sponsored programs are specifically aimed at that minority of citizens whose income falls below a set poverty level. In the Trust Territory, however, over 95% of the population is eligible to receive services under this program and thus CAA activities are community-wide in scope and are major adjuncts to the total community development effort. Being an independent community service agency, it was expected that among other things each CAA could respond more quickly to certain community needs that could not wait for another budget cycle to turn the massive gears of government.

For example, in Ponape last year an experienced furniture craftsman/teacher just happened to be visiting the islands and agreed to stay on for six months to help train a group of young men to make commercial quality items out of local woods. Although eager to

assist, the local Department of Education was not administratively or financially equipped to take full advantage of this opportunity on such short notice. The CAA job development program, however, could devote facilities and staff resources to the project right away. A Community Development Grant-in-Aid was also available. So the local Education staff and the CAA worked out a project plan and the CAA sought funds through Grant-in-Aid to handle the major costs. At this writing, the project promises to be a good example of how CAAs can provide unique resources needed to take advantage of short term development opportunities.

The pre-school program called Head Start is one of the many activities sponsored by the CAAs. In addition to developing intelligence, it places special emphasis on parental participation to arm the kids with the self-confidence and stamina needed to face the new world of school. To assist this effort, Saipan CD Grant-in-Aid funds were awarded to the local CAA to build a Head Start center. Now Saipan has a year-round pre-school program with its own facility.



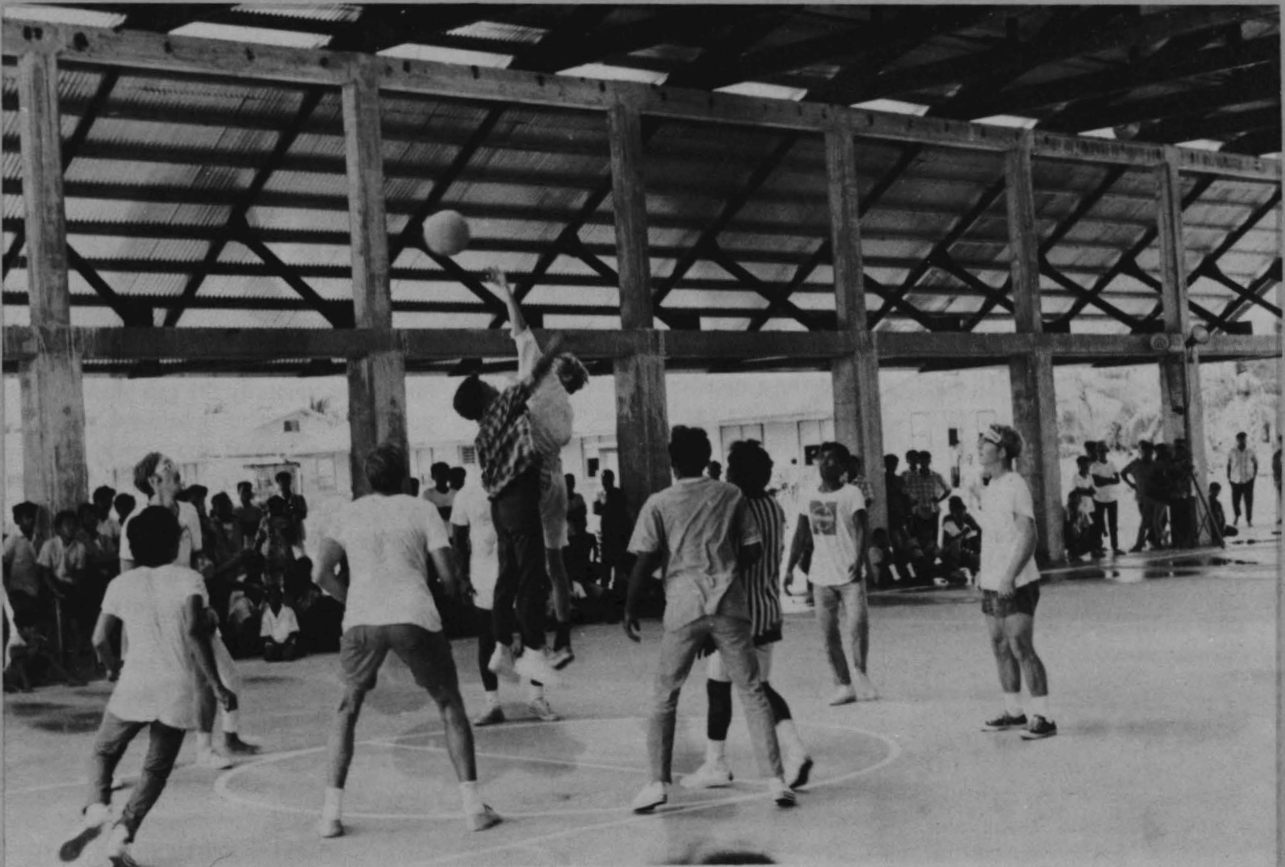
A Community Action Agency (CAA) in each district is governed by a board of directors representing all sectors of the community. The boards meet regularly to plan new programs and review current CAA activities.

Headquarters Public Works test lab is available to CD engineer for developing materials and devices to advance the level of village technology.



Craddock

NEEDED: acceptable alternative youth activities for after hours. Here in Majuro, young men share leisure time in the high school's new activities building. With education department funds for materials, the impressive structure was built by the school's students supervised by their vocational instructor and with a valuable assist from the Navy and Army Civic Action Teams.



Singletary

Special programs aim at specific needs

Some special focus programs have necessary high incentives built into them which almost guarantee success. One of these is the Neighborhood Youth Corps program run by CD and the CAAs jointly with funds from the U.S. Department of Labor. Over 130 out-of-school/out-of-work young men and women between 16 and 21 are enrolled at any one time. They work in various district government departments and receive an hourly stipend, job experience and ten hours a week of remedial education and counseling. The batting average of this program is very high with over 85% of the enrollees either finding a regular job, or returning to school or other training.

Another very effective program is in Hawaii where on the scenic island of Oahu nearly 60 Micronesian boys receive around nine months of job-related training and counseling at the Koko Head Job Corps Center. Considering that all JC recruits are drop-outs and unemployed, it is heartening that at this writing, 26 of them have completed Job Corps and have been placed in Community Colleges for advanced vocational training. Hawaii is helping our youth in other ways, too. The Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America, provides technical advice to all districts on organizing Micronesian scout troops. Their goal is to soon have full-time scouting experts stationed in each district to develop local scout leaders. Although NYC, Job Corps and Scouting programs are proving valuable, the number of youngsters involved is relatively small. It is becoming increasingly apparent that major youth guidance programs are needed in all districts to deal with the problem of alienation among youngsters not yet ready or able to fit into a satisfactory role in the community.

Special CD projects for women include handicraft production, club organization, and home economics. CD Women's Interest Officers in each district offer new ideas and techniques through meetings, group demonstra-

tions, and radio broadcasts. Handicraft produced by organized women's groups in the Marshalls has increased over the years and now is handled through a chartered cooperative association. The famous Killi bag is one of the many saleable items produced in the Marshalls.

A major new program area now developing is concerned with finding ways to improve the housing of families with low-income and sub-standard houses. It used to be thought that housing was valued merely as shelter and had little to do with such things as nourishing human productivity, achievement by children in school, increased employment opportunities, and confident participation in civic affairs. But all these things are in fact known to be affected when people do not have a certain minimum quality of housing. With technical assistance from the United Nations, the Division of Community Development is working closely with district housing authorities to improve management and financing strategies, and to find ways to build less costly houses. Peace Corps architects are fitting into this effort very well by coming up with a number of low-cost house designs that are also attractive to Micronesians. And since housing is intimately connected with urban development generally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has made the Trust Territory eligible for a number of their programs. These are being explored at the present time and may well become active in the near future.

Activities to involve elderly persons in Micronesia with modern developments and to give them a chance to be productive citizens are now being funded by CD's Office on Aging (OoA). The OoA awards grants to community service groups, usually the CAAs, who are interested in running projects for the elderly. So far all grants have been given for projects that bring the old and young together to close the "generation gap". In the Marianas, the Senior Citizens Workshop includes visits by elderly men and women to high school classes to talk about Chamorro history.

Too many cooks?

The reader will recall that this article began with a little story about an old man with a raft who sacrificed hard earned copra savings to buy an electric light for a house that had no electricity. And with programs for the aging, we have come full circle by looking for ways to relate modern development to tradition--the attitudes and perspectives of today with those of yesterday. Social progress in Micronesia depends largely on how successfully the gap between the young and old is being bridged.

Having surveyed the variety of different programs in community development, some may say there are too many "cooks" and the community development "soup" will be ruined. However, those working in community development believe that the "recipe" is the key concern. If the projects and programs are developed with the people and understood by the people--there is every reason to hope for the best. It is not so much a matter of how many cooks are used as it is in determining what the customer likes and is able to digest.

Decentralization - a perspective from Truk

by Fermin Likiche

About one and one-half years ago, former Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel outlined a new approach in the government of the Trust Territory. "Decentralization" is the term commonly applied to the Secretary's idea. Although the concept was not completely new to the Trust Territory, the emphasis it received through the Secretary's speech cast new light on its meaning for the residents of Micronesia.

Truk District has actively embraced the concept of decentralization as a working plan of government. A new spirit of self-reliance has enveloped the district as the umbilical cord with Saipan has slipped looser and looser. Perhaps the Truk District Legislature stands as the clearest example of the spirit of decentralized change. Working for the past sixteen months in close cooperation with the District Administration on all aspects of governmental activity, the Truk District Legislature signifies the beginnings of real "self government" in the districts of Micronesia.

The Truk District Legislature is not a new institution in years, but a changing institution in spirit. This past May, the Legislature met for its Twentieth Regular Session in the attractive concrete legislature building near the airport on Moen. A passerby at any time during the year would notice the hum of typewriters and quiet activity in the Legislature office. There are typically few people and hushed conversation. The staff might be working on a number of projects. There are reports to be written, legal issues to be analyzed, letters to be typed, meetings to be organized, and a whole host of projects before the Session begins.

During the Session, the typical legislative scene changes completely. Instead of hushed typewriters and few people,

there are crowds of legislators, feverish discussion, comings and goings of administrative personnel and other commotion involved with bill drafting, lobbying, roll calls, and steamy debate.

The Legislature meets in Regular Session in May of each year. The twenty-seven legislators arrive from all parts of the District on field trip vessels and local transportation. The Speaker greets each of the members and coordinates the last minute details before the opening of the Session. The Session lasts forty days maximum. Afterwards, legislators return to their constituents to report on their results and hopes for next year.

The remarkable activity of the Twentieth Regular Session rested, in part, on the inflated budget which the legislators found at their disposal for the first time in their history. Sales tax revenues, collected through a tax bill passed in 1969, were finally making an impact on the district budget. Along with the annual programs and \$175,000 annual budget, the Legislature found itself in the enviable position of having an extra \$200,000 to spend. The large question in the minds of most legislators was how to effectively program this additional revenue for the needs of the district.

In a sense the availability of public monies constitutes the heart of decentralized control. The Legislature understood in a fine sense the authority which could be exerted with \$200,000 additional dollars. With this in mind, the Legislature attempted to program its funds so that Legislature "impact" would ripple throughout the islands and the Legislature, as an institution, would profit in its battle for recognition as the third "equal branch" in the government of Truk District.

The primary interest among local leaders and residents in Truk has been economic development and the development of the fisheries resource. A common concern voiced by citizens in public meetings was the inherent difficulty of winning government loans from the Trust Territory Economic Development Loan Fund. Interest rates were rather high (in order to maintain an equilibrium with private lending institutions) and the processing route was complex and extreme. The common notion seemed to be that only "college graduates" and government employees could ever benefit from the Trust Territory fund.



The Legislature determined to improve this situation by creating a fund of its own, administered under its own rules, with its own rates of interest and its stated objectives of a "high risk, low yield fund" for the primary benefit of the "little" man in Truk. To this end, the Legislature appropriated \$25,000 for the creation of the Truk District Legislature Economic Development Loan Fund. Available only to residents of Truk, the Loan Fund operates on the basis of an "assumption of honesty" and extremely easy terms. Interest rates are 2%. Character references, as well as collateral equalling at least 50% of the amount of the loan, are required in the initial application. The time between application and decision for the first two quarters of loans was a mere four to six weeks.

The District Office of Economic Development and the District Economic Development Loan Board have been "borrowed" by the Legislature to help administer its funds. To this point, \$12,000 has been loaned to nine individuals, many of whom probably would never have qualified under the stricter rules of the Trust Territory Loan Fund. The Legislature chose to take the risk of insolvent debtors and uncollectable debts, and experiment with economic development in this way.

Fisheries has been another major area of interest to the people of Truk. Before the last war, Truk fisheries grew large and prosperous under the auspices of Japanese concerns. For years there has been talk of reefer plants, fleets of ships, and the renewed development of fisheries for the benefit of Trukese. Beginning with a Truk Marine Resources Conference last April and May, the leaders of Truk, in cooperative effort with the Trust Territory Government Department of Marine Resources, began formulating firm plans for the development of fisheries.

As the Regular Session of the Legislature rolled around in May, none of these plans had yet received fiscal implementation. The Legislature assumed an important responsibility by taking a \$57,000 step forward in authorizing the purchase of one off-shore fishing vessel for Truk District. The off-shore vessel will be purchased through a Truk Fisheries Development Board composed of two representatives of the District Administrator and three representatives of the Speaker of the Legislature. The Board will conduct public meetings to hear views from interested fishermen on the most effective kind of tuna boat to purchase for Truk. After the vessel arrives, the Board will take applications and select the group which shows the finest promise in operating the boat and reaping a profit. Over time, the group will sell shares to the general public and repay the Legislature out of the catch. The Legislature will then have additional revenues to re-finance a second vessel, a third vessel, and so on, until Trukese can

successfully compete with world tuna markets.

"The Legislature wished to take a concrete step toward the development of off-shore fisheries", commented Speaker Hermes Katsura. "We have heard all the problems of inadequate infrastructure, inadequate repair facilities, inadequate drydock or slipways. We prefer to make a more sanguine appraisal. If we can only begin to fish and demonstrate our capabilities, the other problems will slowly fall into place. Our initial catches will find a local market, we have a new reefer plant in the midst of construction, and with foreign fishing interests knocking at our door, there is simply no time like the present. This is an experiment to show the world what the Trukese can do - on their own."

The Legislature appointed the Truk Office of Marine Resources to staff the Fisheries Development Board. It also appointed the District Administrator, in coordination with the Speaker, to make an intensive search throughout the South Pacific and Japan for the most suitable vessel for Truk.

"We are beginning to use the district administration as freely as possible to help administer our laws", commented Speaker Katsura. "It has always been the stated 'ideal' that the District Legislature would make the laws and the District Administration would carry them out. Now we are actively asserting our authority, flexing our muscles in concrete fashion, so to speak. We hope eventually to evolve a real district government, along the lines suggested by the Political Status Commission in its latest report."

Training in manpower skills has been another great concern of the Truk District Legislature. The most noteworthy achievement in this regard came in the Nineteenth Regular Session through the creation of a construction school headed by Peace Corps Volunteer Marvin Kretschmer. Kretschmer visited the outer islands in Truk during October and November of 1969 and selected one

person from each island to come to Moen and participate in an on-site building project which would instruct the trainees in many of the skills of the building trades. His project was the construction of the Speaker's official residence - the Trukese White House. Work began last December and was to last for a forty week period.

"Now that the school has ended and the house is complete, I don't see how we ever made it," commented Kretschmer. "The students were great and eager to learn; the Legislature provided funds and moral support; the District Administration provided food; the Civic Action Team provided help in partially repairing the treacherous road. Nonetheless, with the tremendous logistic problem of getting supplies into Truk and up the steep hill to the house (which is situated on a cliff overlooking the Truk Lagoon), I don't understand how we accomplished it all. Graduation was October 9 and the students are confident

of their abilities to conduct similar projects on their islands. There were 20 students. It was a worthwhile experience for all concerned."

Kretschmer's school and its finished product stands as a living monument to the new spirit in Truk. The spirit and enthusiasm for "self-help" and decentralized control lies at the heart of these and other similar endeavors.

The Truk Construction Board stands as another example of the movement towards District "independence." Funded by the Twentieth Legislature at \$24,000, the Board was created at the request of Juan Sablan, District Administrator, to continue the high quality building programs started by Kretschmer's school. The Board will eventually evolve, it is hoped, into an independent District Department of Public Works. Initially the Board will be staffed by Peace Corps personnel and local labor. It will accept

construction and public works contracts from the Trust Territory Government and either complete them on its own, or subcontract to local firms. It will offer technical assistance to subcontractees as requested. Eventually its profits will equal its expenses and it will become a financially viable organization.

"We hope the Construction Board can serve as the local vehicle for the improvement of roads, docks, public buildings and the like", commented Speaker Katsura. "It is all just in the experimental stage at the present time, but with the kind of cooperative effort the district has been putting forth over the last 12 months, I would estimate our chances of success are exceptionally high. The cooperation we have experienced between the branches of government, the Civic Action Team, the Peace Corps, and other public-minded institutions stands as testimony to our capabilities for local growth and local control."

Viewed from beneath the flag pole of the Truk District Legislature building, about a quarter of a mile away, is the newly-completed official residence of the legislature's Speaker. The mountain-top Trukese White House is a monument shaped by a young American and twenty young Micronesians from the outer islands.



The Legislature is now in the process of debating whether it is time to take the legal step of codifying the decentralization theme. The Legislature appointed a Charter Commission in the Twentieth Regular Session to "investigate the positive and negative factors involved in the decision whether Truk District should become the first Charter District in Micronesia."

"We did this purely for study", accented Speaker Katsura. "It represents one concrete example of the new spirit of self-reliance and independence which is the natural end result of the quest toward decentralization."

Truk District is proud of these accomplishments. It hopes to move even further in years ahead toward responsible district government. Perhaps, in the end, when all is said and done, historiographers will look back to this time as the crucial period of "reckoning" in the Districts, as well as in the territorial government of Micronesia.

Official interest is again focused on Jabwor Island in Jaluit Atoll. Plans for a sub-district center have been made and are being developed in more detail. A super-dispensary is now being constructed on the island by the local people with the technical assistance and supervision of the district Community Development Department, and the monetary support of the Congress of Micronesia.

It appears that Jabwor will once again play a prominent role in the economic, social, and political development of the Marshall Islands. It may, therefore, be of interest to all residents of Micronesia, in particular the younger generation of Marshallese, and the newcomer to the Marshalls, to learn some-

thing of the history of this tiny but significant island.

Jaluit Atoll (Jaluij, Marshallese spelling) is located in the Southern Marshalls, about 150 nautical miles southwest of the District Center at Majuro. It has a lagoon area of 266.31 square miles with approximately 84 islands along the rim of the atoll. The dry land area is 4.38 square miles. There are several deep water passes into the lagoon.

The southern Marshalls area has a large population, and is comparatively rich in natural resources. The soils and rainfall are favorable for the growing of subsistence crops and for the production of the cash crop, copra. Fish and other edible marine animal and plant life are plentiful.

Jaluit Atoll, with its population of around one thousand, has a large aggregate of people for an outer atoll in the Marshalls. There are reportedly about three hundred residents of Jabwor Is-

land alone. This includes around one hundred students at the Jabwor Elementary School, about one-third of them boarding students. Many of these youngsters have come in from the outer islands of the atoll. As in the rest of the Marshalls, there is a great deal of movement between the various islands of the atoll on the part of the inhabitants of the large atoll.

Jaluit, as the rest of the atoll communities in the Marshalls, is divided into a number of divisions and sub-divisions. All of these form one all-atoll community. The traditional major divisions of Jaluit are four in number. These are known as *jabta*. Within the four *jabta*

Jabwor: Former Capitol

"Jabwor was a beautiful little island. The ocean-going freighters and sailing ships came into the Jaluit lagoon through the Southeast Passage here in the left of the picture. Enejat is the island behind Jabwor and on the left of the passage are the two islands of Jerkuel and Botto. Looking along the shore, several business buildings are at the left end of Jabwor. In the center are the



are sub-divisions known as *bukon*. These divisions and sub-divisions are as follows:

1) *Jabta eo ilo Eonene* (*Jabta* of the Main Islands). Jaluit Island *bukon* and Jabwor Island *bukon*.

2.) *Jabta eo ilo Liklal*: Mejurirok Island *bukon* and Pingelap Island *bukon*.

3.) *Jabta eo 'ilo Aeto*: Imiej Island *bukon* and Imroj Island *bukon*.

4.) *Jabta eo ilo Jitaken*: Mejae Island *bukon* and Narmij Island *bukon*.

The adjacent small islands and islets are included within the boundaries of each *bukon*. Each *bukon* has an elected headman. The entire atoll has a Council composed of a number of hereditary *alab(s)* (lineage heads), or their representatives, from each inhabited island. The Council convenes four times a year to discuss affairs of general interest. The

meeting place shifted from Imroj Island, the post-World War II site, to Jabwor early this year. An elected atoll magistrate, and atoll scribe preside at these meetings, and over atoll affairs, especially those involved with the district administration. They interact with the representatives of the administration on behalf of the people of Jaluit Atoll.

The *iroij* or chiefs of the atoll, through their representatives, and the *alab(s)* represent the traditional authority of Jaluit Atoll. Land matters fall within their special jurisdiction. The *iroij* who possess hereditary rights in the atoll are: Kabua Kabua, Lejolan Kabua, Albert Loeak, and Neimoro Jutok. These individuals, heads of their chiefly lineages, possess sole rights in certain islands of the atoll and partial rights in others. That is, one of these chiefs may possess all of the *iroij* rights in island

"A," rights in one or more *wato* (land parcel) in island "B," and no rights in island "C". All four chiefs possess rights in certain islands of the atoll. Only three of them possess rights in others, and two of them only, in others, in varying combinations of the individuals involved. None of the chiefs lives on Jaluit Atoll at the present time.

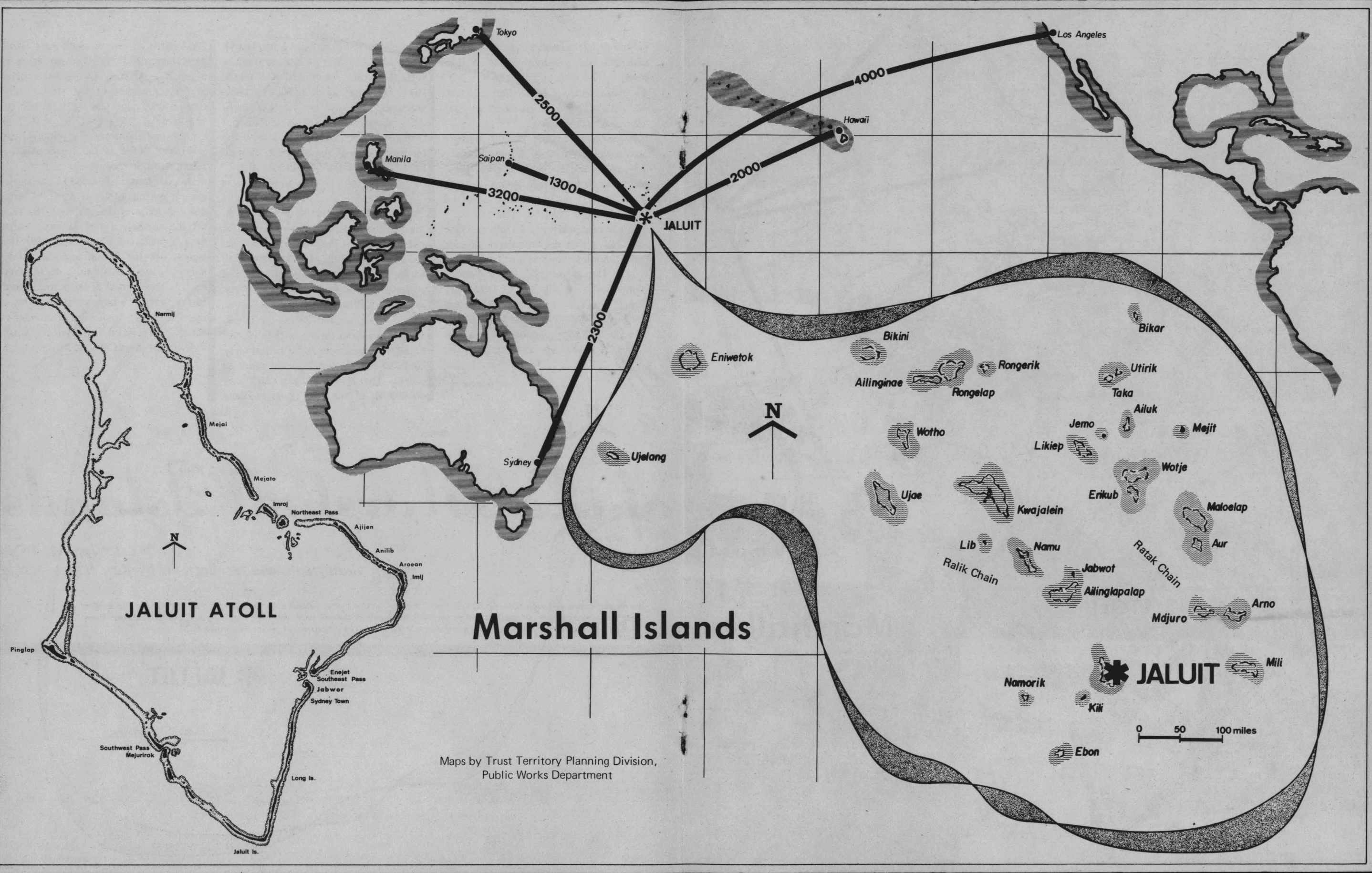
Jabwor Island is located in the southeastern portion of Jaluit Atoll. A large deep water pass cuts through the reef off the northern tip of Jabwor. Ships have a protected anchorage inside the lagoon off the island, and can safely anchor close to shore. U.S. Navy sources give a total of 96 acres of land to the island. A large portion of this is listed as public land. The remainder is Marshallese owned land, with a small holding listed as Catholic Mission land.

of the Marshall Islands

by Jack A. Tobin
with photographs and recollections by Rev. Hajime Hirata

wharfs and copra warehouse of the Nanyo Boeki Kaisha, with the government bachelor's dormitories just behind them. Then came the administration offices and residences, with a clearing at the ball park, and then the living area of the Okinawan fishermen and the place where they made the *katsuobushi* dried fish. This is the view as we saw it around 1933."





Maps by Trust Territory Planning Division,
Public Works Department

Jaluit Atoll, and Jabwor have had an important place in Marshallese history for many years. The atoll was an important part of the domain of the chiefs of southern Ralik (the western chain of the Marshallese archipelago).

According to older informants the name Jaluit itself comes from the words *Jal* (*Jal tok*): "Comes here," and *euij* (*Aibuijuij*): "beautiful," i.e., Jaluij means "Good things come to you; those living on the atoll and those who visit it." The old saying associated with Jaluit Atoll is :

"Ailing in Jaluij-Ailing in jelele" ("Jaluij Atoll is the atoll of flesh food") i.e. many fish and shellfish on Jaluij. The old people say that this means that you can always find plenty of food in the lagoon, reefs and ocean areas of Jaluit Atoll. Marshallese agree that this atoll has a greater abundance of fish than any atoll in the Marshalls. (It is also said that there are more poisonous fish there than any atoll in the Marshalls.) Another *bwebwenato* (story), or *kokolal* (sign) associated with Jaluit is the phrase: *"Lain tok"* (Current which brings in the fish and other good things to Jaluit continuously.)

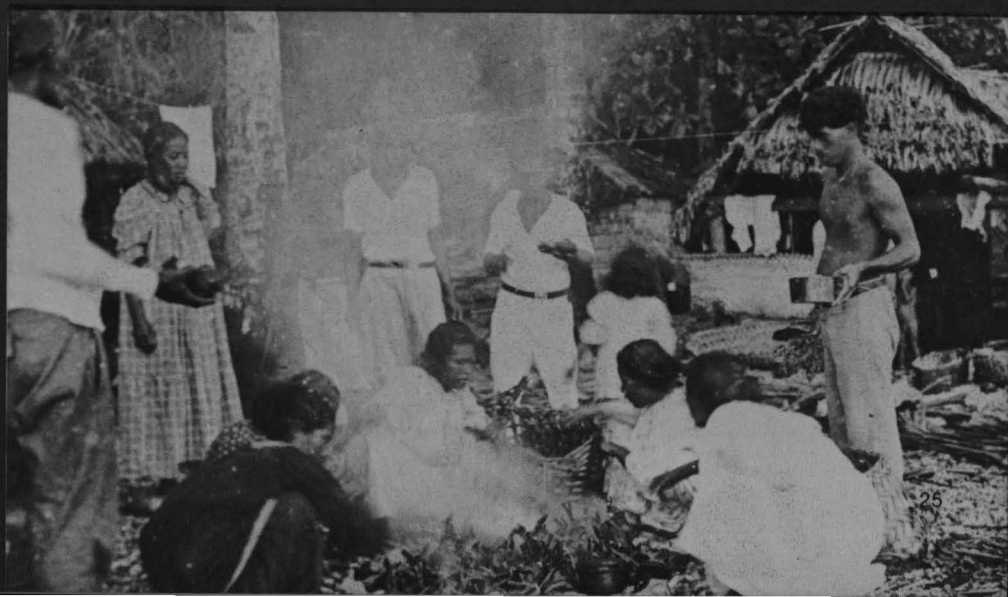
"The government's headquarters was in this building. The administration of the whole Marshalls district was handled from here. I don't remember exactly how many government employees there were, but I think there was less than fifty."

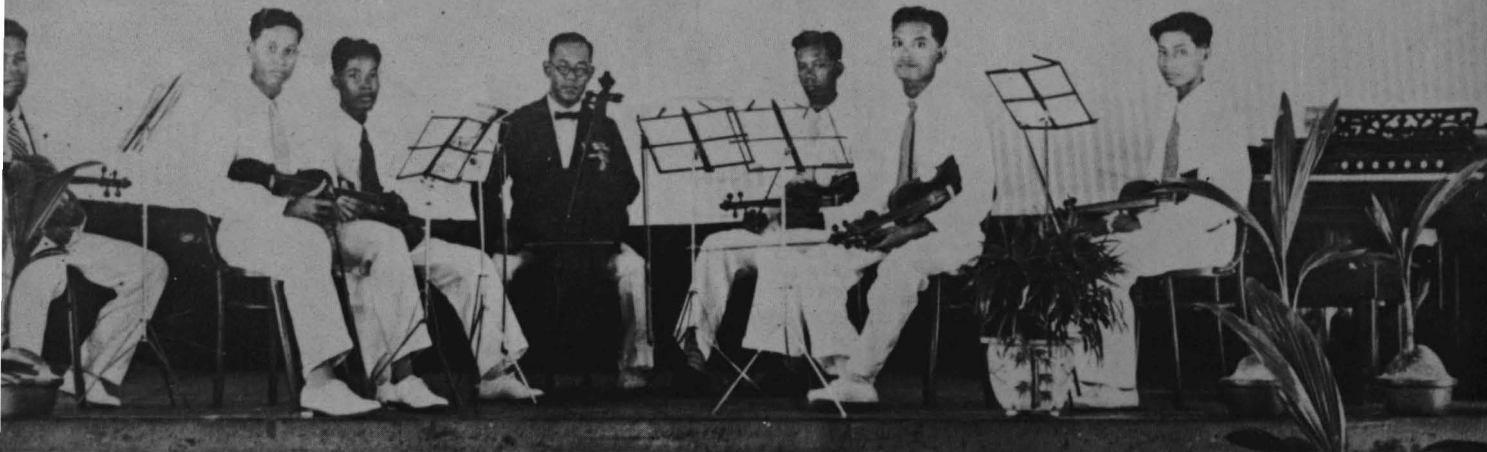
"The club house was built on the lagoon shore by the Germans and used by the Japanese administration as dormitories for single, male government workers. There were no female government employees at that time."





"It was Marshallese custom to cook on open fires outside or in the thatch-roofed cook-houses away from the sleeping house. The Japanese preferred to cook over hibachis in the small kitchen, usually built as part of the main house. Over the years, the Marshallese acquired a taste for Japanese food."





"Once a year, the students in the violin class would present a concert. The people liked to hear American college songs like 'Boola Boola' as well church hymns and concert music. We had a choral group also that loved to sing the American folk song about 'the bulldog on the bank and the bullfrog in the pool.' Beginning at left, the musicians are Juae Langrin who died during the invasion of Kwajalein, the late Carl Domnick who became the mayor of DUD municipality, Masa Bonju, the magistrate at Mejit, Rev. Hajime Hirata, Kabua Kabua, Iroij Laplap of the Ralik Chain, Rev. Hiram Langerik of Ailinglaplap, and Ajidrik Bien, a businessman of Majuro. Mrs. Hirata played the old-fashioned pump organ shown at right.

"From house to house, the men danced their way, carrying a shrine during special festivals. On this day we were celebrating the founding of the Japanese empire. It was also a big day for sportsmen and drinkers."



Europeans and Americans began visiting Jaluit a little over a century ago. British, American, and German traders operated out of the port of Jabwor and set up trading stations on Jabwor and adjacent islands. The name Sydney Town, given to an area contiguous to Jabwor, is a reminder of one of the British companies which was established in this part of the atoll.

Trading concessions were obtained from the local chiefs during this period, especially by the Germans. The *Jaluit Gesellschaft*, an important German trading company, was established on Jabwor in 1876. In October 1885, the Marshalls were officially annexed to the German Empire and Jabwor became the official capitol and administrative and commercial headquarters of the Marshall Islands.

Catholic and Protestant churches and schools were established on Jabwor. A large Marshallese population was attracted to the island; however, the European population was never large.

One of the most memorable happenings of this era was the typhoon which struck Jaluit Atoll in 1904. Informants state that sixty or seventy or more people were killed, most of them at the northern end of the atoll (*Jittoken Aetok*.)

"Out here beside the school dormitory, a group of students plays anirep, with a square shaped ball made of pandanus leaves. The boys liked hats and would wear any kind they could pick up. There were almost no Japanese boys of this age on Jabwor, since they usually went off to Japan for schooling."



"This grouper sea bass weighed about 200 pounds and was an unusual sight for the island people who were afraid to eat it because they thought it might be poisonous. It seemed there were a lot of poisonous fish around Jaluit. This one was cut up and used for fertilizer."

"Baseball was a very popular sport in those days. This picture was taken in November on a special occasion, the celebration of the Emperor's birthday. We called it Field Day. There was also a track meet and other sports like sumo wrestling and kendo bamboo sword competition."



The German administration continued until the outbreak of World War I. At this time the Japanese moved quickly and unexpectedly into the area, in accordance with a secret agreement with Great Britain. Their naval forces seized Jabwor and the rest of the Marshalls. The German nationals were repatriated and replaced by Japanese officials, traders, and others.

The Japanese emphasized economic development of the Marshalls. A fishing industry was established at Jabwor, and large amounts of dried and smoked fish (*katsuobushi*), and fresh fish were shipped to Japan. The copra industry was also stimulated, and copra production was increased. Jabwor became a crowded, bustling metropolis, a tiny outpost of *Dai Nippon*. The population of Jabwor just prior to the outbreak of World War II, is said to have been more than 3,000. Most of these people were Marshallese who were attracted to the "Big City" for various reasons, as they had been during the German regime.

Those who did not have land or relatives in Jaluit were able to live in large "guest houses" each of which accommodated as many as sixty people. These houses bore the names of the atoll of origin of their dwellers, i.e. Arno House, Wotje House, Namu House, Ailinglaplap House, etc. Almost all of the houses were made of wood, and were about 40'x60' in dimension. The traditional pattern of living was changed by this congregation of people from different atolls in a large population center.

The Japanese fortified Jaluit Atoll in preparation for their onslaught against the American, British, Dutch, and French possessions in the Pacific. Thousands of members of the Japanese armed forces were concentrated on the atoll, mostly on Imiej Island. The Marshallese gradually dispersed to other islands of the atoll, and to their home atolls as the war in the Pacific progressed.



"At Christmas time, it was the custom for Marshallese people to come from other atolls in the district to worship and celebrate at the church on Imroj Island. Rev. Carl R. Heine was the minister when this picture was taken during the Christmas service. There were so many visitors that the church and the homes were filled to overflowing."

"It was a real thrill to watch the Japanese training ships enter the passage to the lagoon. This one was the Nippon Maru, one of four such sailing vessels that visited the atoll. There was at least one every year. The midshipmen, who were training for service in the merchant marine, spent about a week enjoying swimming, baseball, and other sports . . . once they even played a game of rugby. The sea wall, built by the Japanese to prevent soil erosion ran half-way around the island protecting the northern section on both lagoon and ocean sides."

"One Christmas, some members of the school staff visited Ebon and as a gift to the school, the Ebon people gave these canoes." Rev. Hirata and his wife sit at left with Rev. and Mrs. George E. Lockwood on the right. The two young girls are daughters of the Lockwoods."





Jaluit Atoll was heavily bombed and shelled by the U.S. Navy after the United States recovered from the crippling blow inflicted by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor. Jabwor, and the adjacent islands, and Imiej were reduced to masses of rubble, and thousands of Japanese defenders perished. The survivors were sent to U.S. prison camps and eventually repatriated, after the occupation of the Marshalls by the American forces.

American administrative headquarters were established on Kwajalein and on Majuro with Majuro eventually becoming the administrative center for all of the Marshalls. The ruins of Jabwor, a testimonial to the destruction of modern warfare, became enveloped in thick masses of vegetation.

The Catholic Mission was re-established in 1954 under the leadership of Father Thomas Donahoe, S.J. A school was also re-established. The Congregational mission and school was also re-established under the leadership of Rev-

erend Eleanor Wilson. People started coming back to Jabwor for this reason.

Work began on clearing the underbrush and removing the debris, and filling in the shell and bomb craters which pitted the surface of the island. This work was accelerated when an agricultural experiment station was established on Jabwor in late 1954 under the leadership of J. Boyd Mackenzie, an agriculturist employed by the Trust Territory. This was known as the Jaluit Project. The project attracted Marshallese commercial interests: KITCO and MIECO; and warehouses and sales outlets were constructed. The project manager built a home, office, small radio station, and other installations connected with the project.

The Atomic Energy Commission had helped clear the land with heavy equipment initially in connection with the construction of a warehouse and homes for a small colony of Killi people (the displaced inhabitants of Bikini Atoll). These buildings were located at the southern end of Jabwor in an area, or

wato known as *Lojokar*. This land was officially deeded to the Killi people to use. It provided an offshore anchorage for their small schooner which serviced Killi Island. It also provided a living area for the crew and other Killi people.

The entire project, including most of the private and mission buildings, and the Killi Village, was wiped off the face of the earth when Jaluit Atoll was hit by Typhoon Ophelia on January 7, 1958. A replanting and disaster relief program was started by the Administration almost immediately. However, Jabwor recovered very slowly, as did the other islands of the atoll which had been heavily hit by the high winds and tidal waves.

The Catholic Mission on Jabwor was continued. Concrete buildings were constructed, and the school was resumed. The Congregational Mission did not return to Jabwor however, nor was the Jaluit Agricultural Project re-established. Community Development work was done on Jaluit, and much of the atoll has been replanted with coconut trees.



"I pray the unspoiled beauty of the Marshalls and the genuine friendliness and hospitality of the people will be preserved forever."

Jabwor Island appears to be in better condition, in general, than it was before the typhoon, as far as coconut, breadfruit, and pandanus trees and other plantings are concerned. However, a large portion of the public lands have become thickly covered with underbrush.

The central portion of Jabwor today is occupied by the Catholic Mission buildings, the large government elementary school and teacher's house, and by

private homes. The old Japanese generator building, a huge concrete structure, is used for government activities. There is a system of paths which is adequate for the needs of the present small population of the island. The huge shade trees which have lined the lagoon shore along the northern end of Jabwor since Japanese times, are still standing. Jabwor presents a rather attractive picture today.

Jabwor, risen from the ashes, is destined to again be an important factor in the life of the Marshall Islands.

ON THE GO

Truk -

Between Flights

with Charles M. Sicard

Ran Annim! As the 727 jet glides over the reef at 1,500 feet, your scenic view of mountainous islands, cupped in a coral ring, may leave a lasting impression with you. It was after the California gold rush and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln that the first pioneers and missionaries settled in the Truk Lagoon. First, in 1874, came the German trader August Hartman and his family; he made his home on Fefan Island. He later was followed by two English traders named Irons and Capt. Narruhn, and then a Frenchman named Nedellec. Still today, these names are well known family names in Truk.

Peering through your airplane window at the green volcanic peaks, you'll find it worthwhile to note that the Trukese call this island cluster, "Chuk," which means mountain. And even now, as your stagecoach of the Pacific wings past Tonachau Mountain and over the Moen airfield to clear away playing children and stray pigs, you have entered into the land of legend and magic. With the roar of reversing jets, you arrive safely under the watchful eye of the octopus—whose silhouette is very much a part of the legend of Tonachau Mountain next to the airport.

1f you haven't made hotel reservations (which would be a tribute to your adventurous spirit) now is the time to seek out your hotel representative. You

have a choice of the Bayview Restaurant/Hotel (single \$9, double \$12) with four rooms and a modest air; or the first-class Maramar Hotel (single \$9, double \$12); or the luxury Truk Continental Travelodge Hotel (single \$24, double \$28) at the southern sandy tip of the island.

After you have gotten settled and refreshed with a cool, locally-grown lime drink you may be wondering how best to spend your first afternoon in the heart of Micronesia. If your stay includes one or more days you are encouraged to make boat arrangements right away so you may travel to a sunken ship, or to a quiet uninhabited island with a sandy beach, or to Dublon Island where at one time Japanese military ruled. You are in a water wonderland of Micronesia—plan to experience it.

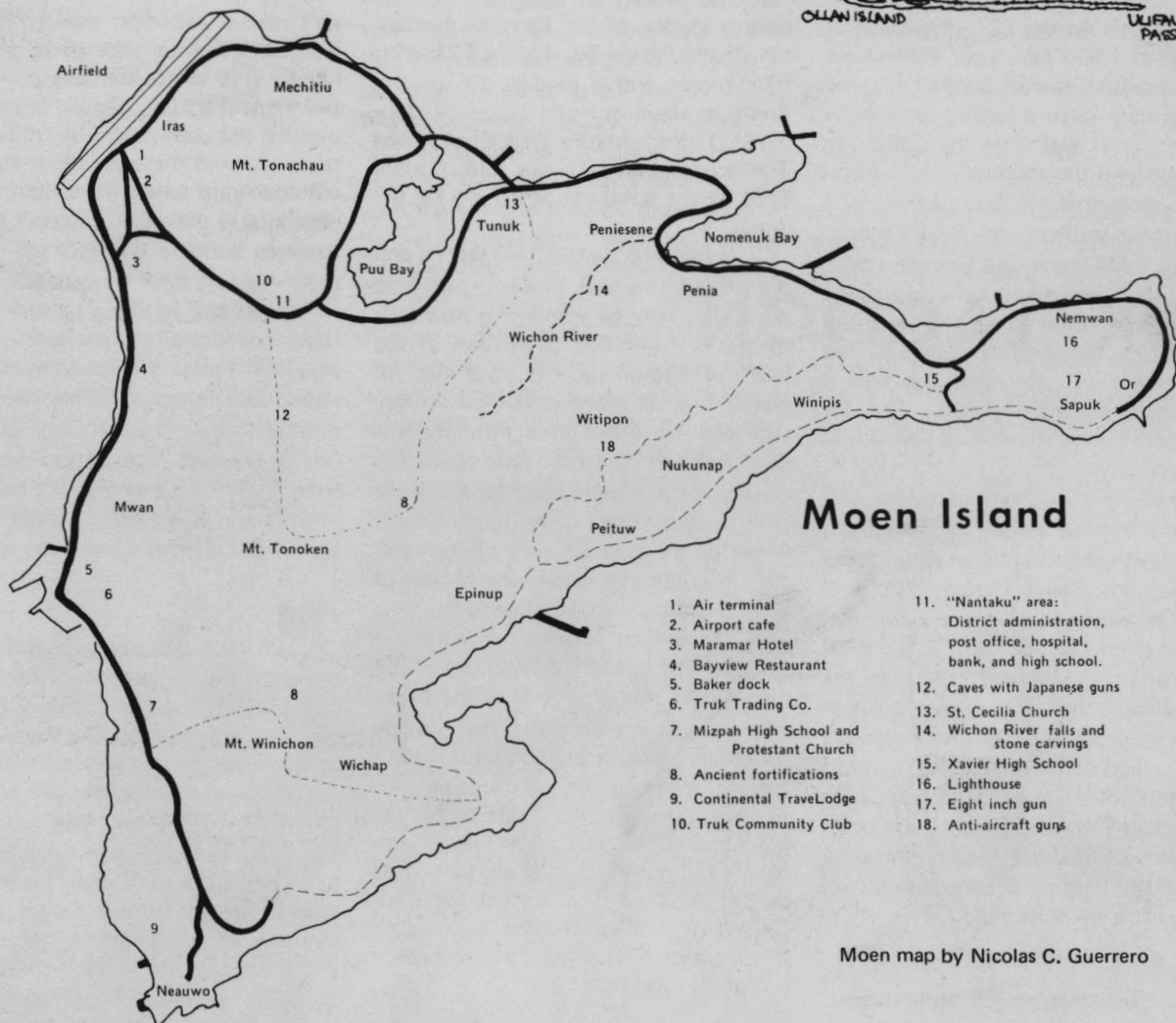
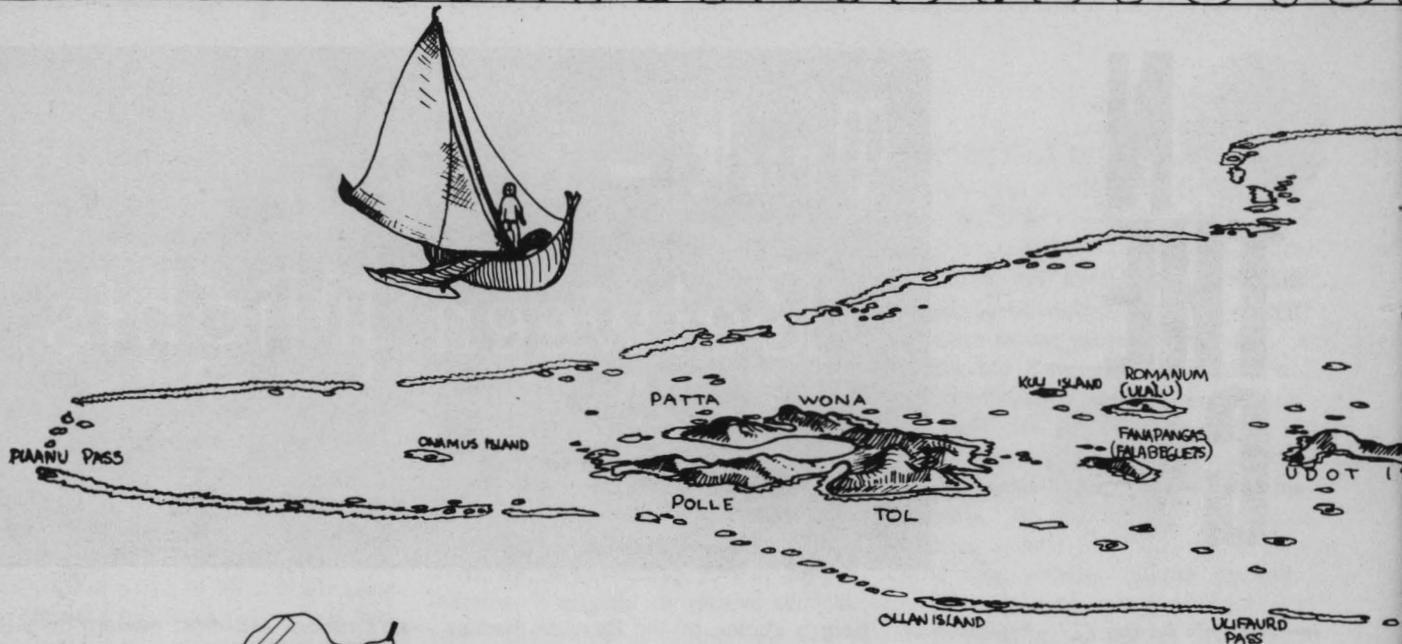
A pleasant exploratory walk is a fine way to become acquainted. You might start this after a taxi ride (most vehicles on the road will give you a ride for a small fee) to the "official Distad's house" where the driver can point out the general direction to hike to **(12)** the big gun and cave some 500 feet off the road. The gun is said to have been used by the Japanese to protect the western passage of the lagoon from the possibility of invasion. Its muzzle barely peeps out of the cave opening.

As you leave, proceed directly down the road past the radio towers and you will come out behind Microne-

sia's newest and most modern hospital. You can continue your stroll down the hill to **(11)** where the flag poles mark the Trust Territory Government buildings for the administration of Truk District. Behind these buildings stands an old courtyard where you might want to photograph the most fantastic Bank of America building you will ever find, a rusty quonset built by Japanese prisoners of war and hardly a picture of security. Tourism affairs are handled in the adjacent building displaying the Economic Development Office sign. Continuing on, a short up-hill walk will bring you to another pleasant panoramic view from **(10)** the Community Club where refreshment and food is served, usually late in the afternoons and evenings.

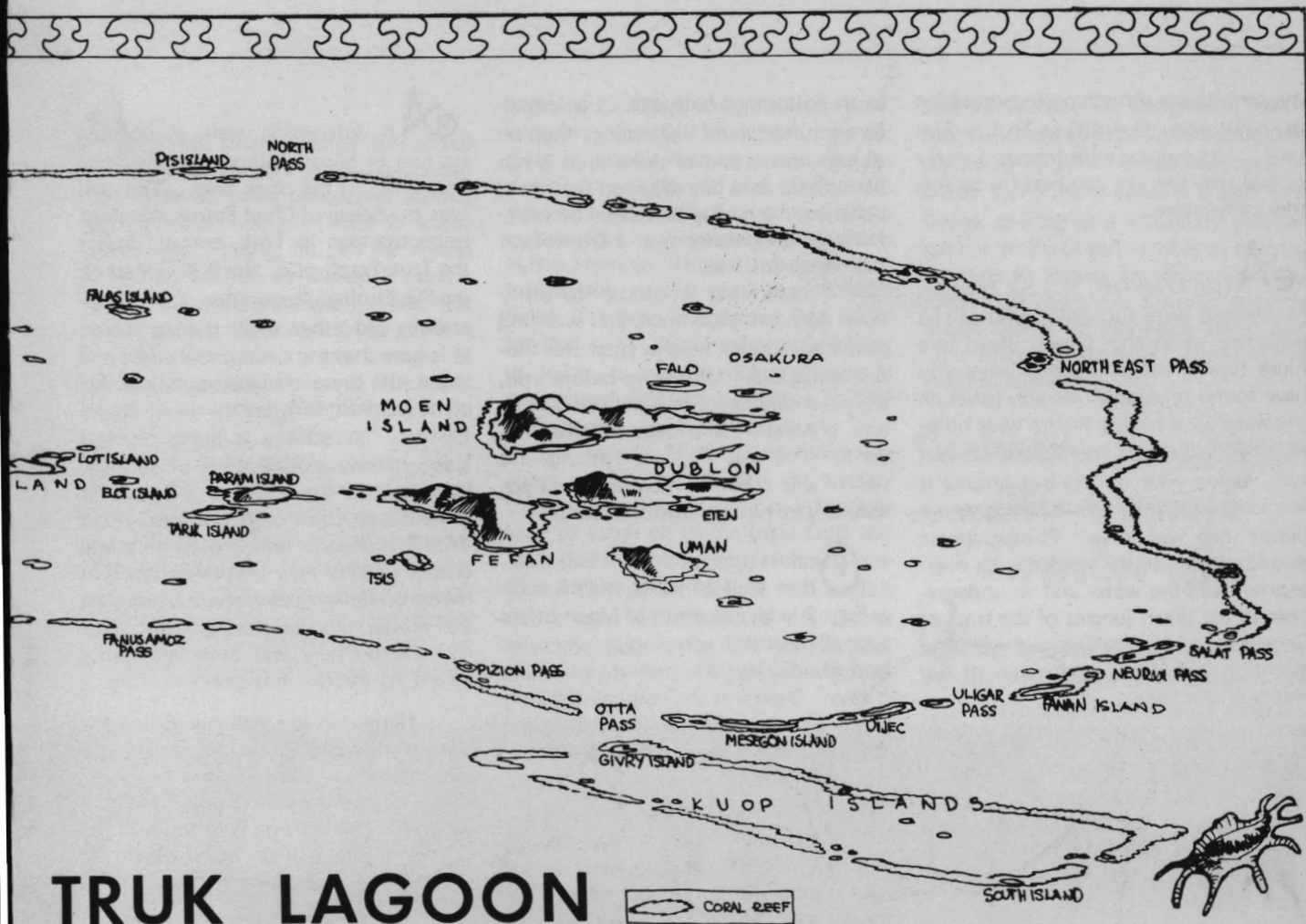
1f your real joy in traveling is in the people you meet, the people of Micronesia may become for you the most charming encounter in the Pacific. Your social contacts can be most rewarding if you relax, and speak and present yourself in a gentle manner. This is the island way. Your sincere interest in people will be respected; for it is here that material things have not become very important, and love of one's family, home island, and friends is held in the highest regard.

Being slightly more than 7 degrees north of the equator means that the tropical sun eases down on the west lagoon horizon about six every evening;



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Air terminal | 11. "Nantaku" area:
District administration,
post office, hospital,
bank, and high school. |
| 2. Airport cafe | 12. Caves with Japanese guns |
| 3. Maramar Hotel | 13. St. Cecilia Church |
| 4. Bayview Restaurant | 14. Wichon River falls and
stone carvings |
| 5. Baker dock | 15. Xavier High School |
| 6. Truk Trading Co. | 16. Lighthouse |
| 7. Mizpah High School and
Protestant Church | 17. Eight inch gun |
| 8. Ancient fortifications | 18. Anti-aircraft guns |
| 9. Continental Travelodge | |
| 10. Truk Community Club | |

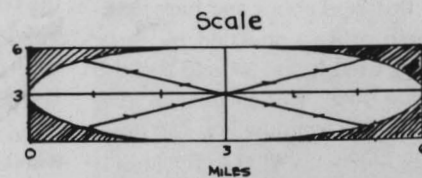
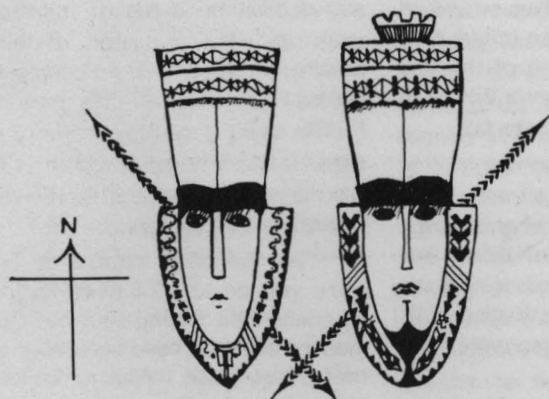
Moen map by Nicolas C. Guerrero



TRUK LAGOON

CORAL REEF

ADAPTED FROM A MAP PREPARED
BY THE U.S.G.S. US ARMY CHIEF
OF ENGINEERS



VERTICAL SCALE NOT EXAGGERATED.
VERTICAL ANGLE OF VIEW 13°

Lagoon drawing by Brian Daniels

the sunsets are something to behold for the newcomer. Nightlife in Truk is minimal . . . an evening with friends or early to bed may prepare you best for tomorrow's adventures.

After breakfast, if your boat arrangements were successful, you will be departing to another lagoon island to a more typical island life than what you have found on Moen. As you travel on the water, it is best to wear a wide brimmed hat to protect you from the bright sun. Bring your camera but protect it from salt spray and rain -- a strong secure plastic bag will serve. Photographers should allow for the tendency to overexpose near the water and to underexpose in the green jungles of the tropics. Generally, picture taking is a welcome attention but asking permission of the elders is courteous.

If you have indeed ventured to Dublon Island where Japan maintained one of its Pacific headquarters you will find yourself in the ruins of an era long gone. For it was from here that the whole of the Japanese navy was directed when they sought refuge in the Truk Lagoon. Imagine as you tramp to the drab old Japanese hospital ruins what it must have seemed like to have had trade stores, restaurants, and geisha houses along these paths you now walk. Before the war it was common for the officers' wives to be seen strolling in traditional kimonos and with umbrellas. As the Pacific war theater began to boil, the zeros fluttered about and high ranking Japanese officers shuttled by ferry between the Eten Island airfield and the main Dublon dock. But all this has long since ended, and even now you can nearly hear the jungle growing between rain showers as it continues to swallow-up the past which still lingers.

Depending on your aquatic ambitions this water wonderland offers outdoor water sports at its best. If SCUBA is your bag, you are about to blow your mind. It is here that the Costeau TV documentary was made in the summer of 1969 for later viewing by millions in the States. About 60 sunken ships clutter the lagoon bottom like so many toys

in an abandoned bath tub, . . . an adventure in underwater sightseeing. Caution though, disruption of these ships is not permitted. It is day-dreamed that these sights may someday be viewed by many from an underwater bus, a Disneyland submarine for real.

If snorkling is enough to satisfy your deep sea ambitions, you will find plenty to explore, here in your own life-size aquarium. Unfolding before you, will be a rainbow of tropical fish darting and playing hide-and-seek about the coral. You may even sight strange life which will convince you that you are indeed adrift in a prehistoric world.

Other trips to other islands such as Fano Island, just north of Moen offers a small peaceful community where island life displays the pleasure of taking it easy. Nearby is the uninhabited sand beach island of Osakura just about the size of a city block. It is the "New Yorker" cartoon come to life. These and other excursions can be arranged with your hotel or other travel people.

Land lovers can find some imposing climbs up the mountainsides on Moen. The highest peak (1400 feet) on Tol Island is only for the best. Always obtain a guide when hiking and never go it alone. If a tamer hike is the order, drive out to Sapuk Village on Moen and climb to the top of the Japanese lighthouse (17). From this bullet riddled monument you can survey the reef's edge and the Northeast Pass where all the big ships enter. An even milder hike can be made at the mouth of the Wichon River through Peniesene Village to (14) a small tucked-away waterfall.

For many, a vacation is a time to relax, to do nothing. You are in the land where just sitting under the mango tree is a worthwhile use of time. But consider yourself cautioned against sitting under a coconut tree loaded with nuts; the fall of the nut is soundless before impact.

The best beaches on Moen are found around (9) the Travelodge Hotel; ideal for those wishing to idle away time on a sand playland. But be careful of sunburn.

An interesting walk is possible starting in Mwan Village and heading north to (5) the dock area. You will pass the house of Chief Petrus, the most respected man in Truk, enroute to (6) the Truk Trading Co., the Public Market, the Piis Fishing Cooperative, Truk Cooperative, and other small trading stores. It is here that the commercial stress and strain of these developing islands become evident to even the most casual traveler. A society is being plunged through thousands of years of development within the space of a couple of generations. This waterfront area is now Truk's economic hub and its face will change quickly now that the wheel is in motion. Before many more years pass the master plan will become a reality and the tin here will diminish having served its interim function.

Herein lies the challenge facing the elected Micronesian leadership and the administration today: to make a future which will preserve the dignity of Micronesian life and yet deal with the realities of the 20th century world which is crowding the door step even now.

You may have the good fortune of knowing the past even better if, while you are touring the island, you happen to discover some outriggers that have arrived from Truk's Western Islands, from such far away islands as Puluwat or Pulusuk. You may see for yourself sea-going outriggers in which men can sail and do sail hundreds of miles on the open sea. The navigators of these ancient small ships need no compasses for indeed they still sail this part of the Pacific using only their memory of the stars. It is this breed of man that settled the many islands of the Pacific without recording it for history.

As the plane returns to Truk to carry you on to your next destination, you have the feeling that even in this modern day you have been able to pioneer a new place. Your air coach lifts off again under the watchful eye of the octopus, and Truk's magic is left behind; for now you are on your way westward to Guam or eastward to the friendly rain-garden of Ponape.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh

Saladak School:

a portrait
of progress

3	3	2	4
6	6	4	4
+3	+2	+6	+3
12	11	12	11

story and photographs by John Brewer

Saladak Elementary School, in Ponape's Uh Municipality, opened in September 1968, and for its 150 students a new era in primary education opened with it. Along with two other recently completed schools, Saladak represented in Uh the first fruits of a multifronted campaign to raise public education in Micronesia to a quality comparable to Stateside standards.

Had the 175 pupils which are attending Saladak this year been born only ten years earlier the picture would have been very different indeed.

IN 1960 THERE WAS ONLY ONE public school in all of Uh. This was the prewar Japanese school building at Nan Uh, more than an hour's walk for many children and inaccessible to the off-shore

islets of Mwand and Takaieu during the rough weather of the trade wind season. Those who came to school were crowded into two small classrooms, a tiny office-library and a native prayer house, where five teachers attempted to teach six grades. There were around 140 pupils.

"Sometimes," recalls Welter John, who taught for 13 years at Nan Uh, "there would be two of us trying to teach two classes in the same room." Even so, at the time, Nan Uh was one of the fortunate few schools to have more than two teachers.

School furniture consisted of the few surviving Japanese desks and stools. In the prayer house students sat on mats on a sand floor. There were few school supplies and no school lunch.

Formerly ending at noon, Nan Uh's school day was lengthened, in 1967, to morning and afternoon shifts, to accommodate 246 pupils, nearly double its 1960 enrollment in its same little rooms. Part of the increase in pupils had come from the addition of seventh and eighth grades, also in 1967.

IN 1970 THERE ARE FOUR PUBLIC schools in Uh: one for each off-shore islet, in addition to Nan Uh and Saladak Schools, which divide the eight grades among them. At Saladak's large and modern concrete block school each of the six grades has its own spacious room and its own teacher--the teacher student ratio is one to twenty-five. There is a well-maintained school office and library. A resident Peace Corps Volunteer conducts in-service training in all English

course material for Saladak teachers. The students are provided desks or other suitable writing surfaces, pencils, paper, simple art supplies and certain course workbooks.

Teachers and Curriculum

IN 1960 TEACHERS OFTEN KNEW little more of the subjects they were teaching than their students. A third grade diploma from the Japanese times and a smattering of teacher training in the district center of Kolonia were all that--and often more than--most Ponapean teachers could claim for credentials. Few could speak intelligible English, let alone teach it.

As for curriculum, "we just picked up the books that we had in the library and taught," said Welter. According to past Education Administrator Robert Halvorsen, many of the books sent out to schools at that time were "not chosen at appropriate interest levels." Such texts as *In Our California* can still be turned up in the back room at Nan Uh School.

IN 1970 MOST OF THE 16 TEACHERS on the public school staff in Uh are high school graduates. All speak intel-

ligible English, and six have been trained either at Micronesia Teacher Education Center or at Ponape Teacher Education Center. Beginning this year one substitute teacher has been designated for each of the four schools. This brings the total teaching force to 20, compared to five in 1960.

Accompanying the upgrading of teachers and curriculum there has been a new flexibility of organization. Saladak School students are now grouped in classes not according to age but rather according to their English proficiency. Control of certain English patterns is basic to the comprehension of all course material taught after second grade. (In the past, teachers often attempted to present course material using English patterns--correct and incorrect--which were hopelessly above their students' heads.) The new grouping procedure is giving students a better chance to progress at their own learning rates.

District Administration

IN 1960 THE EDUCATION OFFICE in Kolonia could give little more than moral support and a few pencils to schools in outlying areas. "We couldn't even afford a regular secretary," recalled

Klemente Materne, a Ponapean who became Superintendent of Elementary Schools in 1955.

IN 1970 THE SAME EDUCATION office provides a full assortment of school supplies, from typewriters to baseball gloves. It supervises the shipment of U.S.D.A. surplus rice and flour for hot lunch programs, and it cooperates with the Ponape Hospital to keep school first aid kits well stocked.

The increase in professional staff has been phenomenal. Now working under the District Director of Education, six activity heads, each with his own assistant or staff, are assigned to the development of: 1) elementary curriculum, 2) vocational education, 3) adult education, 4) scholarships and scholarships processing, 5) English language teaching and 6) teacher training. Working at the same organizational level are the Business Manager, the principals of Ponape and Kusaie High School, and the Superintendent of Elementary Schools with his newly trained staff of eight regional supervisors. Add to all this the attendant growth of clerical staff and it's easy to see how the administrative staff has grown from four members in 1960 to over forty today.



Recess provides a break for third graders to let off steam outside the classroom building. Most of the labor earnings during construction of the \$43,000 school went to local (Uh) members of the Metalanim Housing Cooperative which received AESCP contracts for twelve other new schools in Ponape District.

Inasmuch as the changes in public education have been similar--though not always as rapid--throughout the six districts of Micronesia, the story of Saladak in Ponape warrants a closer look.

The Early Sixties Building Boom

Answering criticism in the United Nations that the United States was not properly fulfilling the educational responsibilities of its trusteeship in the Pacific islands, President John F. Kennedy in 1962 pledged to raise educational standards in Micronesia to equal those of America. A large part of the subsequent increase in the Trust Territory's appropriation ceiling--from \$7.5 million to \$17.5 million during the first year--was earmarked exclusively for school construction. With the new funds the Trust Territory inaugurated the Accelerated Elementary School Construction Program (AЕСP).

Saladak School, completed in the summer of 1968, was the newest of Ponape District's 18 AESCP schools. Much of the wages from the labor slice of the school's \$43,000 construction cost went into the pockets of local members of



Many of Saladak's students stay after school to play, read books or to operate that constant source of fascination, the water fountain. Built on the side of one of Uh's coast-hugging foothills, the school lies within a half-hour's walking distance from most student's homes.



Palm branches, mangrove posts, coconut fiber twine, and the limitless energy of seventh and eighth grade boys combine to construct a new cookhouse at Nan Uh school. One of two surviving schools built by the Japanese, Nan Uh was designed for three grades. Before Saladak opened in 1968, Nan Uh was hosting eight grades.

Hungry, but not lean, third graders eagerly await the opening of the cookhouse which serves a hot lunch of U.S.D.A. rice and a flour-thickened mackerel soup. The cooks are paid by the Ponape District Legislature.



the Ponape-based Metalanim Housing Cooperative (MHC). By contracting the MHC, rather than an outside firm, to build 16 AESCP schools, the program's administrators preserved wage money within Ponape District's economy.

At Takaieu Islet, through the auspices of the Peace Corps' School Partnership Program, an attractive two-room stone and coral school was built during the winter and spring of the 1967-68 school year. The major Stateside sponsor, Milwaukee Institute of Technology, contributed \$1,000 toward construction costs. For their part, the residents of Takaieu and its twin islet of Debehk, contributed the labor. Two Peace Corps Volunteers designed the building and supervised its construction. Takaieu and Debehk children now attend first through fourth grades at this school. They then proceed to Saladak School, when they are old enough to paddle across the reef water to the main island.

During the same spring--1968--construction began on a two-room, corrugated iron school building to serve the twin islets of Mwand Peidi and Mwand Peidak. This was one of several such buildings now being financed through the Trust Territory Department of Edu-

cation, though not with AESCP funds. Mwand children now attend all eight grades on their islet, which is surrounded by some of the roughest reef water in Ponape. With a capacity of 60 pupils, the school will accommodate to Mwand's classroom needs during the foreseeable future.

Due partly to the increased accessibility of such schools in Ponape, elementary attendance has risen from about 60% in 1960 to over 90% in 1970.

In the past, school finance and construction had been considered to be a local responsibility. During the U.S. Navy administration the Ponapeans built, at the order of the municipal chief magistrates, a number of two-room, wood frame, thatch roof schools. At the time Ponape's five chief magistrates also held the supreme traditional title of *Nanmwarki*. Though only a handful of Ponapeans understood the purpose of the schools, "still they had to obey the *Nanmwarki's* orders," explained Leonard Santos, Superintendent of Elementary Schools from 1946 to 1955. Thus community support was nominal, and the position of the teacher, not part of the traditional social hierarchy, was given little respect.

For Ponape's Teachers, New Skills, and New Confidence

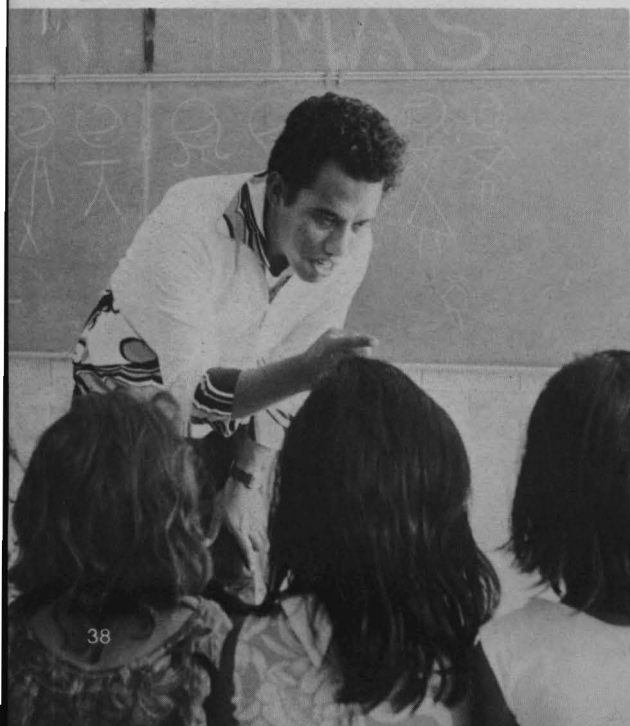
Neither were the financial rewards of teaching, early in the 60's, a source of motivation for Ponapeans. Teacher salaries came out of scant municipality revenues, which in turn were obtained from a poorly collected head tax. "Sometimes," Santos recalled, "three or four months would go by between pay days for teachers outside of Kolonia!"

Desperate for course material, teachers would frequently force rote learning of any sort upon their students. "A few pupils," continued Santos, "could recite the names of the 48 States, but none of them could find America on a world map."

Since the Trust Territory took over the payment of teacher salaries in 1964 the rates have been steadily rising. Today a teacher's salary is based on the Micronesia Pay and Title Plan, which, in turn, is based on training and experience. A first year teacher with no training, for instance, receives about \$1,250 a year, while a highly trained teacher with ten years experience receives about \$4,400

"I am fine, thank you," first graders repeat during an English lesson conducted by acting Saladak School Principal Ewalt Joseph. Before school year 1967, Ponape's grade school teachers were obliged to think up math and English lessons from one day to the next. In 1968, sets of graded texts and teachers' manuals became available in Saladak School, complete with pre-written lesson plans. A science series is next.

It's often wondered whether schools teach handwriting any more. Saladak does, and Miss Rekina Joseph helps her second graders develop a legible script.



a year. Thus, teachers are encouraged not only to stay on, but to attend such institutes as Ponape Teacher Education Center (PONTEC), a one year in-service program, or Micronesia Teacher Education Center (MTEC), a two year pre-service program. The teacher fattens his paycheck as he brings more teaching skills to his classroom. Twenty-six graduates of PONTEC and MTEC joined the Ponape teaching force in September, 1970. By graduation time in 1971, PONTEC and MTEC will have trained a total of more than 375 teachers from five districts.

All Ponape District teachers may attend the extensive summer teachers institute held annually on the campus of Ponape High School, near Kolonia. This institute offers methods courses in all areas of the curriculum, as well as a selection of background courses, taught by visiting lecturers, for the general scholastic enrichment of the teachers. Smaller groups of teachers have attended a separate summer program at MTEC. Some have attended Territory-wide departmental workshops held in other districts, while still others have been sent to Guam and Stateside colleges for advanced training in specialized education fields.

Enter PL-89-10, Head Start, and Peace Corps

By defining its domain as a poverty area, the Trust Territory administration was allowed to participate in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1964, Public Law 89-10.

Funds under Title I of PL89-10 were not specified for capital investment; PONTEC and the English department's materials, staff specialists and frequent workshops have been financed through Title I. Through Title II, schools like Saladak are receiving 300 to 400 new library books over a three year period.

During the last four years Project Head Start, part of the Office of Economic Opportunity, has operated six-week summer schools for preschool children throughout Ponape District. Uh Municipality has had three such programs, in which Micronesian teachers generally introduce the idea of school and the excitement of learning to the six-year-olds preparing to enroll in first grade. The program moves to different community sites each year.

Another boost has been the introduction, during the 1966-67 school year, of

some 450 Peace Corps Volunteers to Micronesia. Roughly half of these were teachers. By June, 1970, Peace Corps Volunteers had taught for at least one year in 40 of the 42 schools in Ponape District. Until recently there have been few teachers with professional experience among the Volunteers, but their willingness to live among the Ponapeans and their unprecedented—for Americans in Ponape—lingual and cultural preparation have generated appreciative receptions from their native hosts from the start.

Conforming to the official employment policy of the Trust Territory government, the Peace Corps is now seeking to phase out all its full time teachers, in favor of Volunteers with a pure training orientation, who will, as a Corps slogan says, "work themselves out of their jobs." In Kolonia the pace has been set: more than three-fourths of the education office staff is Micronesian, and the day of a Micronesian Director of Education is not far off.

Pragmatic Recognition from Changing Communities

The idea and the physical presence of schools have clearly become well recog-

Far away places with strange sounding names may be only a few hundred miles away for island young people. A geography class at Nan Uh School is guided around the globe by instructor Hilario Primo.



nized parts of contemporary life in Ponape. Considering the lack of any cultural precedents for institutional education, this represents an impressive step. Much of this recognition, admittedly, must be attributed to public appeals apart from the love of learning. No one will deny, for example that the school lunch program, with its free rice and flour, constituted a veritable revolution in elementary school attendance. And, outside of the district center, teaching is still one of the few occupations drawing substantial government paychecks to rural areas where the dollar is dear. However, two deeper factors promise ever widening community support for schools in the future.

In Uh Municipality, first of all, community-wide ventures -- a cooperative store, a credit union, a handicraft cooperative, rice projects and short term contract construction groups--and generally increased commerce with Kolonia, the district center, have been gently loosening the iron grip of the family upon all of its members, including the children. This has been a boon to regularity of attendance at school.

Second, schooling of some sort is now--with very few exceptions--the uni-

versal prerequisite for jobs with Trust Territory departments. In addition to this there is a growing demand for skilled and educated manpower from the private sector of the economy.

These developments have encouraged parents to forgo the free farm and household labor of their children--or at least part of it--in order to realize more substantial contributions to the family's welfare after the children have, through education, enhanced their value in the labor market.

Perhaps understandably, the immigrant settlements from the district's outer islands of Mokil and Pingelap have demonstrated the strongest support for schooling. With populations now too large for continued subsistence on their home atolls, these settlers have no land in Ponape to fall back on. They must survive by their wits. They cannot afford to disregard free public education for their children.

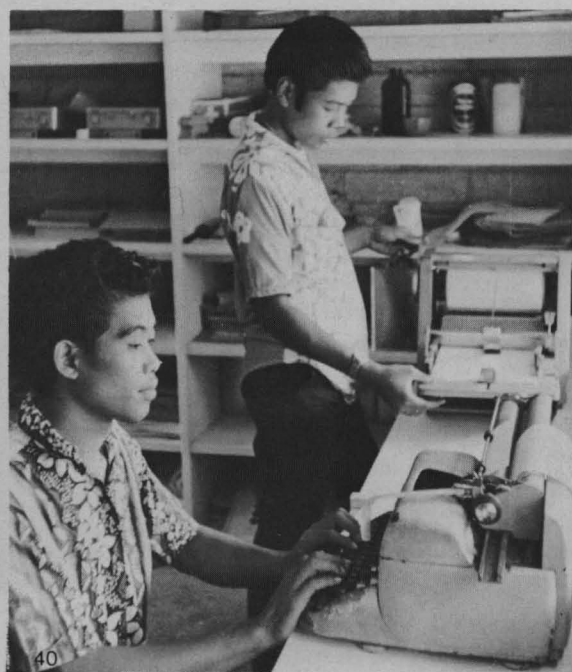
Prospects for Tomorrow

While at present it may be deceptive to cite Saladak School and Uh Municipality as typical of Ponape, it can be argued that the forces of modernization acting upon them are also at work throughout the island. The central services and teacher training programs of the education office are available to all public schools and operative in most of them.

Still, it cannot be denied that Saladak School is still a sort of foreign presence amidst the Ponapean forest of palm and breadfruit trees. The school does not yet enjoy the spontaneous community support which President Kennedy must have hoped it would.

But Ponapeans, like all Micronesians, are experiencing a breath-taking suspense as they try to anticipate what the future will bring to their lives. They are becoming more and more conscious of the modern needs of their society. It can be reasonably hoped that they can soon formulate their own educational ideals and direct their own education system completely. In that day Saladak School will fulfill its abundant potential as a truly Ponapean public servant.

A pair of teachers, Tim Donre and Erlinso Alex, prepare for tomorrow's class.



From the Micronesian Teachers Education Center (MTEC), Elsa Thomas, a traveling instructor, conducts a methods course for a small group of Saladak's teacher trainees.



DISTRICT DIGEST

a quarterly review of news and events from the six districts

Palau

Once again Palau District was host to several groups of Indonesian nationals who had been lost at sea. The first group, according to the survivors' own story, totaled 22 members, but nine perished from starvation and other causes. The survivors, including women and children, were rescued by a Japanese fishing boat which brought them to Koror. The second group of shipwrecked Indonesians departed from Morotai in two sailboats, one leaving early in June and the other a month later. Their small vessels were hit by a violent storm and the Indonesians were left stranded on the two Southwest Islands of Merir and Pulo Anna. Eventually they were picked up by the field trip ship M/V Ran Annim and brought to Koror. In August they were repatriated. ..The Seabee's Civic Action Team became the subject of a film documentary made by a U.S. Navy filming crew. Many local leaders assisted in the program and were commended by the group for their cooperation. ..The quarter also was notable for the efforts being taken toward eradication of the Rhinoceros beetle. Ngerchong Island, located south of Koror is one of the islands suffering from severe coconut beetle damage. Small and suitably isolated to serve the purpose of the experiment, Ngerchong Island has been set aside for a special experiment on the rate of spread of the beneficial coconut beetle virus. Six bags of sawdust containing the virus were placed on the island and are continually being propagated for experimental purposes and possible introduction to other areas. ..The Palau Community Action Agency hosted the first Micronesia Community Action director's conference (MCADO) during the quar-

ter. The conference centered its discussion primarily on financial assistance and technical assistance that the agencies could provide to Micronesian communities. ..The Congress of Micronesia elections became the predominant topic of the quarter, not only among politicians but the general public as well. Election campaigning began in low key and built up to such an emotional tension that on election day and for many days afterwards great personal and group bitterness was observed lingering among the two parties' proponents. The Liberal Party, according to final results, appeared to have won all the contested seats, although the Progressive Party continued claiming grave irregularities in the conduct of the election. If the results stand, Congress will see incumbent Representative Roman Tmetuchl in the Senate seat vacated by Sen. David Ramarui who resigned; Timothy Olkeriil will replace Tmetuchl; recently elected Rep. Tarkong Pedro will retain his seat, and as the result of an extremely close race with about a dozen votes difference, George Ngirarsaol will replace Rep. Polycarp Basilius. ..Also during the quarter just past, the Palau Legislature held its Fall session in which a resolution was adopted endorsing the four basic principles proposed by the Congress Political Status Delegation. The resolution also endorsed the status of "free association" with the U.S. as proposed by the Delegation. ..Finally, toward the end of the quarter, this district celebrated UN Day and the Palau Annual Fair in a three-day festival. Rear Admiral Paul E. Pugh, Commander Naval Forces, Marianas, and the U.S. Navy Band from Guam were the special invited guests for the occasion.

Yap

The bridge linking Colonia town and Rull Municipality was finally dedicated and opened for public use in September. The structure, which has come and gone over the years as the result of heavy seas and typhoons, has been renamed "Ganir Bridge"--meaning shortcut or convenient in Yapese. ..During the same month, ground was broken for the new Yap High School. ..Two upper-level promotions have been made: Hilary Tacheliol, former vice principal of the Outer Islands High School became DistAd Rep for Ulithi, and Fran Defngin, the DistAd's former special assistant was named to the post of district Political Affairs Officer. ..Two district staff members went abroad for training: Joseph Ganbay, district Agriculture Agent, underwent meat inspection and quarantine training in Los Angeles and Honolulu, while district Agriculturist Edward T. Dela Cruz spent some time at the East-West Center taking part in the second International Root Crops symposium. ..Educators from all parts of the Territory traveled to Yap to devote their time and expertise in a math-science workshop. ..The Territory's TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) workshop took place on Ulithi again with participants from other districts. ..The new Bank of Hawaii building is ready and waiting for the arrival of equipment so that the district can begin doing business in its first non-stone-money bank. The incoming resident manager of the bank arrived in October to make preparations for the grand opening later in the year. ..With no opposition in the elections for seats to the Congress of Micronesia, Yap's incumbent senator and two representatives will return to Congress for its January

session. .. And the 13 men of the U.S. Navy Civic Action Team assigned to Yap for nine months departed on Oct. 16th. The group, headed by Lt. Miles left in the afternoon on a Navy plane after local leaders and friends bid them farewell. The sendoff was highlighted by dancing performed by students of the Catholic Mission school. A replacement Seabee team, headed by Lt. Weber, arrived on the island a few days before Lt. Miles and his men left Yap.

Marshall

The district is on its way to meeting the challenge of its title "Eastern Gateway to Micronesia." Some construction of government and private facilities already is completed, much more is underway and there are countless plans for future construction activities. Many people say that they can see little Majuro is squeezing itself into a prominent place in the world. The new airstrip has seen its first signs of birth with establishment of a temporary housing site for workers. Construction of the new broadcast station and the new communications facility is underway. One of the government's two 8-unit apartment buildings is now occupied. Majuro's new first-class hotel, the Eastern Gateway Hotel near the present airport is getting ready for its grand opening in December. ..The Army's Civic Action Team completed its work on the road to Laura and on the projects at Arno Atoll. They also completed assisting students and teachers in building the new gym in time to hold the volleyball and basketball tournaments during the 25th UN Day celebration. ..People in the news include John Heine, former teacher and preacher in Rongrong and Laura church schools, who has become principal of Marshall Islands High School; Walter "Murph" Ownbey who added the position of DistAd Rep Ebeye to his job as Liaison Officer for Kwajalein; Kinja Andrike who has been appointed District Director of Education, and two former Peace Corps Volunteers, Lewis Glenn (now DistAd Rep Bikini) and Jeneese Hilton who compromised the awesome reputation of Bikini by being married one evening at sunset on the peaceful shores of the lagoon. ..Among

the many visitors to the Marshalls was an influenza epidemic which affected from seventy to eighty percent of the population. The flu was serious enough to cause several deaths. ..The community was saddened by the passing away of Rev. Bourn Heine, one of the Marshalls most respected citizens. He died from a lingering illness at the age of 61. ..Negotiations are continuing over the use of Kwajalein Atoll for missile tests. Army officials and Marshallese leaders are aiming for an agreement before the end of the year. ..Only one seat in the Congressional elections was contested this year. Incumbent Representative Charles Domnick, by a wide majority, defeated District Legislator Hemos Jack who automatically lost his seat in the Nitijela by vying for the Congress of Micronesia post. ..A funny thing happened on the way home from the UN Day celebrations. It was learned that nobody was keeping score during the sports events and as a result no one really knows either the scores of the games or just exactly who won.

Ponape

All residents of Ponape were happy and relieved when District Administrator J. Boyd Mackenzie returned from the Stanford Medical Clinic in Palo Alto, California, with his doctor's permission to return to his duties as District Administrator, as of November 12. The timing was great as Acting DistAd Ed Gilmar had to leave the following Monday for the Executive Conference in Washington, D.C., along with Dr. Etieul Pretrick from Hospital Services and Jacob Nena, Kusaie Political Affairs from this district. ..The radio station has moved to a new, quiet and lonely location, the old Page Communications site, about two or three miles out of town. The site was dedicated in late November. ..Almost all the Mokilese residents in Kolonia and Sokehs chartered the M/V Kaselehla to travel to Mokil atoll for a very special occasion, the Jubilee anniversary of the coming of Christianity. ..The second Civic Action Team completed two 10,000 gallon water catchments on Kapingamarangi atoll, funded by the Public Health Department. After they were finished, the

island went without rain for five months, and for the first time in this district a ship was requested to transport water to an island. ..The Second Ponape Legislature, Sixth Regular Session, met in October and November. Out of the 71 bills deliberated upon, only 10 passed, and 17 resolutions were adopted out of 29 introduced. Major legislation included a Housing Authority bill and amendments to the District Legislature Charter. Three delegates came from the Truk Legislature and four from the Marshalls Nitijela to observe the Ponape legislature. ..U.N. Day was celebrated here for three consecutive days, with teams from four representative districts competing in water, track and field events. . . district 14 (Metalanim, Kitti) captured the flag for the water events, district 11 (Kusaie, Pingelap) captured the flag for track and field events. . . Independent baseball teams clashed together in a series of games, the championship was played between the Islanders and Apollo 11, and the Islanders walked away with the flag. ..The Ponape CAA is co-ordinating three programs: furniture making, women's training program, and Head Start located in Satawan, Roi and Ohwa. ..Anpein Women's Association displayed pants, shirts, pillow cases, etc., after summer sewing training at PATS. ..This district received one fire truck sent by the Army at Kwajalein. ..Policemen received new uniforms with a stripe on the pants that make it easy to identify police among big crowds.

Truk

The new Civic Action Team arrived on Moen during the middle of September to continue on with projects already started by the previous Seabee group. More municipal requests are coming in asking for help in building docks, tidal gates, water catchment systems and toilets for schools. All requests are being reviewed by the district's Civic Action Coordination Committee. ..The 1970 magistrate's conference, running for three weeks beginning Sept. 22, included a week-long workshop for training magistrates in their responsibilities and reviewing policies and procedures in municipal administration. During the last week, magistrates discussed local

problems with district department heads and on the last day a total of 40 resolutions were adopted. ..The administrative field trip swung to the Mortlocks with Deputy DistAd Mitaro Danis and Legislature Vice-Speaker Frank Nifon officially announcing the establishment of a sub-district center at Satawan. All the islands in the Lower-Mortlocks were represented at the ceremonies. ..New developments are sprouting in Moen: Ray Setik's hotel and supermarket, a two-story building nearing completion, is planning an open house Jan. 1, while Kristy Killion's hotel is about one-third complete. The new Continental Travelodge began accepting guests late in November. ..Construction of the new post office is underway. The contract was awarded to Truk Construction & Supply Co., a locally owned firm. ..An electrical project supervisor arrived in Truk in October to commence installation of powerlines through Mwan Village. Work is expected to be completed in six weeks. ..Construction of the circumferential road on Moen will be resumed soon. ..Negotiations are underway on a contract to install a new pipeline connecting the two water tanks in the Nantaku district center area. This will allow use of the new water tank and will relieve water pressure problems at the new hospital and at Truk High School. ..The Moen Municipal Council and the Administration are meeting to work out preliminary plans for the road project from the dock area to Sapuk. ..The untimely death of Brother Cypriano Moses, S.J., brings a great loss to the Jesuit community in the vicariate. ..Twenty young men from the outer islands received certificates upon completion of vocational training under PCV Marvin Kretchmer, who had extended his contract for an additional year to head the training. Each trainee also received an award of \$100 in cash as provided by a Truk District Legislature resolution. Kretchmer received letters of commendation from the Speaker and District Administrator for his outstanding contribution to the training program. ..The elections for Congress resulted in the return of all incumbents. Only Representative Hans Williander faced opposition but he won handily.

Marianas & Hdqrs.

The election to the Congress of Micronesia highlighted Marianas activities this quarter. The Popular Party swept the election and as a result there will be one new senator and three new representatives from this district when the Fourth Congress convenes in January. Elected senator was attorney Edward D.L.G. Pangelinan. New representatives are Felipe Atalig, Carlos Shoda and Herman Q. Guerrero. As in the States, the local election saw a last minute surge of campaigning by television. ..The quarter saw the visit of WW II heroes of the B-29 assault group who flew from the Marianas to Japan to deliver the final punch against Japan, leading to a quick ending to the last war. Their visit here marked the 25th anniversary of their wartime operations. ..District Administrator Frank Ada has received the U.S. State Department Leader Grant which will enable him to make a month-long tour of study and observation in the U.S. mainland and island territories. ..The appointment of Felipe Ruak as Land Commissioner for the Marianas District was formalized. At about the same time, the Land Registration Team presented another 60 certificates of land ownership to residents of Tinian. ..A new Community Health Services Center was erected and dedicated during the quarter. And the Marianas Health Services department, in another action, labeled some Saipan beach areas as being polluted, placing warning signs to caution swimmers. ..The Air Force Civic Action Team completed its work on the Pagan airstrip and dispensary. Pagan, touted as a first-class tourist destination area, now is available for use by light aircraft. ..In other tourism news, a group of Ja-

pan Airlines representatives visited Saipan to make preliminary plans for air service from Tokyo. While the airline has authority to land any time after January 1st, there was no indication that air service to Japan was destined for the near future. ..At TT Headquarters, the High Commissioner approved 18 of 25 acts of Congress. He returned seven bills with his reasons for not approving them and with suggestions for reworking the measures at the next session of Congress. The principle measure not approved was the income tax bill which was sent back with a letter urging Congress, at its next session, to adopt a more simple approach to the tax rates, to the method of administration and cost of enforcement.

..Two delegations attended big events in Fiji. The South Pacific Commission meetings were attended by Marianas Senator Francisco Palacios, Deputy Hi-Com Peter Coleman, Executive Officer Leo Falcam and Deputy Director of Resources and Development Eusebio Rechucher. Later, the High Commissioner and Mrs. Johnston, along with Senator and Mrs. Lazarus Salii, and Special Consultant Dwight Heine, took part in Fiji's independence celebrations. ..Joining the TT during the quarter was John C. Dorrance, a State Department Political Advisor, who will serve as his department's liaison with the Trust Territory. ..Judge Harold Burnett was appointed Chief Justice to replace Judge Robert K. Shoecraft who resigned to enter private law practice on Guam. Arvin H. Brown, a former Southern California attorney, will assume an Associate Justice bench.

..Another important step in the history of communications took place late in September when the High Commissioner picked up his telephone and dialed Truk. In late November direct telephone communication was firmly established with Ponape and by the end of the year, Majuro was expected to be linked to the system. A group of Truk officials was on hand when DistAd Juan Sablan answered the first call from Saipan. Everyone joined in the conversation and when it was over, at least one participant said that even though it had happened, it still didn't seem possible that Saipan was only a fingertip away.

District correspondents:

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

A Golden Anniversary

In early November an attractive young lady from Saipan stepped from the 727 Jet at Ponape Airport and visited with some friends at the terminal. She was training as a stewardess for Air Micronesia. When an elderly Spanish gentleman heard that the young lady was a Saipanese, he hurried over to speak with her. The reason is simple. Saipanese are very important persons with him. He lived with them for over twenty five years when the young stewardess' grandfather was a young man. The same gentleman readily accepted an invitation to visit Ponape Agriculture and Trade School about a week later to meet with the Yapese students there. Yapese, too, are very important persons. He worked there for over twenty-two years.

Since October 31, this year, this same seventy-seven year old Jesuit, Brother Gregorio Oroquieta, has been adding a touch of refinement to the Catholic Mission in Kolonia, Ponape. He has now been assigned to Ponape not to retire but to be nurse, companion, and general care-taker of his aging compatriot, Brother Paulino Cobo who has been part of the Ponape scenery for fifty years. Gregorio Oroquieta is the same Jesuit Brother who, with other missionaries, was caught in no man's land between Japanese and American guns during the battle for Saipan. Tourists who photograph the bell tower of the Garapan Catholic Church may wonder what it was like before bombs destroyed all but the tower. They should ask Brother Gregorio. He is the one who supervised its construction. Now, many years later, he is taking care of the Church in Kolonia, Ponape, as well as binding wounds and distributing aspirin to the boarders of the Mission School there.

Brother Oroquieta was twenty-seven when he arrived on Saipan in 1921. Ten years before that he left his home

in Ibero, Navarre, to enter the Society of Jesus. He worked in Saipan, Tinian and Rota for a quarter of a century . . . until 1947, when he spent about eight months studying English with the Jesuit Novices at Florissant, Missouri. The Second World War had decimated the Spanish-born Catholic Mission staff in Micronesia. The American Jesuits were asked to take over. But they already had a heavy burden of reconstruction in the war-torn Philippines when they assumed the responsibility for the Church in Micronesia. For these and other reasons, it was agreed that the Jesuits should no longer be responsible for the Marianas. The Capuchin Fathers moved in and the Jesuits moved out. That was the end of Brother Gregorio's stay in Saipan. In 1948 he found himself in Yap where he supervised construction and maintenance and the running of the Jesuit Residence there. Yap was his home for nearly another quarter century . . . until he arrived in Ponape on October 31, 1970.

Seventy seven years have not dulled a keen memory for details of the past. He remembers the exact dates of his departure from Spain in 1920 and his arrival in Saipan precisely three months later. He recalls with satisfaction the members of his altar boys' society in Garapan. He knows very well who was in charge of the construction of the Church there, but when asked, he evasively answers that the people of Saipan donated their labor. He tells of the first American troops he and Father Tardio met. There was the one who continued firing his rifle while at the same time calling to them to run for cover behind him. He has good reason to remember the one who gave him his C-Rations that day. One Spanish speaking American soldier who interpreted for him remains in his memory. He speaks with warmth of many of the Japanese

especially the friend who defended the missionaries from the war-time xenophobia of the Japanese military. He chuckles when reminded of the day he tricked a new-comer into going with him to the Yap Bank (a stone money area) to exchange his United States currency for Yapese.

That quiet chuckle is one of his identifying marks. It is the expression of a peaceful and wise heart which refuses to grow old. It is his response to the nostalgia for the good old days among the senior citizens of Yap and Saipan who complain about the young people of today. *Their* fathers and grandfathers shook their heads as *they* recalled the good times. A young man asked Brother Gregorio recently if he had any problems. Another chuckle. Old men don't have problems when they have had and still have as their only aim in life to serve their fellow men and their Lord without fanfare to the best of their ability. They don't need anything for themselves and they really cannot give any better service than the best they have.

Brother Gregorio is fascinated by words. Those who know him are used to his habit of bringing up Chamorro, Yapese, and Japanese equivalents to any Ponapean word that comes up in conversation. Some are amused by some of his dubious etymological offerings. One day philologists may discover a word common to Saipan, Yap, and Ponape which could well have the same meaning all over Micronesia. That word is *Oroquieta*. Its roots are obviously Latin but the scholars will puzzle over how it came to be defined as "fifty years of love and dedicated hard work for the people of Micronesia." On March 3, 1971 Brother Gregorio Oroquieta will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his arrival on the peaceful shores of Saipan.

—Fr. William McGarry, SJ

Back Cover

Brother

Gregorio Oroquieta

during

a quiet moment

in Yap

