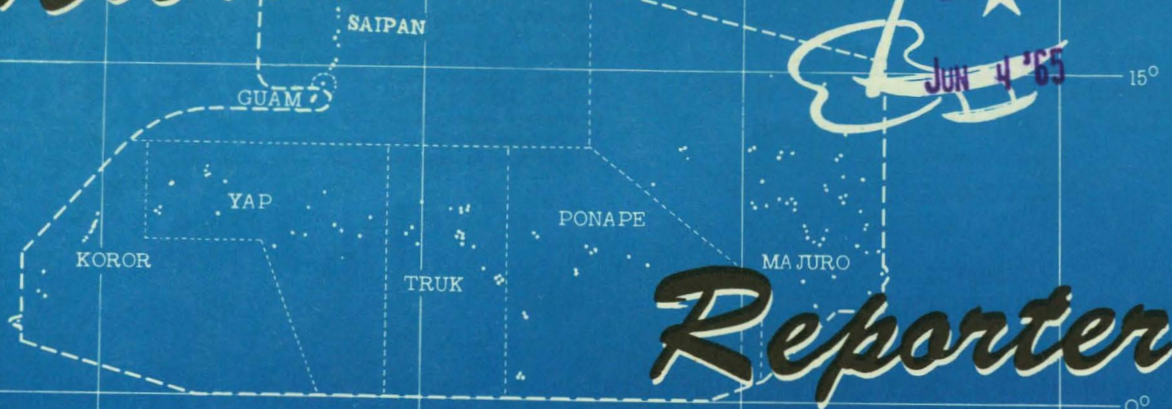


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— COVER PHOTO —

Metalanim plantation owner Frederick Helgenberger, left, was one of 48 participants in the Pacific Coconut Culture Interchange program held at the Metalanim Farm Institute. He and his family operate a 60 acre coconut plantation in Metalanim Municipality, Ponape. With his present stand of about 4,800 trees he is able to produce approximately 48 short tons of copra each year. During his participation in the Interchange he took part in the free flow of information regarding all aspects of copra production.
(Photo by HQ PIO)

— THIS ISSUE —

One hundred years ago Adolph Capelle began the first formal copra business on Ebon in the Marshall Islands. Since that start in 1864 copra production has known both highs and lows in tonnage shipped, good years and lean years, new techniques and incentive programs, and ever changing markets. Today copra continues to be the number one cash crop for independent producers in Micronesia. On this one-hundredth anniversary of the copra industry in the Trust Territory this issue of the REPORTER carries several articles directly related to the coconut industry.

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METALANIM: SCENE OF 1964 PACIFIC COCONUT CULTURE INTERCHANGE



"... human life in the Pacific world would be intolerable if there were no coconut palms. On the atolls it would be impossible ..."

There are two sides to every story and the coconut palm is no exception. To most Europeans and Americans the graceful arch of the coconut palm conjures an immediate mental picture of a tropical paradise complete with lovely island maidens, crystal waters, and golden beaches.

Turn the coin around and to the people that actually live on the tropical islands the same lofty green-crowned giants could well be considered the most essential tree in their daily lives.

Coconut trees provide nuts for food, drink and oil; the fronds are woven into baskets, hats, and thatch for roof and wall; dried leaves are used for torches and leaflet-sticks are bundled into brooms; dried husks become strong ropes; coconut shells are cups, bowls and water containers; young leaves are used for dance ornaments and for decorative purposes.

This versatile palm has become even more important to the islands in the modern world of a money economy. The dried coconut meat, or copra, is sold on world markets for oil, copra meal and soap processing. The coconut has reached maturity and has become one of the leading cash income crops in many Pacific islands.

This is especially true in Micronesia where the Fiscal Year 1964 production of copra topped 13,000

tons representing a dollar value of more than two and a quarter million.

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands does not stand alone as a producer of copra. Before World War II the South Pacific Islands produced 100,000 to 150,000 tons each year and this represents only a small portion of the entire world production of copra.

Problems and progress in the development of a successful coconut industry are areas of interest common to all Pacific Islands actively producing copra as a money crop. Joint efforts at many levels has brought new information in ways to increase yields of coconuts palms, methods of processing the copra, ways to better fertilize young trees, and how to effectively combat injurious insects and diseases found in the coconut trees. This information has long been exchanged freely within the Pacific Basin through seminars and symposiums.

In early 1964 the Vice Chancellor of the East-West Center, Y. Baron Goto, toured the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands with the Congressional Visiting Mission. Upon completion of his tour he returned to Honolulu where he began development of a program to establish a Field Training Center for Coconut Culture to be held at the Trust Territory

(Continued on page 2)

Farm Institute, Metalanim, Ponape. The goal of the program was to offer an opportunity for the free interchange of information by Micronesians from different districts and islands to meet together and share their knowledge and skills in coconut production and processing.

Three resource persons—Dr. Horace Clay, Dr. Jacques Barrau and Mr. K. Newton—were to be provided by the Institute for Technical Interchange.

Sixteen papers were scheduled to be presented as well as short reports on the coconut culture and copra production methods as practiced in the various Districts of the Trust Territory. Fourteen Micronesian participants representing all Districts of the Trust Territory, as well as an additional 25 Farm Institute students on hand as observers, took part in the Interchange in Ponape July 5 through July 25.

The term "Interchange" has been adopted by the East-West Center as a new technique of training and teaching and provides each participant an opportunity to serve as a teacher and to share skills and knowledge. He is at the same time a student in that if he finds something new and useful he can adapt that knowledge to his own island or area.

Nearly half of the Coconut Interchange program training time was used in this manner. The final half of the program served as additional "Interchange" as coconut culture experts from the East-West Center and District Agriculturists presented new material or new ideas.

Final planning for the Pacific Coconut Interchange came to a close on July 6 as the program opened at Metalanim. Dr. Horace Clay, Program Director for the Institute for Technical Interchange, East-West Center, Honolulu, was in charge of the program while Mrs. Fanie Lee Kai served as Administrative Assistant. Resource persons included Mr. John Hellesoe, senior agricultural officer of the Department of Agriculture, Apia, Western Samoa, and Mr. Tomasi Simiki, Acting Director of Agriculture, Tonga. Additional resource persons were drawn from the Agricultural staff of the Trust Territory Government.

The Interchange met every day for six and one-half hours with papers presented by the Micronesian participants from each District. Each of the men provided a verbal review of his material and then provided a copy of that material to each member of the Interchange.

A wide range of topics were covered in the papers which were presented and included: coconut

(Continued on page 3)



AT METALANIM . . . On several occasions participants of the Coconut Culture Interchange broke into several small discussion groups. A group leader was selected and a recorder. After one hour of discussion the groups

reformed into a single group and talked again on the subjects covered. Several attendees called this the best feature of the Interchange.

varieties, field culture, disease problems, fertilization, pest control, extension work, mechanization, subsidy programs, copra production, and planting programs.

Questions were encouraged from the participating members and many lively discussions emerged particularly upon discussion of the Yapese method of planting coconut seedlings.

Several reports which were prepared after the Interchange came to a close, voiced the opinion that small group discussions which were carried out in the later stages of the program provided even better Interchange opportunities than the large gatherings. Participants were divided into four groups on three different occasions with each group selecting a discussion leader and a recorder. After a one-hour session in the small group meetings the recorder presented the material to the entire assembly.

Heavy emphasis was placed on field demonstrations where subjects such as care of seedlings from one year old to bearing age, copra making, the Yapese method of seedling planting, seedling selection and nursery plantings were provided for all.

Several field excursions were carried out to observe local coconut plantings near the Metalanim Farm Institute. The trip of July 14 saw the entire group walking five miles to Lot Pah. Along the way they observed new plantings of the Kapingamarangi homesteaders, the Wapar plantings, Lot Pah and Lot Powhe plantings. While at Lot Powhe a coconut planting was seen which was set down

under the direction of W. V. D. Pieris in 1957. Mr. Pieris is now a Regional Coconut Specialist with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Other field trips took the group to Tolopai where the Nanmwarki of Metalanim had surface planted 260 Yapese seedling coconuts in 1959 and to a coconut plantation on the boundary of Uh and Metalanim plantation.

On July 21 District Administrator Robert Halverson presented 48 completion certificates to the Micronesians taking part in the Interchange Program.

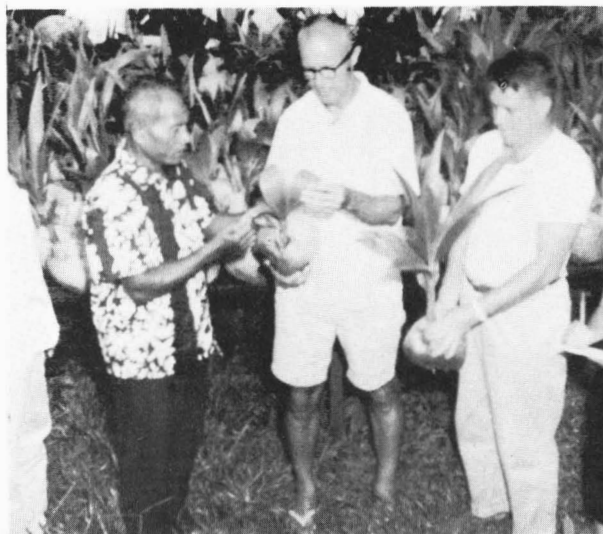
Comments received since the close of the program have been favorable and have included such statements as "most educational and informative" and "it was a success."

Additional benefits of the program are being realized by those in attendance since copies of all papers presented were distributed for personal use and reference. East-West Center officials are planning to publish a booklet incorporating this material for added distribution.

Final benefits of the program will ultimately be seen in the techniques and methods of copra production and planting of trees by the Micronesians who will receive additional income from the increased copra production and higher tree yields.



Dr. Horace Clay, Program Director, East-West Institute for Technical Interchange, discusses coconut culture with the Tonga Acting Director of Agriculture Mr. Tmasi Simiki. Mr. Simiki served as a resource person at the Coconut Interchange.



Mr. Gabriel Gilrou of Yap, Dr. Clay, and John Hellesoe of Apia, Western Samoa discuss the aspects of coconut seedling selection during the Interchange held at Metalanim Farm Institute in Ponape. Mr. Hellesoe also served as a resource person.

THE COCONUT IN MICRONESIA

by

Leo Miguar



A BRIEF
HISTORY

THE COCONUT IN MICRONESIA



The coconut palm is the most important tree crop in the daily lives of Micronesians for from it comes copra, the major cash export crop, and daily subsistence. If the palm were not present most of the atolls today would be uninhabited. The coconut palm is life and life is the coconut palm.

In some coconut producing countries the coconut palm is looked upon as "Tree of Heaven," "Tree of Life," "Tree of Abundance," or "Tree of Plenty." In Micronesia this reverence is usually held for the breadfruit and taro and not the coconut tree.

Coconut palms can truly be called the most universal plant that nature has ever provided. There is hardly any other plant in the tropics or temperate areas that has so many uses and can be used from the roots to the very tip of the leaves to make life more pleasant.

For centuries the coconut palm has given life to thousands of people on atolls and islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. These people have utilized the palm and its by-products to the fullest extent they know how.

At present, historians and scientists are uncertain as to the specific origin of the coconut palm. They generalize and say it originated somewhere between the West Indian Ocean and the Eastern Melanesian Islands. Fossil remains of coconuts have been unearthed in Auckland, New Zealand and India dating back millions of years. It is certain there are no wild forms of coconut palms and that the coconut palm has been domesticated for centuries.

The history of the coconut in Micronesia is the history of its people. It is assumed that the coconut was probably carried along with the westward migrations from Malaysia. The dispersal of the coconut to distant and scattered islands of the Pacific was nearly always aided by man though coconuts can and have been dispersed by wind and ocean current to nearby islands. Debates still rage today as to the actual method of coconut dispersal throughout the Pacific.

It is possible that coconut palms already existed in Micronesia before the arrival of man or it is possible the coconut palm was a fairly recent introduction.

There is a legend told by the Marshallese concerning the origin of the first coconut palm. The legend of "Debolar, The First Coconut" is told in this issue of the Micronesian Reporter.

Whether the coconut palm was already in the islands, whether it was brought along in the first migrations or whether it came in subsequent

migrations remains controversial. We can assume that coconuts were planted and cared for by the islanders and used for daily living and subsistence as the coconut palm is a poor competitor and will not survive in a natural jungle area. It must be tended by man to produce fruit.

Many people disagree with such a statement as they see coconuts growing on islands and atolls where no one lived and have been growing there for as long as anyone can remember.

Before European exploration and trading began islanders planted only enough coconuts for their own use for food, drink and thatch. After the first traders learned the value of coconut meat dried into copra they urged the islanders to harvest their coconuts and make copra. It was also urged that more plantings be made of coconut seedlings.

The first formal copra business enterprise opened in 1864 on Ebon in the Marshall Islands. It was a German firm under the management of Adolp Capelle. Later he established himself independently on Jaluit.

Capelle trained islanders in the proper methods of extracting and drying coconut meat and engaged them in planting new groves. It was Capelle who pioneered commercial coconut cultivation in the islands. In 1877 Capelle and his new partner deBrum bought Likiep Atoll for copra production and later extended their industry to Ujelang and Arno Atolls.

Godeffroy and Sons and the Hensheim Company, both German firms, sent their trading agents to set up branch stores in the various islands in the Marshalls, Ponape, Yap and Palau in the 1870s. About 1887 Capelle, Godeffroy and Sons and Hensheim Company consolidated their interests and formed the Jaluit Company. At the end of the 19th century the Marshalls were producing between three and four thousand tons of copra each year.

In another copra development, this time about 1872, His Majesty O'Keefe set up a trading station in Yap. He agreed to assist the Yapese in quarrying and transporting stone money from Palau to Yap and in turn the Yapese provided him with large amounts of copra and the sea slug "trepane," which O'Keefe sold in Hong Kong. Copra production in the Western Carolines reached the 1,000 ton mark in 1892.

Severe typhoons, serious drought, and the accidental introduction of a scale pest from the Philippines brought copra production down so low that in 1900 the Germans prohibited the export of copra.

Organized plantings of coconuts came about during the German administration. Before the actual German administration formally started in 1885 the Marshallese people were planting their islands with coconuts at the insistence of German traders.

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THE COCONUT-(Continued from page 5)

Those early German firms had obtained from the German government the special right of making contracts with the islanders of the Eastern Carolines for coconut cultivation over a period of 30 years beginning in 1901. According to the terms of the contract the company was to provide tools, nuts for seed, daily rations if necessary, and in return the islanders bound themselves to sell to the company all the copra required.

In Palau the German government encouraged the islanders to increase coconut plantings by adopting severe measures. Everyone had to be home for three days at the time of the full moon and take care of and plant coconuts. If the required number of coconuts were not planted, or seedlings cared for, the individuals in charge of the plantations were punished.

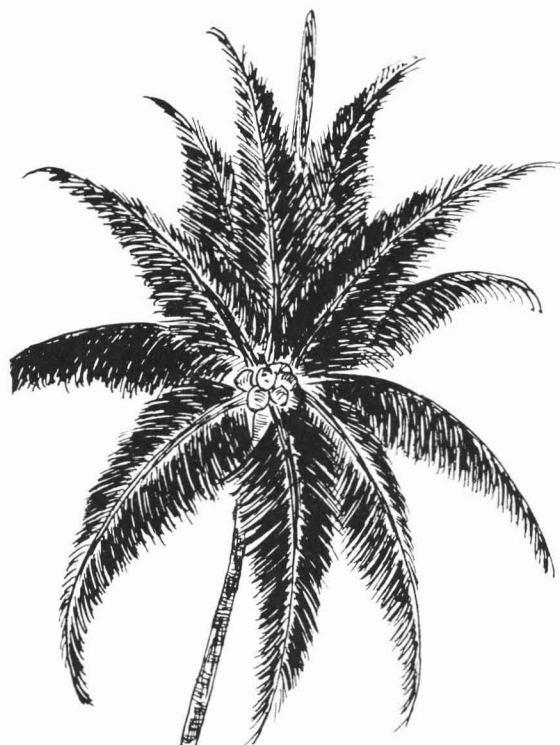
In 1904 Palau chieftains reported at a meeting called by the German administrator 32,000 coconut palms added to existing plantings in two years.

Severe laws were imposed and enforced in Ponape by the Germans requiring each adult male to plant ten coconuts each month. In Truk the German government in 1905 forced the islanders to increase coconut plantations to such an extent that three-fifths of the coconut palms standing in 1920 were planted after 1905.

The German government later instituted for the first time individual ownership of land to encourage and more easily enforce controlled coconut planting. In April 1913 a set of rules was established regulating coconut cultivation which set down specific instructions to be followed in the management of coconut plants, in the selection of seeds, the digging of holes for planting seedlings, spacing between trees, weeding and transplanting.

Copra production in the Eastern Carolines increased slowly and finally stabilized at an average 850 tons a year between 1900 and 1910.

After the First World War the Japanese added a new stimulus in the form of subsidies. The Japanese Mandate Code carried a provision entitled "Rules for Encouragement of the Cultivation of



Coconut Palms." The rules were issued in 1922 and amended in 1931. Under the rules up to 20 Yen was paid for planting 100 to 200 coconut palms on plots of land larger than one hectare in size. Up to 10 Yen was paid for thinning, complimentary planting and weeding in groves of more than one hectare containing from 100 to 200 coconut palms. In 1931 a rule was put into effect whereby the Japanese paid one-fourth the cost of erecting a new copra dryer.

The regulations specified that the coconut farmers who received subsidies must weed their plantings twice each year for two years and if a subsidy was received for a copra dryer it must not be destroyed for the next three years. If individual farmers did not carry out the program as stated

(Continued on page 7)

they were required to repay the government subsidy.

Strict regulations were set up in the examination of copra for export and only licensed examiners were authorized to examine copra for export.

The Japanese were exporting about 330 tons of copra from the Marianas each year during their administration. Three-fourths of the copra exported from the Marianas was produced on government owned lands whereas in the rest of Micronesia three-fourths was produced on privately-owned land.

There were large copra plantations established in the Eastern Caroline Islands during the period including the 500 acre Estsheit plantation which was later cut down during the war and converted to sweet potato gardens. Other large holdings included the Nampei plantation which included the entire atoll of Ant of about 450 acres and several thousand acres on Ponape Island in the Kiti and Metalanim Municipality.

The South Seas Trading Company (Nanyo Boeki Kaisha) leased land from the South Seas Government for the cultivation of coconuts. This company fell heir to the extensive interests of the Jaluit Company in 1914. It continued to be the major trading company during the Japanese period. About 1930 the Company leased 2,500 acres of land in Metalanim and the entire atolls of Pakin and Ujelang for direct copra production. About 125,000 palms were planted at Metalanim.

Copra production in 1938 as recorded by Japanese administration officials is as follows:

District	Tons
Marshall Islands	6,389
Ponape District	3,578
Truk District	3,200
Western Carolines (Yap & Palau)	1,153
Marianas District	300
Total (tons)	14,620

From 1942 to 1947 little copra was produced due to war action. Many of the copra plantations were neglected during the period permitting weeds and brush to grow reducing the number of nuts produced by the palms.

The agency established to revive the coconut industry within Micronesia after the war was the United States Commercial Company (USCC). Small amounts of copra were collected in the Marshalls in October 1945 with producers receiving about \$40 per ton. The current world market at that time was \$250 per ton. The low price paid producers was set to lessen inflation during periods of extreme shortages of consumer goods. At the end of 1946 copra prices were increased to \$80 per ton for grade one delivered to USCC warehouses at outlying stations.

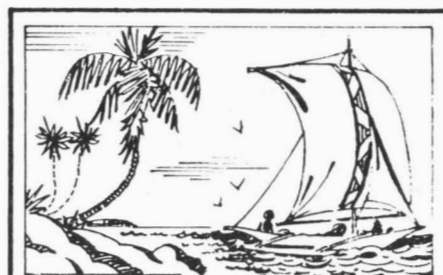
In 1948 the Island Trading Company (ITC) took over copra buying and marketing operations of the USCC in the entire Trust Territory. ITC continued to operate until privately owned trading companies were able to begin buying copra. On November 21, 1954 ITC was liquidated.

In October 1950 the administration of copra marketing was placed in the hands of the Copra Stabilization Board. It was established by the High Commissioner to advise him concerning control of

(Continued on page 15)



INTERCHANGE PARTICIPANTS viewed dozens of coconut seedling nuts from various islands in the Pacific during their stay at Metalanim. Examples were available from Fiji, Samoa, New Guinea, and all Districts of the Trust Territory. Resource persons and participants discussed the relative merits and proven productivity of each of the examples.



THE NEED FOR COPRA STABILIZATION IN MICRONESIA

by
george m. taggart

Copra marketing: an intricate highly organized and complex business that is of interest to all persons dealing in this commodity from the producer to the licensed copra dealers, district administrators, and the new Congress of Micronesia.

From time to time questions arise from various sources as to the need for the Copra Stabilization

Board. They ask: "Wouldn't it be simpler to let any trading company in the Trust Territory buy copra at a price agreeable to both buyer and seller, store it until shipping becomes available, and then send it to market and sell it for the highest price it would bring?"

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Copra marketing is not that simple. It is the reason that most governments in the Pacific, as well as other parts of the world, market their copra, vegetable oil kernels, and seeds through some kind of government controlled marketing agency or board.

It is the best solution they have found to protect the producer, who is often an individual whose major, or sole, cash income is derived from the copra he and his family process.

Copra is sold in small amounts only in the areas of production. It is marketed to the companies that crush it in lots of hundreds and thousands of tons.

Copra is a business requiring knowledge and skill. Transactions are handled on a commission basis through brokers who are specialists in the trade. Copra is a highly speculative commodity, the price of which may change several times in a day, or even in an hour.

Cables are exchanged between brokers for buyers and sellers, sometimes on several markets and over protracted periods of time when demand and consequently prices are fluctuating over a considerable range.

Commissions that are received by the brokers are based upon their specialized knowledge of the market and in procuring the best price obtainable for their clients. Action is fast and an offer may be open for only long enough to wire an acceptance, a refusal, or a counter-offer.

When a sale is made it specifies a time delivery within fairly narrow limits and failure to make delivery within the interval can result in cancellation by the buyer, or in the seller having to take a lower price in the case of a falling market. This of course can result in serious losses to the sellers, and is why the sales broker must be kept fully informed at all times as to changes in vessel schedules on which he is shipping copra.

It is not practicable for Trust Territory organizations, either public or private to market copra directly. Lack of necessary communications and banking facilities would make such transactions virtually impossible anywhere in the Trust Territory at present. Lack of volume would make the business uninteresting to prospective buyers who could be depended upon to make low offers. And finally the lack of specialized knowledge of market conditions would put the local seller at a ruinous disadvantage as he would still have to deal with the broker for the buyer.

The Copra Stabilization Board is a governmental agency that markets all Trust Territory copra utilizing the services of an experienced brokerage firm on a commission basis of having submitted the lowest bid for services to be performed.

The seven member Copra Stabilization Board includes two Micronesians who serve for one year alternating among the Districts.

In order to protect the producer from constant and often wide market fluctuations, a Copra Stabilization Fund has been built up by withholding a part of the return from sales. With this fund as a "cushion" the Board meeting quarterly establishes the prices to be paid for copra in the field and at the District Center, with grade differentials, for the following quarter.

In setting the price, consideration is given whether the Fund made a profit or lost money during the previous period, the forecast for copra (coconut oil) prices in the immediate future, and the amount of money in the Stabilization Fund. Without the Fund, each producer would initially have to be paid a price for his copra that would be sure to produce a return and would therefore necessarily be low.

After each sale, the profit after all expenses, would have to be divided among the producers on the basis of quantity of copra sold, grade, etc. Individual payment would then have to be made to each producer. The amount of bookwork involved would be enormous, and the cost of such a system would, of course, be borne by the producers. It would be months before final payment could be made to people in many of the outlying islands.

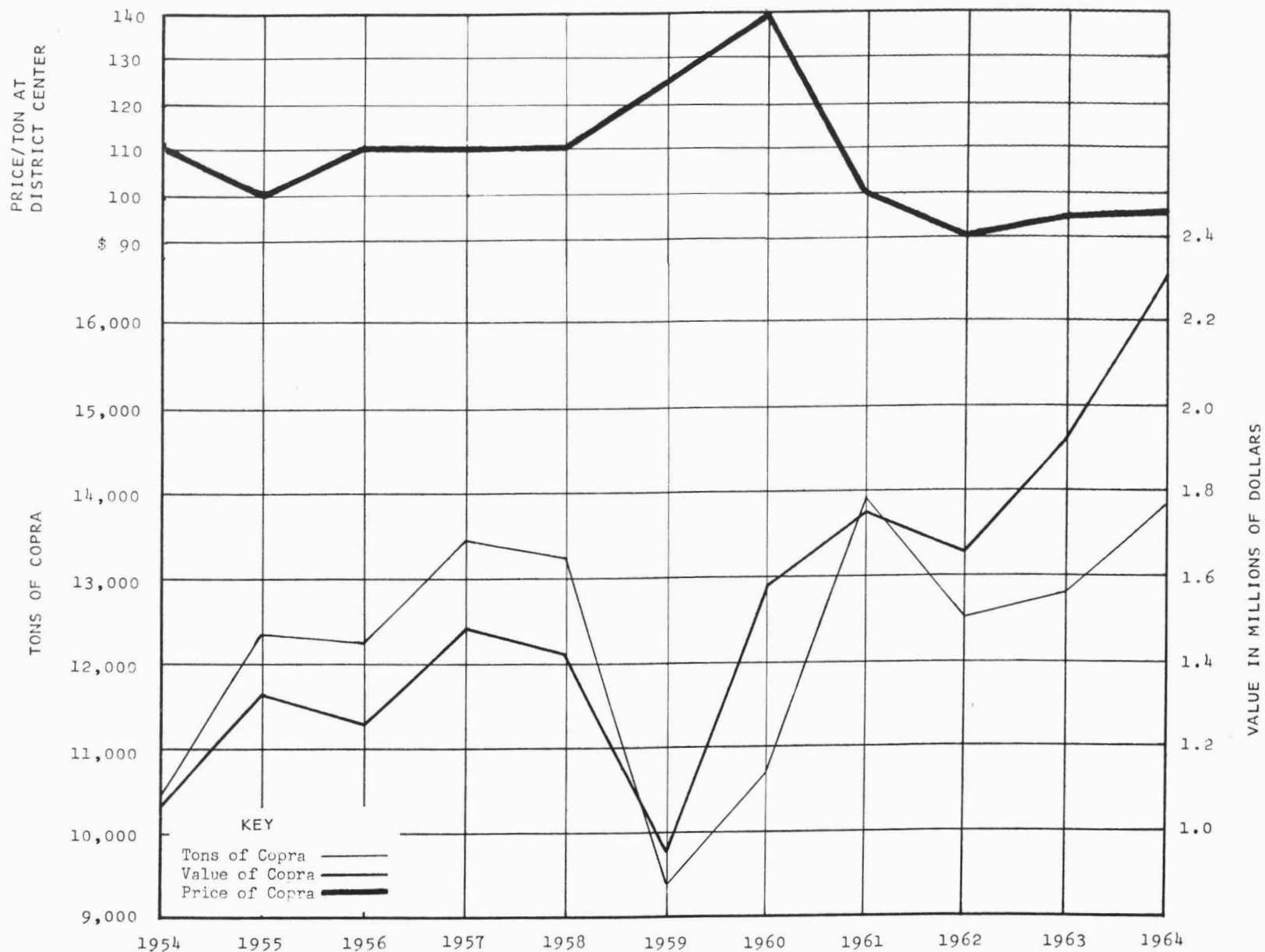
From the Stabilization Fund, the producer gets the maximum amount possible at the time of sale with a minimum amount of expenses on his part. If a rising market produces a greater profit than anticipated for the Fund, in only three month's time it will be distributed by raising the purchase of copra.

To abolish the central buying and selling system would mean that individual buyers could safely pay no more than the initial payment at time of purchase as described earlier. But whereas there would be a later payment under a government controlled system within a Stabilization Fund, in the case of uncontrolled buying by private dealers there would be no compulsion to share unexpected large profits.

It is for these reasons that most governments control the buying and marketing of copra through some such system as the Trust Territory Copra Stabilization Board. The system is not perfect. It is being improved upon continually. Suggestions for improvements in the operation of the Fund, or in better ways to grade, buy, transport, and handle copra in the Districts are always welcome. Send your ideas to the Chairman, Copra Stabilization Board, Headquarters, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands, and you will receive an acknowledgement. If the Board Chairman cannot take unilateral action, suggestions will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

Any questions in regard to the operation of the Copra Stabilization Fund are always welcome and will be answered.

Copra Production, Value and Price



A MICRONESIAN
LEGEND



DEBOLAR: THE FIRST COCONUT

Most things of great value in the world have come from ordinary beginnings and so it was with the coconut tree.

An old Marshallese legend tells that long ago, no one had ever seen a tree. There never yet had been any in all the world. When the first one grew, it was thought to be a wonderful thing. It was a coconut tree, and that great blessing was born from a woman. It grew from a living baby.

Some persons do not believe this, but isn't there on the top end of each coconut a little face with nose, mouth, and two eyes?

Likileo is a place on the ocean side of Woja Island, in the beautiful Ailinglaplap Atoll. In Likileo, there once lived a good woman named Limokare, who had several children. She had no idea that one of them would become famous.

Her first child, a son named Lokam, looked much like other boys. But when her second child was born, all the people of the village came to see, for it was a very strange baby indeed. It was a coconut. Small and green, and with a clever little face that had eyes, nose and mouth, but still—a coconut!

The mother was pleased with her baby. She named him Debolar. No one had ever seen a coconut before, and the people of the village admired the odd little baby. All that is, except for his elder brother, Lokam, who didn't like him at all.

"Why do you keep that queer-looking thing?" he said to his mother again and again. "Kill it, and throw it away."

(Continued on page 13)

"DEBOLAR" - (Continued from page 12)

"No!" cried his mother. "Debolar is my baby, I love him."

She gave him her milk, and he drank until his little belly grew full and round. If there is a person who doesn't believe that Debolar could drink milk, let him look inside a coconut. It is filled with milk, even as Debolar was that day long ago. The milk is rich and sweet and is good food. Like Debolar many babies in the Pacific islands today have no other food but coconut milk. It makes them fat and happy.

The mother gave Debolar the best of care. She wove him a little basket. She used koba, or bambo, which was of great value in those days. It didn't grow in Woja Island but sometimes came drifting in on the tide. Limokare put the baby in the basket and hung it up. She rocked him and sang him to sleep.

Lokam, the elder brother, thought that was very silly. "I won't be a brother to such a thing," he said. "I don't care to be in the same house with it."

After a while, Lokam went away and found another home. All the same, he came once in a while just to look at the baby.

Debolar grew larger and larger. Soon, he learned to talk and to understand what people said. In that way he found out that Lokam was asking their mother to get rid of her baby.

"Don't listen to that brother of mine," said Debolar to his mother. "He'll never be of much use to you. I'm small, and I look odd, it's true. But I'll be valuable some day. I'll make you comfortable and happy. Just wait and see."

"Don't worry my son," said Limokare, "I'm not going to throw you away. You came into this world for a good reason."

"And so I did," replied Debolar. "I came into this world to be eaten, worn, and used."

"Eaten, my poor child!" exclaimed his mother. "And worn! And used!"

"Yes, Mother," said Debolar. "That's what I'm here for."

One day he said to his mother, "The time has come for you to bury me under your window."

The window was made of thatch. It swung out a little way from the ground making a shelter. His mother was surprised. "Bury you alive, my poor little baby?" she cried.

"Yes, alive," replied Debolar. "That's what I'm here for. I'm not going to die. I will live. I'll come back to you and stay with you always."

"How can you come back, and how shall I know you, my child?" asked Limokare.

"I'll be a tree," said Debolar.

"And what's that, my son?"

"Wait and see," he said. "I'll be very small at first, and I'll need your care. But I'll grow, and have many parts. Every one of them will be useful. And I'll have dozens of children and hundreds of grandchildren."

He and his mother had a long talk. He told what the parts of his body would be, and how they could be used. It was a strange story, but his mother believed it.

The mother buried the coconut baby under her window, as he had told her to do. She looked there many times a day.

The people of the village didn't believe that she would see Debolar again. "He's gone forever," they said.

"And so much the better," said the elder son. Lokam. "You did right to put him in the ground. Just let him stay there."

One day, the mother saw a small, green sprout. "Debolar is coming," she said. It was a leaf, folded around itself. She opened it carefully. "How beautiful!" she cried. "It looks like the wing of a flying fish."

She gave the little coconut sprout a name, drirjojo. The word drir meant "sprout" and jojo meant "flying fish." As the leaf grew and spread open, and other leaves came, she gave the tree new names. The coconut tree has them to this day.

People came from far and near to see the first tree in all the world. They called it ni, which became the Marshallese word for "coconut."

The little tree became tall and beautiful and strong. It grew away from the window, high in the air. At its top grew waving leaves that made cool shade for Limokare. She often sat beneath them and wove mats from them.

Limokare told the people the things that Debolar had told her. She told them how the parts of the tree could be used—the leaves, the wood, the bark, the roots, the nuts, the husks, and the juices. This tree was a great blessing to her. It gave her many useful things.

The older brother, Lokam, no longer wanted Debolar killed. He also liked the gifts of the coconut tree. He boasted about his brother.

"We kept him, and we cared for him, and we planted him," he said. "Now the rest of you may have his coconut children and grandchildren. They will be your food, your drink, your oil, your clothes, your wood, and your houses."

He would look around, then, to see if all the people were listening. Then he would say, "Don't forget, I'm his brother."

NEWS BRIEFS AND NOTES OF MICRONESIA

ANTHROPOLOGIST CONTINUES WORK IN TRUK

Dr. Ward Goodenough, anthropologist of the University of Pennsylvania, has returned to the Trust Territory to carry out further investigation of Trukese social organization. He first came to Micronesia 17 years ago as part of a Navy sponsored anthropological team.

He arrived in Saipan July 6 for a series of discussions with administration officials and is expected to return to Guam July 9. He and three members of his family will board an amphibious plane for the journey to Truk later in the week.

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MICRONESIAN DOCTORS BEGIN TB COURSE

Two prominent Micronesian doctors are scheduled to take part in the World Health Organization (WHO) and South Pacific Commission sponsored Refresher Course on Tuberculosis in Noumea, New Caledonia, July 17 through August 11.

Dr. Ngas Kansou of Truk and Dr. Minoru Ueki of Palau have been selected by Trust Territory Director of Medical Services Dr. James W. Sampson to attend the course.

Fifteen medical officers responsible for TB activities in their own archipelago, island or Territory will gather for the course at South Pacific Commissioner Headquarters in Noumea.

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ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION STARTS

Initial site preparation work is underway in Saipan for a new six classroom school in Garapan, Saipan, Mariana Islands.

A \$17,122.41 labor and services contract was awarded the Micronesian Construction Company of Saipan as low bidder for the project.

* * * *

FOUR DEATHS IN ROTA BOATING ACCIDENT

Two men and two children drowned July 12 in a boating tragedy off Rota Island in the Marianas while attempting to land on the island from the M/V ISLAND QUEEN.

Reports from the District Administrator Representative in Rota indicate the ISLAND QUEEN

was anchored off Rota in rough seas about 6 in the evening. A small boat was launched from the motor vessel and while attempting to land at East Dock the boat capsized and six occupants of the boat were thrown into the sea. Two were saved by swimmers from Rota while the other four occupants of the boat perished.

* * * *

TWO MICRONESIAN SCHOLARS TOUR AMERICA

Two Trust Territory East-West Center scholars, Ekpap Silk of the Marshalls and Petrus Yurmed Tun of Yap are the latest Micronesian students to receive Bachelor of Arts degrees under the E/W Center program at the University of Hawaii and are currently on a tour of the United States as the final phase of their East-West Center grants. Both received their degrees at the June 15, 1964 commencement at the University of Hawaii. Ekpap Silk majored in Public Administration while Petrus Tun was a Zoology major.

* * * *

POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICER ATTENDS SPC MEETING

Political Affairs Officer Raymond Ulochong has been selected as the Trust Territory delegate to attend a Technical meeting on Urban Local Government from July 27 to August 8 in Port Moresby, Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

The meeting will focus attention on areas of responsibility in central and local government in the Pacific urban communities according to South Pacific Commission Secretary-General W. D. Forsyth.

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LOAN FUND COMMITTEE APPOINTEE NAMED

High Commissioner Goding announced the appointment of Assistant Political Affairs Officer Strik Yoma of Ponape as a member of the Headquarters Economic Development Loan Fund Committee in late July.

Yoma succeeds Tipne Philipppo of the Marshalls who left the Territory earlier in the month to attend the University of Hawaii on a Trust Territory degree scholarship.

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DISTADS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE PLANNED

The 1964 District Administrator's Conference has been tentatively scheduled for August 31 through September 7 at Headquarters.

The six District Administrators meet annually with the High Commissioner and his immediate staff members to plan programs to be carried out during the year and to discuss problems of common interest to the various districts.

(Continued on page 15)

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROVIDED

In keeping with the Territory's accelerated education program the High Commissioner announced the establishment of a program granting partial scholarships to bona fide Trust Territory students attending the College of Guam under private scholarship programs.

Under the new program, which becomes effective in September, the registration costs and tuition fees for eligible privately sponsored students will be paid by the Trust Territory government.

Previously, the Trust Territory government had a grant and loan fund program under which bona fide Trust Territory students attending the College of Guam under private sponsorship were provided an outright grant of one-half of the combined registration and tuition fees and made provision for a loan grant of the other half of the cost on a long-term interest free basis. This program has been replaced by the establishment of the new policy whereby the Trust Territory pays registration and tuition fees.

SENATE CLEARS RONGELAP PAYMENT BILL

On July 31 the United States Senate approved a Bill authorizing relief compensation to Rongelap residents who were accidentally exposed to radioactive fallout during a 1954 atomic bomb test held in Bikini, Marshall Islands.

High Commissioner Goding, who testified on the Bill before the Senate Committee last February, said he was very pleased by the Senate's favorable action, which will ultimately bring about \$950,000 to the residents of Rongelap. A somewhat similar bill had been passed earlier by the House of Representatives. The Bill now goes to the Conference Committee for consideration of a Senate amendment involving method of payment.

ADVANCED SEA TRAINING STARTED

Four young Micronesian seamen have left the Trust Territory aboard the M/V TUNGARU on the first leg of their trip to start advanced sea training at the Marine Training School at Honiara, British Solomons.

Noel Abraham of Kusaie and John D. Ongrung, Elias Okamura, and Manuel Jintoki, all of Palau, have completed their required two year pre-sea training requirements aboard Trust Territory vessels and are now ready for advanced sea training.

Abraham, Ongrung and Okamura have been sailing on the M/V PACIFIC ISLANDER while Jintoki served aboard the M/V GUNNER'S KNOT. The four trainees will sail to Rabaul on the TUNGARU and then fly to Honiara.

In training at the Marine School they will learn advanced seamanship, pilotage navigation, signals, boatwork, ship care and maintenance, and other related subjects.

funds that had been accumulated from sales of copra. Another article in this issue of the REPORTER discusses the Copra Stabilization Board in detail.

Coconuts will continue to be the lifeline of Micronesia for the foreseeable future. The atolls are well suited to coconut culture and to date there has not been an economic plant discovered or developed that can readily take its place. On the high islands cacao, black pepper, ramie, vegetables, sugar cane and bananas may be strong competition for the coconut. Many Micronesians will not have to depend upon the coconut alone as a source of cash income as these crops begin wide distribution. Atoll inhabitants, of necessity, are destined to depend on coconuts for their livelihood.

Coconut production on the atolls can be increased from 30 to 60 percent. This increase will be necessary in order to meet the standard of living demands placed by an expanding population.

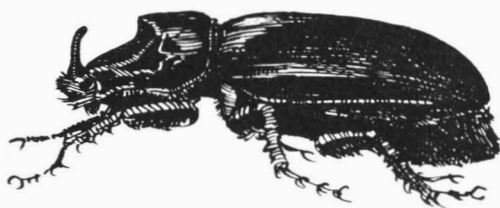
The future of coconut cultivation in the Trust Territory is good. Agriculturists and economic development specialists are working to solve many of the problems and it is expected yearly copra tonnage export figures will continue to rise providing even greater income to Micronesian producers.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED

Send your contributions for publication to the Editor, Micronesian Reporter, Trust Territory Headquarters, Saipan, Mariana Islands, 96950.



JOINT EFFORTS TO ERADICATE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE LAUNCHED



Mr. W. V. D. Pieris, the well-known specialist of the coconut industry once said, "Human life in the Pacific world would be intolerable if there were no coconut palms. On the atolls it would be impossible. Nothing has been found to take its place and nothing is likely to be found in the foreseeable future." Mr. Pieris added that the independence of the Pacific man on the coconut palm is not primarily a commercial relation, but a biological necessity. The whole pattern of his life is conditioned by it according to Mr. Pieris.

As a staple food plant the coconut is also a major cash crop which represents an average annual export in the Pacific islands valued at \$60,000,000.

The industry, of primary importance for an under-developed area with limited natural resources, is continually being threatened by the dangerous Asiatic Rhinoceros beetle.

The adult Rhinoceros beetle attacks the crown (top) of coconut palms, boring through the leaf base and immature leaves and stalks causing characteristic notches and serrations on the leaflets and irregular holes and scars on the leaf bases.

In severe attacks much of the crown is destroyed weakening the vitality of the palm. In wet weather decay of the bud tissues sets in eventually causing the death of the palm.

The most striking example of the Rhinoceros beetle ravage is seen in Wallis Island where before World War I 800 tons of copra was being exported each year. In 1938, just nine years after the discovery of the beetle on the island, copra exports had dropped to 288 tons. In 1961 four tons were shipped and in 1963 the industry was regarded as finished.

The coconut Rhinoceros beetle has also been discovered in Netherlands New Guinea, New Britain, Tonga, Fiji, and in the Palau Islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The continuing battle in Palau, under the direction of Staff Entomologist Robert P. Owen, has seen the use of parasites, predators, vegetative barriers, chemicals, and field sanitation. Strict quarantine measures are in effect throughout the Trust Territory to prevent the spread of the beetle.

The Trust Territory is also a major contributor to the Joint United Nations Special Fund/South Pacific Commission project on coconut palm beetle control begun early this year.

Mr. W. D. Forsyth, Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, announced early this year the appointment of Dr. Charles P. Hoyt as manager of the project. He is a graduate of Stanford University, California, and since 1955 has been with the South Pacific Commission as Entomologist in charge of the Rhinoceros beetle program.

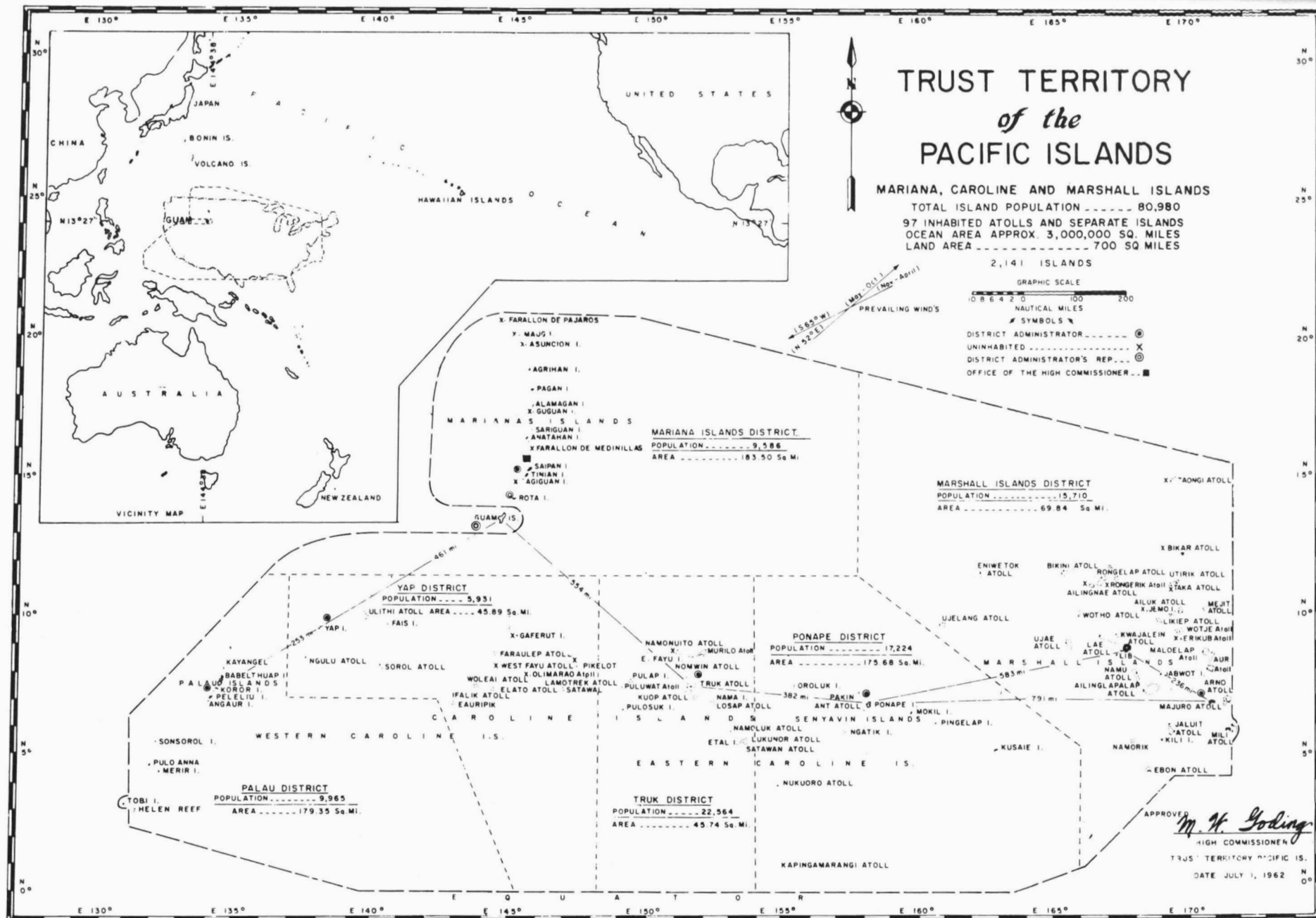
The new project was conceived as an expanded and accelerated attack on all aspects of the problem posed by the existence throughout the South Pacific area of the Rhinoceros beetle.

The new project resulted from an approach by the Commission to the Special Fund of the United Nations about three years ago. The Special Fund has allocated \$558,000 which will be matched by the five participating governments of the South Pacific Commission (Australia, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America), which between them will contribute \$344,000 in cash, while the Governments of New Zealand and Western Samoa will provide services and facilities equivalent to \$175,000.

The Secretary-General said the million dollar project will be based on Western Samoa and will be spread over five years.

It is hoped that from the five year UN/SPC project the spread of the coconut Rhinoceros beetle will be halted and effective measures learned to ultimately eradicate the pest.





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