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# Micronesian Reporter

FOURTH QUARTER 1976





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**CREDITS:**

COVER: photo by Bonifacio Basilius (celebration of new district of Kosrae)

BACK COVER: photo by J. Ngiraibuuch, Jr.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:**

Ponape District Administrator Resio Moses photographed by CCM staff; pages 14-17 submitted by Leo Migvar; pages 18-22 by Mark Skinner; pages 29-32 by Ideia Sackryas; page 33 by Pete R. Guerrero, and centerfold by Bonifacio Basilius.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Page 8 by Mark Hutchins; page 15 by Leo Migvar; pages 19-22 submitted by the author; pages 23, 24 & 26 submitted by the author.

# MicronesianReporter

The Journal of Micronesia/Fourth Quarter 1976/Volume XXIV, Number 4

**PUBLISHER:** The Public Information Division, Department of Public Affairs, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
Peter T. Coleman, Acting High Commissioner; Strik Yoma, Director of Public Affairs

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Micronesian Reporter is published quarterly by the Public Information Office, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950. Subscription rate is \$4.00 air mail, payable in advance. Check or money order should be made payable to Trust Territory Treasurer and sent to the Circulation Department, Micronesian Reporter. The funds for printing this publication approved by Director of the Budget on July 29, 1966. Printed in the Territory of Guam, U.S.A. by the Navy Publications and Printing Office. Stories and photographs are welcomed; stories in manuscript form, photos 8x10 prints or undeveloped film. Send contributions to the editor.



# This Quarter's Worth

The feature interview in this issue of the Reporter is with Resio Moses, who, at age 32, has attained Micronesia's highest executive post at the district level. Moses is the youngest Micronesian, and for that matter, the youngest person ever to become a District Administrator in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Earlier Moses was an educator, and then a congressman from Ponape. In spite of his elevation to a prominent position in the power structures of both the legislative and administrative branches of government, Moses still retains his natural charm which radiates through his sincere smile, his generosity and ever-present humility. Moses' becoming a District Administrator should raise some hope in the hearts of restless, educated, young Micronesians... they too may dream and hope for such an attainment.

In an article sharply contrasted to the above, Francis X. Hezel, a Jesuit priest who has been teaching and working with young Micronesian students at Xavier High School in Moen, Truk District, discusses the cultural and societal dilemma of suicide among the youth of Micronesia. The act of taking one's own life reflects sundry causes and effects. Hezel points out that such an act rarely occurs in the still intact Micronesian society of the outer islands. One wonders if it is not the thrust of cultural change which disturbs, alters, and erodes the societal harmony and that certain cultural values and mores appear to encourage such behavior. The reader will find out that, "the ideal world of sunshine and palm trees in the

Pacific that entices the mind" is now confronted with its identity crisis and cultural revolution. The conditioning stimuli and responses are invisible forces and what is seen is a syndrome crying out in pain and agony for a remedy.

— B.B.

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## Who's Who

*...in this issue of the Reporter*

**Francis X. Hezel, S.J.** has been a regular contributor to the Micronesian Reporter. Early in 1971, he wrote about the Spanish Capuchin activities in the Carolines, and in 1972 he presented an article about "The Westernization of Truk—A Backward Glance." A social studies teacher at Xavier High School, Father Hezel has co-authored two Micronesian social studies texts for use in Secondary schools in Micronesia.

**Leo Migvar** is Chief of Agriculture Extension Service with the Division of Agriculture, Resources and Development Department. Migvar has been a vocational agriculture teacher in the U.S. and Micronesia. He was Assistant Director of Agriculture of American Samoa, and also Principal of Pacific Islands Central School (PICS). He also held the positions of Extension Supervisor and District Agriculturist in Ponape District. In this issue of the Reporter, Migvar describes extension service as "out-of-school" teaching, and stresses its eminent value toward a healthier and better agriculture development throughout Micronesia.

**Ms. Nancy Rody** is a registered dietitian and nutritionist employed by Yap District Health Services. Ms. Rody points out in her article that Micronesia appears to be at the stage of "captive mentality syndrome". She says, "Micronesia is trading its self-sufficiency and healthy life-style for one which is costly-physically and financially."

**William H. Stewart**, Deputy Director of the Department of Resources and Development, has been with the Trust Territory for the last six years. He has held positions as an industrial economist, Director of Census, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Micronesia Development Bank, Chairman of Economic Development Loan Fund, and Chairman of the Copra Stabilization Board. Before joining the T.T. Government, he was a foreign service officer for the Department of State: he served as a foreign investment advisor to the Secretary General, Board of Investment, Royal Kingdom of Thailand, and the President Director General of the Republic of Tunisia's Development Bank and the National Office of Tourism. Recently he served as an advisor to the U.S. Corps of Engineers on the \$142 billion Saudia Arabia development plan. Stewart owns a tourist advertising agency in Sarasota, Florida.

**Mrs. Alicia E. Ada** is a Teacher Training Specialist at the Community College of Micronesia (CCM), where she teaches English. As a Filipina married to a Ponapean, Mrs. Ada has made Micronesia her home. In this issue of the Reporter, she offers a descriptive article about CCM hosting the World Educator's Post-Conference after completing its original conference earlier in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**John W. Kofel** holds a doctor's degree in educational leadership and has directed Western Michigan University's program in educational leadership on the University of Guam campus for the past two years. Kofel has been watching the political development in Micronesia with great interest and concern. In this issue of the Reporter, Kofel discusses the need for leadership, especially during this crucial time in Micronesia's history.



# INTERVIEW:

## RESIO MOSES

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*At the age of 32, Resio Moses, sworn-in December 4 as District Administrator of Ponape, is the youngest Micronesian to attain the highest position of the executive branch at the district level. Moses, therefore, is one of the few fast ascending stars in Micronesia who infuses a certain degree of hope and pride into the hearts of many restless young educated Micronesians—that they too may dream of attaining such success some day.*

*Acting High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman speaks very highly of Resio Moses. In his remarks during the swearing-in ceremony, Coleman said, "We gather in a moment of history to witness the passing of the torch of service to one of the sons of Ponape to carry on his dedication and to prove his worth to serve his people well." "... I've observed in the past three or four years the quality that made him a selectee for this important responsibility", Coleman pointed out, "Resio is a man of humility. He is a man of friendliness, of passion, and a man of integrity. These really are the main qualities that made him a good public servant," Coleman indicated.*

*Moses brings to the administration valuable experience. He was first elected to the House of Representatives, Congress of Micronesia, in 1972 while attending the University of Hawaii, and was re-elected in 1974. He filed to run again this year but resigned from the Congress when he was appointed to his present position. During his Congress tenure, he served on the House Committee on Judiciary and Relations, and Ways and Means in the Fifth and Sixth Congress, and was selected Chairman of the latter committee in the Sixth Congress. In 1974, Representative Moses visited Australia as an official guest of its Department of Foreign Affairs, and served as Vice-Chairman of the Micronesian Delegation at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1975.*

*In addition to his experience as law-maker, Moses has also been an educator. He was an instructor at Ponape Island Central School for a year, and later joined the staff of the Community College of Micronesia.*

*Resio Moses received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science at the University of Guam. He did his graduate studies at Akron University in Ohio also in Political Science under a John Hay Whitney Fellowship. At the University of Hawaii, Moses continued his studies in Political Science with emphasis in Pacific studies. He was also required to major in Community College Administration.*

*Resio Moses succeeds Leo A. Falcam as DistAd of Ponape District. He and his wife, Sue, have two children.*





**REPORTER:** Perhaps we should begin this interview by discussing your early days . . . when you were growing up, the schools you attended, both primary and secondary schools, and what you wanted to be when you grew up.

**MOSES:** First, if I may, I would like to thank you for this opportunity. With respect to the first question, let me say this, I grew up in Ponape basically as a happy island boy like all others I suppose around the Trust Territory and I did the normal things most island boys were doing at that time, going to elementary school, playing around with other kids. With regard to my early education I started by enrolling at St. Joseph Elementary School in Awak which is in Uh municipality and subsequent to that I was enrolled at Our Lady of Mercy School, a Catholic elementary school, in Kolonia and then finally at Uh elementary school. That constitutes my days of primary education. Subsequent to those three schools, I went to the local junior high school at the time which was called Ponape District Intermediate School, and eventually to high school at PICS, Pacific Islands Central School, at that time in Ponape and it was still an inter-district high school. I might say this that with regard to post primary school, the opportunities in those days were limited, and not very many of my peer group, both boys and girls, were able to make it to junior high and high school level. Now considering the latter aspect of your first question, regarding what I wanted to become when I grew up, basically when I was growing up I thought about becoming a clergyman.

At that time I was thinking more in line of a priest, but of course protestant ministry was also part of that thinking. But also at that time when you graduated and you saw Micronesians working for the government as civil servants, naturally I had some admiration for those people in those days and so I also wanted to become a public servant for the government.

**REPORTER:** Where did you go for your college education and what did you study?

**MOSES:** I attended three post secondary schools outside of the Trust Territory. First I went under District Legislature financial support. I was able to study in Guam at the time, the college which subsequently became the University of Guam. I studied political science. I was able to complete the necessary requirements for a BA degree in political science, but I also had a major in education. Although I did not complete the teaching requirements in that area, my training in education at Guam was equivalent to a Bachelor degree. This of course was from 1965 to 1969 when I took my certificate and after brief employment in Saipan, I went to the University of Akron in Ohio under a John Hay Whitney Fellowship. There I pursued courses in graduate school mainly in political science. I was able to complete the requirements for a Masters degree at that university and after that, which was in 1970, I returned to Micronesia and worked as a teacher. But after working for the government as a teacher in secondary and post secondary schools in Micronesia, I was able to return to the University of Hawaii under an ETA Fellowship program associated with the University of Hawaii where I picked up courses in political science with emphasis in Pacific studies. Along side that I was also required to have a major in higher education—mostly community college administration. That is the extent of my training beyond secondary education.

**REPORTER:** Could you elaborate more on the type of jobs and the responsibilities you held while you were working?

**MOSES:** As I mentioned earlier after I graduated from the University of Guam I did have brief employment in Saipan. I was mainly assisting the scholarship office in Saipan at that time. This took three months. Then I had to terminate to go back to school. Then after a year



at Akron, I returned to Ponape to work at the high school, Ponape Island Central School. I worked there primarily as a teacher of social studies. I taught courses in Micronesian government, Micronesian problems, civics, American History, World Geography, World History . . . all the courses I taught were in the social studies area. I spent a year at the school teaching. Subsequent to that I spent another year teaching at the CCM, Community College of Micronesia, teaching courses primarily in political science and Pacific studies.

**REPORTER:** Did you enjoy your time teaching at these two schools?

**MOSES:** Very much so.

**REPORTER:** What prompted you to run for Congress in 1971?

**MOSES:** In 1971 I was unaware of my nomination to the congress. I was away studying at the University of Hawaii, and the people drafted me into the Congress. When the election was held I was successful, so I had to terminate my studies at the University of Hawaii and come back to serve my people through the Congress of Micronesia. I was elected to the House of the Representatives in 1972 and stayed there until 1976.

**REPORTER:** You mean to say that the people, themselves, on their own accord chose you to run for the Congress without your knowledge?

**MOSES:** It would be fair to make that assessment and the answer is yes.





**REPORTER:** What foreign countries did you travel to when you were in Congress? Did you encounter any identity crisis like: Where is Micronesia? Or was the validity of your T.T. passport questioned? What did you do?

**MOSES:** While I was in Congress and before going to school and working for the Trust Territory government, especially in the Congress, I was fortunate to be able to travel to the continental United States, the state of Hawaii and other U.S. territories, like Puerto Rico and Guam. I also had travelled to South America. I did not travel to all the countries there, but I was able to go to two or three, to a number of countries in Europe, and several countries in Asia. I was also fortunate to visit Australia under the Federal Foreign Services Program of that government. I also have gone to several Pacific Island nations. These include Nauru, Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Noumea, and Okinawa, whether that's Asia or the Pacific I'm not sure. I did not find any problem during my travel because we were always taken care of by American Consulates and embassies while travelling abroad. But a number of incidents did occur to me, but they do not necessarily qualify as an identity crisis or something that extreme. While in Puerto Rico one time the immigration officer there suggested that I leave my passport as a souvenir at the Office of the Immigration of Puerto Rico. And another time I recollect was

in Geneva. The immigration people there were sort of puzzled over my passport because they did not know which country it was supposed to represent. But after a while, they sort of forgot about it. So really there was no identity crisis as such.

**REPORTER:** Acting High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman speaks very highly of you, and he is right. You are not only one of the few Micronesians with a college education, but you also have experience as an educator and congressman. How do you feel as the youngest Micronesian to reach the position of District Administrator?

**MOSES:** Actually I do not know whether I can provide a satisfactory response to that question. However, I view it this way and that is my being young and yet being appointed to this position says a lot about the young people of Micronesia, and perhaps the extent of their knowledge and skills they have to offer to Micronesia. I feel happy that the government and Micronesia are beginning to recognize their own young people so that these people can really contribute to the society and the government.

**REPORTER:** What will be the main thrust of your administration in terms of objectives and goals for the next five years?

**MOSES:** Very generally, I would like to see the government of this district possess some degree of efficiency, effectiveness, openness, an honest government responsible to the people, sensitive to the needs of the people of Ponape and the rest of Micronesia. I would like to see economic self-sufficiency come to Ponape. I would like to see production in the government as well as the private sector. In other words I would like to see the district become productive. I would like to see it run by a minimum staff, and yet provide maximum services with the means that we have. I want to accomplish more with as small an executive branch as possible.

**REPORTER:** What do you foresee in your working relationship with your district leadership: the community leaders, the law makers both in the district legislature and the Congress of Micronesia?

**MOSES:** I only foresee a good and sound relationship between the office of the district administration and other agencies and other groups of this district. I think there is really no reason why the relationship between branches of the government and sectors of society in Ponape or elsewhere in the Trust Territory should not permit them to work side by side... I cannot see why there should not be a good relationship between people.

**REPORTER:** In view of the decentralization process, some people will be laid off from the government. Are there enough job opportunities in the private sector of your district to absorb these people and the majority of students graduating each year from school?

**MOSES:** To be frank with you, now the answer has got to be NO. There are not enough opportunities to absorb all our young people graduating from high schools and beyond high school and others who are not now working. However, it should be on the agenda of this government to make jobs, to improve the living standards, mainly by increasing jobs in the private sector.

**REPORTER:** How do people in Ponape District feel about the T.T. Capitol coming to Ponape? Do the people see it as a threat that might disturb their social life, or do they see it as a means of job opportunities for Ponapeans?

**MOSES:** From talking to the people of Ponape about the possible relocation of the capitol to Ponape District, I would say that the people are very happy. There was in the past some reserved expression. However, with more explanation the people accepted it and they are looking forward to hosting the capitol of the territory. The capitol will not necessarily carry the social after-effects that military government

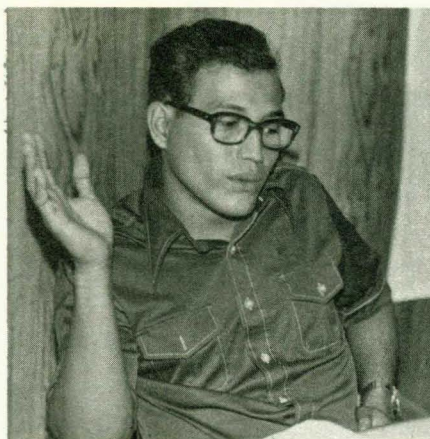


and other labor organizations have on people. I can see the people would object to the capitol if the people at the Headquarters level were undesirable. But I know that our people up there are good and responsible people, most of them are capable Micronesians working at the Headquarters. With that in mind, the people here are very happy to host the capitol of Micronesia.

**REPORTER:** There is a very good possibility that when the capitol comes to Ponape District, some of the local residents would be hired to replace some of the supporting staff at the Headquarters in Saipan who could not come. Do you think Ponape has enough trained manpower such as secretaries, clerks, stenographers, etc. to fill in this need both in the Congress of Micronesia and the Headquarters?

**MOSES:** As with the proposed relocation of the capitol, maybe a lot of the already employed support staff like secretaries, clerks, stenographers and so on won't be able to come down, for some reason or other, but at the present time the Relocation Joint Committee of the Congress of Micronesia and the Trust Territory Government is working on plans that will make the relocation smooth. Well, let me say this, at the present time in Ponape we cannot assume or absorb all the positions that will be vacant at the Headquarters level. But plans now are to begin training in Ponape so that when Headquarters comes to Ponape, we will be able to provide stenographers, secretaries, clerks and other low-level employees. There is even talk now to begin to move the training component of the Personnel Department at Headquarters to Ponape to begin intensified training anticipating the need we may have in these areas. So I think given good coordination here, we will not have a problem to fill in the required personnel.

**REPORTER:** Along that same line, would your administration take the initiative to encourage the private sector to build apartments and houses for rent



in order to accommodate the people coming in from Saipan?

**MOSES:** That is certainly a valid question. At the present time the housing market in Ponape is nil. We definitely cannot accommodate families moving in to Ponape with family dwelling houses. We have started to encourage private individuals to go into the housing business, and we are going to intensify this by setting up a schedule for capable businessmen and interested individuals to build houses. The market is guaranteed. So preparations are now in order.

**REPORTER:** Would your administration be able and willing to provide government land on a lease basis for interested people to build these houses?

**MOSES:** I personally would like to see certain areas where public land is set aside mainly for public housing to be developed by private individuals who have the money. So this can expedite the development of housing for the new capitol.

**REPORTER:** What steps will you take in order to encourage economic development and foreign investments in Ponape District?

**MOSES:** Let me tell you this, the steps this government will take in that regard are already prepared in what we call the Ponape Indicative Plan. We have generally listed our goals and objectives in this regard, and if I may mention some of them, in the area of economic

development, our plans are to set up certain things, certain goals. These are: 1) provision of an increased standard of living in accordance with local life styles. The stated desire of the District of Ponape is to attain an annual growth of 6% in Gross Domestic Product by 1981. With an expected increase in population of 3.2% annually, per capita income would increase by approximately 2.8% per year. 2) The creation of a restructured, viable and self-supporting district economy with less dependence on foreign subsidies than in the past. 3) Reduction of present government services and encouragement of local support for essential government services. These are our goals. As I said previously, we are prepared to try to hold the level of private consumption and encourage increases in the area of savings primarily in the private sector. Our work from now on will be devoted to implementing these goals. In our plan, we also contemplate holding down investment for the social infrastructure and increasing investment in the revenue generating sector. What I mean by social infrastructure is hospital, dispensary, schools, and so on. We also contemplate holding down the level of governmental operating expenditures and raising taxes. We also would like to decrease the amount of imports and increase our exports. We propose to do things such as import substitution, use things that we can produce locally for local consumption instead of importing too much. This involves food stuff as well as other items.

**REPORTER:** Many writers have praised Ponape District for its tropical beauty with its many points of interest for tourists. Do you consider tourism as one of the sources of income to your district? Do you have any plan to encourage more tourists to visit your district? If so, can you elaborate on some of these plans?

**MOSES:** Yes, I definitely feel that tourism is one aspect that needs to be more developed in this district. We are



proposing to maximize in the tourist industry the economic and social benefits of tourism and at the same time minimize the economic and social costs. In our plan we talked about earlier there are a lot of steps that we need to take to build up the industry in Ponape regarding tourism. At the present time it is still in its infancy. We propose and we are ready to begin work that will improve this industry.

**REPORTER:** You will, of course, work closely with your district leaders in order to develop and improve your people's political development and advancement? How are you going to conduct these activities?

**MOSES:** Let me say this, in Ponape and this is true throughout Micronesia, that our people are politically sophisticated. I think people are now capable of making political decisions and have in fact been making political decisions. I think as far as we can get in the political enlightenment, we come back to decision of status... political status. The question of political status for Micronesia, as you know, is that we are now contemplating two or three alternatives, and as soon as our agents from the Congress of Micronesia and others from our political status commission, as soon as they formalize a general decision, then it will be easy for me and others in the districts to conduct work pertaining to the recommendation that they may come up with. This could be done easily, I think. In Ponape I am ready to make a decision in this regard.

**REPORTER:** While we are on political subjects, do you think your district will be ready (and for that matter, all of Micronesia) to assume its self-government by the proposed date for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1981?

**MOSES:** I think so definitely, I think the political readiness of the people is here. I am pretty sure that our people can carry out a self-governing entity. I think we are ready to govern ourselves in one form of self-government or other.

**REPORTER:** Aside from political readiness, is Micronesia also economically ready for 1981?

**MOSES:** Ponape and perhaps also the rest of Micronesia, is underdeveloped economically. Our economic development in Micronesia is sort of abnormal in a sense that political readiness, as I see it, precedes the economic readiness. However this does not rule out the question of self-government. When one contemplates self-government as to mean only independence, then my previous statement might be reconstructed accordingly. But self-government entails other alternatives such as Free Status Association as contemplated by the Congress and other possibilities.



**REPORTER:** Which of the two alternatives would you recommend to the people of Ponape District: the Compact for Free Association Status or the Constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia? Could you explain?

**MOSES:** I would recommend both. As far as I am concerned both alternatives to me are acceptable and workable systems. I also see a possibility of having two of them simultaneously going on at one time... the form of government under the Free Association framework, to me, is acceptable and the independent government contemplated by the already drafted Constitution for

the Federated States of Micronesia is also acceptable to me. Both are forms of government through which a lot of people will be served. Both will present difficulties. Both will present good things. I am one of those who believe that both systems of government will work just fine.

**REPORTER:** Now that you are a District Administrator, do you see any area whereby you can work with your fellow DistAds toward Micronesian unity? Or is the issue out of the question now?

**MOSES:** No, the issue is not out of the question. I think it is an issue that all District Administrators and the legislators and all the people should be concerned with now in Micronesia. Of course when we talk about unity, if there comes a time when political unity may not be feasible or practical for the rest of Micronesia, we still cannot escape the fact that we are geographically united and have to be dealing with one another. As far as I am concerned unity is broader than mere political unity or the union of different islands becoming one state. We could be politically not of one identity, but we cannot escape our relationship because we are neighbors to one another, even if we go six different ways or seven different ways, I find some elements of unity, our similarity of cultures even languages. The connection that nature gives which is the water... that water will always connect us. So the unity of Micronesia will always remain a reality.

**REPORTER:** What do you expect your administration to accomplish during your tenure as District Administrator of Ponape?

**MOSES:** I really cannot answer that question now, but it depends on the length of my tenure. If it's only a year or two, maybe nothing much can be accomplished. However given a longer length of tenure, a lot of things can be accomplished. I have mentioned earlier the goals and objectives of Ponape District. If I stay longer in the administration, I will try the best I can







to implement those plans into actual reality.

**REPORTER:** If you were given the opportunity to select your own deputy district administrator, what kind of person would you choose?

**MOSES:** If I were to appoint my own deputy, I would appoint a person I would be able to work with. Then we could work together and our work would not conflict and therefore prevent progress in this district. I would like to have a partner whom I could work with easily and comfortably, not the kind of partner who would paddle the canoe toward the opposite direction while I'm going the other way. I would like to have somebody with whom we could work as a team in a united spirit. However, if your question contemplates my appointing a new deputy distad now

it is not in order because there is already a deputy distad who was here before I came into to the office. The question of whether he wants to remain in that position is totally up to him and him alone. I take that back, it depends on him and the High Commissioner.

**REPORTER:** Do you have any final word on any of the topics we have discussed?

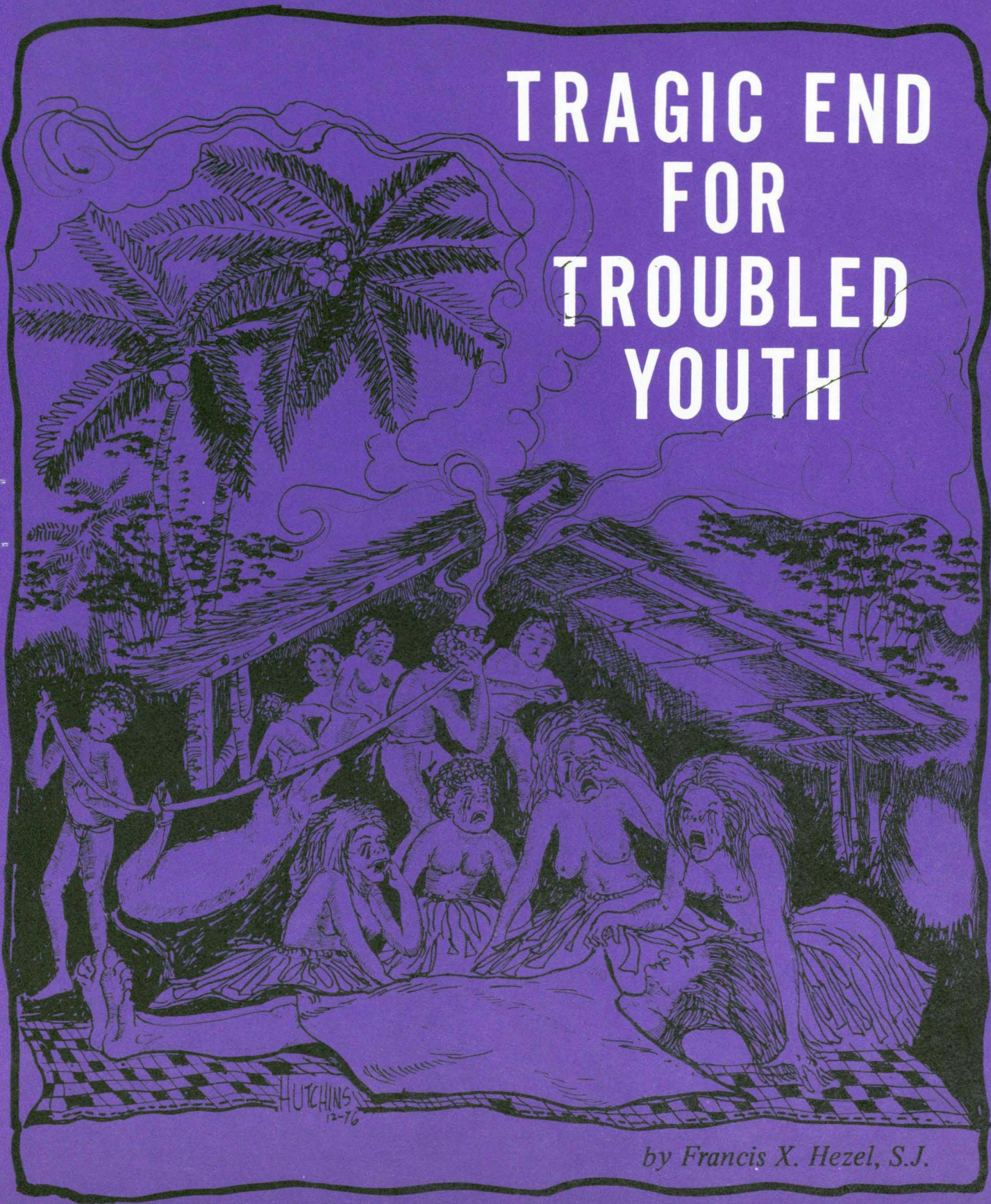
**MOSES:** I do not have any special thing to say, except that I would like to convey my greetings to my friends in Ponape and throughout Micronesia and to thank you again for spending your time talking with me. I would like to let you know that I love all the people in the six districts. I certainly hope that someday, we will be united as one political entity. If not, then we are still united in some other ways. But I look forward to a united Micronesia.

*Ponapean beauties performing Sapei, a traditional dance. Photo by J. Ngiraibuuch, Jr.*





# TRAGIC END FOR TROUBLED YOUTH



by Francis X. Hezel, S.J.



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Thomas, a 19 year old high school dropout, bounded down the path away from his house, his face flushed with anger and shame. He had just scuffled with his older brother in a quarrel that arose over some silly little matter. In the heat of his anger at his brother, he had hurled a metal rod that accidentally struck a passing girl on the head. She had fallen to the ground crying and his parents, who had been watching the entire incident, had just severely scolded him for his stupidity. This was too much: first the beating by his brother and then the reproaches from his parents. His family watched him run off. When he did not return after an hour or two they sent someone to look for him, but he was nowhere to be found. It was shortly after sunrise the next morning when they discovered his lifeless body suspended from the branch of a breadfruit tree near an uncle's house. Thomas had hanged himself during the night.

Thomas was only one of the 23 Micronesians, most of them young like himself, who are known to have taken their own lives during the year between the summers of 1975 and 1976.\* Suicide, which has been a growing problem in the Trust Territory for some years, has reached epidemic proportions within the last year and a half. Today it is the number one cause of death among Micronesians between the ages of 15 and 30, surpassing auto accidents, gastro-intestinal diseases, and heart disease as a killer.

Suicide has also become an ordinary topic of conversation among the young who more than ever before seem to be able to discuss it openly dispassionately as an option in trying circumstances. It may even be the basis for a cult. Now and then one sees on the back of a T-shirt a picture of a noose with an appropriate slogan scrawled below, where formerly one would have seen only the usual protestation of adolescent love. Unfortunately, suicide appears to be an accepted fact of life in Micronesia.

Not that suicide is a newcomer to the islands! The traditional folklore has its tales of sweethearts, promised by obdurate parents to others in marriage, leaping hand in hand from spectacular heights; of old men, broken in health and spirit, paddling away in canoes never to be seen again; of shamed young men jumping from coconut trees before the eyes of their families. One might suppose, however, that such incidents were rather infrequent. There is also a touch of the heroic element, at least to our eyes today, in

many of these tales. As the stories are passed down to us, they usually portray men and women who were driven to the extreme measure by a sense of real desperation that we can understand, even if not endorse.

We have only to look at a few typical suicides during the past year to sense the contrast. There is the 16-year old boy who, when refused the dollar that he had begged from his father, ominously replied that his father would soon be spending a hundred dollars or more — on his funeral — and then hanged himself. A boy of barely 13 was found dead after arguing with a sister who had taken his flashlight without his consent. Another teenager took his own life when his mother continued to ignore his complaints that there was no food prepared for him after he had returned from a drinking bout with his friends. Clearly this is not the stuff out of which grand tragedy is usually made, either in folklore or in real life. And yet each of these incidents ended in the self-destruction of a young man. Reasons seemingly every bit as trifling as these have accounted for the deaths of many others during recent years, as the information we have gathered shows.

A glance at this information reveals some striking patterns in suicides that have taken place in the past year. The vast majority of the victims, 18 out of 23, were young people between the ages of 16 and 26. Two others were in their early teens, and the remaining three in their 30's or 40's. Figures on previous years as well bear out the fact that suicide is manifestly a youth problem, affecting the same age group that shows the highest rate of arrests and the greatest incidence of serious drinking problems.

Suicide is largely a phenomenon that occurs among young males. Last year all but two of the victims were men or boys, and in previous years nearly all victims have been males. Recent records, however, have begun to show a startling number of unsuccessful attempts on their own lives made by females. That relatively few of these attempts actually end in death might be explained by the fact that, while men ordinarily hang themselves, women usually imbibe clorox, kerosene or some other toxic substance. They are often found and treated in time to save them. But even allowing for the surprising number of female attempts on their lives in recent years, suicide remains preponderantly a male phenomenon in the Trust Territory today.

With over half of the 23 suicides occurring in Truk, this district has acquired the unenviable title of the suicide capital of Micronesia, a distinction that was for years held by the Marshalls. On the island of Dublon alone, with a population of 2,400, there were



five suicides last year, all occurring within a four-month period. Although only two of these suicides were known to be directly related to one another, the suspicion naturally arises that there was more than mere chance at work here. One wonders, for instance, whether the ten-year old boy who hanged himself towards the end of this four-month period would have done so if he had not had recent models to emulate. No such question need be asked in the case of the talented composer of local songs who travelled from his home across the lagoon to visit the burial place of his best friend. His friend, a youth in his mid-20's, had taken his own life about a month earlier after he was scolded by his family for smashing windows while drunk. At the end of his three-day stay with the family of his dead friend, the young composer sneaked out by evening and hanged himself over the grave of his former companion.

**T**he Marshalls may have been beaten out by Truk last year in the suicide race, but authorities there have for some years recognized suicide as a major concern in that district. A report from Health Services Department lists 22 suicide cases between the years 1967 and 1973, and in all probability there are others that have gone unreported. The pattern for these earlier suicides is a familiar one. With the exception of two persons, all the victims were living on either Ebeye or Majuro when they took their own lives. All were males, all but three fell in the 16-26 age bracket, and most were intoxicated at the time that they decided to take their own lives. Moreover, the vast majority had just had a falling out with a spouse, close relative or friend prior to their death. The only novelty in the data for this period is the rather large number of women who are reported to have made unsuccessful attempts on their own lives during this period: six on Ebeye alone.

Over the past few years, the Marshalls seems to be averaging four or five suicides annually, an increase over the three per year that the district averaged during the years 1967-73. Ponape has had a comparable number during the years 1973-1976, with an average of four suicides annually. Unlike the case of the Marshalls, however, the incidence of suicide on Ponape has only recently reached critical proportions. Otherwise, the pattern of suicides in Ponape closely resembles that of the Marshalls and Truk in age and sex distribution of victims and the circumstances of death.

When compared with the eastern districts, the suicide figures for the western part of Micronesia seem to be modest. Palau, Yap and the Marianas each had only a single victim during the year under study. Our

data shows only six suicides on Yap since 1973, and one of these was a Japanese tourist who was thought to have performed a ritual self-immolation near the bones of his fallen countrymen from the last war. Our information from Palau reveals four victims over the past two years. It is difficult to draw any firm conclusions from such scant data, and it is anyone's guess whether we shall see the same dramatic increase of suicide in these districts as elsewhere in Micronesia.

Overall, it is safe to say that suicide, especially "juvenile" suicide among the 16-26 age group, has grown into a problem of alarming proportions within recent years. The suicide rate in the Trust Territory for the past year, according to the index commonly used for comparative purposes, was 20 per 100,000 people. That of Guam during the turbulent 30-year period towards the end of the last century (1861-1891), according to information gleaned from the records of the Spanish Padre Ibanez del Carmen, was on the average 10 per 100,000. Over the past 20 years, the suicide rate in the United States has jumped from 5 to 10, but it is currently still only half that of the Trust Territory. If the suicide rate is any real measure of the health of a society, then Micronesia is clearly ailing.

**I**n the United States, interestingly enough, the suicide rate has in past years increased with the age of the population group. Thus, Americans over 50 years old had a suicide rate that is about double that of young people under 25 years of age. Does this reflect the fact that until recently it has been the old, not the young, who have found themselves most alienated? It should be noted, however, that since 1960 the suicide rate among college-age Americans has increased to a high 10 per 100,000, and social scientists in the U.S. are sounding the alarm. Nevertheless, the rate among the same group (16-26) in Micronesia during the past year would have been a whopping 70 per 100,000 — an astonishingly high figure by standards anywhere in the world. The evidence, then, seems to plainly show that it is the youth who are the most alienated segment of society in Micronesia today — at least if one accepts the supposition that suicide figures can be a valid indicator of social instability.

Why are so many young people in Micronesia killing themselves today? First, we might answer this negatively by saying: not for the reasons that we might expect would compel persons to take this fatal step. None of the suicide victims in recent years was suffering extreme physical pain; and very few, as far as we know, either had a history of mental disorder or seemed to bear long and unsupportable burdens of grief or anxiety. A rare exception was a young man



said to be mentally unstable, who announced to his relatives after the death of his father that before long he would be lying alongside him. He made good his promise, when after a drinking bout one evening shortly afterwards, he put a rifle to his head. There are almost none of the classic cases of frustrated love in which a boy or girl who longs to marry a certain individual is prevented from doing so by his parents. There are no cases in which a person's academic or occupational failure was the immediate cause of suicide, as would be common in a country like Japan. Those signs of hopelessness and despair that one might expect to find in suicide victims are conspicuously absent. Even by the strange logic of self-destruction, it is difficult to explain most of the suicides in the Trust Territory today.

Virtually all the suicides — with a few clear exceptions — were precipitated by an argument or misunderstanding between the victim and someone very close to him: in some cases his wife or girlfriend, occasionally his friends or drinking companions, but more often members of his own family. Sometimes suspicions of his spouse's infidelity seem to have been the immediate cause of suicide, but more commonly it was something as apparently trivial as a quarrel over a flashlight, the refusal by a parent or relative to give money or food upon request, ridicule by friends over a misdeed, or a fight with a relative or a neighbor. The case of Thomas cited at the beginning of this paper is typical of most of the suicides that occur in the Trust Territory today. The usual sequence of events is easily identified. There is first the quarrel or the scuffle with friends or family; the emotions of anger, shame and perhaps self-pity that are triggered by the incident; the drinking that sometimes, but not always, either precedes or follows the quarrel; and the actual suicide, ordinarily by strangulation from hanging.

It is understandable that Micronesians, for whom rewarding and permanent personal bonds with family and community are so important, might react so strongly to a serious threat of rupture in these bonds as to take their own lives. But does a parent's refusal to lend his son the car for the evening actually represent such a threat in the eyes of his son? Can a flareup with an older brother and a chiding by parents really be interpreted by a teenage boy to mean that those closest to him no longer love him, and that he might just as well destroy himself as endure a meaningless existence? Or is the absence of a wife or lover for a short period of time the conclusive proof that she has been unfaithful to the young man or no longer cares for him? One certainly gets the impression that the desperate final act that the suicide victim takes is out

of all proportion to the trifling incident that so often precipitates it.

Some would say that the decisive factor in the whole tragic situation is the effect of alcohol on the victim's emotions and judgement. They point to the fact that a large majority of those who take their own lives are intoxicated when they do so. Unquestionably alcohol helps to aggravate the unpleasant confrontation between the victim and his friends or family in cases where he is drunk before the trouble occurs. Just as alcohol releases pent-up feelings in the drinker, it also stifles inhibitions and fears that might normally prevent a person from taking the final step and so fortifies his resolve to carry out his decision. But it does not explain what has prompted him to commit suicide in the first place.

Although the influence of alcohol may well magnify his emotional reaction, it does not account for the presence of the deep-seated feelings that are eventually vented in the suicide itself and often in the unpleasant incident that triggers it. Anyone who is at all familiar with the pattern of drinking in the Trust Territory knows that drinking is just as often the result of a violent inner emotional upheaval as it is the cause of the display of such an upheaval. In other words, it is just as frequently true that a person drinks because he is angry as it is that a person is angry because he is drunk. Moreover, the fact remains that not all suicide victims are drunk when they take their own lives. Alcohol, then, seems to be only a contributing factor rather than the cause of suicides.

Suicide cannot be adequately explained either by the drinking or by the family quarrel that occasions it. We can only assume that forces much deeper, and therefore less easily recognized, must be at play in the victim's life if he is driven to such a desperate deed. Human beings do not ordinarily choose to end their own lives out of whimsy even when drunk. I cannot say with convincing certainty what these forces are, for here our factual information ends, but I will advance a line of reasoning that seems to me to offer a partial explanation of the suicide epidemic in Micronesia.

Let us begin with the feelings of anger and shame, and perhaps self-pity as well, that normally surface during the conflict with family or friends prior to the suicide. It would be surprising if these feelings were not very deep-seated and operative in the victim long before the precipitating incident ever occurred. The act of self-destruction is a pathological response to a human situation, and it is logical to suppose that the pathological condition was not developed in the course of a few hours. It seems clear that as a rule only a



person whose self-image has been considerably weakened over the course of time could respond to a quarrel or fight with family or friends by killing himself.

But weakened by what? In Micronesia, if anywhere in the world, a positive self-image seems to depend largely on the sense of personal well-being that comes from successfully maintaining satisfying personal relationships with those others who are most important in one's life. It also derives from the knowledge that one can make a meaningful contribution to those persons who matter most. In other words, a person must be loved for what he is and appreciated for what he can do if he is to be a healthy human being. He may fail out of school, his business may go under, his boat may sink, his house be destroyed by a typhoon, or he may lose his government job; but he will not be driven to despair provided that he is assured of the love and respect of those closest to him. When this is withdrawn, he senses that he is a failure: it no longer matters to anyone whether he lives or dies. At this point almost any incident, however insignificant, may serve to confirm this dreadful latent feeling and provide the necessary impetus to commit the final deed.

**A**n integrated and healthy community furnishes the individual with the affection and sense of his own worth that he needs to live a meaningful life. In his monumental study on suicide some eighty years ago, the French sociologist, Emile Durkheim, showed that members of a cohesive community in which they felt themselves real participants manifested a low rate of suicide. The rare incidence of suicide in the outer islands of Micronesia today seems to confirm his observation. Of the 12 suicides in Truk District during the past year, none took place in the outer islands. Indeed, the Western Islands of Truk, on which men still wear loincloths and exercise traditional skills, have witnessed only one suicide in the past 24 years, according to the Catholic pastor there, and that was a 60 year old man who was suffering greatly in the advanced stages of terminal cancer. In the outer islands of Yap District, there have been only two known cases in the last 25 years: one of them involving a man from Ifaluk who several years ago hanged himself while angry at his wife, and the other a girl from Fais who took her own life about four years ago when her parents prevented her from marrying the boy of her affections. Whatever may be said of other places, suicide is clearly a very infrequent occurrence in those traditional island communities that remain tight-knit.

Most communities in Micronesia today have suffered from an erosion that has left them less cohesive, less unified in their values, less dependent on the cooperation of individual members, and less capable of satisfying the affective needs of their members. It is impossible here to go into the forces that have been responsible for this erosion, but the result has been a diminished sense of participation by individuals in what was once a corporate enterprise. Naturally enough, those who are affected most by the breakdown of the integrated community are the young, who are just in the process of discovering what their community expects of them and testing the strength of their ties with others in the community. It is the young whose self-image is most fragile and whose sense of identity is weakest. Among the young are some whose sense of confidence in their own worth as persons is especially weak, who are more uncertain than most of the love and respect of their families and peers. It is these who are the most likely candidates for suicide.

Let us have a look at the plight of the family, the most basic and crucial of communities. Over the past years the Micronesian family has gradually relinquished to other agencies many of the roles that it once exercised on behalf of its members. The school has assumed the responsibility for educating and even feeding its children. The police station and the court have increasingly taken on the responsibility of restraining them and correcting them when they misbehave. The hospital or dispensary cares for them when they are indisposed. Government recreation boards are assigned the task of occupying them during their leisure, and the government administration is expected to employ them during their working hours. No wonder parents feel their direct control over their young slipping away!

But there is still one essential role that the family plays in the life of the young: that of furnishing love and affective support. As of today at least there has been created no government agency that is able to provide this. And yet it is just this that many families, fully aware of their impotence in these other areas and themselves lacking the necessary cohesiveness, are no longer in a position to supply. In place of the effective controls that they once exercised over the young, many parents and older relatives now have to resort to the only weapon that appears to be left in their arsenal: continual nagging. They are constantly chiding their sons for being worthless louts. The young man who has dropped out of school or lost his job is all too well aware that this is what he is, at least by standards commonly accepted by the rest of society. To make



matters worse, his sense of personal uselessness is often compounded by the absence of meaningful work for the family or the community. Is he really expected to pound breadfruit, farm or fish if food needs can be met in other ways? Does his family expect anything of him at all? If so, will they have the strength to make demands on him? Or will he be permitted to spend his days in the pool hall and his evenings in the bar, while being written off as a bum? As the ties of mutual love and respect that bound him to members of his family and his community dissolve, the young man's lack of self-esteem gives rise to anger at those who have refused to accept him, shame at his own worthlessness, and a profound self-pity. For some this is literally one step away from the grave.

If many suicides in Micronesia are a final act of despair by a person whose life has become intolerable as his most meaningful relations have deteriorated, they are not only this. They are a thinly disguised act of aggression as well. The violent deed may be perpetrated against oneself, but the actual intended victims are frequently the parents, family or friends of the person who takes his own life. The young boy who swore to his father that he would soon have to spend a large sum of money because he refused him a mere dollar simply articulated a revenge motive that is implicit in many other cases. "I'll get back at you by destroying myself" is seen as a particularly effective way of avenging insults or blows from close relatives or friends. The rage that is present in the victim finds its most extreme expression in suicide, and also its most exquisite revenge. The victim knows that his survivors will have to continually savor the bitter shame and grief of knowing that they caused his death. Even if he hangs himself with the expectation that he will be cut down by someone before he strangles to death, he will have succeeded in shaming those who are to blame for his wounded pride.

In some Micronesian cultures, particularly in eastern Micronesia, indirect forms of vengeance are frequently employed to get back at offending parties. It is not at all unusual to shame with exaggerated displays of kindness a person who has done one some injury, thereby "heaping burning coals upon his head." There are in Truk and in Ponape instances in which the mother of a murdered son sought to adopt in her dead son's place the young man who killed him. Is this an exalted form of Christian forgiveness, or is it a subtle form of revenge in which the murderer is condemned to be forever reminded of his guilt by the continual presence of his victim's mother? It is certainly not

inconceivable that suicide too is an indirect means of lashing back at those against those who are the objects of the victim's anger.

The tentative analysis that I have offered here goes well beyond the limited data with which the paper began. But if it is at all accurate, then certain conclusions follow immediately. In the first place, the suicide epidemic in Micronesia is only the symptom of a much broader problem, and it will be impossible to check it through such partial measures as setting up counseling or referral centers, establishing recreation programs and job training centers, and providing additional employment for the "disadvantaged". The solution to the suicide problem will require nothing short of restored, revitalized, and reintegrated communities at various levels in society. The individual is shaped for good or bad by his community, and mounting evidence attests to the fact that there is something seriously wrong with the way our communities presently function in Micronesia. We might seriously ask ourselves what forces are responsible for the disintegration of our families and communities today, and what can be done to mend them in the future.

If we neglect to do this, we are almost certain to see Thomas' tragedy repeated more and more frequently in the years to come. In that case, the only sensible advice that might be offered to parents is to keep ropes, kerosene cans and clorox bottles well hidden.

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#### FOOTNOTE:

\* There may well have been more, perhaps as many as 30. In the absence of reliable official statistics on suicides, however, students and staff at Xavier compiled a list of all individuals known to them as having taken their own lives during the previous year. This list was then checked with other informants outside the school, particularly from Truk, and corrected where necessary. Nick Benjamin, a student researcher, then set out to gather further information on the victims and on the circumstances surrounding each death. The result is the basic data used in this paper.

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# AGRICULTURE EXTENSION



## IN MIGRONESIA

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*by Leo Migvar*

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Extension Service is defined as providing a service to a farmer and his family in order for them to improve their standard of living. It is a system of out-of-school education and training for rural people. Simply stated, it is the spreading of useful knowledge.

The objective and aim of the extension service is to train and teach people how to raise their standard of living, by their own efforts, using their own resources of manpower and materials; to arouse people to recognize and take an interest in their problems; and to persuade farmers to act on their own toward ultimate achievement and sense of satisfaction.

The Extension Service in Micronesia is relatively young, having started about 20 years ago with a small and inexperienced staff. Today, there is a Chief of Extension Service at Headquarters and an Extension Supervisor in each district who is responsible for the supervision and guidance of the field agents who are assigned to an area or island group. There are presently about seventy (70) agriculture extension agents providing on-the-farm advice in various spheres of agriculture, such as vegetable growing, black pepper production, coconut production, rice, livestock, (poultry, hogs, and cattle), fruit growing and forestry. In some districts, an agent is assigned to an area or an island group indefinitely; in other districts, agents are assigned to an area for a certain period of time then rotated to another area.

The extension agents now employed have a diverse background of education levels, training, and experience. Some have college degrees and others had as little as five years schooling under the Japanese administration. All have had on-the-job training. All have learned through trial and error, and some have had specialized training.

*A group of Ponape farmers preparing a nursery seed bed for rice.*

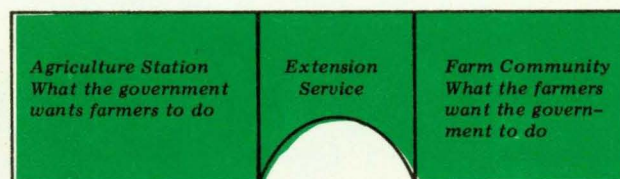


The agents with the best education and training are not necessarily the most effective. Micronesian custom recognizes a person's wisdom because of his age; hence, young college graduates are not very effective until they reach a mature age. In certain districts, the caste system also affects the extension worker's ability to perform. For example, in Yap, a low caste extension worker has a difficult time working with high caste families. Likewise, in the Marshalls an agent who is a commoner has a hard time working with the chiefly clans.

The extension worker, to be effective, must be intimately acquainted with all the farm families within his area of responsibility. He must try to arouse people to recognize and take an interest in their problems, to want to overcome these problems, to teach them how to do so and to persuade them to act on his teaching. It is very important that the agent does not do the work for the farmer, the agent demonstrates and teaches the farmer and then works along side the farmer until the farmer has learned the new skill or practice.

There are several methods of approach in providing an effective extension service. One of the best methods is 'learn by doing', which was explained above where the agent and the farmer worked together and the farmer learned a new skill by doing. Also, a desire or want must first be created in the minds of the farmers to use the knowledge. The extension worker must always think in terms of the farmer's viewpoint. The agent must put himself in the farmer's place. The agent must also convince the farmer that the new skill or practice is easy to do, that it involves little extra work, and that it costs very little.

An effective extension service is a bridge between the research service (agriculture demonstration stations) and the farming community. The diagram below illustrates this more clearly.



Extension service provides farmers with new skills and practices and uses this knowledge to solve the farmers' problems. The agents also bring farmers' problems to the notice of the agriculture station staff so that these problems can be solved as quickly as possible. The extension worker may be regarded as the liaison officer between the farmer and the agriculture station.



There are certain essential stages of extension before effective service can be provided to the farming community, they are as follows:

- 1) a study and survey of the conditions in the community must be made by competent persons;
- 2) a program of extension service on a long-range basis must be prepared in consultation with the people, in accordance with their wishes and within their available resource of manpower and money;
- 3) a timetable of operations, based on a work plan which shows what will be done and when;
- 4) then an evaluation and measure of progress at regular intervals to see if proper response has been made by the people. If progress has not come about, then modification should be made of the plan.

Extension workers are guided by certain important principles which follow:

- a) extension is not a form of charity, the agent must never be giving something for nothing, people may not have money to support a program, but they must be willing to give of their time and labor;
- b) extension ideas and programs must never be forced on the people. The people must feel the need and ask for the extension worker's help. The agent must be approachable and be willing to be approached by the farmer anytime of the day or night. A good agent does not work by the clock;
- c) the farmer must take part in every stage of extension work;
- d) progress in extension service can be measured if there has been an improvement in skills, change of behavior or attitudes, better understanding of a concept, an increased ability to solve problems, a shifting of values or an adoption of improved practices.

We said at the beginning that extension is a system of out-of-school education and training. Extension teaching methods take into account that a normal person goes through a number of stages of mental processes before a new idea is accepted or put into practice. They are:

1. Awareness — knows that an idea exists.
2. Interest — becomes interested in the idea.
3. Evaluation — decides whether or not the new idea is good.



*A group of Palauan women observing a method demonstration in the application of fertilizer prior to planting. The demonstration is being conducted by Leo Migvar, Chief of Extension Service and Ichio Moros, Extension Supervisor for Palau standing at left is translating.*

4. Trial — tries out the idea, usually in a small way.
5. Adoption — changes to new practices.

The specific teaching methods used are numerous; such as mass teaching via radio, television, newspapers, bulletins and posters; group teaching includes general meetings, group discussions, result demonstrations, method demonstrations, exhibitions and conducted tours. In group teaching, participants may ask questions and exchange ideas, thus stimulate each other into action. The final method is individual contact or teaching, which includes farm and home visits, personal letters, and farmers' visits to the office or agent's home.

No single method of teaching can reach all the people nor can it influence all of them. The extension worker must be able to use various methods, and or use them together to get the desired results. Some farmers will accept new ideas and practices faster than others, some will need more exposure and explanation.

The most commonly used teaching method in Micronesia is a combination of individual contact and teaching a new skill or practice by the method demonstration. This method is most often used because of the difficulty in getting people together. However, this takes a lot of time and is expensive because of the greater number of extension workers needed.

The Micronesian extension service engages in the use of news releases, radio programs, group meetings,



agricultural fairs, farmers field days and attendance at Municipal Council Meetings to get the message across to farmers about new ideas and practices. Special awards and recognition of the best farmer are also given to successful and progressive farmers. At all times, extension work is a process of teaching and training. The agent carries new ideas to the people and persuades them to accept and adopt those new ideas.

*At left Silas Henry, in charge of the Ponape pepper project, pointing to root development of ready-to-plant pepper plants.*







Arrival of various dignitaries from Washington, D.C., from the Republic of Nauru and from throughout Micronesia to participate in the four-day celebration of Kosrae as the newest of the six districts of the Trust Territory.

## KOSRAE-- NEW DISTRICT, NEW SPELLING

And it cannot be overlooked that the contingent of 270 Nauruans provided lively entertainment each day. And so did the crew members of the MV Cenpac Rounder, the MV MiliTobi and the MV Robert DeBrum and the USS Abnaki.

Contrary to reports, the island of Kosrae did not sink under the weight of all these visitors. However, the Nauruan dancers did register 3.9 on the Richter Scale during their singing and dancing performances.

Gentle rains blessed these activities which began on Tuesday (Jan. 4) with a swearing-in ceremony conducted by the Acting High Commissioner at Lelu Elementary School. Sworn-in was the new district administrator of Kosrae, James Pualoa, the Speaker of the Kosrae District Legislature Gaius Nedlick, and the Acting Kosrae Presiding Judge Linus George.

That evening at Utwe village, the site where the infamous Bully Hays and his ship Elnor met their end many years ago, the residents feted the guests with food and songs.

Wednesday morning highlights included the raising of the colors by the Kosrae police force and the major speeches of the four-day celebration.

Assistant Secretary Zapanta noted the future potential of Kosrae was great and urged close cooperation with the TT Government and with Washington, D.C., remarking that many projects such as the new hospital, new high school, and new power plant were all nearing completion and the airport and harbor facilities were in the planning stage.

Aranda, special representative of President Ford, read his congratulatory remarks to the assembled dignitaries. The newly-elected Nauruan chief of State

Bernard Dowiyogo was unable to be present but his remarks were received by telegram.

Perhaps the most significant speech of the morning was made by the Honorable Joab Sigrah, senator-elect to the Congress of Micronesia representing Kosrae District.

Speaking for the people of Kosrae, he said that they have long requested and dreamed for a separate district status.

"We are grateful that the older generation of our district who have desired these steps for many years will be able to experience and participate in the realization of that dream. And let me add, we do not view our achieving district status as a separation from Ponape, but a realization of a cultural, geographic and political reality.

"In this connection, let me emphasize, that we intend to continue our close ties and friendship with the people of Ponape in the future. By the same token, as a district, we strongly support the desire of the other districts for a Micronesian political family and for a compact of association with the United States of America."

Senator Sigrah went on to say: "I wish to express the sincere gratitude of the people of Kosrae to those who supported our efforts for this goal. First and foremost of course, is the Congress of Micronesia which approved the appropriate legislation and other measures which paved the way for our new status. Equally important is the favorable support of the Trust Territory Executive Branch and the Department of Interior not only in approving the concept but in



Nauru Singers

allowing for the necessary budgetary support and administrative assistant.

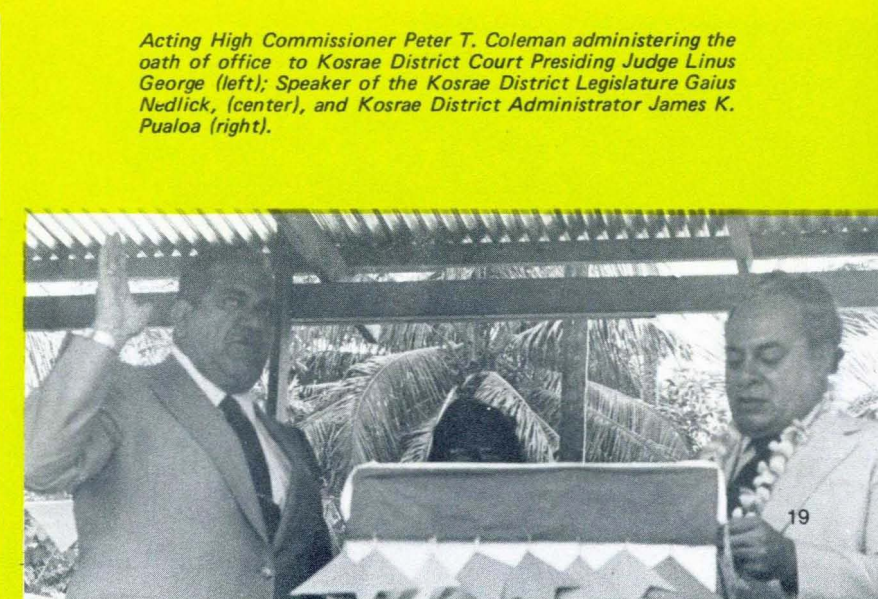
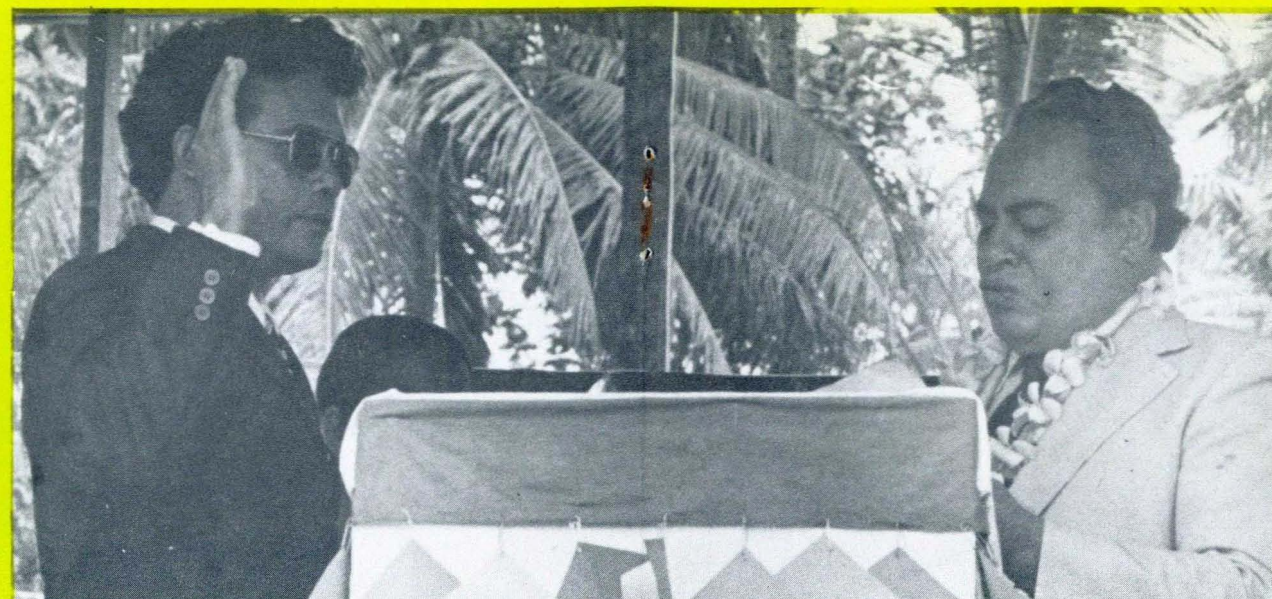
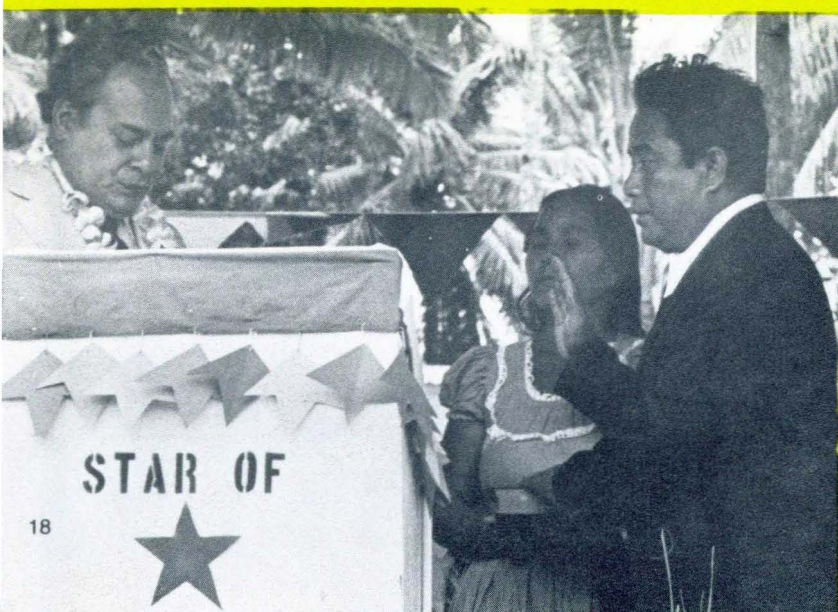
"Last, but certainly not least, we owe deep gratitude to the people of Ponape District for their friendship, their understanding and their support."

That afternoon and evening, the people of Malem village hosted the visitors at another feast at which songs and dances were also provided by the members of the Kosraean community at Ebeye, the visitors from Nauru and the crew from the Cenpac Rounder.

On Thursday, the host community was Tafunsak Village located on the windward side of the island, where the future airport and harbor will be located.

On Friday, the host village was Lelu, site of the present port facilities and the location of the district offices. The day was highlighted by not only grand feasting and music but by outrigger canoe races and other contests.

On Saturday, the many ships at Lelu harbor departed for points north. And the beautiful and bounteous new district of Kosrae was once again peaceful and quiet, filled with the fun memories of the week that was; the momentous week that established Kosrae as a full partner in the community of districts known as Micronesia.



Acting High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman administering the oath of office to Kosrae District Court Presiding Judge Linus George (left); Speaker of the Kosrae District Legislature Gaius Nedlick, (center), and Kosrae District Administrator James K. Pualoa (right).



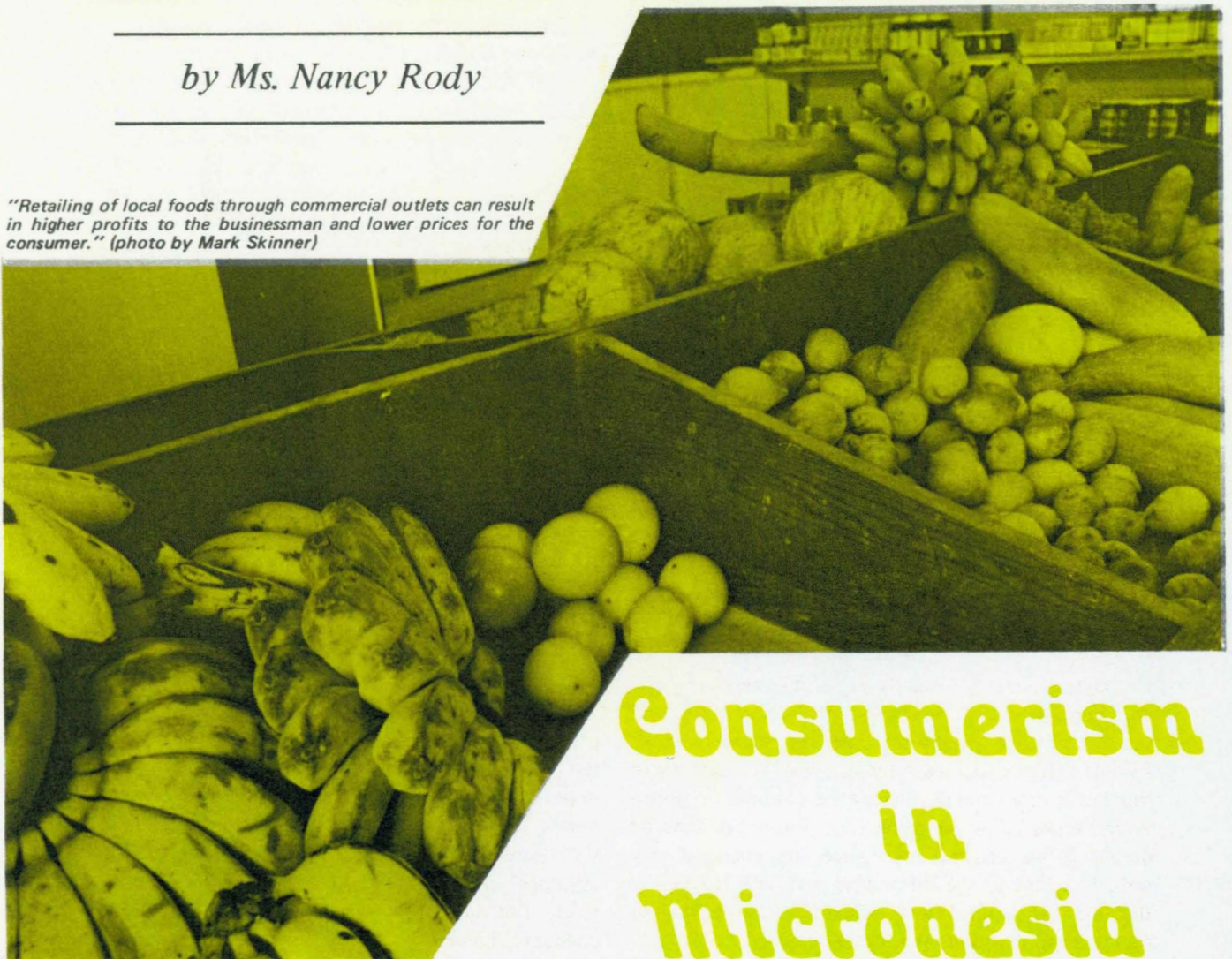
# food:

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*by Ms. Nancy Rody*

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*"Retailing of local foods through commercial outlets can result in higher profits to the businessman and lower prices for the consumer." (photo by Mark Skinner)*



**Consumerism  
in  
Micronesia**



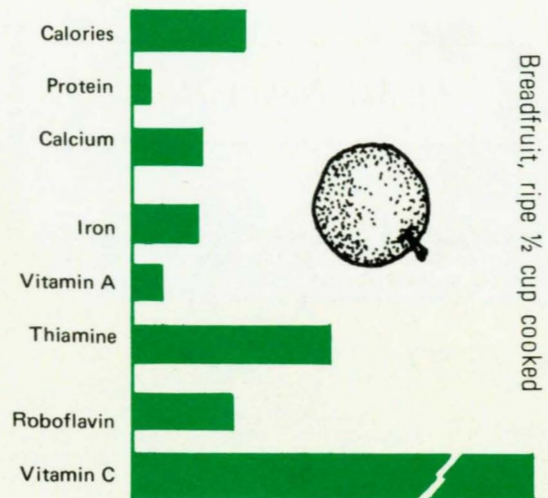
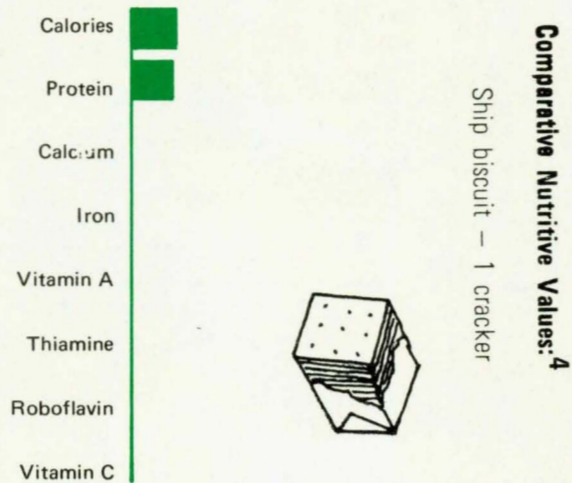
The Micronesian family is becoming increasingly dominated by foreign influences. The Micronesian is trading his self-sufficiency and healthy life-style for one which is costly-physically and financially.

Recent economic and social changes have resulted in advancing nutritional problems. Micronesia's imports of food and beverages are increasing at a rate of \$1 million per year, reaching \$16 million in 1975; and these imports consist largely of nutritionally poor foods such as polished rice, bleached flour, refined sugar and beer — \$3 million was spent in 1975 on the import of beverages and only 17% of that \$3 million was for milk, the rest largely for soft drinks and alcoholic beverages.<sup>1</sup>

Nutritional surveys undertaken in Micronesia since 1952 to the present time strongly indicate that in areas where the local population depends more on store goods for their source of food supplies, diets are far more likely to be inadequate. One extensive study of large population groups in two districts comparing individuals largely dependent on imported foods with individuals consuming largely local foods showed that four times as many individuals in the area dependent on imported foods were malnourished as compared with those eating local foods.<sup>2</sup> Subsequent studies indicate that while there is no overall insufficiency of food in urbanizing areas, there is a scarcity of fresh foods, primarily fruits and vegetables, resulting in lowered intake of essential vitamins and minerals.<sup>3</sup>

For most Micronesian families, food is one of their major expenses. The larger the family, the less they have to spend on food for each individual member, but they need good diets every bit as much as members of smaller families. In some cases with large families and lower incomes, as much as 70 — 80% of the income might be spent on food. In urbanized areas, wages are relatively low and prices comparatively high. The bulk of foods purchased are usually high in poor quality starch, such as polished rice and bleached flour products, and high in refined sugar. These foods are less expensive than fish, meat, milk, fruits, and vegetables, but low in essential vitamins, minerals and proteins.

Unfortunately, farmer's and fishermen's markets are frequently not open on a full-time basis, and supplies of nutritionally superior low-cost local foods are not sufficient to meet the demand. The delivery of supplies is often erratic, forcing the customer to return several times before he can hope to locate the items he desires. Some markets, of course, are managed very well, but due to the difficulties involved, frequently the potential customer just finds it far more convenient to buy imported foods at a local store.



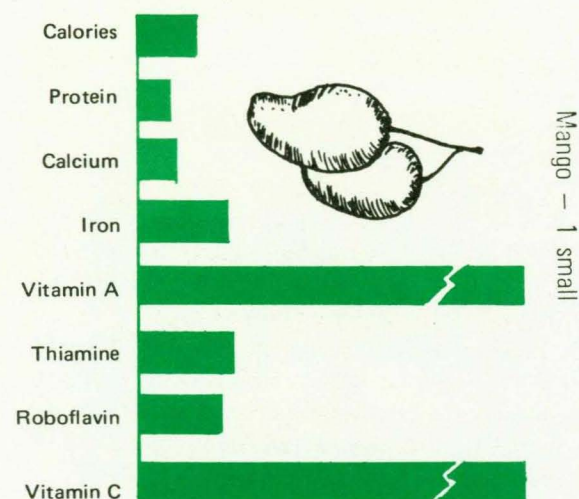
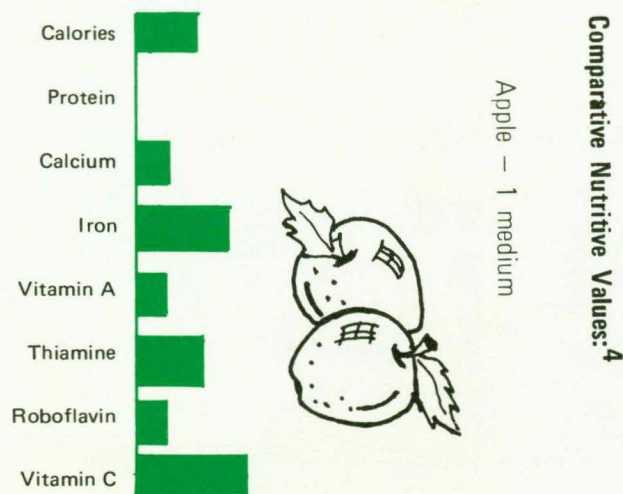
The buying patterns of Micronesians are influenced by several factors. In many communities much prestige may be attached to the eating of imported foods. Guests may be served canned fruit while surrounded by plants bearing exotic and delicious vitamin filled fruit.

There is usually more labor involved in the preparation of local foods, and the time saved by the use of imported convenience foods may be an important factor to those employed away from the home. Households lacking refrigeration facilities find that canned foods far outlast perishable local foods, although methods for preserving these local foods do exist, and might be developed on household and commercial levels.





*"The sale of cold coconuts for nearly half the price of soft drinks has proved tremendously popular".*



The Micronesian consumer is faced with a rapidly increasing and often bewildering supply of consumer goods. Brightly packaged and temptingly displayed, it is understandable that he usually buys on impulse, purchasing what appeals at the moment, rather than planning his purchases according to a budget or to the nutritional needs of his family. Typically, the consumer will visit the store he favors several times each week, buying only sufficient to satisfy his most immediate needs. Bulk purchasing is not practiced to any extent. Foods are often purchased and then eaten just outside the store. Small village stores offering credit are widely patronized for their convenience, although markup in these establishments is usually high.

Public feeding programs, which ideally should set a good example by demonstrating the utilization of nutritionally high quality foods, frequently are observed to serve little other than starchy imported foods, rather than utilizing nutritionally superior local foods. School children, for example, eating imported foods, become impressed with the idea that these foods are better, and begin demanding them at home.

The erroneous belief that imported foods are superior to local foods is also fostered by the example of the buying patterns of expatriates, and the high pressure U.S. style advertising which is finding its way into some districts via the media. Micronesian businessmen are quick to learn the successful sales techniques of their American counterparts, such as the prominent display of high cost snack foods near the cash register, and the positioning of high sugar foods on low shelves where children will see and parents will buy in order to avoid a domestic quarrel in public.

The ubiquitous snack wagons and school stores selling "junk food" also foster the spread of these buying patterns. Teenagers are particularly susceptible to peer pressure to gain prestige through buying such foods. Utilization of U.S. nutrition education materials in school and health programs instills the belief that imported foods must be better for the body since the illustrations depict import type foods and not Micronesian foods.

Food expenditures can be kept at a relatively lower level if larger quantities of local foods are used, and if subsistence farming is practiced. Home gardening is an excellent method of supplementing the family income, most especially in Micronesia with a near year-round growing season under already good conditions which can be further enhanced by the utilization of readily available composting materials at no cost. In the case of some fast growing vegetables such as Chinese cabbage and radishes, elapsed time



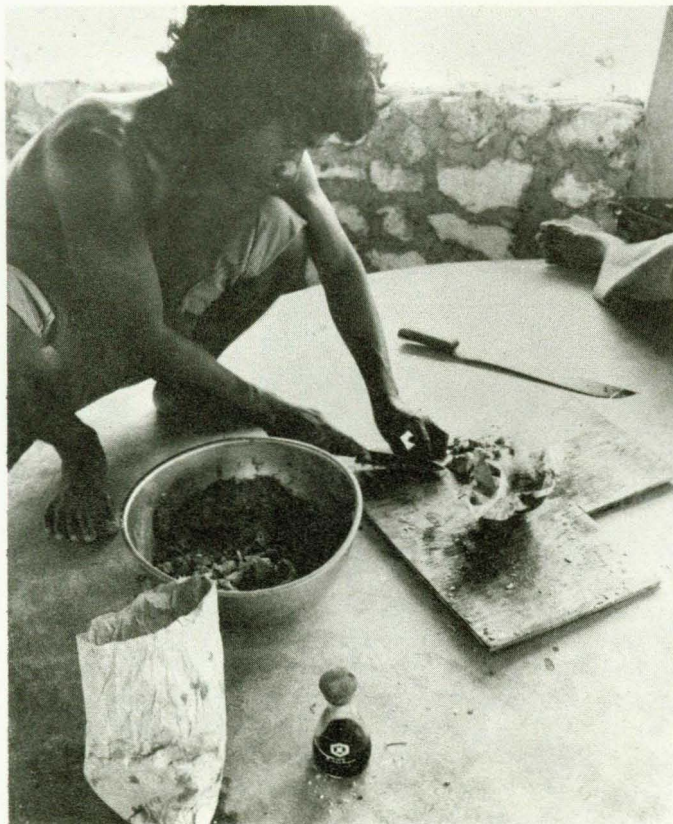
between planting and harvest can be as little as three weeks. The entire family can be a part of the gardening project, providing low cost foods far surpassing canned items in nutrient content.

It must be realized however, that home gardening cannot be expected to provide for more than a comparatively small number of families in urbanized areas. Through increased production and improvement of sales facilities, farmers' and fishermen's markets could provide stronger competition to import food businesses, marketing locally produced products at prices within the purchasing power of lower income groups.

Supply of public feeding programs with local products could result in better nutrition, lower program costs and support in efforts to promote education on the value of local foods, as well as making a sound contribution to the local economy. Contracts with public feeding programs would provide a basic stable cash flow for the establishment of small, independent agriculture and fishery businesses.

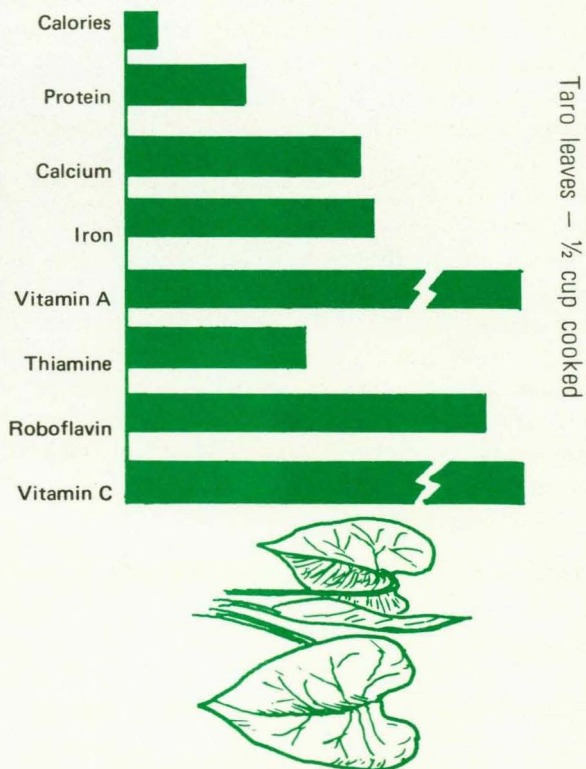
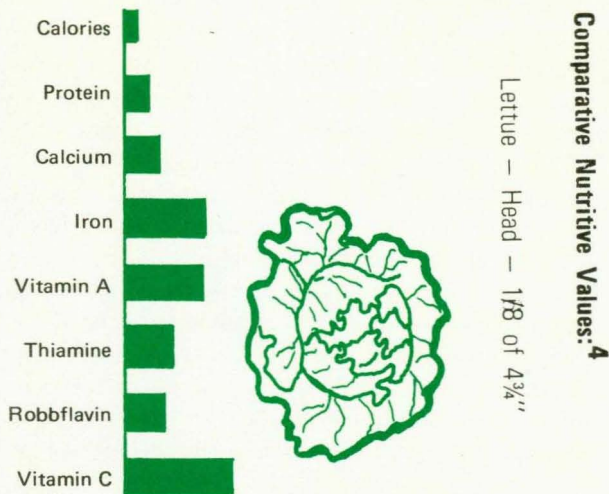
Information relative to the nutritive value of local foods and family budgeting would be particularly relevant as part of school curricula and adult education

*Fisherman prepares sashimi from freshly caught parrot fish, soya, local limes and hot peppers.*



projects. Promotion of the popularity of local foods could be undertaken by organs having influence on public opinion. Restaurants and airlines might include more traditional local foods on their menus.

Profit, the money left to the Micronesian businessman after all business expenses are paid, is only a fraction of the cost of food. Increasingly high wholesale and shipping costs have driven prices ever higher in Micronesia. Retailing of local foods through





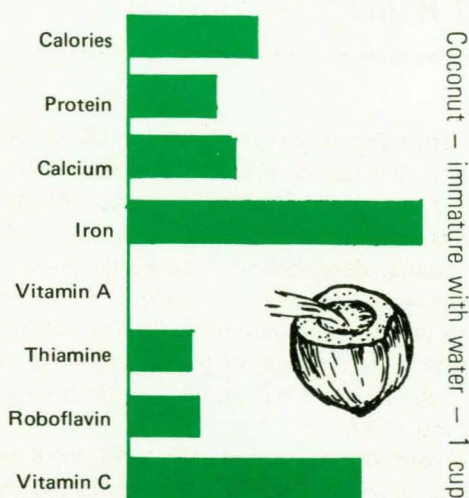
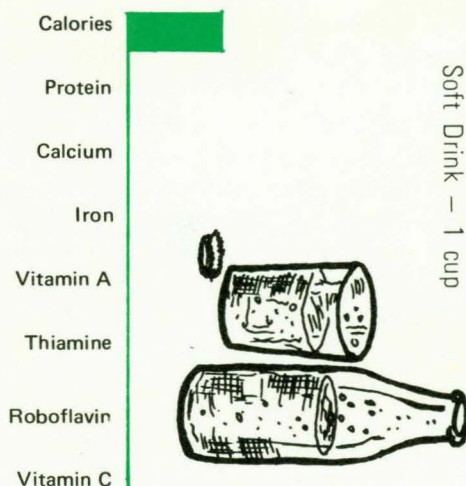
# Comparative Nutritive Values: 4

commercial outlets can result in higher profits to the businessman and lower prices for the consumer.

The consumer-owned cooperative stores are a tool by which local consumers can influence the availability and prices of all types of goods if they can be kept under the control of public spirited consumer representatives. Continuous supplies of local foods as well as imported foods can be handled by these cooperatives, forming the embryonic development of a consumerism movement in Micronesia. By pooling resources, members could operate food stores and other retail facilities for their mutual benefit.

Consumers can affect prices and product availability by being aware of factors involved and selecting food with regard to them. In one district where soft drinks have recently undergone a large price increase, the sale of cold coconuts for nearly half the price of soft drinks has proved tremendously popular.\* This provides better nutrition and contributes more to the local economy as well as saving money for the consumer. Coconuts at the village store pictured cost 25¢ — soft drinks are 40¢. A can of soft drink contains 12 oz. — a coconut an average of 16 oz. or more. Comparative nutritional analysis is shown on the accompanying graph, illustrating that coconuts supply far greater amounts of the essential nutrients. Other graphs demonstrate the relative nutritive value of some other common imported and Micronesian foods.

The time has come when the knowledge which has been gained over the years of food resources, dietary patterns and nutritional status in Micronesia should be applied to practical situations. Knowledge is the best form of protection for the Micronesian consumer. Through an awareness of the general nutritional content of foods and an understanding of sound consumer practices, well-balanced meals can be planned which reflect personal and cultural values at a more reasonable cost. With more than 112,000 consumers who collectively have more money than and other single group in Micronesia, a change in the pattern of consumer spending toward widespread utilization of local food products could have massive positive effects on the physical and financial well-being of the Micronesian consumer.



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\* Initiated April, 1976, Yap Cooperative Association. Sales volume 80-100 coconuts daily. Subsequently movie theater, restaurant and majority of retail stores sell cold coconuts in Yap District.



# MICRONESIA BY THE YEAR 2000- NEW IDEAS

*by William H. Stewart*

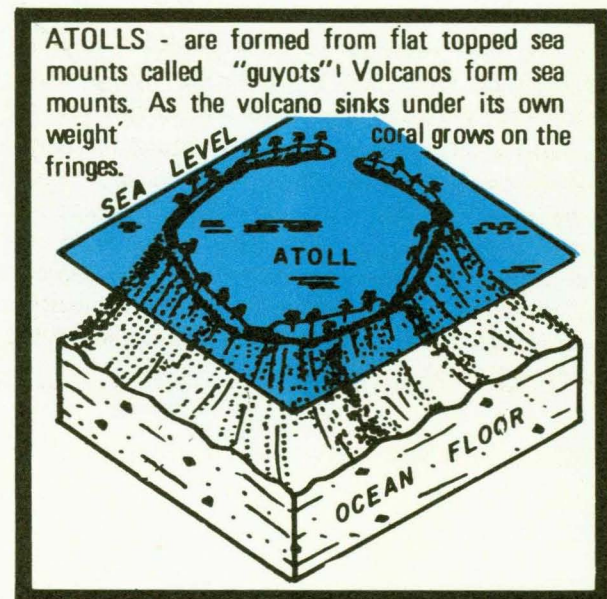
As the Trust Territory nears the end of this decade at which time the islands will have hopefully solved their future political status and relationship with the United States, much work remains to be done in the realm of economic development. New imaginative and creative approaches must be taken to move Micronesians into the last quarter of the 20th century, if indeed, that is the desire of the people. If such is not their desire, the alternative is simple . . . return to the subsistence way of life.

Micronesians know and are familiar with the latter way of living. But what of the future? Who has the crystal ball to foresee what could happen in Micronesia in the way of business endeavors to develop the necessary tax base to support the new government in the year 2,000, a date in time closer to us than the Korean War?

Aside from the exploitation of the area's marine resources, I believe the more conventional opportunities for development are limited to tourism, agriculture to substitute imported goods, and a few other activities which amount to little more than taking in each other's washing — only to circulate existing money in the economy.

But what about new outside money which will be needed in ever increasing amounts as the population grows? Where can Micronesia generate this new money? We must look beyond conventional investment sources to new endeavors never before considered such as the possible super-port complex in Palau. There may be other exciting possibilities.

**SUPER-TANKER CLEANING** — One area of investigative research might concern the use of a large uninhabited atoll for the purpose of cleaning the oil tanks of super tankers. We would have to determine if, in fact, such activity is feasible. These huge vessels must have their tanks cleaned somewhere and it obviously will not be done in the harbors of San Francisco or Yokohama. Since they return from, say, the U.S. west coast empty, enroute to the Persian Gulf, they are riding high in the water and don't need the depth of water under their hull as would be necessary if they were full with their cargo of oil. Is it possible that an atoll could be found where the vessel could enter, have a man-made sea gate close behind the ship and then flush the vessel's tanks with sea water? If such is possible, there is no question but what the oil sludge would pollute the atoll, destroy the fish and kill the coral. Would such a "trade-off" of an atoll for the jobs it could possibly create be acceptable? Is such a concept practical? Could the dirty black oil be retained in the area enclosed by the fringing atoll reef and not escape to wash upon some distant beach beyond the confinement of the atoll? These are questions that should be examined and scrapped if not possible or acceptable. Could an atoll be used to "moth ball" these tankers, the number of which presently exceeds the demands of the oil transport industry? Attempts should be made to consider every conceivable possibility for economic development no matter how remote the idea seems.









**GREAT CIRCLE SAILING ROUTES — PACIFIC TRAFFIC . . .** There is a great deal we do not know about Micronesia. For example, I'll venture to state that not one person in one hundred knows exactly where Micronesia lies in relation to major world markets. People who are accustomed to reviewing Mercator's flat maps of the world have a distorted view of geographic relationships with respect to Micronesia.

The Pacific Ocean is a vast, much travelled highway. Carriers travel what is known as the great circle sailing route, the shortest distance between two points on the globe. A ship's heading between its point of voyage origin and its destination travels across the ocean on a course which is a line passing between these two points and a plane thru the center of the earth. For example, the Equator is a great circle, the shortest distance between Singapore and, say, the port city for Quito, Ecuador, is this great circle sailing tract. Moving north on the earth's surface to say, 35° N 30' the great circle route from Yokohama to San Francisco (37° N. -50') carries the vessel near the Aleutian Islands.

With this in mind, research should be undertaken of great circle sailing routes which pass through Micronesia, examine the origin and destination of vessel traffic flows, determine cargo characteristics and perhaps learn from these data how Micronesia might devise opportunities to its advantage. What might they be? We will never know if we don't examine these routes with detective persistence. Palau lies on the great circle to San Francisco, no doubt a factor which led to its possible consideration for a super port location.

More mental agility, creative thinking and imagination must be applied in looking for opportunities that no one has ever bothered to consider before.

**ENEWETAK — AFTER THE ATOMIC TESTS**—Enewetak, for example, is an atoll which has recently been returned to its owners. While this idea has not been cleared with the owners, the tremendous facilities that exist on the island could certainly be put to some productive use. There is an 8,100 ft. airstrip, 50-room hotel, 130 warehouses, and other buildings, a water distillation plant, an electric power generator, and infrastructure which cost \$100 million in 1948. There must be, somewhere in this world, an organization that would be interested in renting these facilities from the people. An organization seeking the exact facilities and environment that the atoll offers which is a controlled, isolated, secure environment. Who could use it? A chemical firm in need of a place to test new chemicals away from the prying eye of

competitors? Because of its remoteness, would it be suitable for huge radio astronomy observatories listening to distant planets with instruments so sensitive that an automobile engine disturbs their readings? Perhaps the facilities could be utilized for a huge Pacific-wide fishing base and marine laboratory. These are the types of endeavors which must be considered.

**TUNA CANNING**—Financial analyses for the canning of tuna shows that the business is profitable, and attempts are being made to generate interest in investment on the part of foreign and Micronesian businessmen.

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES — HOUSING — MEDICAL — RECREATION**—There is no reason not to believe that condominiums would not be successful in the future. Given the shortage of land on islands and laws governing ownership of land (non citizens can't purchase land), it would seem reasonable to erect condominiums, sell the interior walls and let the island owner retain title to the site upon which the structure is built. A lot of people in Asia are looking for a safe haven. Such a building should not be difficult to market.

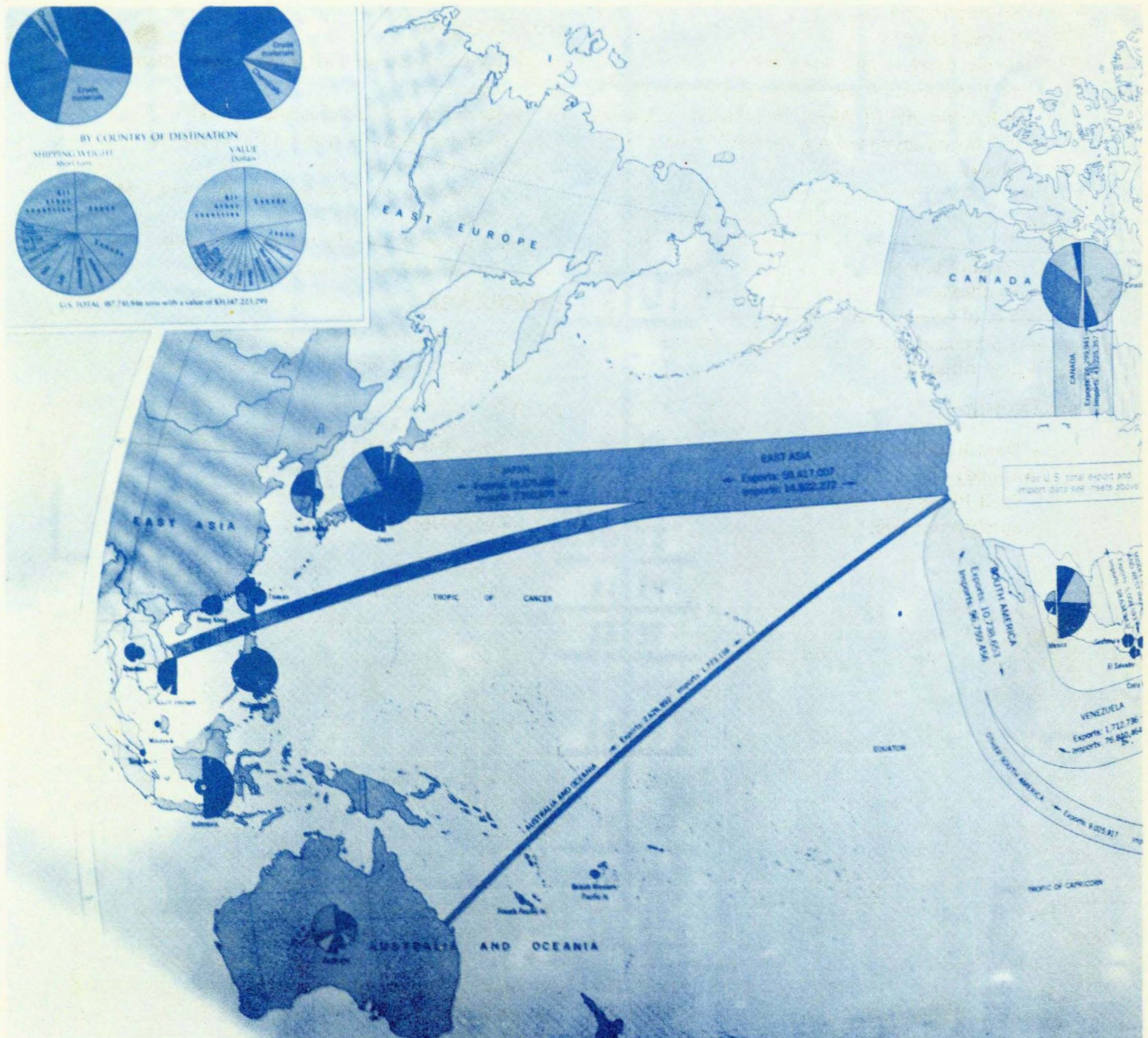
A medical clinic is another possibility, perhaps patterned after the Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, with top notch doctors and the facilities to accommodate patients such as a first class 18-hole golf course. Perhaps, if feasible, using the new cancer drug laetrite and other similar drugs, which as I understand, can't be administered in the U.S. It may be the above ideas are not practical or possible at this point, but at least they should be examined in depth to determine their feasibility.

**MICRONESIA'S NEW GOVERNMENT**—One thing seems certain, the Trust Territory Government as we have known it in the past is going to change. It is doubtful that the large government payroll, recruitment cost and fringe benefits for about 7,500 Micronesians and 725 non-Micronesians can be maintained at \$31.1 million and \$8.8 million respectively from a total grant budget of \$61 million (1975) simply to manage the affairs of some 115,000 Micronesians, about half of whom live on outer islands and see little direct benefit from this payroll. Of the half that remains in the district center where most government activity is concentrated, almost 50% of this population is under the age of 17 and not now in the labor force.

These young people, about 55,000 in all, will need jobs. It is impossible to conceive that the government will absorb them. Employment opportunities must be created in the private sector, and quickly. Investment



concepts must be identified as described above, their feasibility must be documented and attempts made to locate the financing to bring the endeavor about.





## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

### LOW TAXES:

- 1% on Gross revenue over \$10,000
- 3% on salaries & Wages
- 1.5% social security tax on covered wages matched by employer
- Low import duties on raw material
- No corporation tax
- No real estate tax
- No inventory or processing tax
- No discrimination tax on outside investment
- Rebate on import duties on business equipment
- Rebate on imported raw material when process export.

### LABOR:

- No labor unrest
- No unions
- Pool of trainable labor supply
- Government sponsored training programs
- Low crime rate

### FINANCING:

- Long term/low interest loans (when 51% Micro. owned)
- Shell Bldg's (for lease, lease with option to buy, outright purchase)

### TRADE:

- No. U.S. Quotas on manufactured items
- Preferential U.S. tariff treatment
- Located within major Pacific Sea Lanes
- Direct shipping service to Japan, Far East & U.S. West Coast ports.

### GOVERNMENT:

- Politically stable (while new government being organized)
- Recognized need for foreign capital
- No restrictions on repatriation of capital
- Low utility rates
- Assurance of Government purchases (where applicable)
- Hard currency — No exchange controls
- Provision of access roads — utilities

### GEOGRAPHIC:

- Located within world's richest fishing area
- Proximity to Japan & other Asian markets

### OTHER:

- Availability of world-wide communications
- Banking & Insurance institutions
- U.S. Government interest & obligation in area
- Good living environment

## in the next quarter

"Ghosts of the past . . . a vision of the future," a vivid narrative about Xavier High School during its 25-year history. Other articles will include the philosophy of education toward the development of Micronesia, analysis of Toward a New Partnership: A Special Relationship, of the fishing industry in the T.T. and a few surprises.



# WORLD E EDUCATORS

COME  
TO  
PONAPE

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*by Mrs. Alicia E. Ada*

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The Continental Air Micronesia Boeing 727 zoomed in, unusually right on schedule. After a brief interval, the passengers descended the ramp, and one could see that this flight was bringing in more than the normal load of tourists. Among them was Dr. Loretta Krause, Principal of the University of Hawaii Laboratory Schools, and Director of the World Educators' Conference in Honolulu, who was leading her group of post-conference participants from the United States and South Africa. With the group were the Micronesian participants to the Honolulu Conference; namely, Alfonso Oiterong, Palau District Director of Education; Chutomu Nimwes, Truk District Director of Education; Rachel Nabeyama of Palau, as well as Marcellion Umwech and Mensior Moses of Truk. Together with the four participants (two Americans and a couple from South Africa who had arrived on Ponape three days earlier), the entire group totalled eighteen participants.

#### HOW THE WORLD EDUCATORS' POST-CONFERENCE ORIGINATED

As part of the Bicentennial celebrations in Hawaii, a World Educators' Conference was held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel on July 11-17, 1976. This was the culmination of two years of planning under the direction of Dr. Krause. The idea of the Community College of Micronesia, Ponape, as a post-conference site, along with Maui, Kauai, and Hilo, was brought up by Dr. Krause during her visit here in the summer of 1975. The then Acting Director of CCM, Mr. John Biddle, pointed out that one serious drawback was CCM's financial inability to shoulder the expenses; any support, other than financial, could be promised. When assured that the participants would pay their way and that CCM would only have to provide conference space, a program of activities, and a lot of goodwill, Mr. Biddle promised to give the matter serious thought.

Early in January 1976, Dr. Krause sent word that the World Educators' Conference in Honolulu would definitely take place. However, the post-conference on Ponape could not be confirmed until after the closing of registration in April. Even so, she strongly urged that CCM contact possible speakers, plan a tentative program, and prepare to play host to educators from other countries.

The next logical step was to assign a committee to take charge of the above preparations. Mr. Daro Weital, CCM Director, picked five staff members, together with the District Scholarship Officer, Mr. Catalino Cantero, to make up a six-man Post-Conference Planning Committee. This committee outlined a schedule of activities covering not only the two session

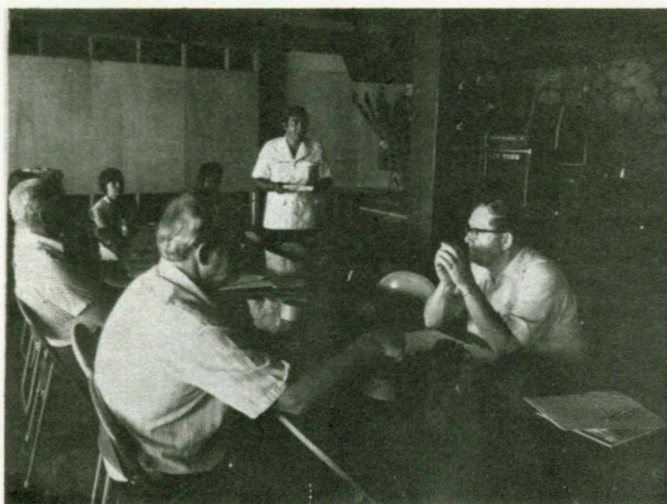


*CCM girls, Juliana Falan (l) and Mary Dorang (r), prepare mwaramahrs to be given visitors on arrival.*

*CCM students (l to r) Ignathio Berag, Juliana Falan, Johannes Sapwetil, Francis Filmed, and Mary Dorang, get ready to greet visitors with mwaramahrs on their arrival July 19, 1976.*







*Acting District Administrator for Ponape, Mr. Bermin Weilbacher, opened the two-day conference sessions with a welcome speech. The World Educators' Post-conference on Ponape was held at the Nan Madol Hotel on July 21-22, 1976.*

days, but also the free days. Subsequently, arrangements were made for entertainment, sight-seeing, and cultural tours. Plans, at first tentative, were soon finalized when registration closed in April and assurance was received that the Ponape conference would become a reality. The last step in the preparations was assigning individual staff members to take charge of every possible detail contributing to the success of the whole endeavor.

### **BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE CONFERENCE**

Direct benefits were shared by all the participants. On the part of the local participants (CCM and Ponape District Education Department staff), the much-needed exposure to co-professionals was a boon seldom encountered outside of travelling to state-side conferences or workshops (a rarity indeed). In addition, the informal rap sessions, either on a small-group or a one-to-one basis, were fringe benefits not to be discounted, especially since the visitors were not mere co-professionals, but outstanding educators as well. To mention a few: Dr. Stephanus Olivier, President of the University of Durban-Westville, South Africa; Dr. Ted Rodgers, Director of the Hawaii English Program; Dr. Sam Miller, Director of the Office of Child Development, Region IX; Dr. Fred Casmir, Professor of Speech-Communications at Pepperdine University; Mr. George Hysmith, Area Administrator of the Portland Public Schools; and Dr. Jorn Larson-Basse, Professor of Engineering at the University of Hawaii.



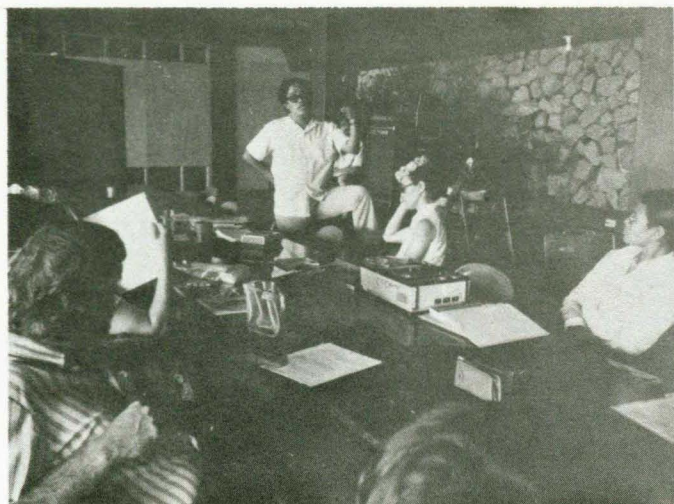
*Dr. Loretta Krause, Director of the World Educators' Conference, briefed CCM and Ponape Department of Education staff on the events at the World Educators' Conference held in Honolulu July 11-17, 1976.*

*Ponape District Deputy Director of Education, Mr. Yasuo Yamada, welcomed the guests and pledged his Department's support for the post-conference.*



Among the various presentations, Dr. Rodgers' on the Hawaii English Program was the most well-attended; together with Shirley Whitfield's exhibit of HEP curriculum materials used in the secondary level, these presentations were considered to be the most helpful and practical. Dr. Olivier's paper on how to accommodate certain historic factors in a culturally pluralistic society was thought-provoking and intellectually stimulating and Dr. Casmir's video-tape on communication satellites, due to its controversial nature, was most interesting.



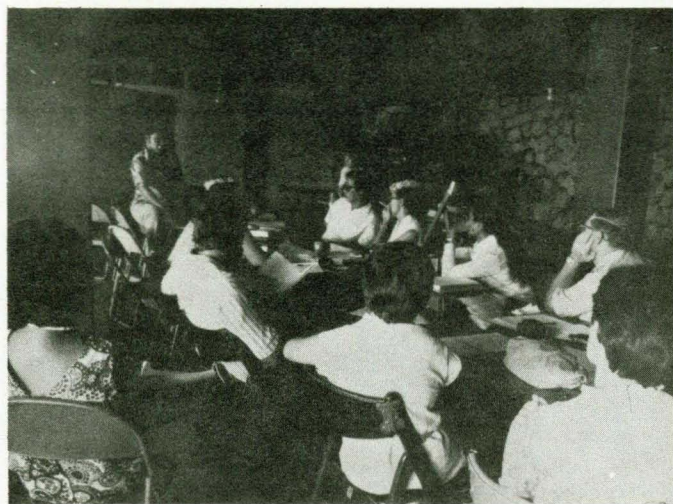


*Mr. Marcelliono Umwech, Language Program Coordinator for the Trust Territory, delivered a paper entitled Binlingual Education in Micronesia, in which he traced the history and development of bilingual-biultural programs in the Trust Territory.*



*Mr. Alfonso Oiterong, Palau District Director of Education, presented a very successful discussion and video-tape of the Palau Bilingual Project. This presentation created much interest at the Honolulu conference when it was done there.*

*Mr. Catalino Cantero, Ponape District Scholarship Officer, discussed the effect of education on Ponapean cultural values. His speech stimulated a lot of interest among the foreign participants.*



### Reaction of the Visiting Participants

On the other hand, the visiting participants expressed their satisfaction with the activities as well as the way everything turned out. Many of them claimed that what they had seen and gone through was beyond their expectations. As usual, Ponape's natural beauty evoked profuse praise, particularly the view of Sokehs Rock at sunset from the Village Hotel. Another target of admiration was the special show presented by the Nett Cultural Center. This show outdid any others

previously done, in that, together with the regular exhibits and treats, it featured a lavish *kamadipw* (native feast) at which the guests were able to sample our local food and delicacies. However, the trip to Nan Madol, the Ponape Agriculture and Trade School (PATS) and the Polahngas waterfall remained the highlights of the cultural-scenic fare.

Furthermore, the letters that we have received from the visitors confirmed our estimate of the success of the conference. If asked to pinpoint the ingredients to this success, we certainly would underscore the allout support and cooperation provided by the administration and staff of both CCM and the Ponape District Education Department. This undoubtedly was a most vital ingredient.

Lastly, the guests appreciated the special brand of hospitality which makes our Pacific Islands famous the world over: fresh flower *mwaramahrs* (head leis) on arrival and departure and an unforgettable "Micronesian Night" of songs and dances representing Micronesia and the Pacific. For these, the students of CCM deserve credit.

### Benefits to the Community College, to Ponape, and to Micronesia

We must not overlook the real and substantial benefits that the Community College, Ponape, and Micronesia derived from the conference. First, the College was included in the information-advertisement brochure on the conference which was circulated *internationally*. There is no question that world-wide



publicity is something that our country, or any country for that matter, can always make use of.

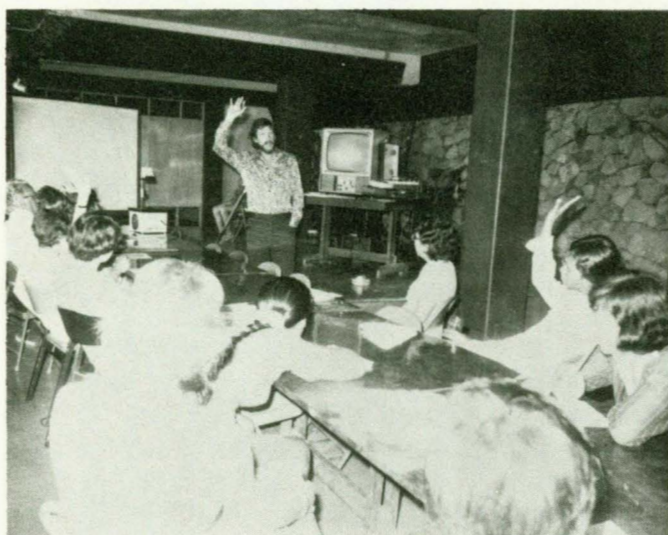
Furthermore, the event brought to Ponape and Micronesia, people who were interested in, and genuinely appreciative of, what our islands have to offer. We have good reason to believe, from the letters which we have received, that our newly-gained friends will do the work of selling our country to prospective visitors.

Finally, the conference provided CCM with the opportunity to carry out one of its functions as a

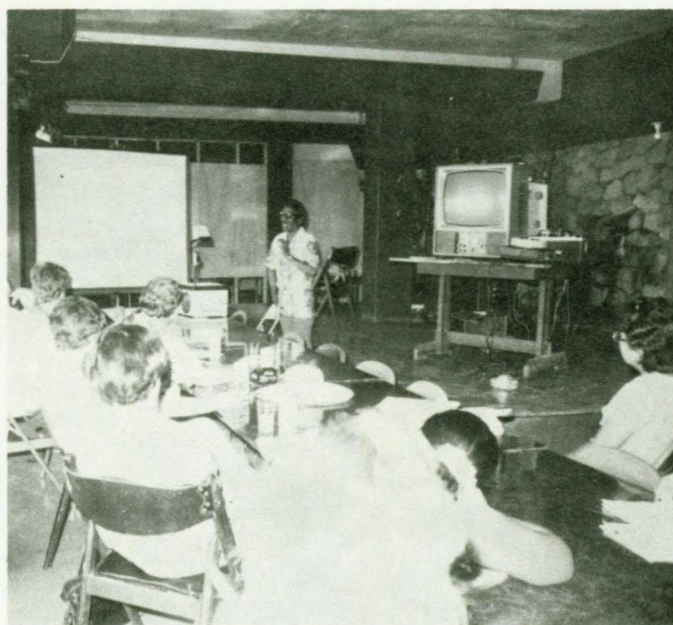
center of higher learning: to furnish a forum for the exchange of ideas, views, and opinions bearing on the issues and challenges of education in multi-cultural societies.

In sum, the conference turned out to be an exceptional experience for all concerned, with every participant benefiting from the activities as well as contributing to its ultimate success. Indeed, an event worth repeating and remembering.

*Dr. Ted Rogers, Director of the Hawaii English Program, gave a dynamic presentation which held most the attention of the audience.*



*Mr. Elias Robert read a paper which he co-authored with Dr. Sheldon Varney entitled A Research Framework for Studying the Effect of Cultural Values on Administrative Behavior. This paper was part of the thesis which he wrote for his Master's degree (M.Ed.) from the University of Hawaii.*



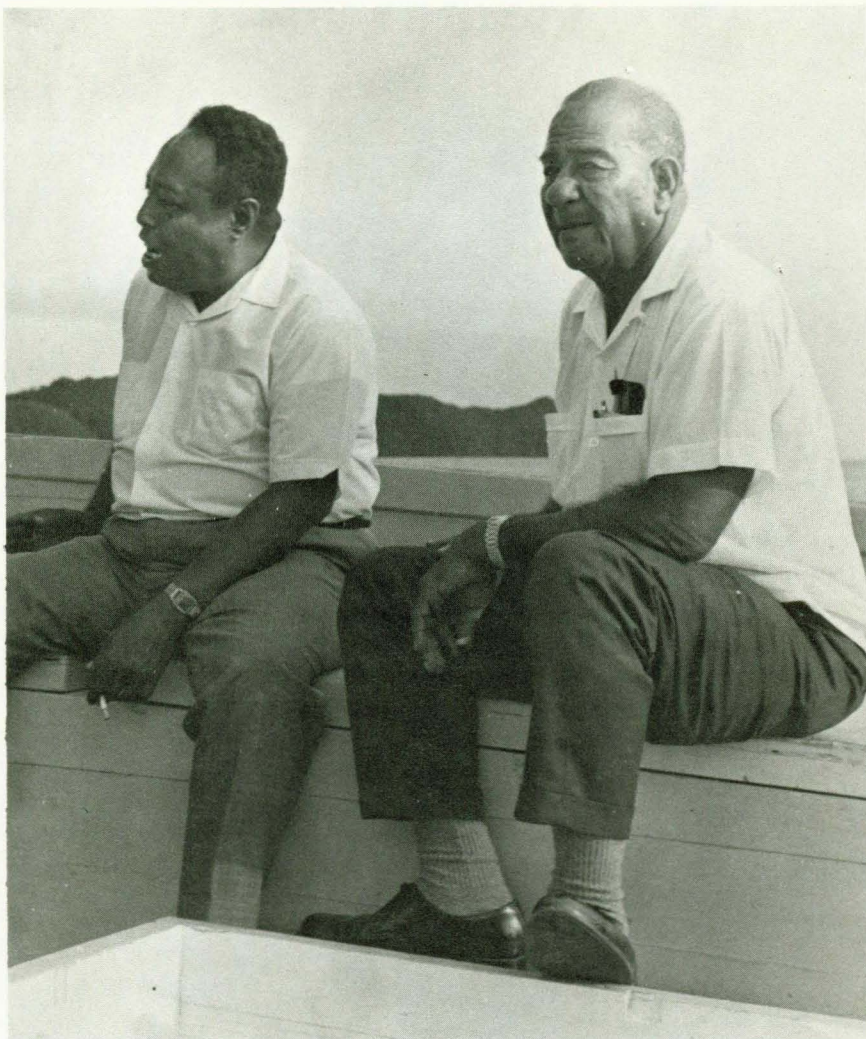


Micronesia had lost two of her charismatic traditional leaders, L-R; the late High Chief Ibedul Ngoriakl, Palau, and the late traditional Chief and Mayor of Moen, Honorable Petrus Mailo, Truk, chatting and enjoying a boat ride to the Rock Islands, Palau District.

#### EULOGIES:

High Chief Ibedul Ngoriakl: "His greatness was in his ability to lead unobtrusively and to be genuinely friendly with the young and the old, and the lowest and greatest in the community. Palau admired him for his humility in greatness . . .", Thomas Remengesau, Palau District Administrator.

Chief and Mayor Petrus Mailo: "Chief Petrus Mailo was a truly great leader, one of those rare individuals who enjoyed the universal respect and admiration of his own people and of all others with whom he came in contact . . .", High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston.



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*by John W. Kofel*

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## **LEADERSHIP- MICRONESIA'S CHALLENGE**

The islands and people of Micronesia are presently being confronted with some of the most awesome challenges known to mankind. Micronesia's ultimate destiny is solely dependent upon the insights, skills, and capabilities of its leaders, present and future. Political status and structure, governance, economic development, industrial and technological growth, health and social services, law enforcement, and education all present monumental influence and potential impact on the islands and its people.

While all of Micronesia must meet the ever present challenges, the leaders of its people must appropriately



and necessarily assume the majority of the burden of decision making and directing the islands' affairs. The single most important element in determining the success with which Micronesia controls its destiny lies in the capability of its leaders.

### **Leaders and Leadership**

The leadership phenomenon is most perplexing from the standpoint of clearly defining and identifying what is leadership and who are leaders. Admittedly, leaders and leadership vary from one culture to another. Effective leadership is not the same from New York to Micronesia. Logically, and rightfully so, Micronesia can and must lead itself. Its leaders and in turn their leadership will direct the future of the islands.

Conversely, while leadership may be localized in style, manner, and technique, there are several key, identifiable components to leaders and leadership which are common to all cultures. Micronesia is no exception. Effective leadership must be characterized by purpose, integrity, and tolerance.

A conviction of purpose is essential if popularly supported goals are to be sought. Leaders must take responsibility for goal-setting (purpose), but not in isolation. Leadership which points in a direction no one is willing to follow is doomed to failure. Leaders must have the wisdom to know where the balance exists between leading in isolation and following in blind obedience.

Integrity is a critical component of leadership. Accepting and meeting the responsibilities vested upon leaders is one dimension of leadership. Saying no at the sacrifice of personal convenience and preference when there is work to be done is one measure of leadership with integrity. Countless opportunities present themselves as inducements to leaders to look favorably upon impending issues. Integrity of leadership becomes imperative if the best interests of the people are to be served.

The third, but not last, quality of leadership is tolerance. By its very nature, a leadership position is one which is accessible and highly visible. With position, accessibility, and visibility comes difference of opinion. The result can be a vicious attack on one's character, personal abuse, and hostility. Again, effective leadership requires the ability to tolerate differences of opinion and face adversity without a loss of effectiveness.

No one would discount the enormous difficulty of fully actualizing these three leader characteristics. Additionally, the ability to lead a geographically and culturally diverse group of people is not a job just anyone can do. Effective leadership is a highly valued and all too often rare commodity.

Mistakenly, leaders are often thought of as the most intelligent. Harry Truman once said, "The C students run the world." While one ought to be careful not to discount intellectual ability, it has been shown historically that geniuses seldom assume governmental leadership. Pragmatic, insightful, logical, and rational thought are important leader capabilities. Wise leaders also have the foresight to surround themselves with intelligent and capable workers—people who can take an idea, policy, or identified need and develop programs to impact upon them.

TIME magazine conducted a leadership conference in September 1976. Invited conference participants were 200 of the most promising young (45 or under) leaders from all walks of life. This cross-section of American leadership consistently pointed out some of the dimensions to leaders and their leadership which this article has discussed. In addition, conferees stressed the need for leaders to have strong management skills. Management ability is a requisite capability for effective leadership.

### **Implications for Micronesia**

While purpose, integrity, and tolerance are valuable components of good leadership, the ineffective manager, one who cannot organize, plan and deliver, will seldom become a successful leader. Leadership is not a skillless position. Solid management skills can be learned. Through quality training present and future leaders can be taught the management skills necessary to do a good job.

As Micronesia embarks upon a new era for its people, as it is thrust headlong into the competitive world of the twenty-first century, it is incumbent upon its people and their leaders to prepare for the many challenges it will surely face. Micronesia will be as strong as its leaders are capable. Leaders should and must be afforded the opportunities to acquire new and improved leadership skills. The urgency for skill acquisition cannot be overstated. The consequences of delay are ruinous to the ultimate prosperity and preservation of the Micronesian people, their culture, and their lands.



# search

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by **Valentine Sengebau**

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## I REMEMBER

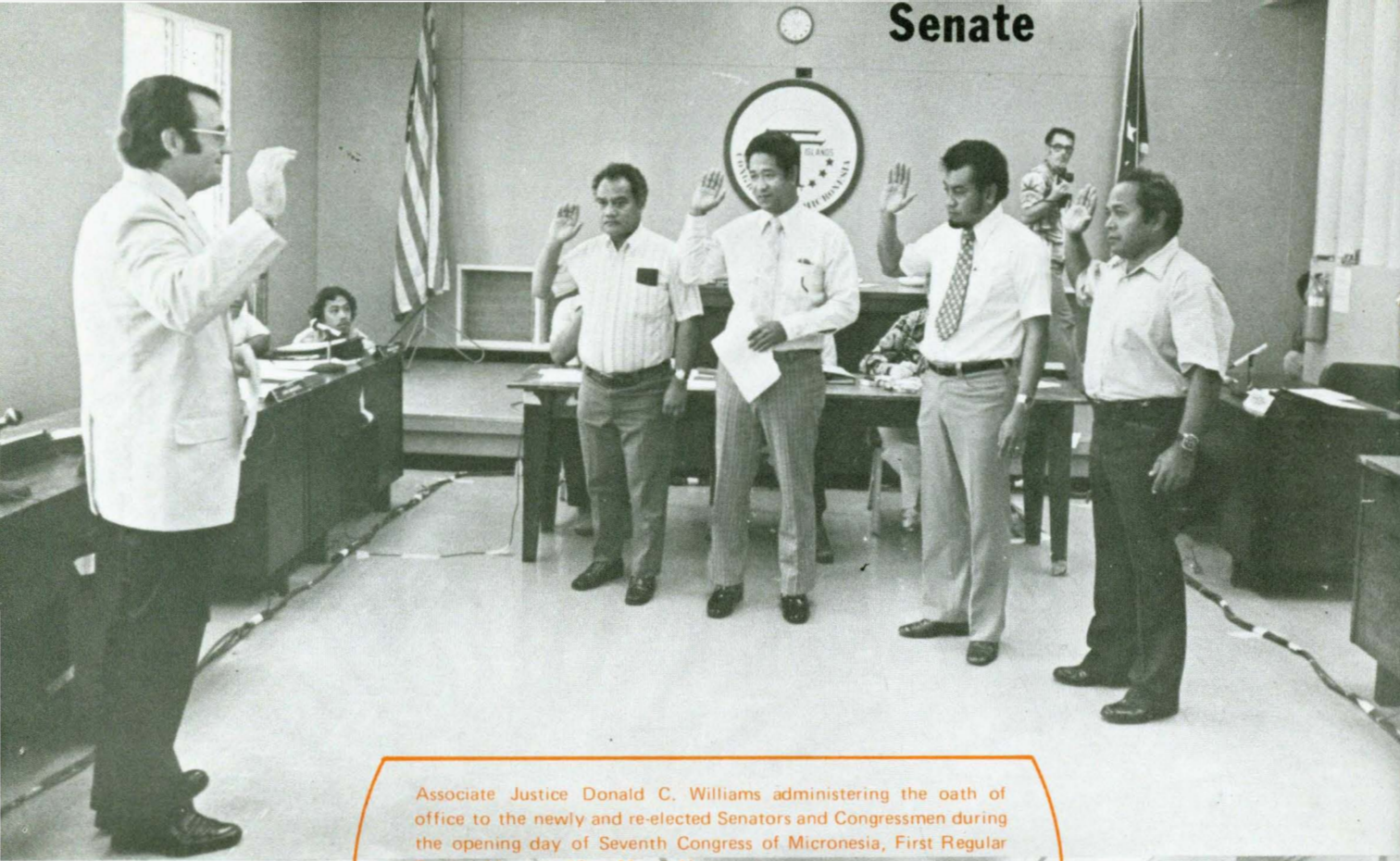
Beyond the dark cold night  
And within my restless heart  
Sleeplessness is a constant companion.  
I see no reason  
Like your action  
Inspired by your culture  
And forgetting the laughs  
We both intimately shared.  
(Am I that easy to forget?)  
Every moment that passes is torment  
Like that man on the tree  
On his mission to save.  
Veer your eyes to me  
Ever so lovingly for a second  
and  
Demand bliss of happiness.  
Let's love & live in life  
Even make "nger chong" our haven.  
To you, my dear  
Seeing you is a dream fulfilled.

## TIME OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Today marks a new page in history  
Be it personal or historical  
The stream of consciousness incarnates  
Should ignite the torch of guidance  
Through the morrowyears  
Along the path towards  
The horizon of infinity.  
Eternity dwells within the soul  
And man attains it  
Through a complete harmony  
To his inner self of consciousness.  
The footprints of yesteryears  
Are fountains of wisdom  
To quench man's thirst  
During his endless odyssey  
In search for knowledge and understanding  
And to climb the tree of life  
To pluck and taste the fruit of perfection.  
So man emerges from the womb of yesterdays  
To reside in the cradle of todays  
And dreams dreams of morrows.  
Let's pause a moment and catch our breath  
And to reach out and embrace our neighbor  
And exchange the kiss of peace.  
May the bright star guide your canoe  
To reach the shore of paradise  
Where the spirits of our ancestors  
Yearn to receive us for all eternity.



# Senate



Associate Justice Donald C. Williams administering the oath of office to the newly and re-elected Senators and Congressmen during the opening day of Seventh Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session (January 10 to March 1).

Senators: John Mangefel, Tosio Nakayama (president), Kaleb Udui (Floor leader), and Bailey Olter. (Senators Wilfred Kendall, (Marshall), two from the new district of Kosrae, Joab Sigrah and Hiroshi Ismael are not shown in the picture.)

In the House, all the members were sworn-in.

# House

