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# MicronesianReporter

THIRD QUARTER 1975

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## MICRONESIA'S ENVIRONMENT



...its  
islands,  
forests,  
reefs, & lagoons



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# This Quarter's Worth

Micronesia's unique and delicate environment—its lands, forests, reefs, and lagoons—substantially make up this edition of the Micronesian Reporter. Our cover story, consisting of three parts—on land development and its impact on the Micronesian islands, forestry's role in Micronesia, and the assault of our reefs and lagoons—by three specialists in their own fields—may, at first glance, appear unrelated but actually are intricately interwoven; a fact dictated by our "small islands and big waters." Writing on the development of the delicate, fragile Micronesian islands, a former Trust Territory Forestry-Conservation Officer, Norden Cheatham, observed: "Development of Micronesia is proceeding at such a rapid rate that before long Micronesia's precious 680 square miles of land will no longer be the paradise we know today." This type of concern was similarly focused on by the author of our second cover story, David Fullaway, when he said: "I envision trees and plants as being fundamental natural resources necessary for the existence of the people of Micronesia." In William Brewer's story on the assault of our reefs and lagoons, you will gain an understanding and appreciation of the unique ecological features of our coral reefs, reef flats and lagoons and how land management, erosion control, and forestry practices may collectively determine the present and future fate of marine communities throughout Micronesia.

In addition to political achievements observed in the TT this year, the year 1975 also makes the twentieth anniversary of the Palau museum—"the

first museum established in Micronesia." The Reporter commemorates the twentieth anniversary of the museum with a captivating photo album provided through the courtesy of the museum's director, Mrs. Hera Owen... Another and perhaps the most important milestone observed in the brief political development of Micronesia is the opening of the Micronesian Constitutional Convention, which has been meeting on Saipan since July 12, 1975. The Reporter in this issue presents an assessment—written by the Public Information staff of the Convention—the work of the Convention before the recent twenty-three-day recess, beginning August 22 and ending September 15... And finally, for sports fans, we offer a detailed coverage of Micronesia's first participation in the South Pacific Games held on Guam from August 1-10, 1975. Frank S. Rosario, Bureau Chief of the Micronesian News Service since December of last year, accompanied the Micronesian athletes to "where America's day begins" and compiled a report of their performances in the Fifth South Pacific Games, with photos captured by roving cameras of Dwayne Buffington on Guam and Harvey Reed of Palau, among others. Our special thanks go to Ronn Ronck of the Guam's **Pacific Daily News** who was instrumental in getting Buffington to contribute the photos. - *B.B.*

## Who's Who

*...in this issue of the Reporter*

**NORDEN H. CHEATHAM**, formerly Chief of Conservation and Forestry for the Trust Territory (1965-1967), now works as Field Representative of the Natural Land and Water Reserves System at the University of California, Berkeley. He writes "Land Development: Its Environmental Impact in Micronesia", one of the three parts of the cover story for this issue of the Reporter.

**DAVID T. FULLAWAY**, Chief of Forestry for the Trust Territory since 1971, previously worked as Service Forester for the island of Oahu prior to coming to Micronesia in 1971. "I envision trees and plants as being fundamental natural resources necessary for the existence of the people of Micronesia," declares the holder of BS and MS degrees in Forest Management.

**WILLIAM A. BREWER**, a former Peace Corps/Micronesia environmentalist (1973-1974), now works as Environmental Health Specialist for the Trust Territory Department of Health Services and the Environmental Protection Board. After receiving an MS degree in Marine Biology from California State University, Brewer worked as Senior Microbiologist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of California Institute of Technology for three years before coming to Saipan in 1973.

**HERA WARE OWEN** is Director of the Palau Museum and a twenty-five-year resident of Palau, where her husband, Robert, is Trust Territory Conservation Officer. Established on Koror, Palau, in 1955 with the suggestion, "why not have a permanent showing of the relics, souvenirs and artifacts which are typically and historically Palauan?", the Palau Museum—the "first museum established in Micronesia"—this year commemorates its two decades of existence in this issue of the magazine with a captivating photo album.

**FRANK S. ROSARIO**, Bureau Chief of the Micronesian News Service since December of last year, accompanied the Micronesian athletes to the Fifth South Pacific Games on Guam (August 1-10, 1975) and filed a report on the athletes' performance in the games.

**JOHN W. PERRY**, a former Peace Corps volunteer in the Marshalls (1967-1969), is a writer-researcher now residing in Washington, D.C. He has been a frequent contributor to the Reporter. Perry, in this issue, presents "Gilbert and Marshall: Two English Voyagers in Micronesia, 1788".



# INTERVIEW:

*Mary Lanwi*

In earlier quarters, the **Micronesian Reporter** has interviewed several important "higher-ups" in the Trust Territory Government—people like former Director of the Office of Territories Stanley S. Carpenter, the leadership of the Congress of Micronesia (President of the Senate Tosiwo Nakayama and Speaker of the House Bethwel Henry), Congressman Sasauo Haruo, and Marianas District Administrator Francisco C. Ada. Since all of them have been men, the Reporter in this quarter decided to have a change of pace by interviewing a woman. Our choice was Mrs. Mary Lanwi of the Marshalls who will be treated by the history of Micronesia as the only woman delegate in the historic Micronesian Constitutional Convention.

Mary grew up on the small, remote atoll of Ebon, coming later to Jaluit Atoll, also in the Marshalls, for elementary education during the Japanese Administration. Education beyond elementary grades meant leaving the Marshalls for her; she attended a mission high school on Kusaie—a mission operated by the Boston-based American Board of Mission. It was at this high school that she met her future husband, Dr. Isaac Lanwi, a former senator of the Congress of Micronesia and now also a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. Since completing high school after World War II, she has held numerous responsible positions, including a teaching stint and her present, official occupation as the Women's Interests Officer for the Marshalls District. She has participated in many women's conferences held outside of Micronesia, and once toured the United States as a grantee under the State Department's Leadership Grant Tours. In addition, she now serves as advisor to both the Marshalls Handicrafts Cooperative Association and the Girls Scouts Leaders of the Marshalls. Elected to the Convention in June 1974, she now has the distinction of being the only lady among 59 men in this ninety-day Convention, which has been meeting on Saipan since July 12 to draft the Constitution for the future Government of Micronesia.

Definitely, Micronesian women from all corners of this island-nation are on the move. Mary's presence in the Convention is an indication that Micronesian women can also make it in the world of competition, provided they are qualified and there is no sex discrimination. "The days of viewing women as only sex objects is over in Micronesia" and "Micronesian women have shaken the more restrictive customs of behaviors and dress, and have taken jobs, practiced birth control, and rejected prearranged Micronesian-style marriages," wrote the Hawaii's **Honolulu Advertiser** recently. To further emphasize the fact that the women are on the move, let us note the presence of another Marshallese woman in the Congress of Micronesia (the only one, incidentally, in that high legislative body): the Honorable Carmen Milne Bigler.

Asked whether Marshallese women have the special will-power to get politically involved, Mrs. Lanwi responded: "I think that there are women in the other districts that have the ability and the will-power to participate in these political matters. I recall that there were women in the district legislature in Truk, if I remember correctly." From all districts or all corners of Micronesia, women have started to get involved, going to college, taking over responsible positions, running for political office, and so forth.

Why this sudden move by the women to "liberate" themselves in Micronesia today? A succinct answer came from the Chairman of the Convention's Committee on Civil Liberties, Carl Heine: "This is the 20th Century, it is only proper and fair to give equal rights to all citizens of Micronesia (and) to eliminate all forms of slavery and servitude in Micronesia society." Women constitute about 50% of the total Micronesian population of 115,000. "To deny them (women) full participation and contribution in the future government of Micronesia is like desiring something less than perfect for Micronesia," one Micronesian woman was quoted as saying. The Marshalls' weekly, the **Micronesian Independent**, editorialized: "Human beings are human beings, and the constitution of Micronesia should be written with this in mind. Ideally, we should not even have to question the status of women's rights—and it is our shame that as a form of life we human beings must address ourselves to such a question."

Whether the Constitution of Micronesia will eliminate servitude and discrimination—if they exist in Micronesia—remains to be seen. What is clear at the present time is that the presence of a woman—Mary Lanwi—in the Convention is a comfortable indication that at least one woman is "treated fairly" by the Micronesian society, specifically by the Marshallese society, which elected her. Her presence in the Convention is also a historic occasion worth capturing in the pages of this magazine. It was solely this purpose that compelled us to select Mary Lanwi as the subject of this quarter's interview. Bright, articulate, and deeply-inquisitive, Delegate Mary Lanwi—interviewed by the Reporter at the Convention's site (the White Sands Hotel) a day prior to the recent twenty-four-day recess of the Convention (August 22-September 15)—she carefully considered each of the questions and offered intelligent, thought-provoking answers.





**REPORTER:** Since you have the distinction of being the only woman delegate to the historic Micronesian Constitutional Convention, would you describe how you feel about the honor?

**LANWI:** I would say that I feel very honored to be the only lady among many men. And at the same time I really appreciate the fact that even though I am the only lady among these men, I do not feel that I am alone, because of the way I am treated. I would say that there is no discrimination. I really appreciate the fact that I can work with the men and we can share our ideas together even though I am the only woman among them. I feel very honored to be with them during the Convention.

**REPORTER:** Mrs. Lanwi, you will go down into the history of Micronesia as being the only woman in this historic Convention. Before you were elected to the Micronesian Constitutional Convention, what were the motivating factors that compelled you to run for the Convention, or what made you to run in the first place?

**LANWI:** This is a kind of a hard question to answer because as you know in my district of the Marshalls, we came across some difficulties and misunderstandings prior to the election for the Convention. Some of our leaders did not really understand, I think, the way our Convention was going to be done. Due to the fact that there was confusion in my district (and I think everyone knows that), we were not supposed to—according to some of our leaders—run for the Convention. I do not believe in things like that. If I know something is right, then I will go for it. I know that the Government asked us and also urged the people to run for the Convention because it was a territory-wide thing and also it was a very important thing for us. For that reason, even though I really did not know what would happen, I finally ran for the Convention. I just did not want to stay behind when you knew that it

was something that you ought to do. That was the reason.

**REPORTER:** You mentioned that there was some sort of confusion in the Marshalls prior to the election of the Micronesian Constitutional Convention. What was that confusion?

**LANWI:** The main thing was, as you know, before the election, the Congress of Micronesia was in session, and there were many things that came up in the session. One of them was the 50% revenue sharing legislation. Our people in the Marshalls wanted to receive as much as they could, and you know their request was not granted during the Congress session. Because of that, many things started. There were ideas from some of our leaders that we should be separated from the other districts just because of the fact that many times many of our requests were not granted when presented to the Congress of Micronesia. I think that was the main reason that made all this confusion to come up. Some of our leaders wanted to cut us off from the rest of the Trust Territory, which many of us did not want. And I was one of them. I did not agree with the idea. Since we are still connected with the rest of the Trust Territory, we should not be left out from the Micronesian Constitutional Convention.

**REPORTER:** What if the 50% percent revenue-sharing legislation was granted to the Marshalls, would you still have run for the Convention as you actually did?

**LANWI:** No, it would have been a different picture. If everything went on well, I may not be one of the delegates to the Convention. I just filled the vacancy in our district because I did not want to see it empty. That was one main reason why I ran for the Convention.

**REPORTER:** When you ran for the Convention, were you running alone from your election district?

**LANWI:** Again, I have said that there was not much challenging during the running of the election because many of



our capable men as well as women could have liked to run, but they did not for many reasons. There were so many things that prevented the people from running; I cannot list all of them. There was so much confusion I would say it could have been so many candidates to the Convention.

**REPORTER:** What election district or island in the Marshalls do you represent in the Convention?

**LANWI:** That is election district number 3, Ebon Atoll. That is my home island.

**REPORTER:** Your husband, Dr. Isaac Lanwi, is also a delegate to the Convention. What part of your district does he represent?

**LANWI:** He represents the other side, Wotje Atoll in the Ratak Chain. That is his father's home island.

**REPORTER:** Mrs. Lanwi, now that you are here in the Convention, what do you see as your role in this Convention?

**LANWI:** I try to see the things that I am really interested in, especially things that deal with family life. I would like to see when we try to make proposals, I always like to see something on education and health and things like that because of my position as a woman and as a mother of many children.

**REPORTER:** It is very interesting to note that the Marshalls District also has the distinction of having the only woman in the Congress of Micronesia, Honorable Carmen Milne Bigler. And now that you are here as being the only



woman in the Convention, tell me, do the women in the Marshalls have special will-power to get politically involved as exemplified by your presence here and the presence of Congresswoman Bigler in the Congress?

**LANWI:** Well, I think that there are women in the other districts that have the ability and the will-power to participate in these political matters. I recall that there were women in the district legislature in Truk, if I remember it correctly. I can only talk about myself. My participation in this Micronesian Constitutional Convention is, as I have explained to you, that I may or may not have the will-power to be here. As I have said, it was my duty to represent my island when other people were kind of doubtful in their mind



whether it was a good thing or not to participate in this Convention.

**REPORTER:** It is apparent that your fellow delegates from the districts honor you as the only woman delegate. What about the people of your district? Do they also honor you?

**LANWI:** Well, that is kind of hard to say. I know that they honor me in this . . . and there will be others, as you know; it happens all around the world. Even though you try hard, there will be criticism all the time; and I cannot really answer that. I know some will be on my side, and some will not. And some will want to, but they will not be able to tell me.

**REPORTER:** You are a very interesting woman. Can you tell us something

about yourself? Your education and other background.

**LANWI:** Well, you know, I was educated during the Japanese time. First, with my parents; my father tried to educate us as much as he could. Before we went to any school, we started to learn English in our home. I remember when I was young, we already had our textbooks to learn to read English and started to learn English from my father. After that, I went to grade school in Jaluit. I learned more there. That school was sort of an elementary school. You know, during the Japanese time, we did not call our schools the way we do today. After that, I went to Kusaie. There was a mission school there supported by the American Board Mission of Boston. There were American missionaries there. That school, I may recall, was at high school level even though it was not called a high school. That was where I went for my last schooling years, and in that school we (her husband is Dr. Isaac Lanwi) got married and we stayed on and taught until the war came in 1943. The school was closed, but my husband and I remained there to take care of some of the Marshallese students who were still in the school. And when the war was over in 1945, we returned to the Marshalls. Then I started to work with some of the elementary mission schools on Majuro. In 1957, I started working in the Government, teaching at the Intermediate School on Majuro.

**REPORTER:** Then after that, you became the District Women's Interests Officer for the Marshalls, or did you have something else before you acquired your present job as the Women's Interests Officer?

**LANWI:** Yes, when I was teaching at the Intermediate School, I was given an invitation to attend one of the women's association conferences in Tokyo in 1958. I was still a teacher at that time. After attending the conference, I learned many things from the women I met there, about organizing women's clubs, working with women's groups

and so forth. I think with the idea that I have to help my people, sharing the ideas I got from the conference of women from all over the world. So I started organizing small women's groups in the Marshalls. We had meetings, and shared with them what I learned from the conference. I was still a teacher. My responsibilities became more and more loaded. Finally in 1963, I was offered to just remain in this capacity of helping women as the Women's Interests Officer. And I stopped teaching at the Intermediate School and I just stuck to the job of helping women in my district.

**REPORTER:** And you have held this position up to this time?

**LANWI:** Yes.

**REPORTER:** And now that you are in the Convention, the Convention has been dealing with issues, one of which is the right of women to participate fully in the future government or to eliminate sex discrimination. Do you agree that the women be treated equally to the status of men in Micronesia?

**LANWI:** Well, the way I look at it, if a woman is capable, if she has the ability to do the things that the men are doing, like minister of a church, I would like to see that woman in that position. I believe that women can do things also. I would like to see that women in our districts, all the districts, start working more, start taking more steps in working as men in all ways, if they have the ability to do the jobs. That is the only thing I am concerned about.

**REPORTER:** In Micronesia today, how do our customs treat you women?

**LANWI:** I cannot say about the other districts. I will just say something about my district. The women are treated well. As you know, the women are the heads of the families, but that does not mean that they are ruling over the men. Men are over, and they are the ones who make decisions. In our customs, we inherit our lands from our mothers, through our mothers.

**REPORTER:** Are you for women's liberation in Micronesia?



**LANWI:** You know many times people are calling me that. They say that I am leading the women's lib. I don't understand what they mean about that. I read stories and heard stories about the women's liberation in the United States and maybe other parts of the world. I do not think we have that yet in our islands. I don't see it in the Marshalls. We do have groups working together, but not for the meaning of women's liberation.

**REPORTER:** You have mentioned that women inherit lands from their mothers. Does that mean that Marshallese men do not own lands in the Marshalls?

**LANWI:** No, I am sorry, that is not the case. Not women only, everyone inherits lands from their mothers, through their mothers. In my case I have two brothers and three sisters; my brothers as well as my sisters and I all inherit lands from our mother.

**REPORTER:** Now, let us go back to the subject of women's liberation. There were several women who testified on the rights of women before the Committee on Civil Liberties in this Convention, and all of them seemed to advocate that women are capable of leading the future government of Micronesia. Do you share the same thinking?

**LANWI:** As I said a few minutes ago, the only thing I care about is if the woman has the proper ability to lead, I will go for that.

**REPORTER:** The office of the head of a state carries certain responsibilities which need people who have strong emotional stability. Do you think the Micronesian women are capable of facing the responsibilities of a head of state emotionally?

**LANWI:** Maybe so (laughter). Our children are growing, and we do not know yet what will happen in the future. Maybe there will be great leaders among the girls of today. I don't know. But I still think we should not forbid women from participating in any offices



or anything that they are capable of doing it.

**REPORTER:** Mrs. Lanwi, if you were elected President or Prime Minister of the future government of Micronesia, do you think you would accept the challenge? Or what would be some of your priorities under the new government?

**LANWI:** Let me tell you this. Until now, we don't know yet what kind of government we will have in the future, whether it will be a strong central government or a weak central or strong district government, we don't know. If we know what kind of government we will have in the future, then I will know what the priorities will be. But until now, we still don't know what kind of government we will have, even though we are here in this Convention for more than a month. We have not yet decided what kind of government we will have in the future.

**REPORTER:** Are you for a strong central government or decentralized central government?

**LANWI:** In a way, I would like to see a strong central government.

**REPORTER:** Right now there are few Micronesian women who have good positions of higher and greater responsibilities in this present government. Do you think our new government will be able to put more women into the positions of great responsibilities?

**LANWI:** I think it will depend on the assumption if we do not do that practice or have discrimination among us, I think we will see more women in the future government. I am sure that we have women in all districts who are ready to participate in any government work.

**REPORTER:** In our present government, especially at Headquarters here on Saipan, there is only one woman chief, now working in the Education Department. And when you go around, you rarely find any departments with directors as women. Does this mean that the present Government discriminates against women in the Trust Territory?

**LANWI:** Well, I think, not really. Maybe the women are used to way of waiting for the men to go first. Maybe our women did not apply for these jobs; I really don't know. But if we have capable women who will apply for these jobs, then we will know that there are many women in the present government.

**REPORTER:** You mentioned at the beginning of this interview that the Marshalls District is trying to get away from the rest of the districts. The question is, "get away to where?" What is the latest political development in your district?

**LANWI:** I don't really know where we are going and where we will be going. I just know that during that time when the election for the Convention was going on, there was talk about separation. Where do we go? I don't know yet.

**REPORTER:** But there has been talk about separation from the Trust Territory?

**LANWI:** Yes, there has been talk about this.

**REPORTER:** These are not official talks. Is that correct?

**LANWI:** Right!

**REPORTER:** You have held the position of Women's Interests Officer in your district for many many years. Do





you enjoy your work? And what are some of the things you do in your job?

**LANWI:** I would say yes, I enjoy working with women. I have the feeling that helping others is always my pleasure. I like my job.

**REPORTER:** You are one of the longest-employed government employees. Have you noticed any improvement in general made to the Trust Territory Government?

**LANWI:** I think so.

**REPORTER:** Would you specifically cite an example of improvement in the Marshalls?

**LANWI:** For example, in education, we have more girls graduating from high school now than when I used to teach. I remember when I was in education, on a graduation commencement, there would be only two girls from high school, whereas today, we have around twenty or more than twenty girls graduating a year from high school. And this is due to the fact that education is improving in the islands, even not to the best, but it is improving. There are other improvements.

**REPORTER:** It is being frequently said that many if not most Micronesian girls go to high schools to look for their husbands without bothering to go on for higher institution of learning. Is this true?

**LANWI:** No, I don't think this is true in my district. One thing I can tell you about is that when girls graduate from high school, they look for further education. Everyone I have seen,

especially nowadays, they look for further education. But if they cannot get their money to go for further education, that will be something else. If they can get scholarship funds or any other grants, they will all go. They do not want to stop there, unless they get pregnant in high school and they have to take care of their children, then they will stay. But the way I look at it, all girls graduating from high school in the Marshalls do not want to stay. Even the girls who are pregnant or who have babies, they will try to find somebody to take care of the babies and they go on scholarships and finish their college education. So I don't think that applies to the Marshalls.

**REPORTER:** It is very clear in the Convention that the women who have testified before the Committee on Civil Liberties all have advocated women's liberation in Micronesia. This seems to be an indication that they have all wanted to see women's roles equivalent to those of the men. What if, under the new government, we see a woman with a flat tire on the road when we have a law somewhere in our Constitution or in our code that women will be equal to men and therefore can take care of themselves. Therefore this woman who has flat tire can take care of herself. Do you think this is fair as far as women's liberation is concerned in the Trust Territory?

**LANWI:** May I ask you a question?

**REPORTER:** Yes.

**LANWI:** Do you think that there will be a law to prevent men from helping women?

**REPORTER:** While we are still on that question, what if you are driving with your husband and then you get a flat tire, and your husband says, "Well, how about fixing the tire?" What would you do?

**LANWI:** I will ask him to fix it.

**REPORTER:** Now that the Constitutional Convention is coming very close to having a recess, and the Convention has been criticized for being

very slow in its work. How much has been done by the Convention?

**LANWI:** To be honest with you, I think we have been working very hard. Because it is very hard to combine all these things together when one group says "strong central government" and another group says "weak central government" or "strong district government". All of these pop up in one time. We have to collect all these ideas and start distributing them according to their tasks. So I don't believe that we did not work hard. We are trying very hard. You know if each of the districts did what the Palauans did, write its own draft constitution, and then bring the draft constitution and compare it to the other draft constitutions from the rest of the districts, and take whatever we have to take from each, we would have worked more faster. This is what I always wished that we did.

**REPORTER:** The other districts did not do that. Only the Palau delegation drafted its constitution before coming here?

**LANWI:** Yes, Palau was the only one that prepared its constitution prior to the Convention. All the others did not prepare until they come here and start working over them here.

**REPORTER:** Is there a possibility of having a second or third constitutional convention similar to that of the United States whereby it had two national conventions—first national convention and second national convention. Do you think that history will repeat itself in Micronesia?

**LANWI:** I don't really know.

**REPORTER:** Do you have any final word to say to our readers especially the women readers?

**LANWI:** Well, first I would like to express my appreciation to you and your department for selecting me to be interviewed. I will urge that every woman in the Trust Territory, as they go along privately, go forward to participate more in any way they can to help our future government. Thank you very much.



# LAND DEVELOPMENT: ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IN MICRONESIA

*by Norden H. Cheatham*

When you read about plans for new construction or for new public works projects, what do you think about? Do you think about the new jobs that will be created or the increased income to local businesses? Maybe you think about the change in the way of life as the old makes way for the new. Actually, we all look at it in terms of what our individual backgrounds train us to look for. Because of my conservation backgrounds, I think of it in terms of how the project affects the resources of the land and how it fits into long range land use planning designed to protect these resources.

From that day in 1521 when Magellan suddenly thrust western culture on Micronesia there was no turning back. Change was inevitable. There was, aside from the sociological impact, a technological impact of new tools and skills associated with iron and other forms of western know-how. Each new technological innovation opened the way for further development. And each new development had its associated impact on the environment. Today, development is occurring so fast that planners are having trouble keeping ahead of it, and the environment is suffering from the impact. I think it would be well to pause for a moment and consider some of the implications of this impact.

## **Development**

Each new land development project is a plan to change the environment to suit a new way of life. For example, modern air transportation requires that the environment be altered by earth moving and reef dredging for air field construction. Commercial agriculture requires land clearing, plowing, irrigating, and other farming practices necessary to adapt the land to the crops being grown. And tourism requires land alteration, too, to allow for hotel construction and access to scenic and historic locations.

The *land* and its resources are the key. The land receives the *impact* from progress and technological innovation. In the Trust Territory, the *basic land resource* includes not only the land, but also the reefs, mangroves, historical and archaeological sites, and such intangibles as scenic beauty.

## **Development must be planned**

So we see that land development requires alteration of the environment to fit the desired objectives. This is not to imply that development is bad, but it is like a two-edged sword. On the one edge, planned development means a higher standard of living with improved agricultural production, modern towns, and up-to-date transportation. But on the other edge, development without planning or with inadequate planning means barren and eroded land, polluted and dying reefs, and scarce resources. In order for progress to cut with the better of the two edges, development should be planned and directed to maximize the beneficial impact on the environment and minimize the detrimental impact.

## **MICRONESIA'S BASIC LAND RESOURCE**

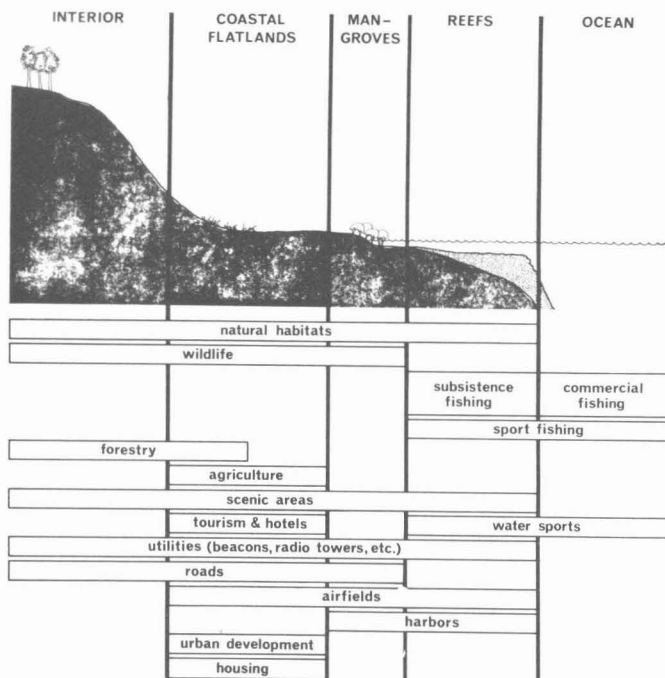
We have all heard the standard cliches about 2100 islands with a total land area just a little larger than that of Oahu and a total population that can fit in the stands of the Los Angeles Coliseum. But this doesn't tell us anything about the land. What kind of land is it? How steep is it? What special kinds of resources are included in Micronesia's 680 square miles of land and its associated reef and ocean resources.

Let's take a look at a "typical" Micronesian island and consider some aspects of its basic land resource. Although each island has its own specific problems, the drawing in Figure 1 represents the typical situation. Atolls are a special case but they could be studied in a similar manner.

## **Coastal Flatlands**

It is no surprise to find most development on the flat areas, for here problems of development are least severe. It is easier to build towns, airfields, and other developments on flat topography, but the best agricultural soils are also found in this area.

Agricultural land is one of Micronesia's most important resources. If these soils are poorly managed and allowed to deteriorate, it will be very difficult or impossible to restore them to their former level of



*Examples of the various types of land use that can be expected for various portions of the "typical" Micronesian island.*

productivity. A visit to some of the former Japanese agricultural areas will verify this. For example, in Palau, places like Blisang, Old Ngatpang, and Asahi now have barren, hard, and infertile soils that have developed over years of neglect with no vegetative cover to protect them from heavy rains and the hot sun. As a result, formerly productive agricultural areas are now unproductive and pose special problems for land managers.

There have been no comprehensive or detailed inventories of Micronesia's agricultural soils, but based on the old military reconnaissance level soil maps it has been estimated that there are about 330 square miles of "productive" land.

The flat coastal lands are the areas of most rapid development. Since competition among different land uses will be most severe here, these areas will require extremely competent land management decisions in order to protect agricultural soils and to provide for orderly development of other competing uses.

#### **Interior of the Island**

As we move into the interior portions of the islands, with the model island as a guide, the topography becomes quite rugged. The dominant vegetation types are the native forests and the frequently burned grassland/savannas. Development problems are complicated by the rugged topography.

When the forest cover is removed the forest soils quickly erode and deteriorate into the hard, impermeable soils of the grassland/savannas. There are approximately 152 square miles of land classified as forest and approximately 80 square miles of grassland/savanna. These lands are important for many reasons. Here is where the domestic water supplies are developed from the runoff of tropical showers and from ground water recharged by infiltration. These lands contribute building materials and various wild foods to the local economy. Here also are found many of the unique forms of Micronesian flora and fauna.

#### **Mangroves**

The model island also shows areas of mangrove, a vegetation type which plays an important ecological role. The mangroves trap and hold mud and sediment that floods wash down from the interior portions of the island thus saving valuable soil that would otherwise wash out to sea and choke the reefs with sediment deposits. During times of heavy storms the mangroves protect the main portions of the island from wave erosion. The approximately 32 square miles of mangrove in Trust Territory also provide food and building materials and are closely tied with the traditional forms of Micronesian life. Here, too, are the spawning grounds and nursery areas for many forms of marine life and reef life. Planners and developers must learn to understand and consider the role of the mangroves and take this into consideration in development programs.

#### **Reefs**

No estimates have been made of the Trust Territory's reef area. This is unfortunate, since reef resources are every bit as important as other land resources in Micronesia. The principles of resource management apply to the reefs with importance equal to that of more conventional terrestrial resources. The reefs have economic importance not only from their food production and tourist value, but also as a basis for industry built around scientific research.

#### **Relationship between Land and Land-Use**

Putting the model Micronesian Island in the context of only 680 square miles of land and in the context of Micronesia's potential for future development, we can begin to see the critical relationships between the various types of land and their associated land uses. For example, if an airfield is hastily built on agricultural land, the farmers are forced to cultivate less-suitable land and agricultural costs increase. If the new agricultural site has steep slopes, erosion may result. Displacing the farmer may in turn require routing a road through a valuable watershed or important archaeological site.



On a large continental land mass there is the luxury of enough land to absorb most land use mistakes. This is not so in Micronesia. Over-development and poor land use on one part of an island causes compensation in other parts, which in turn causes adjustments in still another part. If unplanned development proceeds too rapidly, error is compounded on error and the detrimental effect on the basic land resource becomes critical.

Now that development is here to stay in Micronesia, terrific pressures are being brought to bear on planners and administrators. This results in crash programs to solve "this" and prevent "that." And each crash program creates problems for the next crash program.

### A MATTER OF NATIONAL POLICY

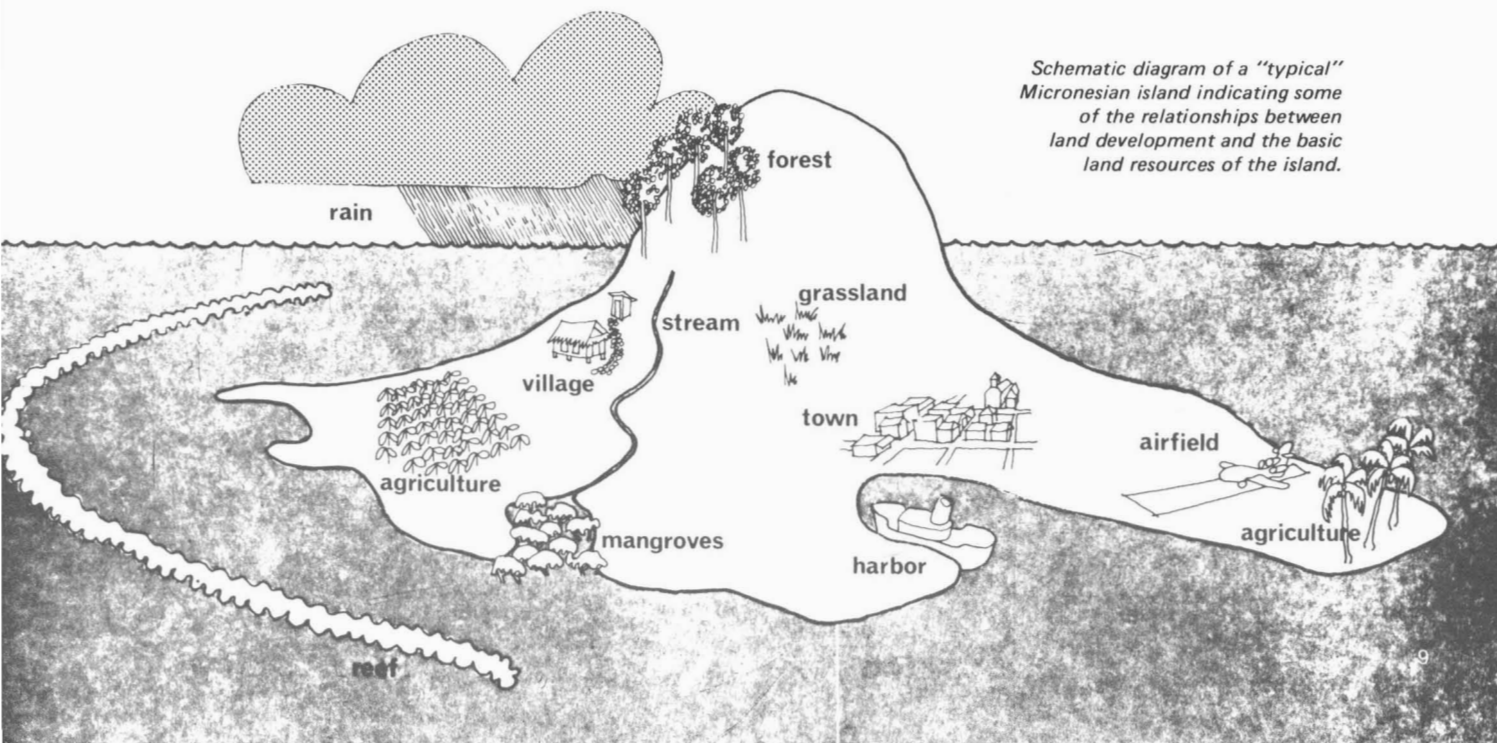
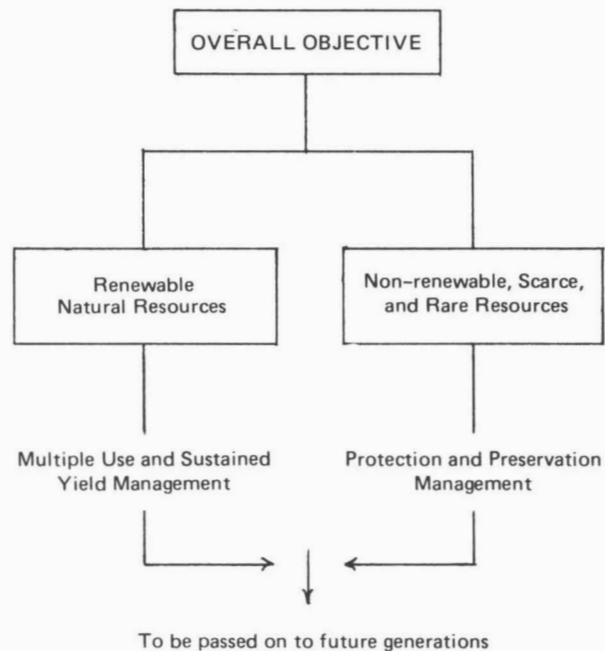
It is important that a high priority be placed on good husbandry of the basic land resources. National policies and goals must be established by both the executive and the legislative branches of government and they must be put into effect as soon as possible. Such policies must be oriented around the concept of the land's capability to support the intended use.

An overall objective for resource management in Micronesia might be stated:

"...the management of the various natural resources of Micronesia in such a manner that they will best meet the present and future needs of the Micronesian people. This includes wisely planned use and sustained yield management of the renewable natural

resources, and the protection and preservation management of the scarce and non-renewable resources, in such a manner as to pass on to future generations an adequate natural resource base, including a share of the non-renewable natural resources."

This is illustrated in the following diagram:



In carrying out a national policy of land use management the highest priority must be placed on the protection of the soil resource, especially agricultural soils. Good agricultural soils are limited in Micronesia and agriculture should have priority use of these soils. The vegetative cover of the forests, the grassland/savannas, and mangroves should be protected against disturbances that will deteriorate their beneficial effects, including their contribution to the fresh water resources. The reefs play such an important role socially and economically that special care should be taken to protect them against deterioration.

Micronesia has a very interesting endemic flora and fauna. Many species are rare or endangered and should be protected. The historical and archaeological sites should be protected as valuable links to Micronesia's heritage.

### SOME PRINCIPLES OF LAND-USE PLANNING

If land-use planning is to keep ahead of land development and thus avoid the deterioration of the land resource, there should be a program of active, sensitive, husbandry of the land. It should be a planned program which applies the procedures and practices necessary to achieve the national goals and objectives.

#### Anticipate Competition

The anticipation of competition between various land uses is very important. Some land uses are compatible with one another while others are not. When planners anticipate competition, it is possible to resolve potential conflicts before they happen.

Sometimes a key development will lead to additional developments in the surrounding area. By anticipating these additional developments, proper planning can be carried out so as not to pre-empt sites that should best be reserved for other uses. For example, when a road is extended into a new area, new land uses will follow. The resulting changes in land use patterns must not be allowed to destroy valuable watersheds, or valuable examples of natural habitat, etc. Changes in land use patterns must be anticipated, basic land resource inventories made (including soil types, unusual habitats, municipal water supplies, archaeological sites, etc.), and proper land management decisions made based on these data, as well as on the usual engineering data, *before* the road is built, not on a crash basis afterwards.

Figure 2 illustrates the types of land use competition that can be expected for the various portions of the model Micronesian island.

#### Forecast Environmental Impact

When planners consider various approaches to land development, they should weigh the estimated

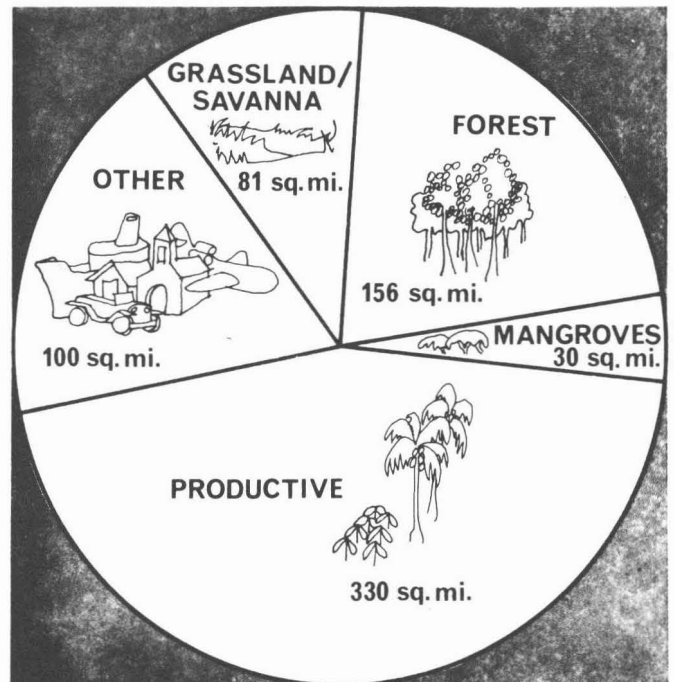


Chart showing approximate distribution of vegetative and land use types in the Trust Territory. This is derived from data found in the 1963 Annual Report of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

ecological impacts and choose alternatives that have the least detrimental impact on the environment. In cases requiring major alteration to the environment, the decision should be a matter of public record and made in the most knowledgeable manner possible, with a view toward minimizing the risks of an ecological disaster.

#### Match the Development to the Land

Land uses vary not only in terms of their environmental impacts but also in terms of their environmental *needs*. This is just another way of saying, "put agricultural projects on agricultural soils," or, "build roads in locations where there will be a minimum of earth moving or dredging." This principle seems almost too obvious to mention but it is surprising how often it is overlooked. Certainly, engineering and technology can sometimes overcome environmental disadvantages, but doesn't it make more sense to work *with* rather than against nature?

#### Avoid Irreversible Reactions and Irretrievable Losses

An example of an irretrievable loss is the extinction of a species or destruction of a one-of-a-kind feature of the landscape, such as an important archaeological site. Suppose an earth moving project is causing sediment to be deposited on a reef. If the



activity is corrected early enough, the reef may recover. If it goes on long enough beyond the "point of no return", it becomes an irreversible reaction which could have been prevented and the reef will die even if the sedimentation is stopped.

### **THE ACTION PHASES OF LAND USE PLANNING**

It is with the implementation of a well considered land use management plan that we finally achieve the goals of the national land use policy. Using the above principles and combining them with the following actions we can keep land use planning ahead of land development.

#### **Inventory of Land Resources**

Dasmann states the rationale for resources inventory so well that very little can be added:

A first requirement for planning of any kind, or any purpose, on any scale, is a knowledge of existing conditions. Without this, planning can only be an exercise in theory, separate from any reality, without hope for implementation. Ideally such knowledge should come from recent, ecologically based detailed maps and reports on land forms, vegetation, land use, the successional status of existing biotic communities, and accounts of species of native and introduced animals and plants showing their distribution and status.\*

The Trust Territory is fortunate to have a very good source of information already available and ready to use; that is the up-to-date aerial photos taken for use by the Land Cadaster Program. These photos can provide information on soil types, land use patterns, land form data, and other useful information.

One of the most important objectives of the inventory must be to identify the irreplaceable elements of the basic land resource. In this category and included are those elements of the landscape and biota that are rare or localized in distribution and are in danger of being irretrievably lost if they are not protected. This includes the many endemic varieties of plants and animals like the Fruit Bat, Micronesian Pigeon, and the Dugong. It also includes many areas of scenic beauty or historical and archaeological significance. If any of these areas should be destroyed, they would be just as irretrievably lost as the extinction of a species.

### **Land Use Allocation**

Intense land use pressure requires that a system be devised for allocating the limited land resources among the various competing uses. This system should achieve a good match between the use visualized and the capability of the land to support that use.

This merely means that urban lands should be zoned for urban uses, agricultural lands for agricultural uses, and other appropriate lands put into a conservation zone where land uses are carefully considered so as to protect those features worthy of conservation management.

#### **Enforcement**

Once policies and decisions have been made, they must be enforced. The basic land resources of Micronesia are too scarce to allow for exceptions and variations of the rules. For example, land identified as agricultural must be developed as such and not allowed to be encroached upon by non-agricultural uses that manage to avoid the rules. The program, no matter how well conceived, is only as good as its enforcement.

#### **Monitor and Adjust**

As the program develops and matures, the results should be constantly under surveillance in order to compare them against the desired goals. If careful review shows that the goals are not being achieved or that detrimental effects are resulting, then positive adjustments must be made.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Development of Micronesia is proceeding at such a rapid rate that before long Micronesia's precious 680 square miles of land will no longer be the paradise we know today. Development is out-pacing Land Use Planning. There have been some utilities planning, transportation planning, communications planning, etc., but what good will this type of planning be if the land is eroded away, the reefs killed, and the scenery spoiled? Land resources information and land use capability information must be developed and must be used in planning the economic development of Micronesia.

The time has come for vigorous land planning efforts. A start has been made through the efforts of the Land Cadaster Program, the creation of the Environmental Protection Board, and the establishment of the Trust Territory Planning Office. Sound and timely action by these agencies is important to the future of Micronesia. They deserve the active and courageous support of the Micronesian people.

\* Quoted from "Conservation Planning on a National Scale," by Raymond Dasmann. Presented to the Eleventh Pacific Science Congress, Tokyo, 1966.



*Mahogany planted in 1957 on Ongelungel's land in Melekeok, Babelthup; photo taken in 1966.*

*by David T. Fullaway*

Forestry is "the art and science of growing, treating, and utilizing trees for man's benefit." Many people, however, are not aware of the extent of those benefits.

One has only to think of the coconut palm, the banana palm, citrus, the breadfruit, mango or avocado tree to recognize that trees are a significant source of food in Micronesia. Many of these same trees relieve the burning glare of the tropical sun, offering cooling shade. Some trees are a source of local medicines, and nearly all of

them add greatly to the beauty of the landscape.

Trees also provide wood for lumber, posts, poles, and piling — raw materials for carpenters and construction workers. Micronesia's growing handicraft industry depends upon trees to furnish its many wood carvers with the raw material from which they fashion their story boards, love sticks, masks and other handicrafts.

Yet today, Micronesia finds itself in the position of having to import over a million dollars worth of lumber each year to assure an adequate supply of

these raw materials. This represents a serious drain on the economy of the islands.

Ponape, Kusaie, and Palau can supply most of their own lumber needs; and Truk and Yap can furnish about half of their needs, using mangrove and certain species of trees that grow on the mountains.

An active tree planting program on government lands, and an extension program to establish plantations of wood-producing trees on private lands is an important aspect of forestry's role in Micronesia.



Perhaps the function of trees about which the average person knows the least is the very important part they play in the development and control of a good water supply.

Everyone recognizes the importance of water. If there were no water, people could not survive on the earth. Where there is water, and it is contaminated or of poor quality, the health of human beings is endangered. Good water in large quantities is absolutely essential to population growth and economic development.

A steady supply of quality water will be assured if there is a good watershed — an area on which rain falls and from which the water then flows to a single collection point — well covered with grasses, shrubs, and trees. The tree roots bind the soil together and permits water to slowly penetrate the soil. Without trees, the rainwater will flow rapidly across the surface of the ground into ocean-bound streams or directly into the sea, resulting in the waste of untold millions of gallons of water. With the rushing water goes valuable top soil into the ocean, muddying the water and seriously damaging fishing potential in the immediate area.

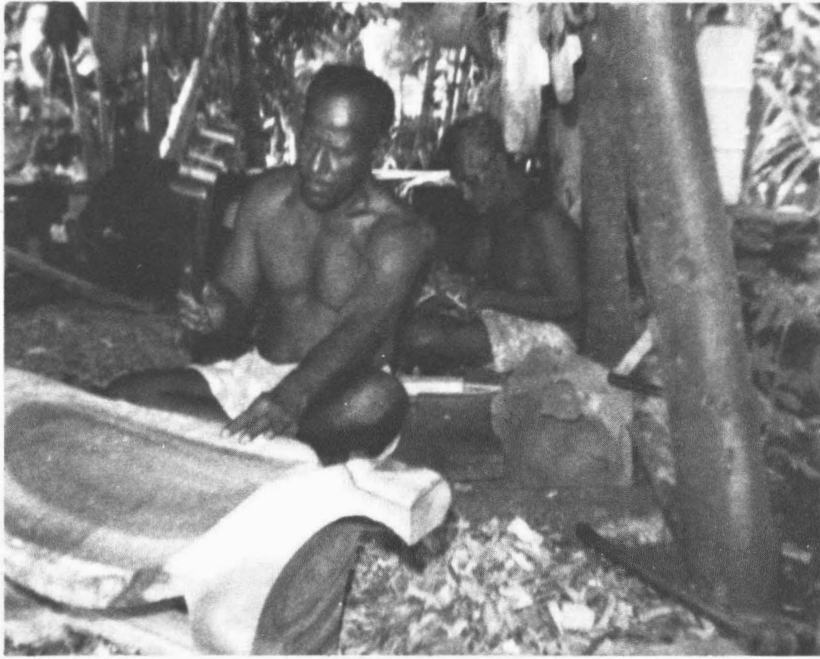
Planting and growing trees to protect the land from such erosion is one of the most important aspects of forestry's role in Micronesia. In carrying out this function, forestry puts into practice principles of conservation, which is the wise use of natural resources for man's use both now and in the future. Natural resources fall into two main categories: renewable resources, including water, trees, and animals; and non-renewable resources, such as soil and minerals.

Looking at the history of forestry in Micronesia, we see that before the advent of the first white man, Micronesians were dependent on the land for their livelihood. They practiced an intense form of subsistence agriculture, using trees, soil, and water to produce their food, goods and services.



*Shown in the photos are Trust Territory foresters in action. They are (l to r): Trust Territory Chief of Forestry David Fullaway, Palau's James N. Ramarii, Salis Peter, and Herson Anson, both Ponape's foresters. There are twenty persons working in forestry today in Palau and sixteen in Ponape. Plans are underway to institute forestry programs within the next two years for Yap, Truk, and Kusaie.*





*Wooden handicraft for sale brings much money into Micronesia.*



*Wood samples shown at a Ponape's agricultural fair.*



*Making lumbers by using a chain saw is economically sound, and costs less than imported lumbers.*



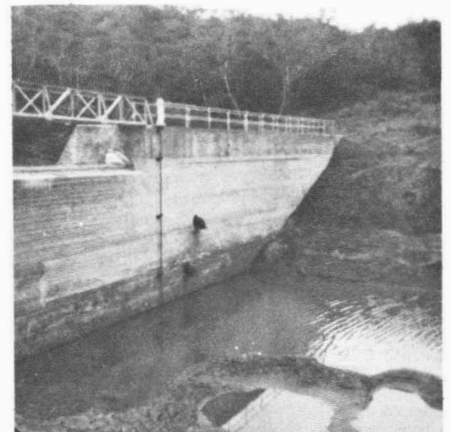
*Educating the people of the islands the importance of forestry is a vital role of the forestry program in Micronesia.*

In the waves of foreign domination that followed over the next four centuries, some foreign powers exploited the natural resources of Micronesia; others brought about a change from dependency on the land to dependency on imported goods. Their presence resulted in a change of attitude on the part of the Micronesian people toward conservation.

Today, the people of Micronesia are exploiting their own natural resources. Forests are disappearing, the tillable soils are being eroded away, valuable supplies of water are being wasted in needless run off. At the same time, the way of life of the average Micronesian has changed. He no longer produces all of his own food and goods. Instead he is rapidly becoming a consumer of foreign goods. And so we find a Micronesia which once could supply the needs of a population far greater than that of today, unable to meet the wants and needs of its people.

But Micronesia today is aiming toward economic self-sufficiency and total self-government. In realizing the goal of economic independence, forestry does and will continue to will play a significant role. An active forestry program, coupled with hard work on the part of the people, will be in the forefront of Micronesia's recovery from years of exploitation.

*Palau's Irai dam during a draught—water is forests' main product.*





Recognition of the importance of forestry's role in Micronesia came in 1966 when forestry was incorporated into the Trust Territory's agriculture effort. Today there are active forestry programs in Palau and in Ponape. Plans are well underway to institute similar programs within the next two years for Yap, Truk and Kusaie. Young men from these districts are currently at Bulolo Forestry School in New Guinea, enrolled in courses in forestry.

There are 20 persons working in forestry today in Palau, and 16 in Ponape. Six of them have completed three years of forestry schooling in New Guinea. They are: James Ramarii, Marcello Brel, Gerdence Meyer, and Ebais Sadang of Palau; Herson Anson and Salis Peter of Ponape. Currently attending the New Guinea Forestry school are Mathias Kugumagar of Yap, Glastine Cornelius of Kusaie, and Bacio Namelo of Truk. And recently graduated from the Forestry School at the University of Washington was Ishmael Lebehn of Ponape.

Among the current forestry activities in Micronesia are:

- Nursery development and tree distribution to provide tree seedlings for food, timber, erosion control, windbreaks, and beautification. These trees are given out free of charge to Micronesians.

- The planting of stands of trees on government land for study of planting, growing, treating, harvesting, wood utilization techniques, and for watershed development. And the planting of trees on private land of trees for food, timber, and erosion control.

- The establishment of watersheds in Micronesia; to develop and maintain them primarily for the production and control of water.

- The teaching and promotion of forestry, conservation, and preservation in the schools and villages throughout Micronesia.

- The development and introduction of laws into district legislatures and the Congress of Micronesia to develop and protect forests in Micronesia.

- Encouragement and support of sawmills, furniture and craftwood plants. Use of local materials for posts, poles, and charcoal.

- In Ponape, the Cattle distribution of breeding cattle.

What all this adds up to is a program of basic development and protection of Micronesia's natural resources. The people of Micronesia, after centuries of exploitation of these resources, first at the hands of foreign governments, and now at their own hands, must recognize the importance of forestry's program of resources development and protection to their own personal well-being. They must accept the fact that it is vital to their economic and political advancement.



*Trees are a significant source of food in Micronesia. Shown in the photo is an agriculture worker spraying water to young breadfruit trees on Ponape.*

*Forests play an important role in production of quality water. If there were no water, people could not survive on the earth.*



*Trees are frequently used to relieve the burning glare of the tropical sun, offering cooling shade.*



by William A. Brewer

## THE ASSAULT OF OUR REEFS AND LAGOONS

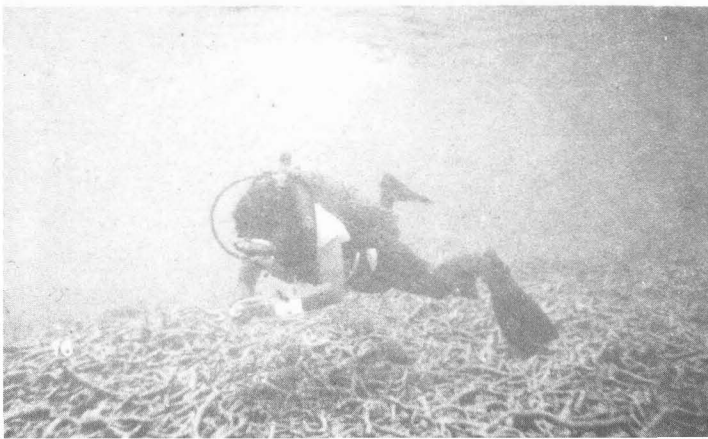


**BEFORE** *A magnificent living reef teeming with diverse, colorful and economically valuable fish and other marine life.*



**DURING** *The work of the fish dynamiter.*

**AFTER** *The diver inspecting the shattered remains of the once living reef. No fish, no shellfish, nothing...*



The first deep breath of air from the SCUBA regulator was cool and dry—a refreshing change from the almost stagnant muggy air I had been breathing at the surface. I checked my underwater compass with the position of the boat in relation to two prominent shoreline coconut palms. Good reference points:

*About 285 north-east magnetic... Distance maybe 300 yards... water depth about 40 feet sloping to estimated 8 feet on inner reef flat... maybe an 80 minute bottom time, no, better figure on 65. Plenty of time if I maintain about 5 yards per minute. Over the side.*

Why do I always get so excited the first few minutes underwater? Maybe nervousness? My heart is pounding so hard I can feel it in my ears. Better inflate the vest to give me a little bouyancy before I reach the bottom.

Come on ear, equalize! Why can't you cooperate like my right ear? After over a thousand logged working dives in "brass monkey" waters of California and a couple hundred working dives in Micronesia you'd think it would learn. Nope. Oh well, up to 20 feet and try again. OK. Now let's get going.

*Notes from my underwater log book of March 28, 1975:*

*0920 Hours: 300 yards off Mechitiw, Moen Island. 50+ visibility. Coral: Acropora, Milliopora, Porites dominant. Two dynamited craters at T+5 minutes. Vis. 50+ ft. upstream. 6-10 ft. downstream of craters. Holothurians everywhere, ugly. One lizardfish, Synodus? Diameter of crater 50 estimated feet; shattered corals extend 20-40 feet from crater rim. Two Pomacentrids, nothing else. Coral bleached, polyps not observed. 90% dead, remainder dying.  $\pi r^2 = 3.14 \times (50)^2 = \text{about } 7500 \text{ sq. feet}$  totally destroyed. Shattered area, incl. crater,  $(90)^2 = 8100 \times 3.14 = \text{about } 25,000 \text{ sq. feet}$ . Shattered cowries; helmet snail broken in half. Former patch reef indicated on topo. map gone: dead. A person that could dynamite a coral reef could also probably dynamite a classroom full of children without a second thought! Don't they realize how unique their islands and lagoons are? 0938 Hours: a third dynamited crater... T+18 minutes...*

The remaining fifty minutes of the dive-survey that I was conducting for the Trust Territory Environmental Protection Board did not get much better. Silt produced from the dynamited craters and a nearby government dredging operation had just about eliminated almost all of the marine life on a large and formerly productive reef flat and several patch reefs. Total affected coral reef and reef flat area . . . approximately 616,000 square feet. Extent of shoreline affected; roughly 10% of Moen's total shoreline!

The latter, I'm sure, is not compatible with anyone's image of a Pacific island paradise, let alone my image. Yet, during my two and a half years in the Trust Territory as a former Peace Corps Volunteer-Marine Ecologist and now as an Environmental Specialist for the Trust Territory Environmental Protection Board, I have come to know well the destruction being created around many of Micronesia's unique island environments.

I have purposely used the term "environments" since anyone who has lived or traveled extensively through these islands is aware that no two islands are really identical. These differences express themselves in the relatively obvious physical features such as geography, topography and climate; the more subtle cultural and language diversity; and lastly in the composition and structure of plant and animal communities on land and underwater. It is primarily the vast expanse of water making up some 99.999% of the geographical 'Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands' that provides some degree of commonality or similarity between these small, discrete land masses.

It is this massive expanse of water, including estuaries, lagoons and bays, that provide an unending vista of color, tranquil beauty, and mystery to the skin diver or fisherman. These same waters also contain one of Micronesia's greatest, though largely undeveloped, potential resources—the fish, shellfish, crustaceans and other economically valuable marine organisms. On the other hand, these same waters may in the future provide nothing but undesirable creatures of little nutrient, economic, or aesthetic value.

Our earth is a great complex place and extremely difficult to understand in its entirety. On it we have co-existing not only a great diversity of plant and animal life, but also enormous cultural diversity. Each group of people follows its own set of rules governing attitudes, roles, values and patterns for behavior. The Earth too has certain rules which govern the control and balance of natural things. Trouble comes when that delicate balance is disturbed.

This concept especially applies to the island world of Micronesia. The smaller the land mass, the more delicate is the balance of nature to be maintained. For this reason, islands, especially small islands, must maintain the careful and often tenuous harmony of nature if they are to remain habitable places for man.

The loss of certain environmental values in Micronesia appears to go hand in hand with population growth and economic change. A growing dependence on a cash economy and imported products of various kinds undoubtedly reflects the developing economic and social structure of the island, and this is by no means necessarily bad. However, the transition between a subsistence economy and a cash economy carries with it basic changes in habits and life style. No longer can the person operating in the cash economy spend unlimited time in his natural environment. A basic apathy or disinterest in the environment may easily evolve as increasing emphasis is placed on money-earning and spending.

In earlier times a person was required to spend considerable time in his environment—spearfishing, trapping, picking or collecting the necessary foods and other resources required for survival. Today, however, these same needs may be met at the local market, cooperative store or field trip vessel—with far less effort and energy expended. Historically, the survival of human beings on an island environment required just the right combination of environmental conditions to produce and sustain life. Traditional island conservation practices or laws regarding the collection and utilization of various terrestrial and marine resources for food and other needs were based upon a basic understanding and intimate knowledge of the life cycles or ecology of the component organisms and the

*Silt and sediment produced from uncontrolled dredging and poor causeway construction have resulted in the elimination of marine life in many lagoon areas throughout Micronesia.*





basic needs and requirements for survival of human populations. These same laws are just as valid today. Many of Micronesia's present day conservation laws are based upon these same traditional laws or values. They are not, regretfully, as conscientiously heeded today.

The accomplishments, challenges and problems in protecting the quality of the environment in Micronesia are many. Many of the challenges and problems stem from the inherent conflict between social and economic development and environmental quality. With regard to environmental quality, we are fortunate in many respects. Whereas the United States and other industrialized nations are often faced with attempts at total restoration of dead rivers, lakes and coastlines, in Micronesia attention for the most part need only be focused on the protection and maintenance. There are, however, notable exceptions.

Sedimentation of estuaries, bays, and lagoons from accelerated, maninduced erosion is one of them, and is probably the greatest environmental threat to Micronesia today. Sediments and silt produced by erosion and surface runoff from construction, land clearing and landfill practices quickly reach the ocean or lagoon. The problem is most acute around Micronesia's high volcanic islands. The impact of suspended silt and deposited sediments on reef flat and coral reef communities can be devastating and potentially irreversible.

Erosion produced by rainfall and rainfall runoff is to a certain extent a natural feature of all island environments. The problem begins, however, when man's activities accelerate these natural erosional processes and overwhelm nature's built-in controls or buffer mechanisms.

Encircling most of Micronesia's high lagoon islands are extensive stands of mangrove and turtle-grass beds which, among other things, constitute natural sediment traps for controlling island runoff. The tangled, impenetrable mangrove roots not only provide an environmental screen, where silt and sediments may settle out, but they also function as areas of intense microbial activity where organic materials are broken down into simple chemical compounds. In this way, the mangrove zone acts as a nutrient reservoir where the slow release of soluble elements aids in maintaining the fertility of the entire lagoon. These same mangroves serve as natural seawalls, conferring protection from wave and tidal erosion produced during intense storm activity. Their role in controlling sediment produces secondary benefits by creating natural landfill areas of high fertility. These areas eventually develop stabilized soils which are compatible with intensive human use.

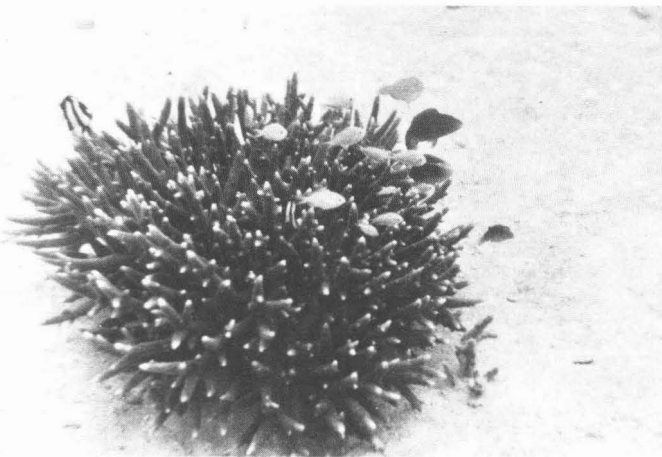


*The underwater photographer marveling at the beauty and complex biological relationships which exist on the living reef.*

As a result of the protection from predators produced by the dense mangrove stands, they also provide an important hatchery and nursery zone for the juvenile stages of various reef fish and other organisms. Anyone who has feasted on mangrove crab and certain shellfish delicacies can attest to the bountiful, palatable resources that the mangrove habitat is capable of producing.

Unlike man, nature always produces fail-safe mechanisms to protect and balance her living resources. The turtle-grass and algal communities which flourish on the inner reef flat seaward of the mangrove provide just such a mechanism. It is here where fine silts and terrigenous sediments can be further filtered, deposited and controlled as a second line of defense for the offshore coral communities. Most of the estimated 3000 species that constitute a "typical" coral reef community thrive under very precise levels of tolerance to a number of environmental variables. Exceeding the level of tolerance to any one of these variables may produce undesirable changes, injury and perhaps even death to the entire coral community or reef. Silt and sediment tolerances for corals and related species are exceptionally critical. For this reason, it is rare to observe corals growing between the mangrove and turtle-grass communities—for conditions there simply exceed their levels of tolerance to silt and other factors.

To the diver, underwater photographer and fisherman, the coral reef offers many special attributes and resources the mangroves or turtle grass beds cannot provide. To the underwater photographer the coral reef is a source of diverse colorful specimens worthy of capturing on film. To the fisherman it offers a "shopping center" of living food resources.



*Almost three years ago, dynamiters on Saipan eliminated a formerly productive patch reef, leaving only sand and rubble. This small colony of Staghorn coral, barely sixteen inches in diameter, took almost three years to develop to its present size. It remains as the only living habitat area within the 11,000 square foot crater produced by the dynamiters.*

Nature did not design mangroves or turtle grass beds to serve the best interests of the coral community. These habitats developed as a function of specific adaptations to unique environments as a function of the individual requirements of the component organisms. Each community—the mangrove, turtle-grass and coral reef—is no less important than the other in the ecological scheme of things, even though man may ascribe more worth to a certain community or habitat because of aesthetic, recreational or other values. In the ecological context, they are each of equal value. Under most circumstances, none can survive for long without the other.

This mutual dependency becomes especially apparent when man enters the picture with his vast technical skills and machinery to modify or change a place from its natural condition to a condition that better suits his interests.

Lagoon waters adjacent to population centers in almost every district have been or are being endangered or destroyed because of a lack of sound environmental planning or forethought to the consequences of certain activities. As a result, valuable mangrove, turtle-grass and coral reef communities are often needlessly destroyed.

In Ponape, the construction of the mile-long causeway connecting the Takatik Island airport with Kolonia relieved a serious transportation problem, but caused a reduction in water currents and tidal flushing in Tuanmokot Channel. The net result is an area that is

now suffocating from ever-increasing amounts of sediment and silt which were formerly washed away and diluted.

In Truk, dredging, channel blasting and fish dynamiting have made conditions untenable for many forms of marine life in large areas of the lagoon.

In Palau, surface runoff and sediment erosion from the recently surfaced airfield wound up reducing the productivity of Airai Bay as a fishing ground. Numerous other examples of poor planning or construction practices are found in almost every populated island in the Trust Territory.

Contrary to what you may be thinking, I am not an environmentalist who condemns development, provided the best interests of the people are considered. However, I am one who condemns development without conscientious planning and study—environmental planning and study. Where else should sound environmental planning be a prerequisite to development than on our small islands where land is so limited? In addition, it is just not that simple for island people to travel elsewhere (following environmental degradation to their homeland) where these same resources have not already been threatened or destroyed.

The impact of tourism is already producing potentially serious environmental consequences in some districts. Shells and corals have been stripped from many inshore reefs leaving areas totally devastated. On Saipan, it is not unusual to see more corals under the arms of tourists at the airport than one sees in a good underwater snorkle-dive. Since most tourists are unprepared to adequately preserve living corals and shellfish for the trip home, many of these once magnificent creatures wind up rotting in a nearby trash can. Controlling shelling and coral collecting can be effective in reducing the devastation to marine life, since every healthy reef has a natural turnover rate. The problem comes with over-exploitation—simply too many people and too little reef.

As one who finds Micronesia's reefs and lagoons an unending source of great beauty and enjoyment, I do not relish the thought of dredging coral reefs to create boat channels or dock facilities, or simply dredging to acquire landfills materials. However, I am realistic enough to acknowledge the importance of these activities in Micronesia's present and future economic development and the need for safer and more adequate transportation facilities is mandatory. However, I for one cannot condone unplanned, thoughtless activities which produce needless destruction of the magnificent living resources of these waters.

Probably the most thoughtless act of all, an act even traditional societies would abhor, is the persistent dynamiting and "chloroxing" of fish and reefs by a small handful of "fishermen" in each district. The collective efforts of these people have left large portions of Saipan's barrier reef dead and they have even destroyed the last few remaining good fishing areas on the island's rugged exposed eastern shoreline. The Truk Lagoon has experienced similar activities which have eliminated entire reef systems that formerly produced a bountiful supply of marine life to anyone who cared to tap these resources.

Explosives and chemical poisons are not very selective. True, these methods may quickly produce a boat-load of edible-size fish, but they also produce a graveyard of fish which are too small to eat—not to mention the killing of other plants and animals which are not of direct value to man, but are of great value to the stability of the reef ecosystem which produces the edible fish.

Fishing with nets, hand-lines and spears is selective and does not generally do any permanent damage to a reef. Fishing with throw-nets and seines offers a selectivity provided by the size of the mesh making up the net. Most nets used in Micronesia have a mesh size that permits the juvenile or baby fish to easily escape while retaining only the larger fish. Some small fish are deliberately caught, however, because they are regarded as delicacies. Hand-lines and fishing poles offer a selectivity based upon the size of the hook and the type of bait. (You can't catch a baby red snapper on a shark-size hook!) Spears and spearguns offer the advantage to the fisherman of selecting just the kind and size of fish that he desires. This kind of fishing requires real skill—a skill that is a part of the heritage of all island peoples almost everywhere in the world, and especially in Micronesia.

The fish dynamiter operates with total disregard for the environment—your environment. Once the reef is destroyed, it may take years before the area will again provide good fishing and shellfishing. The individual who uses explosives to kill fish may boast of the "easy money" that is possible by fishing with dynamite, and, in fact, these individuals may collect as many fish following one blast as an environmentally-conscious person, using nets or spears, may catch in two or three long days of fishing. There is one difference, however, between these two types of fishermen: the one using explosives is destroying the very environment he needs to feed and produce the fish he kills; the person using traditional fishing methods is also harvesting fish, but he is harvesting them in a manner which is ecologically acceptable and which guarantees that the reef will

continue to produce fish for years to come—for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

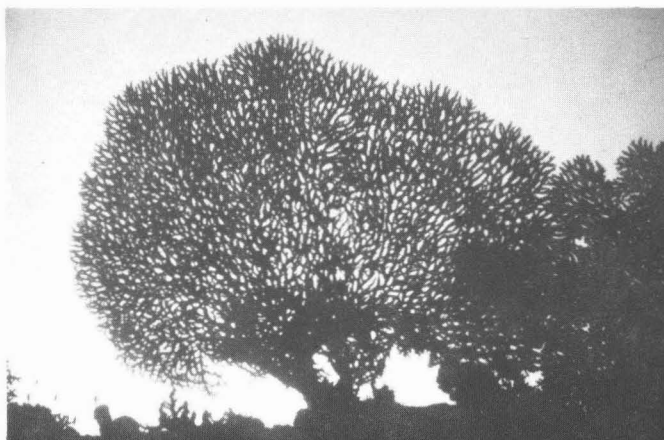
Coral reefs are parts of the most valuable natural resources in Micronesia. They provide not only a source of food and recreation, but also are vital to the very maintenance of the integrity of our island environment. Without the living barrier the reefs provide, many of the islands of Micronesia would be defenseless against the ravages of oceanic waves and typhoons. In future years, the economic backbone of Micronesia may ultimately depend upon the living resources of its oceans—the reefs and lagoons—provided that these oceans, reefs and lagoons are still alive and producing the living resources of which they are capable.

There is a demanding necessity for island people as well as all of mankind on Earth to face up to environmental reality. The necessity for discovering a way to live in a place without destroying it is increasingly important. Micronesia could well be a model or showcase for the rest of the world. The quality of life—in all its diverse aspects—is really a condition we must all work to achieve. The ultimate fate of Micronesia may rest with how well we face this challenge together, particularly at this time of tremendous development and change within this island world. Remember—your children will have to live with the consequences of the decisions you will be called upon to make.

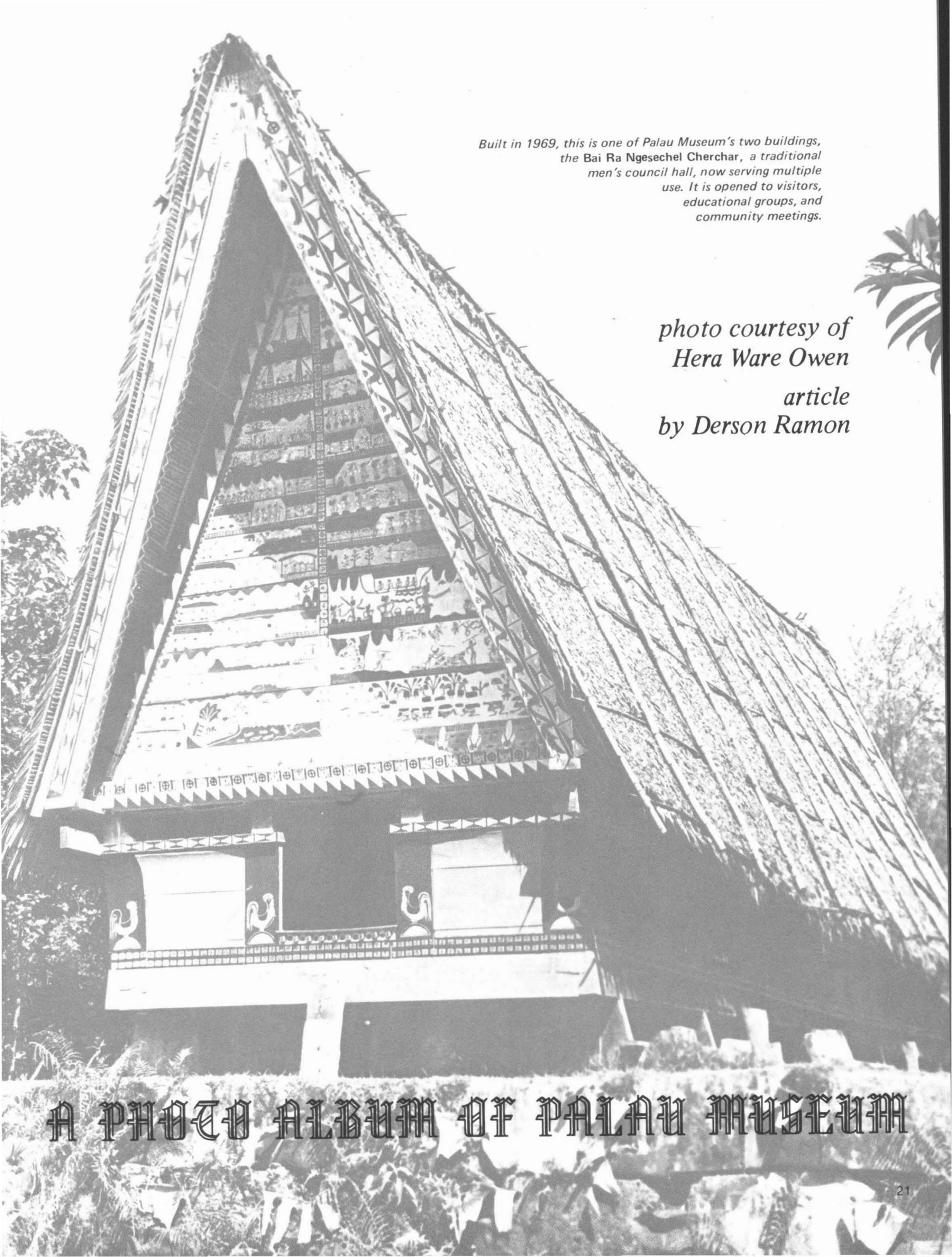
Notes from my underwater log book of March 28, 1975:

*0950 Hours: Approximately 200 feet from dredge site. In dredge-spoil plume. One species of unidentified tubeworm. U/W visibility up to 2 ft. Max. Patch reef corals covered over with 4-6" of silt and detritus. No fish, no coral, no algae; nothing . . .*

*The spectacular and fragile living resources of our reefs and lagoons must be adequately protected against the often careless onslaught of man.*







*Built in 1969, this is one of Palau Museum's two buildings, the Bai Ra Ngesechel Cherchar, a traditional men's council hall, now serving multiple use. It is opened to visitors, educational groups, and community meetings.*

*photo courtesy of  
Hera Ware Owen*

*article  
by Derson Ramon*

# A PHOTO ALBUM OF PALAU MUSEUM



*The value of a small, or community museum can be measured according to its degree of intimate association with members of the community, as in Palau. This intimate association contributes to the vitality and the vigour of the museum as a living entity, and makes possible an effective communication with the community.*

The year 1975 may go down in the history of Micronesia as a year of momentous milestones—with the tenth anniversary of the Congress of Micronesia, the Marianas June 17 Plebiscite in which the overwhelming majority of the voters (78.8%) voted in favor of affiliating with the United States of America as a commonwealth, the Trust Territory-wide referendum to ascertain the political aspirations of the people of Micronesia and to guide the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status in its future negotiations, the convening of the historic Micronesian Constitutional Convention, and now the twentieth anniversary of the "first museum established in Micronesia."

Palau Museum, located on Koror in the Palau Archipelago of the Western Caroline Islands, was established in 1955 when "a group of thirty (fifteen Palauans and fifteen Americans) sat down to dinner in a delightfully appointed residence overlooking the Pacific at Koror" and "a bright and lively conversation kept up all through the evening." The occasion, as vividly described by the *Micronesian Reporter* (Vol. III, No. 3), marked the first anniversary of the

founding of the Palau Museum, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Owens were giving the museum's birthday party for the members of the Museum Committee and their spouses to celebrate the event.

Actually the idea of a museum was started one day in the fall of 1954 when the American Women's Club of Palau was meeting, and one of its members suggested: "Why not have a permanent showing of the relics, souvenirs and artifacts which are typically and historically Palauan?" The museum has been working diligently (over the past two decades) to "preserve and protect the cultural heritage, as well as to respect the importance of natural history and environment, of the islands," says Mrs. Hera Owen, Director of the Museum. Exhibits of men's money, dugong bracelets, local eating utensils, woven handicrafts, taro pounders, pounding boards, clay pots and clay lamps, and myriad others have been on display in the museum since 1955.

As we pause today to give special recognition to the twentieth anniversary of the "first museum", it is also appropriate to recognize the men and women who had worked most diligently in 1955 for the success of the museum: Alfonso Oiterong, Benjamin Mersai, Mrs.

Emaimelai Bismark, Mrs. Sechedui Asao, Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Owen, Mrs. Donald W. LeGoullon, Francis B. Mahoney, Ngodrii, Joseph Tellei, Sidney Seid, Daniel J. Peacock, Francisco Morei, former Magistrate of Koror Rudimch, Harry Uyehara, and former District Administrator and Mrs. Don Heron.

And since 1955, the museum, with two buildings in the Koror Botanical Gardens—one is Collection Building, and the other Palau Museum Men's Meeting House, *Bai ra Ngesechel ar Cherchar*, the latter the first building of a proposed traditional village complex—has served well a community of 13,000, not only in providing facilities for permanent exhibitions, but in promoting community involvement programs, cooperating with educational programs, assisting research people and maintaining a library with emphasis on the photographic collections of Palau and Micronesia.

These programs are all possible under the able leadership of Hera Ware Owen as the museum's Director and Francisco Morei as its Chairman. Moreover, the museum is being supported financially by the Palau District Legislature and other sources. Widely known and respected, the museum is frequently visited by people from all corners of the globe. Mrs. Owen maintains that the visitor's registry shows a significant number of names from Palau and interspersed are names from such far-flung places as Africa, Canada, Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Malaysia,

Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Samoa, Mexico, and the United States. All, it seems, come to see the culture of Palau.

What is so unique about culture? Culture, very simply, is what the people are all about; the people and how they do things. The Palau Museum has paved the way to understanding of the Micronesian people; and now Yap, the Marshalls, Ponape, and perhaps Truk and the Marianas have all done likewise to preserve their culture. However, in spite of all the new changes in Micronesia (plebiscite, referendum, Constitutional Convention, etc.), it is good and perhaps comforting to know that somewhere, perhaps in Palau, a genuine effort has been undertaken to preserve a culture. The Palau Museum or any museum is something of which a boy or girl can say: "This is mine, and it's beautiful... something to be proud of, and to remember always." Mrs. Owen describes the feeling in a more succinct tone: "A museum can serve, not only in the preservation of a cultural history, but in the encouragement and understanding of it by all members, young and old, in the community."

Finally, you will, in a moment, visually witness "Palau Through the Eye of the Camera", a recent Palau Museum-sponsored photo show, which is now presented by the Reporter as "A PHOTO ALBUM OF PALAU MUSEUM" in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the "first museum established in Micronesia."

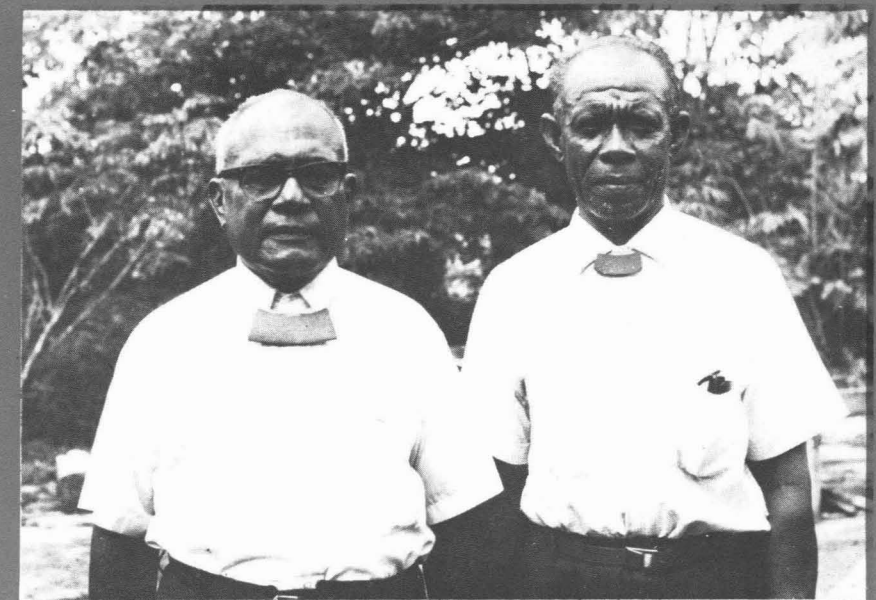
Charlie Gibbons, long-time employee of the Palau Museum, at entrance to the museum's first building located near the Legislature building. The museum moved from this location in 1968 to its permanent site.



The Palau Museum Collections building as it is today. It contains a main exhibition room, gallery room, second floor exhibition room and library, and is located about 50 yards from the Palau Museum Bai. The museum is in close proximity to the Weather Bureau and the Biology and Entomology Laboratories.



On a special occasion during the construction of the Palau Museum Bai (in 1969), High Chief Reklai Lomisang and Rubak Rekemesiik appeared wearing a type of Palauan money generally not worn by men.





Shown at the opening ceremony of the Palau Museum Bai in 1969 are left to right: (Mrs.) Maria Gibbons, mother of the present Aibedul Gibbons; Billung, high chiefess of Palau (about 100 years old); and (Mrs.) Katey Rengil, daughter of Billung, and community leader.

The community thinks of the museum. Here, the director, Mrs. Owen, in presence of a former District Administrator, Manuel Godinez, in 1965, accepting gifts of Japanese times from Eusevio Termeteet, presently the Palau's Chief of Police. At Mrs. Owen's right is Yano Takeo, a former Assistant District Administrator.



The Koror women's club, with (Mrs.) Emaimelei Bismark leading the dances, performing at the opening celebration of the Palau Museum Bai, one of two museum buildings.

Judge Francisco Morei, chairman of the Palau Museum Board of Trustee, and Hera Owen, director of the museum, visit master builder Ngracheliong Ngrasibong, at the construction site where the museum Bai is being assembled.



Members of the Palau Museum staff in 1970, left to right: Ngrangsil Uchau, Bai Keeper; David Suzuki, Junior Assistant; Hera Owen, Director; and Charlie Gibbons, Artist-Informant.





Visits by student groups to the museum with its two buildings, the Collections Building and the Bai ra Ngesechel Cherchar (authentic men's meeting house), are frequent. Shown here are students from the 7th and 8th grade Social Studies classes from Ngaraard Elementary School, located on the big island of Babelthuap in Palau. Standing beside the group is their teacher, Severino Ikeya, and in the Bai is Ngirangesil Uchau, a staff member, who instructs the students in the traditional functions of this building, reserved formerly for the governing elders of a village.



First prize in the high school student category of the Palau Museum photo show and competition called PALAU THRU THE EYE OF THE CAMERA (sponsored in 1974) went to Samuel Ngirchokebai for his "The Ngasech" or "First Child Ceremony".



Second prize in the adult category of the Palau Museum photo show and competition called PALAU THRU THE EYE OF THE CAMERA (in 1974) went to Cisco Ngirailemesang for his "Two Bamboo Rafts and Motor Boats".

Present at the funeral for Aibedul Ngioriaki Torual, one of the two high ranking chiefs of Palau, who died in 1972 are high chieftess Billung, (Mrs.) Emamelei Bismark bending over the photograph of the deceased Aibedul, and the second ranking chief (next to Aibedul) Ngiraikele also sits on the platform.



Shown here, in 1973, is Aibedul Yutaka Gibbons in the second ceremony which lead to his present position as high chief. Beside him is his sister, Gloria Gibbons.





First prize in the adult category of the Palau Museum photo show and competition called PALAU THRU THE EYE OF THE CAMERA (in 1974) went to Nicholas Ucherkemur for his "Gathering at the Opening of the Catholic Church in Peleliu". At the top left speaking is Judge Morei, chairman of the Palau Museum Board of Trustees.



Palau Museum welcomes a visit from District Administrator and Mrs. Thomas O. Remengesau on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. Mrs. Remengesau shows her husband a rare crocodile egg; they are found well hidden in grassy nests. In the background are drawings of Palauan birds by Mr. Takesi Suzuki, scientific illustrator for Trust Territory Conservation Department.



Staff member Gibbons' vivid and detailed watercolor of a traditional Palauan village pictorially records interesting aspects of life, culture and custom and is the center of attention in the Main Exhibit Room.

Signing in the visitor's book, Jack Burgess, Director of Peace Corps/Micronesia, is flanked by important objects. On his right, Douglas Faulkner's "this living reef", first book published exclusively on Palau. On the wall is a painting of a Palauan woman, a gift from the famous artist and ethnographer Hisakatsu Hidikata. Frieda Tellei, secretary-librarian, at desk. Back of her, painting by a Palauan, Johnny Kishikawa.



# micronesian constitutional convention

## delegates

july - november 1975



# THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:

*This special report—on the work of the Micronesian Constitutional Convention before it went on the recent twenty-three-day recess, beginning August 22 and ending September 15—was prepared by the Convention's Public Information staff. The staff is currently preparing a total and final story of the entire work of the Convention—before and after the recess—which will be presented by the Reporter in its next issue.*

# BEFORE THE RECESS



**SAIPAN (CONCON)**— On July 12, 1975, the Micronesian Constitutional Convention opened at Saipan's White Sands Hotel, with Truk's Senator Tosiwo Nakayama telling delegates "it is now or never for Micronesia." Six weeks later, when the more than fifty delegates departed Saipan for a twenty-three day recess, some of them were contending that it was now, indeed, for Micronesia. And others were implying: Never. The first half of the Convention, produced evidence to support both points of view. The issues will likely not be settled until long after delegates have returned to Saipan to resume deliberations, September 15.

The Convention's opening date was scheduled to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Congress of Micronesia. There were other echoes of earlier days as well. More than half the delegates have had some connection with the Congress — serving in it now, or before, having run for membership in it, or having worked on its staff. Moreover, the man the delegates quickly elected President of the Convention was a leader of that First Congress of Micronesia in 1965 and is President of the Congress' Senate today — Tosiwo Nakayama.

During its first days of operation, Convention delegates concentrated on staffing the committees which are assigned to consider and draft component parts of the Micronesian Constitution. Truk's Hans Williander headed the Committee on Style and Arrangement, which is in charge of the final language of the Constitution. Marshall's delegate Carl Heine chaired the Civil Liberties Committee, concerned with basic human rights and freedoms. Ponape's Heinrich Iriarte led a Committee on the Structure of Government, while Dr. Hiroshi Ismael, a Kusaiean, chaired a Committee on Government Functions. Ponape's senior senator, Bailey Olter, headed the Committee on Finance, while Jacob Sawaichi, former congressman from Palau, was named head of a Special



*Interior of the White Sands Hotel, where the Constitutional Convention has been meeting since July 12, 1975.*

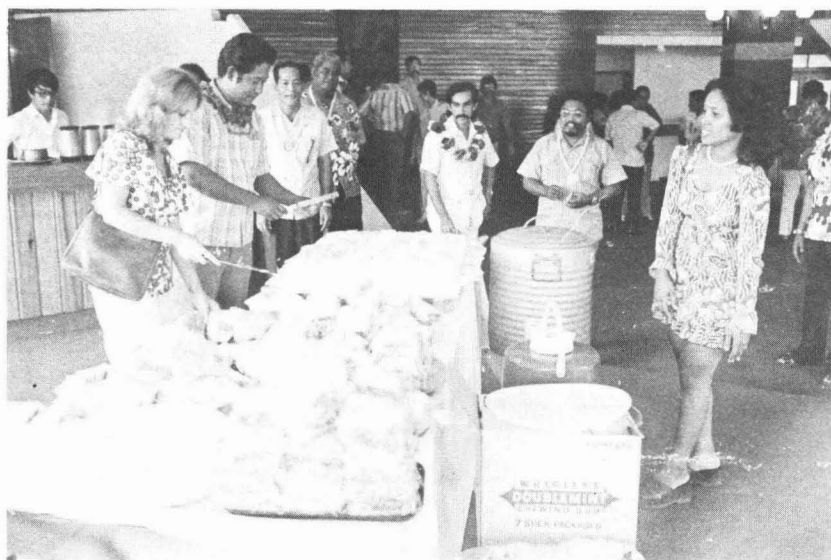
Conference Committee. The Special Conference Committee was designed to settle special problems that might arise in the course of the Convention.

After establishing committee memberships, Convention delegates settled down to the slow, frequently tedious task of developing and debating committee proposals. Perhaps because its subject area was readily defined and understood, the Committee on Civil Liberties led other committees in reporting proposals back to the Convention floor, for consideration by the full Convention. This did not save the measures from triggering substantial debate, however.

The first such measure — was a Freedom of Speech and Press proposal. The measure had been chosen as a non-controversial, pump-priming item which would demonstrate how subsequent, more complicated measures might be considered and adopted. Still, when freedom of press and speech reached the Convention floor it set off a storm of debate. Some delegates raised fears of pornography, others worried about potential conflicts with the customs and traditions of various districts. Still others were concerned that the measure spelled out an individual's freedom without adequately

noting the restraints and responsibilities that would accompany the exercise of such a freedom. Only after several debates — during which a number of amendments were proposed and defeated — did the delegates approve a reworded "Freedom of Expression." Other items passed in the days before the recess included a "Freedom to Petition and Assemble" a Constitutional Preamble, and a proposal that the future government be divided into three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. Also, in an attempt to satisfy delegates who felt that a broadly-worded Bill of Rights might go against the grain of Micronesian custom, the Convention passed a compromise measure designed to protect customs and traditions. Any future conflicts between individual freedoms and local customs are to be settled by the courts, on a case by case basis, the proposal indicates.

The Convention postponed some potentially explosive issues. Early in the Convention, delegates were faced with two alternative resolutions, which were introduced to promote discussion and help the Convention develop guidelines. One resolution would have urged establishment of a loose, federation in Micronesia, with a limited central



*Marshallese women residing on Saipan presented a party to the delegates shortly before the recess.*

government. The other resolution would have urged a tightly-knit Micronesia, with a strong central government. Delegates sidestepped consideration of these measures, however. They also postponed consideration of eminent domain powers. Some delegates had contended that eminent domain powers should be granted the future central government; others had said eminent domain power should be in the hands of district governments; still others contended that no land should be acquired for public use without approval of the appropriate municipal government and land-owner.

The largest single question mark facing the Convention was the position of the Palau Delegation. Early in the Convention, the Palau Delegation presented a "petition" listing a series of non-negotiable demands. "If and only if" all of their proposals were accepted, would the Palauans consent to join the future Micronesian state. Among the Palauan demands were: A unicameral legislature, in which all districts would have the same voting power regardless of size; equal contributions from all districts to the national government; equal division of outside aid among the districts; the unilateral right of a district

to secede; the location of the future capitol in Palau.

Several weeks after confronting the Convention with their "petition" the Palauans offered a complete Draft Micronesian Constitution which incorporated all of the points they had raised in their petition. Neither the petition, nor the Constitution, provoked much response from other delegates. Only three individuals — and no delegations — responded to the Palauan documents. Meanwhile, the various parts of the Palauan documents were meted out to various committees. It remained to be seen when, and if, the Palauan positions would be reported back to the full Convention. Still, whatever their impact on the Constitution, the Palau positions reemphasized widespread concern for the future of Micronesia. The Marianas Delegation's participation remained subject to U.S. Senate action on the commonwealth covenant. The Marshalls Delegation still lacked traditional representation. Now, with the Palau Delegation's position there were three districts whose commitment to the future unity of Micronesia was equivocal.

As the Convention approached its midpoint, delegates began evaluating what had — or had not — been accomplished. By far the harshest appraisal came from Palau delegate Lazarus Salii, who called the Convention "a complete failure." Salii said that cumbersome rules of procedure, unprofessional staff conduct, and inadequate delegate preparation had led to the Convention's downfall.

A Marianas delegate, Jose R. Cruz asked whether delegates could write an effective Constitution before all the districts had decided their political status. By attempting to write a Constitution before political status had been determined, the delegates were "taking a dangerous voyage in a leaky vessel into rough waters," Cruz declared.

In a long, carefully-worded speech, Yap delegate Samuel Falanruw said that he was "troubled" that the amount of work accomplished was "not in proportion" to the amount of time delegates had spent on Saipan. He pleaded with delegates to shed political ambitions and local partisanship. Said Falanruw: "The seed of disunity is nourished from within, not from outside. If we fail, we will have no one but ourselves to blame."

More optimistic in his appraisal of Convention progress was Marshalls delegate John Heine who said "I do not believe we have wasted our time here . . . we have approached our work not in the white man's way or the American way, but the Micronesian way. It may be slow but it is very firm."

Truk delegate Tatasy Wainit asked his colleagues to place Micronesia first and district aspirations second. He warned, "if we fail, Micronesia will disintegrate into the unknown."

Yap's Luke Tman, Floor Leader of the Convention, urged delegates to "renew their mandate and renew their confidence in the task before us" during the recess.

# MICRONESIA IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES

... an educational beginning-  
hope for the future

*article by Frank S. Rosario*

*photo by*

*Harvey Reed & Dwayne Buffington*

"Who says it's raining," asked Guam Governor Ricardo Bordallo, when the clouds opened up on some 2,000 athletes from around the Pacific last August 1. "It's not raining! This is just liquid sunshine!"

Among the athletes who were drenched by "liquid sunshine" at the formal opening of the Fifth South Pacific Games were some 97 athletes from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands — the first Micronesian team ever to enter the Games.

Marching before a rain-shrunk crowd of 500 onlookers, the Micronesian team waved maramars when they were introduced by the master of ceremonies. The Tahitian team was accompanied by more than maramars. They brought their reigning 1974-1975 beauty queens. They were drenched — beautifully drenched — with liquid sunshine too.

Micronesia's entry into the South Pacific Games traces back to the first district-wide Micronesian Olympics Games, held on Saipan in 1969. These games set a pattern of athletic competition in Micronesia. They left behind vivid memories: the tough show-down baseball game between Truk and Palau, the bitterly-fought track events, the astonishingly nonchalant victories of distance runners from Ponape.

When word came that Guam had been chosen as the site of the Fifth South Pacific Games, it was hard for Micronesia to resist the temptation to participate. Two veteran organizers of the Micronesian Olympics helped begin preparations. They were Al Snyder, a Micronesian Legal Services Attorney, and Kurt Barnes, a physical education instructor at Marianas High School on Saipan.

Reed is a teacher at Palau High School, and Buffington is editor of a bi-weekly magazine at the Naval Communication Station on Guam.



The Congress of Micronesia established the Micronesian Sports Council to coordinate recreational programs in all districts. Sports associations and clubs were asked to select their "all stars." Then four coaches — representing the Micronesian Sports Council — toured the districts and made final selections. After two months of training on Saipan, the athletes were ready for the games.

Or were they?

To be sure the athletes — long accustomed to winning against local competition in their home districts — were confident. But at some point, this confidence shaded into over-confidence. Before the games, some overconfident athletes refused to practice. Later, they regretted it.

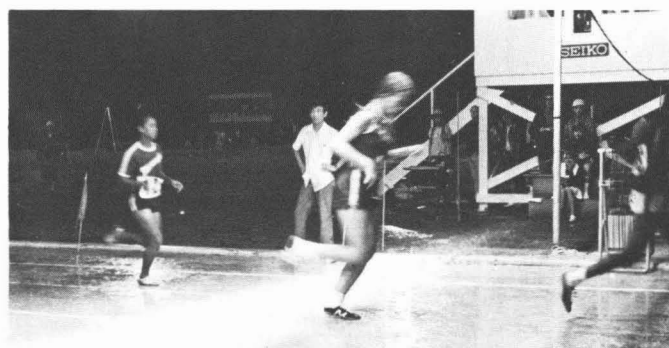
Micronesia entered ten events. They were volleyball, weightlifting, underwater fishing, track and field, softball, basketball, swimming, golf, table tennis, and lawn tennis. Ten days after the games opened, Micronesians had two silver medals and some hard-earned lessons to show for their efforts, along with some high hopes for the future.

Of eleven athletes who entered swimming events, only two qualified for the finals. They were Meriune Abraham and Arsenia Paul, two Ponapean women who swam in the women's 200 meter backstroke. Arsenia Paul missed the bronze medal in this event by two seconds. Patricia Legras of New Caledonia won the gold medal, setting a new record of 3 minutes, six seconds. The old record was 3 minutes, eight seconds, set by Julie Murphy of Fiji in 1971. The silver medal went to Lorene Moyle of Papua New Guinea, 3 minutes, 12 seconds. Of the two Micronesians, Arsenia Paul clocked 3 minutes, 14 seconds, while Meriune Abraham placed seventh with a time of 3 minutes, 24 seconds.

During the trial heats, it was obvious that the swimmers lacked proper training. They had the speed, but lacked stamina. Also, none had international experience in swimming. By contrast, some of the swimmers from Tahiti and New Caledonia had competed in the world Olympics for France. Most of them had swum five miles a day for three years to prepare for the games. The Micronesian swimmers had swum four hours a day for two months.



*Tahitians returning from underwater spear fishing with a gold medal catch.*



*Adriana Jack of Ponape (left) finishes an 800-meter trial heat.*

*Meriune Abraham (Ponape) rests after completing a freestyle race.*



*Katsushi Skang of Palau gets off to a good start.*





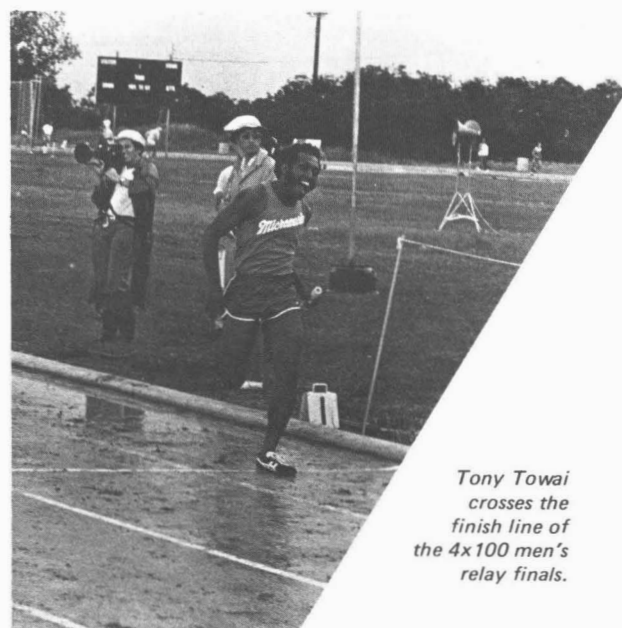
*Tony Towai (Palau) takes the baton from Youper Oscar (Ponape) in the 4x100 men's relay heats.*



*Yorah Demei (Palau) clears the bar at 4'7" during the women's high jump.*



*Peter Napoleon of Palau crosses the finish line of the marathon.*



*Tony Towai crosses the finish line of the 4x100 men's relay finals.*

The rain-plagued track and field events became a four-way competition affair between Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea and Tahiti.

In the men's 100 meter dash, all three Micronesian runners failed to qualify for the finals. Also in the women's 100 meter dash, all three Micronesians were eliminated in trial heats. Micronesian runners in the men's and women's 200, 400, and 1500 meter dash failed to make it into the finals.

Adriana Jack, a 15-year-old Ponapean sprinter, who was a strong favorite to win a medal for Micronesia, brought loud cheers from the crowd when she took the lead in the 1500 meter heats on the final lap. But she came in fourth and failed to qualify for the finals. Edsin Alex, a strong runner from Ponape, disappointed Micronesia's fans by dropping out after leading for four laps in the men's 5,000 and 10,000 meter finals. Youser Mathew and Peter Napoleon managed to finish both events in seventh and eighth place respectively. John Kokinai of Papua New Guinea, won gold medals in these events establishing new games records in the process.

Micronesia didn't fare much better in the men's relays, finishing last in one men's category, next to the last in the other.

The Micronesian entrant did not qualify for the finals in the men's long jump after six attempts. In the marathon, Don Shuster and Peter Napoleon (Palau) came in fourteenth and fifteenth place respectively in the grueling 26 mile event. Alain Lazare of New Caledonia set a new record of 2 hours, 36 minutes, 35 seconds. John Kokinai of Papua New Guinea also broke the old record with a time of 2 hours, 37 minutes, 24 seconds. Yanick Mogla of New Caledonia



*Max Moras (Palau) returns after six hours at sea in the underwater spear fishing.*

came in third with a time of 2 hours, 43 minutes, 38 seconds. Shuster finished at 3 hours, 22 minutes, 31 seconds and Napoleon, 3 hours, 46 minutes, 48 seconds.

In the women's high jump, Yorah Demei (Palau) cleared the bar at 4 feet, 7 inches, good for fourth place. Danielle Guyonnet of Tahiti set a new record with 5 feet, 10 inches. Cecilia Rosario missed the bronze medal in the women's shotput by less than half an inch. She threw 34 feet, 1¼ inches.

In softball, Guam was one step ahead of Micronesia. The young Micronesian nine lost to Guam twice, 19-1, 5-0. Despite these two losses to Guam, the Micronesians twice defeated Papua New Guinea and, so, managed to earn a silver medal.

The much taller and more experienced volleyball teams from Wallis and Futuna smothered Micronesia. Also, Micronesia's team didn't play up to its potential. After a disappointing loss to Guam, Volleyball Coach Steve Remley said, "Our team lost to themselves. They really did. They lost to themselves. Tell the folks back home the volleyball coach was unavailable for comment."

In the men's high jump, two brothers, Paul and Clement Poaniewa of New Caledonia were both finalists. Clement, the younger brother, won with a jump of 6 feet, 11 inches, a new games record. The old record was 6 feet, 9 inches set by Pierre Leontiff of Tahiti, the defending champion. Leontiff took the bronze medal in this event. What makes this event unusual, some spectators contended, is that Paul, the older brother, deliberately dragged his knee over the bar to let his brother Clement win. Lending credence to this contention is the fact that older brother Paul is



*Wilson Fiti of Truk is shown trying out in a long jump.*



*Arigato Eleuo (Ponape) finishes a two-day competition in the underwater fishing.*

*Fountain Inok (Marshalls) slams the ball back at a Tahitian player.*







*Adriana Jack sits patiently waiting for the games to start.*



*Lenora Wilson (Ponape) watches the track competition.*



*Coach Cindy Giorgis talks with her swimmers prior to competition.*

the French national champion and had previously cleared 7 feet, five inches. After the competition, Paul was asked if he did allow his brother to win. He shrugged his shoulders and smiled. He left the next day to prepare for the European championship.

The Trust Territory's basketball team could have placed third in the tournament had they played in Pool A, against weak teams from New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti and New Hebrides. But they were pitted against the much taller and experienced teams from Guam and American Samoa. Guam had no trouble thrashing Micronesia, 104-48. Guam's Guard Joe Taitano, whose ballhawking defense on the press forced numerous Micronesia turnovers and eventually Guam's baskets, was the team's high scorer with 35 points. Pat MacKenzie paced Micronesia with 16 points.

Micronesia's five played a much better game against American Samoa. Although the team was handed a 97-71 defeat, Coach Al Steed said of his Micronesian team, "They looked good the whole game. We played consistently." Again, the team showed a lack of experience on the court.

The only basketball team Micronesia was able to defeat twice was its backyard neighbor, Nauru, 86-79, and 88-70. Patrick MacKenzie ranged up a tournament high of 41 points. The most disappointing basketball game was against New Hebrides. The Micronesian Cagers were leading at one point by 17 points, only to run into foul troubles and slip behind 63-60. Guam won the gold medal in basketball, American Samoa took the silver, and defending champion Tahiti took the bronze.

*Jockni Catlong (Marshalls) shown in action in a table tennis match.*



*Coach Steve Remley shows the volleyball players the proper way to pass.*





*Sports Director  
Kurt Barnes  
contemplating the  
recently-concluded  
Fifth South Pacific  
Games.*



*Terry Saures spikes the ball in practice.*



*Terry Saures (Saipan) passes the ball  
to his teammate in volleyball.*

*Micronesia's basketball team in warm-ups.*



Perhaps Micronesia's strongest hope for a gold medal was in the underwater spear fishing. Guam, Trust Territory, Wallis and Futuna, New Caledonia and Tahiti entered teams in this competition. By international rules, divers were allowed to wear only a mask, fins, and snorkel and carry a speargun. In the actual competition, divers were timed for six hours of fishing. Only fish weighing more than one pound were counted.

In the first day of competition, Micronesia placed third. On the second day, two members of Micronesia's fishing team were unable to catch any fish. The third member came back with 33 fish, of which 28 were rejected as under-size.

Francis Nanai, a member of the victorious Tahitian contingent racked up the highest number of individual points in the competition. But he said the competition was "very difficult" because the water was deep and fish were scarce. His advantage over the other teams was that he regularly dives in 100-foot deep water.

An S.P.G. official observed that the Tahitian team "had been in international competition for many years. Tahiti has been many times the French world champion with Francis Nanai. He (Nanai), dives 3-4 times a week and that's in very deep water, about 80-100 feet."

"It's not my first competition," Nanai said. "I went to Great Britain in 1972 for the European competition. I go every year to Italy, Spain or France and in two months, I will go to Peru with the French team, not with Tahiti."

As expected by Micronesian sports officials, weightlifter Augustin Aguon gave the Trust Territory its first moment of sports glory in international competition. The 19-year-old lifter captured a silver medal with a second place finish in the sport's featherweight division. Each of his competitors had competed internationally at least nine years. His coach, Kurt Barnes said Aguon's performance was "a super effort. He should have won the gold medal. If he had had one experience internationally, he would have won the gold medal easily," Barnes pointed out. Sibona Oka of Papua New Guinea took the gold medal with a lift of 180 in snatch and 221 in jerk for a total of 401 pounds. Aguon, silver, lifted 165 in snatch and 221 in jerk for a total of 386 pounds. Aniseto Leungwai, Western Samoa, took the bronze with 165 in snatch and 210 in jerk for a total of 375.

Who should be blamed for the Micronesian team's mediocre showing? First, some of the athletes themselves. Some were so accustomed to winning at home that they didn't try any harder during the games.

They didn't realize that athletes on other islands were also playing the same games. They had to get beat to realize that.

Basketball proved one thing. Micronesians are one of the shorter peoples in the Pacific. By comparison, the women on Tahiti's basketball team were taller than the Micronesian men! And that's not an exaggeration, that's a fact! Most of them averaged six feet in height while Micronesia averaged 5 feet 7 inches.

There were criticisms from within Micronesia concerning the selection process. Critics contended that districts' sports organizations should have made the final selection.

"Actually, the selection process rests with the districts," Barnes replied. "Each district was responsible for selecting its best athletes to participate in the final selection. And most districts did a very poor job of it."

Much of the criticism was related to softball players. Although basketball is played throughout Micronesia, softball is played in only three districts. And softball is, in some respects, quite different from baseball. Critics are misleading themselves if they think good baseball players would automatically convert into good softball players, Barnes indicated.

In softball, the pitcher is closer, the ball comes faster and a lot can be done with the ball. It takes a long time to become a good softball player. Most of Guam's players were in their 30's.

Barnes added that some of Micronesia's best baseball players had trouble hitting Guam's pitching. There were times that they had hardly set themselves at bat to find the ball had whizzed by.

"I think the criticism of some of the teams not having good athletes is not the sports council's fault, it's the districts'," Barnes said. "And if the districts would take more interest in their sports programs instead of sitting back and criticizing or complaining, we would have better athletes on the team."

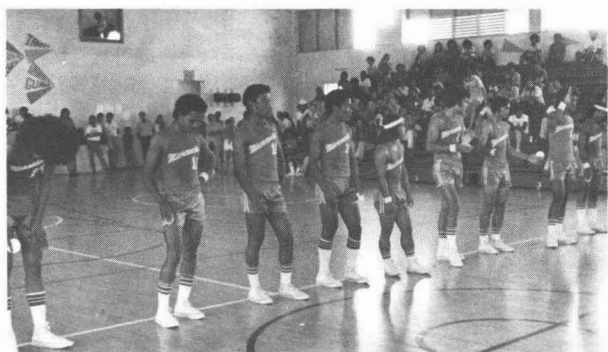
The Micronesian Sports Council, in watching the athletes' performance on Guam, wasted no time in its attempt to improve recreational programs in Micronesia. Already, MicOlympics II has been scheduled for July 1-14, 1976 in Ponape District. MicOlympics III could be held in 1978, prior to the next South Pacific Games so that the Council could pick a team to compete in New Hebrides.

To prepare for the games, the district sports associations should start upgrading their recreational programs, Barnes said. The Council or government should sponsor seasonal recreational programs.

The way to start this is to create a Recreation Department in each district funded separately. They should have their own office, equipment, area and money to run the programs.

By doing this, Barnes thinks Micronesia could do better. He proposed that athletes for a particular sport like softball should be chosen from one district. "Super" athletes from the districts could be selected as substitutes.

"If we start from where we are now, continue to build up our recreational programs, I think Micronesia could do a lot better at the next South Pacific Games," Barnes said. "But again, it's up to the districts to decide."



*The Micronesian basketball team is ready to present a gift to an opposing team.*

*Start of a trial heat for 100-meter dash. Micronesia's Alwis Edmund (Ponape) is on the left.*



*Micronesia's softball players, who won one of Micronesia's two silver medals. The other medal went to Augustin Aguon (see back cover).*

*Relay team waiting in the rain.*





# DISTRICT DIGEST

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

## in the next quarter

A total and comprehensive report of the entire work of the historic Micronesian Constitutional Convention will be presented by the Convention's Director of Information, Dr. P.F. Kluge, former editor of the **Micronesian Reporter** during his Peace Corps stint in Micronesia (1967-1969). Dr. Kluge has worked with **Life** and **Time** magazines, and at one time served as a staff writer for the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status.

John W. Perry, our prolific and far-flung correspondent, offers "The Gallant Huntress: The Whaleship **Charles W. Morgan** in Micronesia, 1852".

These and whatever other contributions our far-flung correspondents volley our way will be in the next quarter.

## Headquarters

The historic Micronesian Constitutional Convention got underway on Saipan July 12. In the first major action after the formal opening of the Convention at the White Sands Hotel, the more than 50 delegates elected Truk Senator Tosiwo Nakayama as President. Nakayama, 44, also the current President of the Senate, Congress of Micronesia, received 32 of 50 votes cast, Ponape delegate Leo A. Falcam gained 12 votes, and John O. Ngiraked of Palau received six. The Convention is "a matter of national life or death," Nakayama said in his opening remarks to the delegates, who later selected six Convention's vice-presidents, all by unanimous acclamation: Larry Cabrera (Marianas), John O. Ngiraked (Palau), Carl Heine (Marshalls), Leo A. Falcam (Ponape), Chutomu Nimwes (Truk), and Petrus Tun (Yap). Yap's Luke Tman, who is also the Floor Leader of the House of Representatives, Congress of Micronesia, was unanimously elected the Convention's Floor Leader. The delegates—in the Convention's first days of operation—worked on staffing the committees which are assigned to consider and draft component parts of the Constitution. Hans Williander of Truk headed the committee on Style and Arrangement, which is in charge of the final language of the Constitution. Marshalls' delegate Carl Heine chaired the Civil Liberties Committee, which is concerned with human rights and freedoms. Heinrich Iriarte of Ponape led

the Structure of Government Committee, while Dr. Hiroshi Ismael of Kusaie chaired the committee on Governmental Functions. Ponape's Senator Bailey Olter headed the Committee on Finance, while Jacob Sawaichi, a former congressman from Palau, headed the Special Conference Committee, which is to settle special problems that might arise in the Convention. Shortly before the Convention went to the recent twenty-three-day recess, beginning August 23, the delegates themselves began evaluating their own work. Delegate Lazarus Sali of Palau called the Convention "a complete failure". By attempting to write a constitution before political status had been determined, the delegates were "taking a dangerous voyage in a leaky vessel into rough waters," Marianas delegate Jose R. Cruz declared. Yap's Samuel Falanruw said that he was "troubled" that the amount of work was "not in proportion" to the amount of time the delegates had spent on Saipan. Other delegates were optimistic. Marshalls' John Heine said, "I do not believe we have wasted our time here . . . we have approached our work not in the white man's way or the American way, but the Micronesian way. It may be slow but it is very firm." Tatasy Wainit of Truk commented: "If we fail, Micronesia will disintegrate into the unknown." Yap's Luke Tman urged the delegates to "renew their mandate and renew their confidence in the task before us" during the recess. With the

completion of the recess, the Convention has set down to more tedious task of completing the Constitution within the remaining days of the 90 days allotted by law... A Trust Territory-wide political referendum was held on July 8 "to ascertain the wishes of the people of Micronesia with respect to their future political status choice, the unity of Micronesia and the role of the Congress as a negotiating agency of the Micronesian people." The result of the referendum showed that Marianas stood for Commonwealth, Palau Status Quo, Yap for Free Association, Truk and Ponape for Independence, and Marshalls Status Quo. Surprisingly enough, eight people voted for "Communist" while one wrote "Association with Japan" in Yap District. In the Marianas, two people wrote "Communist" on the ballots... Newly-appointed Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs Fred Monroe Zeder, a Texas manufacturer and civic leader, visited the TT during the quarter and met with officials of the TT Administration and the Congress of Micronesia... U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Pettis (R-California) visited the Trust Territory during the quarter on a familiarization tour... High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston appeared on the National Broadcasting Company's "Today" show and answered questions on the future political status of Micronesia and described the natural beauty of the islands and their potentials for tourism. The show is watched daily by about twenty million people... Charles A. Schmitz, a foreign Service Reserve Officer, replaced James M. Wilson as Deputy to Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative to the Micronesian Status Negotiations. Wilson had returned to the State Department... Secretary of the Interior Stanley K. Hathaway resigned for reasons of health after a few days in office. President Ford nominated Thomas S. Kleppe, 55, Director of the Small Business

Administration, to the Interior post; the confirmation by Congress is pending... Koichi Wong of Palau became TT Director of Public Works during the quarter, and David Idip also of Palau and former District Agriculturist in Truk was named Chief of Agriculture... Nominations by the HiCom for two high level legal and judicial positions were approved by the Congress of Micronesia. The nominations were Herbert Donald Soil to the post of Trust Territory Public Defender, and the reappointment of Kabua Kabua as Presiding Judge of the Marshalls... The High Commissioner signed a bill to provide a new salary schedule for the TT Government employees, enacted by the recent special session of the Congress (June 23-July 3). The law establishes a minimum wage of 80 cents per hour, which is a 31% increase over the present 61 cents per hour. The salary schedule will be implemented not later than the first pay period following January 1, 1976... Micronesia—participating for the first time—earned two silver medals in the recently-concluded Fifth South Pacific Games on Guam (August 1-10). The two medals went to 19-year-old Augustin Aguon of Saipan who placed second in the featherweight division of weightlifting and the Micronesian softball team which placed second after Guam. The next South Pacific Games are slated to be held in New Hebrides in 1978. In the meantime, the second MicOlympics have been slated to be held in Ponape in July 1976; the first MicOlympics were held on Saipan in the summer of 1969.

**Truk** The 25th Regular Session of the Truk District Legislature ended during the earlier part of the quarter with 39 bills passed and 47 resolutions adopted. Of the 39 bills, two were vetoed by the District Administrator and one became law without action by the District Administrator... Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston

arrived in the district during the quarter to attend the official investiture ceremonies of Mitaro S. Danis, first Trukese ever to hold the position of District Administrator. Senate President Tosiwo Nakayama also took time out from the Micronesian Constitutional Convention on Saipan to attend the historic occasion on Moen, the district center... John Kennedy, Jr. and his cousin, Timothy Shriver, spent two weeks of Scuba diving in Truk during the quarter. They were accompanied by Al Gidding and his associates, who did some filming and wrote some stories of the Truk lagoon... U.S. Congresswoman Shirley N. Pettis visited Truk for two days and met with local officials at a Saturday night dinner... Charles Schmitz, Ambassador Williams Deputy for Micronesian Status Negotiations, also spent several days in the district where he met with district officials and local leaders... The Environmental Impact Statement of the Truk airport also brought some visitors to the district during the quarter, including: Elias Okamura of the Headquarters Department of Transportation and Communications, Dave Yokahama of the Federal Aviation Administration, Frank Herman and Matt Oliver of the Ralph N. Parson Company. Two other visitors from the U.S. Department of the Interior were Loren Holt and Russel Ledyard who arrived in the district to review with district officials the capital improvement program of Truk District... A two-week workshop for all district health educators was conducted in Truk District during the quarter with two instructors, one from the Hawaii Red Cross and one from the South Pacific Commission... Another workshop for Adult Basic Education, dealing with Micronesian government, was also conducted in Truk District bringing in some members of the Headquarters ESG Task Force as instructors... Southern Namoneas was the starting point of a long-range water pollution community education

program that got underway during the quarter. It was planned that all islands in the district will be visited... More than 50 tons of trochus shells were collected during a two-week harvesting season. The shells were exported to Japan... The first historic park in Truk District, located close to Maramar Hotel on Moen, is expected to be completed soon. Other historic sites have also been explored... Truk's first fatal traffic accident of the year took place during the quarter where a twenty-year-old man was run over by a speeding car, driven by a teenager.

## Marianas

In June, about 78.8 per cent of the registered voters in the Mariana Islands District approved the proposed commonwealth of the Northern Marianas with the United States during the June 17, 1975 plebiscite. The plebiscite was authorized by the United States with the intention that the people of the Northern Marianas have the right to exercise self-determination. Erwin Canham, who was appointed by President Ford as Plebiscite Commissioner, established his office in Saipan to oversee the conduct of the plebiscite... The untimely death of District Court Presiding Judge, Ignacio Benavente, shocked the people of Saipan. Judge Benavente passed away on June 20, 1975. He was considered by many Saipanese as the man who paved the way for developments on Saipan, both in government and the private sector of the community... In July, 4th Mariana Islands District Legislature convened a nine-day Special Session on July 7, 1975. The Special Session was called for the purpose of amending certain articles in the Legislature's charter, and to appropriate needed funds for various purposes... The District Administrator traveled to Washington, D.C., with a delegation from the Marianas to testify in the United States House of Representative hearings on the Marianas Covenant... The Honorable

Felixberto M. Ogo, member of the 4th Mariana Islands District Legislature, passed away July 25, while attending the Annual Pacific Conference of Legislators in Guam... During August, the last month of the Third Quarter, the 4th Mariana Islands District Legislature convened its 6th regular session August 4. The session which lasted 30 days, was the first since the Legislature became full-time on April 1, 1975... Congresswoman Shirley Pettis, (R-California), visited Saipan and Tinian during August. Also, we were visited earlier by three US Congressmen: Railsback, Eilberg, and Moorehead... The Pacific Islands Development Commission's annual tourism conference was held at the Continental Hotel in Saipan on August 11. The theme of the conference was the "Pacific Way". Representatives from the four Commission members (Hawaii, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Guam and American Samoa) participated in the conference. Participants from the Cook Islands, Tonga, and Western Samoa were also present. The conference lasted three days with the conclusion being held in Tokyo, Japan.

## Ponape

A group of experts from the United States Department of Agriculture visited Ponape to assist in formulation of plans to eradicate the hog cholera which struck Kusaie, an island of Ponape District. The eradication project cost \$240,000. One-hundred and forty thousand dollars will be contributed by the USDA. Agriculture officials in Ponape said that about 4,000 pigs have been slaughtered or dead on Kusaie because of the epidemic. Ponape Deputy District Administrator Bermin Weilbacher issued an emergency order to restrict exporting of swine or pork product from Kusaie. The order called for masters of all vessels calling at Kusaie and officials of the agriculture departments on Kusaie and Ponape to adopt inspection procedures to insure that quarantine is maintained. In

addition, representatives of the District Administrator in Kusaie have implemented an educational program to advise the public of the inherent and potential dangers of hog cholera and to solicit voluntary non-consumption and sanitary disposal of animals killed by the disease... Ponape District's chief magistrates held several meetings out in the municipalities in order to bring to the people the important responsibilities the people play in their local government. Previous magistrates' meetings were held in the DistAd's conference room... Surveys conducted in Ponape District showed an average of 1.14 pounds of fish consumed per person per day, and only 38% of the total catch was sold from the 4,105.5 overall catch. Fishing has been poor this year because of several social events which have disrupted the normal fishing patterns... A rare type of leathery turtle was caught by two Kapingamarangi fishermen in June off Parem reef. Reports indicated that it was the first of its kind to be caught in Ponape District. The overall length of the turtle from head to tail is 7.1 feet with the carapace measurement of 5.25 feet, and weighed 978 pounds two days after being captured. Scientifically classified as *dermochelidae*, it is rare throughout the entire sphere and is in urgent need of protection. This endangered specie—with its smooth, relatively scale-less skin which is black spotted with white—is the only type of sea turtle given star listing in the 1970 "Reptile Red Data and Natural Book" published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Over five-hundred people viewed the animal upon arrival in Kolonia, the district center. The turtle was sent to Guam for stuffing and was sent back to Ponape for permanent preservation in the Ponape Museum as an educational material... Dr. Gavin Southerland, a Trust Territory-wide visiting orthopedist, was given a reward of a five-hundred-dollar check and a honorary award for commendable work



in recognition of his outstanding, untiring, and devoted services as a visiting orthopedist over the past years in Micronesia. Before coming to Ponape, Dr. Southerland spent two years on Saipan. The presentation of the Incentive Award was administered by Deputy DistAd Weilbacher... Ms. Emiko Santos, a teacher at Kolonia Elementary School, was named the 1975 TT Teacher of the Year by High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston. "Please be assured that your efforts toward providing an outstanding education for your pupils are appreciated throughout the Trust Territory," the High Commissioner told the Ponapean teacher... The dedication of the newly-completed Madolenihmw Catholic Church was held at PATS in Madolenihmw. The dedication of the church, which started construction fifteen years ago, was attended by the Deputy DistAd; His Excellency Bishop Martin Neylon, Bishop of the Carolines; and former Carolines Bishop, His Excellency Bishop Vincent I. Kennally... A Japanese fishing vessel ran aground at Pingelap Atoll, 160 miles east of Ponape, in July and its 12 crew members abandoned the 60-ton vessel and boarded a government vessel to Ponape, where they were repatriated to their home... The construction of the Ponape circumferential road is almost half-way around island. The road, which is being built by the Ponape Transportation Authority, has reached Paies in Kitti Municipality on the west side of Ponape and Ipwitek in Madolenihmw Municipality on the east side. A secondary road leading to Nan Kepin Awak in Uh Municipality has begun construction. Plans for the construction of Pali Pohn Nett Road in Nett Municipality are underway.

**Marshalls** A new vegetable farming project started in Laura Municipality, Majuro Atoll, during the early part of the quarter. District Agriculture Station

provided technical assistance and training in the initiating of the project. As the quarter came to close, Laura farmers brought in to the district center almost 1,000 pounds of Chinese cabbage for sale... More than hundreds of seedlings, including breadfruits, bananas, pandanus, limes, and flower trees such as the flame tree, were sent to Enewetak for initial replanting of several areas in the atoll... Preparations are being made by the district education department for the opening of the new high school on Jaluit, 147 miles southwest of Majuro, the district center. The high school is expected to open its new classrooms in October 1975, with an expected enrollment of 110 students. About 100 students are to be added to the enrollment each year until the school reaches a maximum capacity of about 500 students. The buildings are constructed by the Hanil Development Company... Meanwhile, fourteen new classrooms will be added on to the existing facilities at the Marshall Islands High School in Majuro when classes resume in September. A two-story classroom building is completed on the campus... Ninety-three seniors graduated from the Marshall Islands High School, and nearly 200 students are expected to be enrolled in the M.I.H.S. for this fall semester... Several residents of Long Island, an area located between the D.U.D. and the new airport, are connected to the power extension from the district center power plant... Construction of an extension for the hemodialysis unit at the Majuro Hospital started during the quarter. Upon its completion, the enlarged facility is expected to allow treatment of up to nine patients with kidney failure. Patients from other districts will be treated at the Majuro Hemodialysis Center until their districts are equipped with hemodialysis units. The former Civic Action Team quarters will be utilized in accommodating those patients from other districts... A new

air service in the Marshalls got underway with the arrival of a twin-engine Grumman Goose plane. Tradition Air Transport Service is operating on a non-scheduled basis by the Island Construction Company... The district showed a 13% increase in tourist entries at the end of FY '74-'75... Some \$3 million was appropriated by the U.S. Congress as compensation for the people of Bikini Atoll for having been displaced from their island 29 years ago when the U.S. used Bikini as a testing site. Meanwhile, the planned return of some 150 Bikinians to their home island in mid-September has been postponed to allow for further analysis and evaluation of a radiological survey conducted in June 1975... The first surcharge tax to be imposed in the TT was passed by the district legislature (Nitijela)... Ebeye joined the district center in television viewing with the arrival of cable TV on Ebeye... The Micronesian Constitutional Convention opened on Saipan with three delegate seats from the Marshalls vacant—the two assigned for traditional leaders, and a third vacancy occurred when delegate Hemos Jack failed to attend the Convention. The Convention voted to seat Senator Wilfred Kendall as representative of the Marshalls' delegation to the Congress of Micronesia.

**Palau** The Palau District Administrator, Thomas O. Remengesau, issued a proclamation calling for a special session of the Fifth Palau Legislature for three days from June 17 to 20. Among other important subject matters discussed were the two draft constitutions and a legislation for a district-wide referendum. A district-wide referendum bill was introduced and passed which would call for a referendum on two draft constitutions. The bill became law without the DistAd's signature. Also a bill to correct some technical errors on the return of public lands bill was passed along with a resolution to

reinstate the position of the Palau Legislature with respect to the Trust Territory-wide referendum as being "too immature"... The Speaker of the Palau Legislature, Itebang Luii, made the appointment of the ten Palauans for the membership of the Palau Status Commission. They are: Senator Roman Tmetuchi, Chairman; Dr. Minoru F. Ueki, Vice-Chairman; Rev. Felix Yaoch, Sadang Silmai, Haruo Remeliik, Rep. Kuniwo Nakamura, George Ngirarsaol, Joshua Koshiba, Tarkong Pedro, and Santos Olikong. Because of Rev. Felix Yaoch's resignation from the Commission, Senator Lazarus Sali was appointed recently to fill that vacancy... Thirty-seven (37) Peace Corps volunteers arrived in the district to undertake their three-month training program. After the completion of their training, they will be assigned to their respective municipalities. Among the 37 are the six magistrate assistants who will be assigned to the six municipalities in Palau to assist the magistrates... An ABE/ESG workshop was held for a week with the participants from Yap and Palau... Senators Joseph Kuroda and T.G. Yim of the State of Hawaii visited the district to familiarize themselves with the islands. The two senators paid a courtesy call to the Palau DistAd and met with each department head and toured various government facilities. They also visited some farming sites at Shimizu, Ngchesar Municipality, and were honored in a reception given by the students and alumni of various schools in Hawaii... The new director of the Office of Territorial Affairs, Fred Zeder, who was accompanied by Richard Miller, also of the Office of Territories, and Ron Hicks, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines and Reclamation, were in Palau during the quarter on a familiarization tour. While in Palau, Zeder met with the DistAd and his key staff members and toured some government facilities... The new Deputy Ambassador to the Micronesian Status Negotiations, Charles Schmitz,

and his wife visited the district also on a familiarization tour. He was accompanied by Alf Bergesen, Status Liaison Officer. Schmitz had an opportunity to meet with the key district political leaders... Thirteen Indonesians were rescued and brought to Koror after drifting aimlessly for 45 days. They are now waiting for the arrangement of their repatriation... 76 candidates have declared their candidacy for the upcoming election of the Palau Legislature which will be held on September 2, 1975. There are only 28 elective seats in the Palau Legislature... And finally, an eight-year-old Palauan boy, who cannot swim, fell from a boat and was rescued after floating for 15 hours by clinging to a coconut.

**Yap** Trust Territory Director of Personnel Podis Pedrus and Chief of Training Division Pedro Harris visited the District Center and consulted with District Government officials pertaining vital matters within their respective areas. Pedrus met with all department and activity heads and discussed proposals for training program for TT citizen employees including the purpose of the program as well as its extension to the district level... Clement G. Mulalap from Yap District Personnel Office was officially transferred in July to Headquarters Training Division for an indefinite period... Another official visit to Yap was done in August when Mr. Charles Schmitz from the Office of the Micronesian Status Negotiations visited Yap on an orientation tour. Meetings were held with district officials as well as traditional and elected leaders... Preparations of the recently-conducted general referendum got underway with full swing in July. Preparations of documents and dissemination of information kept the district staff members of Public Affairs quite busy... District Public Information Officer Wilfred Gorongfel, who was assisting the Legislative Liaison

staff, toured the neighboring islands of Yap to distribute the referendum materials and to assist both election workers and eligible voters. Result of the referendum in the district showed a close tie between the status of Free Association and Status Quo... The Yap Delegation to the Micronesian Constitutional Convention, which was composed of Senator Petrus Tun, Chairman, Congressman Luke M. Tman, Deputy District Administrator Hilary Tacheliol, Chief Francisco Luktun, Samuel Falanruw and Neighboring Islands Paramount Chief Belarmino Hatheylul, all left for Saipan to attend the Convention. The Convention momentarily recessed, and the Delegation went back to Yap and met with district officials, Yapese leaders and the various communities as well as interested organizations for discussions on matters raised in the Convention. This was part on their preparation during the Convention's recess prior to their return to Saipan on September 15... Yap's Senator John Mangefel released a much rather solemn statement praising the efforts of his constituents in the recent general referendum. The senator indicated that the Yapese have spoken "clearly and loudly" on several vital issues during the referendum on July 8. Mangefel clearly assumed that the result of the referendum will be the official position the Yapese leaders should take in considering Yap's future political anticipation.

#### District Correspondents:

Marianas, Manuel C. Sablan; Palau, David Ngirmidol; Truk, Noha Ruben; Yap, Wilfred Gorongfel; Ponape, Francisco Simeon; Headquarters, Derson Ramon; Marshalls compiled from the Micronesian News Service and the *Micronesian Independent* by Biram Stege.

On a wet June night in 1788, somewhere among the central Gilbert Islands, two English transports splashed and rolled in turbulent seas. The three-masted, double-decked *Charlotte*, under the command of Captain Thomas Gilbert, and the similar built *Scarborough*, Captain John Marshall, had earlier disembarked a cargo of prisoners at Australia's Port Jackson and now were enroute to China to take on a cargo of tea.

Of course Gilbert could not see the *Scarborough* as he stood on the *Charlotte's* rain-soaked deck, but the previous day he had seen a bird (perhaps a frigate bird) and now a familiar odor filled his nostrils. He spoke to the watch and both men agreed: the odor was land.

Next day, June 18, both Gilbert and Marshall sighted shoreline, a cluster of two atolls and one double island now identified as Abemama, Aranuka and Kuria. What Marshall saw is recorded in the anonymous *The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay* (London, 1789), the official account of the first English settlement in Australia: "Several large fires were lighted up on the shore and the natives assembled in vast numbers on the beach, many of them pointing at the ship with looks of wonder and surprise."

A dozen or so canoes put out from the nearest atoll, apparently Aranuka, and made for the *Scarborough*. When two canoes approached within shouting distance, Marshall showed them a handful of nails, quart bottle and mirrow. Encouraged, several Gilbertese swam alongside to collect the gifts. In exchange, Marshall received a few beads and a necklace of "teeth of beast or animals," perhaps a Gilbertese human-tooth necklace.

As the *Charlotte* neared the *Scarborough*, Gilbert could see the stout Micronesians later to bear his name. These islanders, he wrote in his *Voyage from New South Wales to Canton* (London, 1789), were "facetious" and "remarkable well made."

For the next three days, June 20-22, the ships passed more atolls: Maiana, Tarawa, Abaiang, Butaritari and Little Makin. Off Tarawa thirteen canoes approached the *Charlotte*; no Gilbertese, however, came on board. Gilbert, who described the Tarawa islets as "flower-pots," looked on as several hundred Gilbertese gathered along the shoreline to watch the *Charlotte* pass.

As the two sea-captains stood to the northward sudden squalls harassed their ships. One storm split the *Charlotte's* fore-topgallant sail and middle staysail and sprung her jib boom. Such entries as "rain" and "sudden squall" fill Gilbert's journal for this period of the voyage.

## GILBERT and Marshall: Two English Voyagers in MICRONESIA, 1788

by John W. Perry

*A Marshallese of Ratak about the year 1817, drawn by the Russian artist Ludovik Choris.*



*Labeletoa  
Chef du groupe des des Rontousoff swimmers.*



On June 25 Gilbert and Marshall sighted their first landfall in the Marshall Islands—Mili, the southernmost atoll in the Ratak chain. In the afternoon a huge canoe with about 25 Marshallese on board neared the *Charlotte*. Striking sail, Gilbert motioned the Marshallese alongside the stern, where he tossed them spike nails. "These they seized," he wrote, "with every appearance of that wonderful attachment the inhabitants of the islands of the Pacific Sea are known to have for iron implements." Moments later Gilbert climbed over the taffrail and sat on the stern ladder. He was now almost face to face with Marshallese.

Soon the Marshallese came on board, presented the captain with a small mat ("very neatly made"), and then toured the *Charlotte*. But the visit ended abruptly when a swinging boom knocked several Marshallese overboard. Those who witnessed the accident dove into the sea, rejoined their fellow-islandsmen alongside the *Charlotte's* hull, and then boarded their canoe and returned to Mili.

Gilbert was puzzled. Were the Marshallese angry? Would they return in a warlike mood? The answer was not long in coming, for soon three canoes left Mili and made for the *Charlotte*. Gilbert prepared to receive them in a "hostile manner." But when the Marshallese waved fruit, a gesture Gilbert interpreted as a sign of friendship, he again hove to and for the second time allowed Marshallese to board the *Charlotte*.

This time they offered Gilbert fruit (perhaps pandanus) and received fishhooks and nails. The visits however, was marred when one Marshallese stole a pump handle. Gilbert wrote: "The man on being detected appeared quite unconcerned and seemed to think it no crime to carry off whatever he could find: an idea that seems to prevail throughout all the newly discovered islands in this quarter of the globe."

About this time Marshall named the atoll the Lord Mulgrave Range, in honor of the British naval officer Constantine John Phipps, second Baron Mulgrave.

Later the Mulgraves were visited by the mutineers of the American whaleship *Globe*, most of whom were killed by the Mili Marshallese.

On June 26, under overcast skies, the ships entered the channel between Majuro and Arno. There the *Charlotte's* sailors caught sharks and cut out their liver in order to procure oil for the ship's lamps. Three days later, after sighting Aur and Maloelap, the ships sailed through the channel separating Wotje from Erikub and set a course for western Micronesia.

About August 4 the ships anchored in Tinian Harbor, known in 1788 as Sunharon Roads. There the sailors taken ill during the trans-Micronesian passage were boated ashore in order to expose them to "land air." "After landing the sick and erecting their tent," wrote the anonymous author of the Botany Bay book, "the boats crew walked about the island and saw a great number of cattle, hogs and fowls, but they only caught a calf, one hog and a fowl or two and loaded the boat with cocoa-nuts, oranges and limes." Soon afterwards a violent storm drove the ships from Tinian, sending them with split sails and sick crews toward China, their scheduled destination.

What atolls did Gilbert and Marshall discover? Andrew Sharp, in his *The Discovery of the Pacific Islands* (Oxford, 1960), lists the following discoveries in the Gilbert Islands: Abemama, Aranuka, Kuria and Maiana; in the Marshall Islands: Arno, Majuro and Aur. In addition, the two captains gave the first firm report of the whereabouts of other atolls (Mili, for example) first sighted by 16th-century Spanish navigators.

Even though the names Gilbert and Marshall soon appeared on English sea charts, it was not until 1827, the year the Russian hydrographer Adam Krusenstern published his influential *Atlas de l'Océan Pacifique*, that the names were firmly affixed to the two island groups, whose inhabitants are now known as Gilbertese and Marshallese.

### MICRONESIAN REPORTER INDEX COMPLETED

An index for both the MICRONESIAN REPORTER and its predecessor THE MICRONESIAN MONTHLY (first published in 1951) has been completed. A project financed by the Library Services and Construction Act, Title III, copies will be distributed by the Education Department, Library Services, to all Trust Territory libraries. Libraries outside of the Trust Territory, especially those serving students from the Trust Territory, are encouraged to apply for a copy by writing to the Education Department, Headquarters, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.



Micronesia earned two silver medals in the Fifth South Pacific Games on Guam (August 1-10, 1975). One of the medals went to 19-year-old Augustin Aguon of Saipan (above), who placed second in the featherweight division of weightlifting. The words and pictures of the Micronesian athletes' performance in the games begin on page 30.