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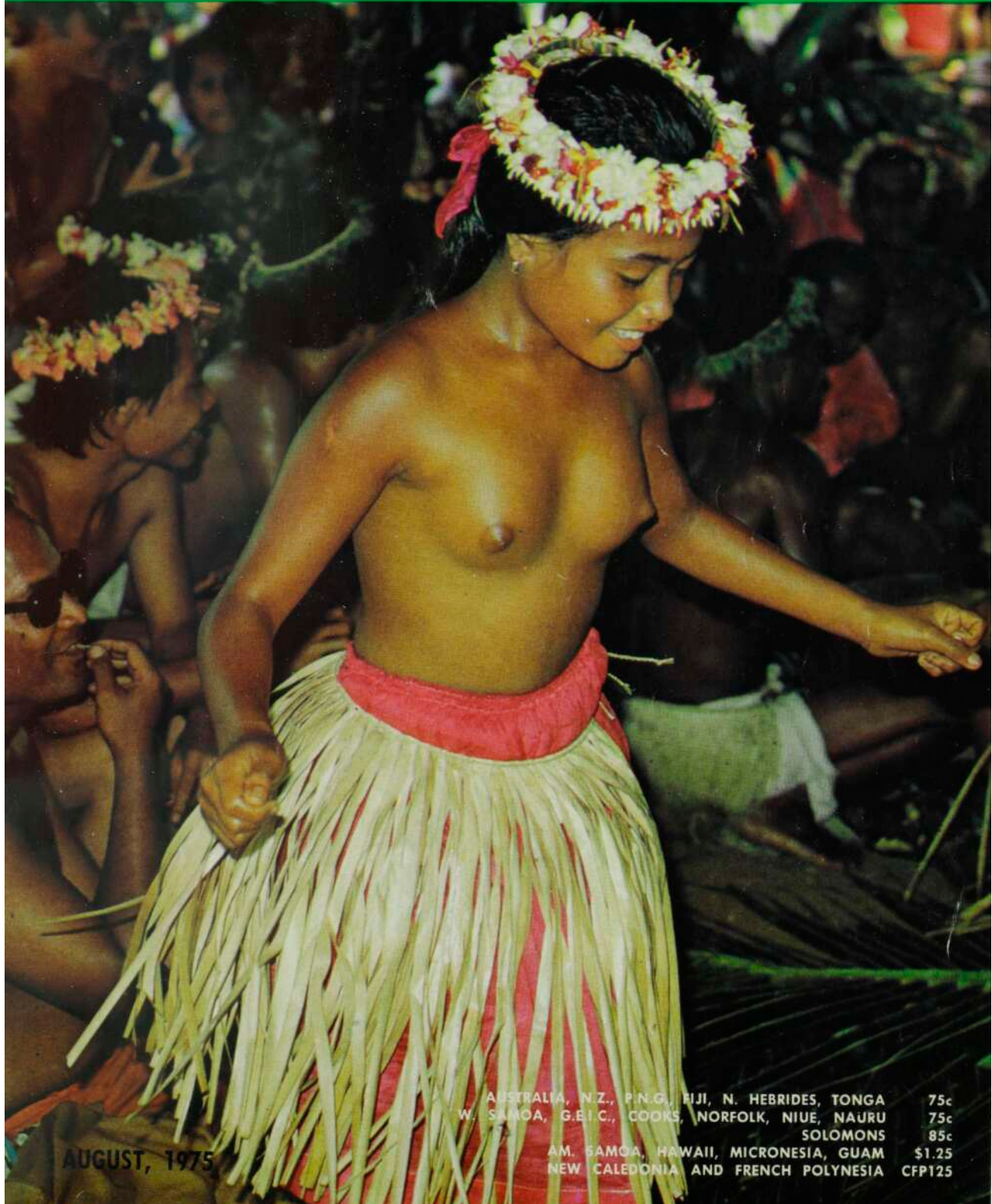
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Pacific Islands Monthly

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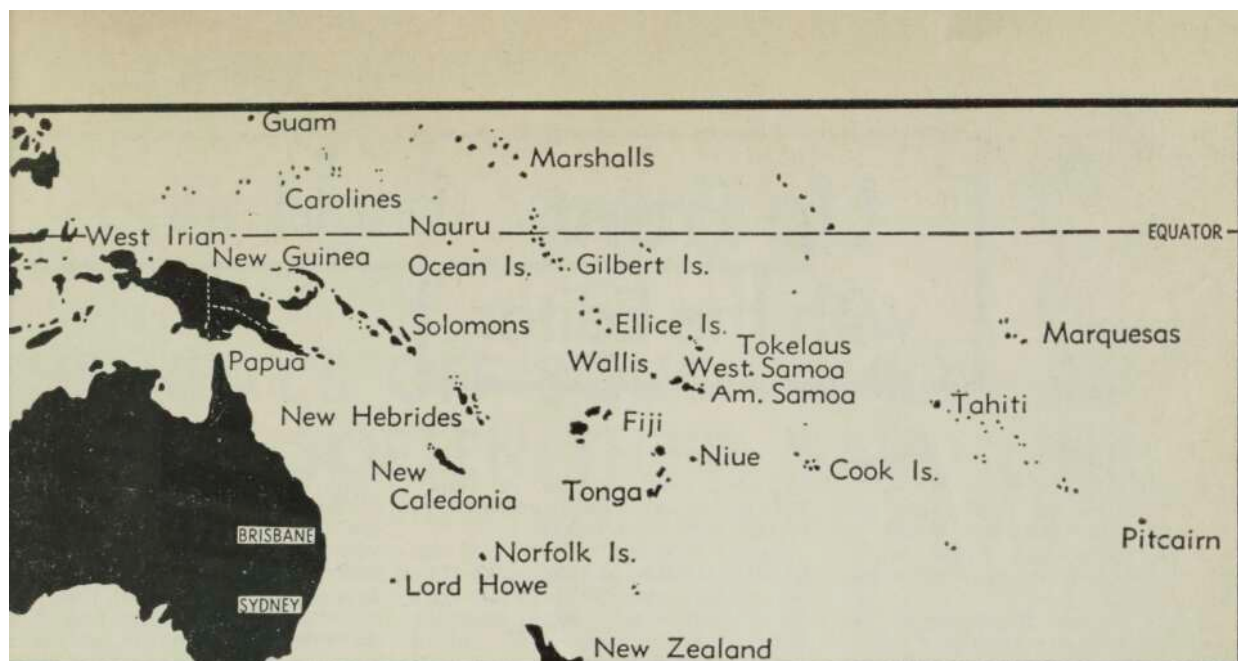
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OUR COVER

An exciting moment captured by Jon Anderson at Ponape in the Carolines—during the sakau (kava) ceremony, a young girl jumps to her feet suddenly in a spontaneous, free-form dance to the intoxicating rhythm of the pounding stones.



Up Front with the Editor

I SHARE Patricia Matheson's excitement at having finally, and unexpectedly, satisfied her desire to enter Mariner's Cave, which she records so evocatively on p 33 of this issue.

Living on the threshold of the South Pacific's most celebrated underwater cave, as Pat does, and with her sense of history and her inquiring mind, the fact that the cave was apparently to be denied to her for ever, was I suspect, even a greater disappointment than she admits. Thus success was all the sweeter.

I suppose it is 20 years since I first read the story of Mariner's Cave, and having been fascinated by it, wanted badly, like Pat, to enter it. I often talked about it, and planned it but got no opportunity until last year. The story of the cave was given to the outside world in 1817 by young William Mariner, the ship's boy who was befriended by a Tongan chief after the English privateer Port au Prince was attacked by the Tongans in the Ha'apai group in 1806, and most of her crew killed. Mariner lived among the Tongans for several years before he got back to England and published his fascinating account of life there, with the help of Dr John Martin, in a book called *An Account of the Natives of the Tongan Islands*.

Mariner's Tonga, as that book is best known, tells how young Mariner was taken by his friends one day to an island in Vavau Harbour, only a few miles from where Pat Matheson has now lived for a major part of her life.

His friends plunged into the sea and disappeared beneath the surface, leaving Mariner perplexed. Later one of them bobbed up again, and initiated Mariner into the secret of the cavern in the island, reached through a submarine passage in the cliff, the entrance to which is also always underwater.

After Mariner's book was published, Byron enshrined the cave in a famous poem; author/artist Robert Gibbings told the story many years later in 23 beautiful engravings in

his *True Tale of Love in Tonga*; and there have been numbers of references in other literature.

Basil Thomson, in his *Savage Island* (published in 1902, about Niue not Tonga, and the Niueans don't like the title any more than the Tongans would have), tells how a midshipman in RN Calliope in 1852 was sent to investigate the cave by his captain, as being the strongest swimmer in the ship, and scratched his back so severely while coming out again that he was off duty for two months.

An engraving of the inside of the cave was later reported to have been made in Sydney from a sketch done by that midshipman in 1852, but I have never seen it. PIM published a photograph of the inside of the cave in June, 1968, taken by Ann and Marvin Glenn, of the trimaran *Rebel*.

Easily the most distinguished visitor to the underwater cave has been King Taufa'ahau of Tonga himself, who went in with Luis Marden of the *National Geographic*, using Scuba gear.

There has always been confusion as to the size of the cave and its entrance, and as far as I know nobody has made any specific measurements. From my own visit to it last year I would estimate that the submarine passage is about 18 ft in length, with nasty rock overhangs in both cave and harbour sides; and that the main chamber is egg-shaped, about 70 ft in height from the surface of the water to the domed roof of the cave, and with 50 ft of water in the cave. The entrance to the passage was about six or seven feet below the surface when I entered, which was about mid-tide. Apart from the fact that the entrance to Mariner's is underwater, Mariner's is identical in size and shape to nearby Swallow's Cave, well-known to visitors because there is a gap in the cave wall and it can be entered by boat.

My entry to Mariner's Cave was a red-letter day for me, which is why I especially appreciate Pat's excitement.

Pat, in fact, was in the boat at the entrance with me that day—one of those occasions she speaks of when she had to sit there while others met the challenge. But I was a feverpitch of anticipation. I can never be bothered with masks, flippers and snorkels—they seem to get in my way—so I had been practising my underwater swimming and breath-holding for weeks, including one extended session in Aggie Grey's swimming pool at Apia on the way to Vavau, where I was suspected of being some sort of a nut.

The outside weather is important. A westerly they say is no good because it throws you against the cliff, but I was in luck. I found swimming into the passage scary because you are headed into blackness, and since I wasn't sure just how far I had to travel I was concerned that I might run out of breath before I made it.

As it happened, I did start to come up too early, but the Tongan boatman from the Port of Refuge, Vavau's surprisingly magnificent hotel, who had gone in ahead of me, tapped me on the head as a warning and I was able to surface without hitting the overhang.

Getting out is easier because you are looking towards the light, but there is still the nasty harbour overhang to deal with and distances can be deceptive in that light. I missed that one only by a hair's breadth, too.

My advice to anybody wanting to experience the thrill of entering Mariner's celebrated cave is to go with a Tongan as a guide. Vavau itself can be reached from Nukualofa by ship or by Tonga's internal airline. From the Port of Refuge the entrance to the cave is five miles down the harbour beneath Nuapapu Island; I got there in 30 minutes with a 40 hp outboard. Low tide towards sunset is perhaps the best time, and you need to allow three hours to undertake the whole adventure comfortably.

Pat Matheson and I hope you have as much satisfaction as we did!

—Stuart Inder

Pacific Islands Monthly

THE HEAT'S OFF BOUGAINVILLE AS LEADERS SOFTEN THEIR HARD LINE

From GUS SMALES in Port Moresby

Hopes were brighter mid-July that the island of Bougainville, although doubt still grumbling and still discontented, will at least stay with Papua New Guinea when independence is declared from Australia on September 16.

This doesn't mean that the bid by the island district to secede is all puff and hot air, but it does mean that the leaders there have abandoned the hard and uncompromising line of their earlier attitudes. They now seem prepared to confer about their relationships with the PNG Government, even if they continue to wield the economic power of their island as a big stick.

Bougainville, with an estimated population of just under 90,000, is the site of one of the world's biggest copper mines, and is the most easterly region of PNG. But it's also an island group which by history, ethnic background, culture and even geographic position has had a certain separateness from the rest of PNG. The islanders, whose nearest neighbours and closest ethnic relatives live in the close-at-hand Solomon Islands, are proud of their black skin and their own brand of culture.

"Redskins" they say, almost as a term of dismissal, of the lighter-skinned people of the PNG mainland and the PNG northern islands.

On September 16, Bougainville is scheduled to merge once and for all with the "Redskins" in the birth of a new independent nation of PNG, but secession issues have been rocking the boat. One of the biggest sources of unintentional disruption is the operation since 1972 of Bougainville Copper Limited—a multinational corporation owned 20 per cent by the PNG Government, and which has poured unprecedented profits into the PNG economy.

The mine didn't create the secession atmosphere on the island, but it did enable secession to be viewed as a viable and practical possibility.

The Bougainville people, who felt they had been forgotten for years, suddenly realised when they looked at the copper balance sheet that Bougainville now means more to the rest of PNG than the rest of PNG ever meant to Bougainville. In an effort to placate increasing agitation on the island for at least some degree of autonomy, the PNG Government created the Bougainville Provincial Assembly and invited the islanders to shape their future how they wanted it—but within the revenue allocations made by the PNG Government.

To date, the Provincial Assembly is only an interim body with its members appointed rather than elected, but it got down to its task with a will and over the past months it has been in a state of continual on-and-off-again confrontation with the PNG Government.

The situation deteriorated into a direct secession threat when the islanders broke off all negotiations after complaining that they were

"financing" the rest of PNG from their copper mine and were not getting back a fair share.

The PNG Justice Minister, Mr Ebia Olewale, returned in mid-July from a meet-the-people campaign on Bougainville where he attempted to promote the central government's unity platform.

Mr Olewale, who is the newly-appointed Special Minister for Provincial Affairs in addition to his Justice portfolio, tried to explain that the islanders were getting special attention anyway—including the return of all export levies on copper consignments.

If Mr Olewale expected to find that the secession moves were confined to a few provincial government hot-heads, he was sadly disappointed. With a few significant exceptions, meeting after meeting included strong support for secession.

But, perhaps, the most important immediate point which emerged from Mr Olewale's tour was that there was a lot more to the issue than a simple secession versus unity argument.

Two factors were evident. One was that the secessionist leaders were far better organised than the non-secessionists. The other was the high degree of good old-fashioned confusion which existed.

Some of the rank-and-file missed the point of secession altogether and saw the argument as an attempt to decide what country should control Bougainville in the future.

Australia? Papua New Guinea? "Why not America?" asked one man with vivid memories of the material wealth which USA showered on the South Pacific during World War II.

Mr Olewale refused to take any for or against votes at his meetings, and he was shadowed for most of the time by members of the Provincial Assembly who made pro-secession talks. While he barnstormed round the country, working by sheer dogged



Minister Ebia Olewale . . . it was sheer dogged effort.

effort rather than brilliance, senior civil servants of the central government were having a look at other aspects of the situation.

One of the most contentious of the civil service inquiries concerned the dual role being played by the Bougainville District Commissioner, Dr Alexis Sarei.

Dr Sarei, himself a Bougainville islander, is the senior civil servant on the island of the PNG Government but he is also chairman of the Provincial Assembly.

Instead of contenting himself with a neutral role, he has been actively campaigning for secession, and there is little doubt that his activities so far could warrant public service disciplinary action including suspension.

With a sigh of relief the PNG Government packed him off on holidays—he went to visit his wife's people in the USA—and is hoping the issues involved can be quietly resolved on his return.

By the time Mr Olewale ended his Bougainville tour it was clear that he had won a number of points although the overt symptoms of secession were undoubtedly much stronger than he had hoped. He told the provincial government flatly that he would leave the island rather than stand by mutely while demonstrators shouted secession slogans at him.

"I want the right to answer back," he said—and it was granted. He also held two lengthy meetings with the secession leaders, a result of some significance in the light of earlier attitudes.

The situation now is that the island leaders have shown that secession is not quite the hard non-negotiable issue which they made it earlier this year. Although secession feelings still run deep, the leaders will obviously listen to any plan which gives them a greater financial power within the framework of a unified Papua New Guinea.

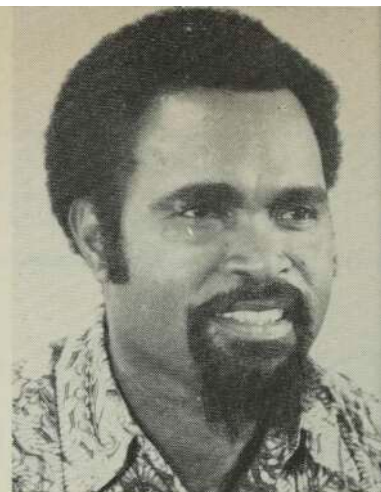
Exactly how such an arrangement can be worked out is one of the biggest national problems facing the PNG Somare government.

● Mr Smales later reported: The Bougainville Provincial Assembly has again postponed setting a date for Bougainville to secede from Papua New Guinea.

"But our feelings in favour of secession are just as strong as ever," leaders of the Provincial Assembly said on July 16.

The Assembly has decided that it will hold further talks with the Government of Papua New Guinea before fixing its secession target.

Revolution of the reluctant nationalists



Michael Somare . . . the one-time "dangerous radical".

Papua New Guinea's painless decision to declare independence from Australia on September 16 sets the seal on one of the most extraordinary revolutions of national outlook in modern history.

The reluctant nationalism, which so puzzled the United Nations year after year, has suddenly been thrown aside in a matter of two or three years.

Five major ingredients have led to the change itself and to the quality of what has happened, not the least of which has been the skilful politics of the Chief Minister, Mr Michael Somare. There will be a temptation now to suggest that PNG has been struggling for independence for years, suppressed by colonialism and Australian policies.

But, whatever Australia may be guilty of, this simply isn't so. It was not until three years ago that any practical concerted move towards independence became effective in PNG, and general acceptance of the move did not come until even later.

It is true that much of the reluctant nationalism sprang from ignorance, and that Australia could be held to blame for not doing anything to encourage nationalism.

But the failure to want and to accept nationalism, which has been so much a part of the PNG scene, has been real enough.

The chamber and the public gallery in the House of Assembly broke into spontaneous applause on June 18 when September 16 was adopted as Independence Day following a surprise motion from Mr Somare.

The reaction itself typifies the changed outlook. A mere five years ago, Mr Somare was a dangerous radical for daring to suggest home rule, let alone full independence. Even in 1970, when the second Select Committee on Constitutional Development bravely produced a national flag and a programme for self-government, the chairman, the late Mr Paulus Arek, stressed that the

mass of the people—and the politicians—did not want self-government.

But since then, the proposed flag has been replaced by one already nationally familiar, self-government has come and gone without trauma in December 1973, and independence will be attained on September 16.

For all the criticism which was thrown at him over the Territories portfolio which he held in Canberra into the 1960s Sir Paul Hasluck, later Australian Governor-General, provided one of the ingredients which has led to the non-violent assumption of a rational independence.

His reluctance to believe that nationalism could be close at hand or should be encouraged for its own sake was more a symptom of the times rather than a judgment of the man. Where he contributed to the future was in his basic acceptance that PNG was a trust and not simply a colony for exploitation.

His time scale may have been wrong but his policies prevented the degree of repression or dangerous elitism which have so often led to violence in other colonial situations.

The United Nations General Assembly provided another ingredient on December 21, 1965, when it first took Australia to task for not thinking in terms of PNG independence. There was much that was provocative and politically-inspired in the General Assembly's resolution, but the first spur of the new era had been applied.

Australia, UK, USA and 19 other countries abstained from voting on the resolution which criticised Australia for not laying down a specific timetable for independence in PNG.

The third and most significant ingredient in the new change was the emergence of the first true nationalist movement in the formation of the Pangu Party. In the late 1960s the party dedicated itself to a policy of

immediate home rule" in PNG, suffering extraordinary criticism at home and in Australia.

"Blunt", "rude", "radical" and "dangerous" were some of the epithets.

Mr Somare's skilful policies in getting rid of this label and guiding the party to coalition government in 1972 and to respectability and effectiveness, is probably the greatest single story of the independence story.

A fourth ingredient was the climate created by Mr Andrew Peacock when he took over the External Territories portfolio in the final stages of the Liberal-Country Party coalition in Canberra. His shift-of-power arrangements negotiated with Mr Somare between May and September, 1972, at the final stage.

The fifth ingredient has been the extraordinarily-good working relationship established, after some early clashes, between PNG and the Whitlam government.

Mr Whitlam's early disengagement policies nearly upset the boat at a time when Mr Somare was still feeling his way. Any attempt at that stage to force independence on PNG from outside would have wrecked Mr Somare's plans for a peaceful and practical transition.

Eventually, however, the relationship developed into an extremely practical one with Australia treating PNG as a sovereign state but withholding all pressures to translate the recognition into reality.

The outcome is that, not only is PNG going peacefully and freely to independence, but most of the other work is completed.

PNG's thanks to Toni the pikinini kiap

By HARRY JACKMAN

IT is very likely that Anthony Constantine Voutas is the youngest Australian ever to belong to the Order of St Michael and St George. It is certain that no one else has been awarded a CMG for services to political development, and one has to go back as far as George Ernest 'Chinese' Morrison (1862-1920) for another Australian who has played so vital a role in the politics of another nation.

Born in 1943 at Goulburn, NSW, Tony Voutas joined the Papua New Guinea administration in 1961 as cadet patrol officer. He took leave in 1962 to attend the Australian National University where he graduated BA, majoring in politics; and he then resumed duty with the administration, resigning in 1966 to contest the Kaindi Open seat in a by-election.

Kaindi was an extension electorate of about 4,300 sq miles among the rugged mountains of the central ranges. Its 55,000 people, living in about 250 villages, spoke 20 different languages.

With very little funds and without political or other base, Voutas undertook what he has described as the 'athletic feat' of visiting every village on foot. It took him five months.

Following the methods used by the only two organisations then

operating at village level, the administration and the Lutheran Mission, he established a small group of supporters in each village.

Known as *Toni Komiti* and wearing a button with just the one word 'Toni', the committees were a major factor in his being elected. Of equal importance to Voutas' electoral success was that, by meeting the people at their level, sharing their food, taking part in their gardening, and carrying his belongings like any other villager, he convinced them of his intention to truly represent them in the House of Assembly. At that time only one other politician, John Guise, had taken to grass roots campaigning.

Small in stature, of inconspicuous appearance, and self-effacing, Voutas, the youngest Member, was frequently derided as *pikinini kiap*, an immature patrol officer, but the Hansard of those years testifies to his determined and unceasing efforts towards self-government and independence for Papua New Guinea.

In his maiden speech on August 30, 1966, typically delivered in Pidgin, he listed economic development ('but not just in the European-controlled sector'), education, village self-help, industrial training and better housing as the main planks of his platform, and he stressed that

MINISTERS' TEARS OVER TABLEAU

A carved tableau of police quelling a village disturbance brought tears to the eyes of PNG government ministers in July.

The tableau was hung in the cabinet room in Port Moresby after the Misawali people's movement in the Trobriand Islands presented it to the Chief Minister, Mr Somare.

With a modern subject and in traditional carving style, the tableau showed police using teargas and arms against island villagers. But one of the teargas cannisters incorporated in the carving was a real one, and when started to leak, ministers with tears in their eyes had to call for help.

Police experts were called in to "de-fuse" the work of art, but the canister fired while they were working on it.

No one was injured and the carving was unharmed. It is now back on wall—with an empty teargas cannister replacing the original one.

Meanwhile, in Popondetta in northern Papua, a policeman and a soldier in hospital following the explosion of a bomb which had been lying in a grass since World War Two. The two men were members of a bomb disposal squad and were injured when a grassfire caused a premature explosion.

The policeman has serious injuries according to a report from Popondetta.



Anthony Constantine Voutas CMG

COLONIAL POLITICS AND THE NEW NATIONALISM IN THE NEW HEBRIDES

From a special correspondent

The New Hebrides is expected to experience its first taste of elections in August. These elections, however, are not the long-awaited national general elections, but elections for the newly-created municipalities of Vila and Santo.

The last and final meeting of the old Advisory Council in April endorsed plans for the establishment of the new municipal councils.

The creation of the municipalities and the introduction of universal suffrage at this local government level represents a victory for colonial interests against those of the young and determined New Hebrides nationalist movement. The primary component of this movement, the New Hebrides National Party, announced at the end of 1974 that it was opposed to the formation of municipal councils and that it would "make every effort possible to discourage its acceptance by indigenous New Hebrideans".

Quite correctly, the National Party views the municipal councils as a threat to decolonising interests in the New Hebrides. At one level the municipal council elections seemed likely to undermine the focus on the more important national elections, scheduled for later in 1975. Although Vila and Santo combined represent

only about 20 per cent of the New Hebrides' total population (about 95,000 at the end of last year), their impact on the country is more significant—as is the case with most towns. The National Party is genuinely concerned that the development of municipal political interests will only be at the cost of rural and national ones.

The towns are also important politically in quite another way: they are less anti-colonial than the countryside. The role of the European population is a clear indication of this: over the whole country Europeans barely comprise 2 per cent of the population; but in the towns their proportion is much higher, about 14 per cent when last measured in 1972—and growing. There is little doubt that the Anglo-French colonial government hopes that a conservative political line will predominate in the municipal councils and that this will provide them with an institutional club with which to knock back the increasingly-radical demands of the National Party.

No doubt a constitutionalist would regard the recent reforms in the New Hebrides as a sign of political progress. But the limitations of the reforms, and the place of the municipal councils in particular, leaves very

considerable doubt concerning the degree of real progress achieved. Although the population of New Hebrideans in the urban areas accounts for two-thirds of the total population, their representation is little more than a half: 12 out of 24 seats in Vila; nine out of 16 seats in Santo. Moreover no separate account appeared to have been taken of the 20 per cent or so of other Pacific Islanders, Asians and people of other ethnic origins. Finally the cross-voting system, which requires voters to cast votes for candidates from all groups, seemed designed to minimise the impact of radical New Hebridean votes in the elections.

When the results of the New Hebrides' first municipal elections become available, a careful analysis of these should give some idea of how the contest between colonial and national politics in the New Hebrides is proceeding. A better test in the long run, however, might be provided by the national elections for the Representative Assembly, possibly to be held in November. After some intra-party uncertainties, the National Party appears to have decided to contest these elections and to attempt to secure as much constituency support for the party as it possibly can.

Preliminaries to the national elec-

the House of Assembly needed to be given more power.

From then on he continued to press for constitutional development and rural improvement. It almost seems a lifetime ago when, asked by Voutas what plans the administration had for training a Papua New Guinean diplomatic corps, the Administrator replied, "None at present". Rural improvement became one of the National Coalition Government's main aims when it took office in 1972. Hansard is full of other early-birding by the then Member for Kaindi Open.

In the 1968 elections, Voutas defeated a sitting Member, a former district commissioner, for the Morobe Regional Electorate, and it was in that Second House that he did much to help the Pangu Pati to dominate.

Among his fellow founders of Pangu were Michael Somare, now Chief Minister, Maori Kiki, John

Guise and Paul Lapun, all in the present Cabinet and knighted, Barry Holloway, Speaker of the current House, and Oala Oala-Rarua, who represents Papua New Guinea in Canberra. They had a hard row to hoe during the Sixties.

After the Second House had run its term in 1972, Voutas briefly worked in the University of Papua New Guinea and then became a research officer for Mr Somare. A tireless and persistent worker, Voutas was the ideas man during the new government's first months of office, particularly on economic and constitutional policy issues. He was, in effect, the senior political adviser.

Tony Voutas resigned from his job with the Chief Minister in 1974, for the same reason that caused him not to nominate for the Third House in 1974: because he believed it opportune for a Papua New Guinean to take over. If only certain other

'expatriates' had had the same sense of timing . . .

What the Somare government thinks of Voutas is clear from its recommendation to the Queen. Only two other Australians have been admitted to the Order of St Michael and St George for services to Papua New Guinea—Sir Hubert Murray, KCMG, who governed Papua for 34 years, and John Thompson Gunther, who received the CMG while Assistant Administrator, later became first chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea, and has just been created a Knight Bachelor along with fellow campaigner Sir John Guise.

Does all this sound a bit like an obituary? Well, fair enough, because Australian colonialism in the Islands will end on September 16, and, after all, the honours for Voutas and Gunther were recommended by a government of Papua New Guinea.



Jimmy Stephens, Nagriamel's leader . . . intensely jealous" of the influence of leaders like the man across the page . . .

ions had already begun in May. Both the French Resident Commissioner and the president of the National Party, whom some might label as the chief protagonists in the present political tug-of-war, visited and addressed the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church which met on Emaï island. The National Party and the pro-French parties were holding conventions at mid-year, both to clarify party policies and to plan their electoral strategies.

The National Party, still based at the Anglican mission at Tagabe, near Vila, had improved its offices with the addition of a typewriter and duplicating machine donated by sympathetic friends. One of their first productions was the premier issue of IUS, a bislama-language news-sheet which the party hoped would penetrate rural villages and urban New Hebridean homes.

At least, the intending elections and the formation of a national representative Assembly will provide a forum for the first serious test of strength between the nationalists and the colonial government. The outcome of course remains very much in doubt at this stage. If, as few expect, the National Party wins a sounding victory, it would surely herald the end of the road for the Anglo-French colonialists.

On the other hand, a National Party rout would have a devastating effect on the nationalist movement, perhaps delaying further decolonisation for a decade or more. Conquered political stalemate, with the National Party winning a respectable number of seats but not enough to control the Assembly, might give the colonial government the breathing space it wants to implement its own political programme, but it could also lead to frustrations and conflicts

of a kind which many well-meaning people, foreigners and nationals alike, hope that the New Hebrides will avoid.

Unfortunately, the elections to the Assembly may turn out to be little more than a numbers display. There are a number of questionable aspects concerning the Assembly itself which leave room for doubt concerning its effectiveness. Of the 42 Assembly members, 29 will be elected by universal suffrage, 20 from rural constituencies and nine from the two main urban areas. The remaining members will be selected by and from special interest groups—six from the chambers of commerce, three from the co-operative societies, and four representatives from the customary chiefs.

From a New Hebridean point of view, the composition of the Assembly, while a tremendous improvement on that of the old Advisory Council, leaves much to be desired. A minimum of 12 Assembly members will be foreigners—six from urban constituencies and all six representatives from the chambers of commerce. The contrast between the size of the non-Pacific foreigner population (5 per cent) and their numerical strength in the Assembly is a stark one.

Some New Hebrideans also feel that the electoral provisions for the Representative Assembly, which were approved by the Advisory Council, are more likely to favour foreign interests. The age limit for voting in the elections was set at 21 years, rather than 18, and the modest residential requirements for voting and for candidacy in the elections are three and five years respectively. A lower voting age and tougher residential requirements might have better served New Hebridean interests.

Perhaps of more significance is the constitutional relationship between the Assembly and the colonial government. Despite objections from the Advisory Council, the colonial government is proceeding with a proposal to give the two resident commissioners joint control over the meetings of the Assembly. A counter-proposal for the Assembly to elect from its own ranks an independent speaker is unlikely to be accepted by the colonial government.

Not only will the resident commissioners have joint control over the Assembly's proceedings however, but they will also be able to return to the Assembly any resolutions which are unacceptable to the



. . . the Rev Walter Lini, leader of the National Party.

colonial government. The Assembly does have the power, by a two-thirds confirmation, to insist on certain legislation being enacted, but the composition of the Assembly is such that the likelihood of this occurring does not seem very high. Executive power very clearly remains in the hands of the colonial government, and even the Assembly's legislative powers appear to be limited.

If in the short-term the new Assembly does not turn out to have contributed much to the decolonising impetus, there is no doubt that the New Hebrides' political climate is getting hotter every month. The National Party is by no means the only active, non-government political organisation—although it may well be the only one which is really independent of government influence. The pro-French alliance of UCNH, MANH and the New Hebridean Nagriamel movement remains a close one. For most people the alliance is both paradoxical and uncertain. From Nagriamel's point of view, however, they have been very well treated by both French planters and government, and the material benefits which they have earned from the alliance are considerable.

The real problem is the deepening division which is emerging between French- and British-educated New Hebrideans. Although Nagriamel's leader, Jimmy Stephens, has attempted to retain an independent status, he is intensely jealous of the influence which the British-educated leaders of the National Party and the Presbyterian Church have had on the population. He sees their activities as undermining his own movement and has allied with French interest groups in an attempt to meet this challenge.

For their part, the National Party

Continued on p 75

Sanford gets through the front door

From AL PRINCE in Tahiti

If window-dressing is the key to political success, then Francis Sanford, Tahiti's French National Assembly Deputy, was successful when he got his first private meeting with a President of the French Republic after always having been kept on the other side of the door with the two previous presidents.

But if Sanford accomplished anything else during his 45-minute meeting with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, he was not telling anyone publicly. Sanford later said he and President Giscard d'Estaing discussed the new law to go into effect on January 1 changing French Polynesia's relationship with France. Sanford said he presented the President with proposed legislation for internal autonomy for Tahiti.

"The project is now in the hands of the President of the Republic, and now he is the only one who can decide," Sanford said with the drama befitting anyone who has just left the plush office of the President.

Sanford described his meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing as "positive" because it was the first time that he was received by a French President after having similar requests turned down by the late Presidents Charles de Gaulle and Georges Pompidou. And Sanford said he and the President will meet

FRENCH LEADER TO VISIT ISLANDS

French Prime Minister Mr Jacques Chirac will visit the South Pacific in November, 1975. The trip was heralded earlier this year during the Pacific visits of French Secretary of State for Overseas Territories, Mr Olivier Stirn.

Since then, during the June visit of Caledonian politicians to Paris, it was announced that Mr Chirac would be visiting Noumea in November. Part of his schedule will be to open the magnificent new Noumea Town Hall, which is nearing completion at the port end of the central park, on the site of a former girls' primary school, opposite the old post office. It replaces the old wooden mairie, towards the top end of the same street, rue Jean-Jaures.

Mr Stirn and other French sources reported several months ago that Prime Minister Chirac hoped to visit Australia and New Zealand before the end of this year to sign up any trade contracts that may be ready by then. If Mr Chirac combines his November trip to Noumea with visits to Australia and New Zealand, such stopovers would indicate that relations have substantially improved between France and these Pacific nations.

again in October during the autumn session of the French National Assembly.

But Sanford will not be the only one back in Paris in October. The other politicians from Tahiti who accompanied him to Paris in June for meetings with Olivier Stirn, the French Secretary of State for Overseas Departments and Territories, will return to the French capital in October for more talks about Tahiti's new relationship with France.

About the only new development from the June talks was Mr Stirn's reference to France being represented in French Polynesia by a "high commissioner" instead of a governor, as has always been the case. But other than the name change, Mr Stirn did not budge from the stand he took when he visited Tahiti in March—no independence and no internal autonomy for Tahiti.

And the politicians from Tahiti did not budge from their split stand over whether the governor, or high com-

missioner, should be elected in Tahiti or appointed by France. And there were apparently some very heated discussions over this point during the meetings of the French Polynesia delegation with Mr Stirn.

But when the dust had settled everyone was back to square one. Mr Stirn said the new law will give Tahiti greater autonomy, but not internal autonomy, by increasing the number of Government Council members from the present five to seven, having the members elected with each given a specific administrative area of control in managing the local government. But Mr Stirn stood fast by his insistence that the Government Council will be presided over by a French-appointed high commissioner, or, in the commissioner's absence, a general secretary.

Mr Stirn told the delegation from Tahiti that the new law he envisaged will provide for a new distribution of power with each authority more clearly defined. He said this meant a better separation of power between the roles of France and the territory so as to avoid complications and conflicts over who has what authority. He said the decision-making authority of the Government Council will be distinctly separate from the debating authority of the French Polynesia Territorial Assembly.

But if Mr Stirn's objective is to avoid complications, he certainly does not appear to have accomplished that in his meetings with the delegation from Tahiti. The talks reportedly got off to a good start, but then the fireworks began when the delegation found out in greater detail what Mr Stirn had been talking about in general terms when he was in Tahiti in March.

Adding to the display of emotion was the angry departure from Paris

That "positive" meeting . . . On the right Mr Sanford; on the left, the President



of the president of the New Caledonia Territorial Assembly, Mr Yann Uregei, who later appeared to have only one thing in mind—total and complete independence from France.

But as furious as some of the politicians from Tahiti were, nobody walked out of the Paris meetings. One reason could be, in a word, "nickel", which, in the case of New Caledonia, translates into money, which, without France, Tahiti does not have much of.

And so the delegation from Tahiti remained in Paris in force, arguing, holding emotional press conferences, and still ending up where it was in March when Mr Stirn visited Tahiti and where it was before it left for Paris—split almost down the middle. On one side is former Territorial Assembly President Gaston Flosse and the UDR, or Gaullist party, supporting Mr Stirn's programme except in asking that the Government Council have a vice-president elected by the Territorial Assembly. The point here is that Flosse and his supporters want the territory to have its own representative on the Government Council to balance the weight of France's appointed high commissioner.

On the other side of the delegation from Tahiti are Sanford and current Territorial Assembly President Frantz Fanon, who want a Government Council without a governor or high commissioner. They want the council members to be elected by the Territorial Assembly, with both the council and the assembly administering the territory, but with the territory having the final say over council elections. And it follows, of course, that this group wants the president of the Government Council to be elected.

So it all boils down to one question: Who is going to run the territory—the Government Council with

French-appointed high commissioner presiding, the Territorial Assembly with control over the council, or the council with an appointed high commissioner and an elected vice-president?

As far as Mr Stirn is concerned, there is no choice. Thus, it appears at this point that the delegation from Tahiti can either remain split or unite, knowing full well that they might still end up with Mr Stirn's programme.

But before anything becomes final, the delegation from Tahiti will be meeting in Paris with Mr Stirn in October. Mr Stirn will be visiting Tahiti again before the end of the year, with Sanford meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing in between. And the day of reckoning, January 1, draws closer.

Caledonians take a new hard line . . .

From a Noumea correspondent

A call for independence for New Caledonia has been made by a predominantly-Melanesian party, following the French Government's rejection of the formula for internal autonomy demanded by Roch Pidjot, New Caledonia's Melanesian deputy in the French National Assembly.

The call for independence has been made by the Union Multiraciale party, led by the President of the New Caledonian Territorial Assembly, Mr Yann Celene Uregei.

The announcement of his party's new hard-line policy with France was made in Noumea late in June. This followed the action of four Melanesian autonomists who walked out on Paris meetings with the French Government during talks to modify the territory's political statutes.

Interviewed about these proposed French changes to the Governor's Advisory Council (*Conseil de Gouvernement*), Mr Uregei was quoted as saying, "Actually all power still remains concentrated in the hands of the Governor who will continue to control territorial affairs, as in the past . . . with the aid of his public service heads".

The communique issued by the Union Multiraciale said the party had decided "cost what it may, to wage a campaign for the independence of New Caledonia and the Caledonian nation. This policy is open to the outside world".

The latter sentence was locally believed to be a threat that the matter could be taken to outside bodies such as the United Nations.

The party holds the French Government responsible for this "irrevocable step in favour of independence" in view of the French failure to respect the "legitimate aspirations of the majority of the Caledonian people and for wanting like every colonialist, to base its policy mainly on nickel without worrying about the Caledonian people, especially the Melanesians".

The Union Multiraciale now calls for maximum co-operation with the territory's major autonomist party, Union Caledonienne.

This open challenge to the Paris government was issued less than three weeks before the celebration of the

French national day, July 14. It was immediately followed by a communique signed by Deputy Pidjot and Assembly President Uregei, plus five other Melanesian Assembly members, five additional Melanesian political groups and others. They urged sending a *Kanaka* delegation to the UN as well as the setting up of a uniquely-Kanaka party and called for a referendum on the independence issue.

Of course, the anticipated hostility immediately broke forth from the pro-administration Press in Noumea, and it was not expected that the Melanesians would succeed in their demands. However, in the words of Uregei, who is a Protestant-educated Loyalty Islander from near Lifou, "Give us time to work for our freedom . . . even if the Melanesians are not in the majority that does not stop them from becoming aware of their identity . . . we have been demanding autonomy for a long time and no-one has taken any notice . . . there will be Caledonians following the Melanesians on the path to independence".

. . . AND FRANCE SOFTENS UP THE KINGS

From a Noumea correspondent

A delegation from the Wallis and Futuna Islands returned home early in July after holding talks with French government officials over the main economic problems facing this distant overseas territory of France. The nine-man Wallisian mission included hereditary chiefs and members of the local-elected Territorial Assembly.

Their Paris discussions centred on improving sea and air transport facilities bringing provisions to the islands which, having only a subsistence-level of agriculture, depend heavily on imports. In view of the territory's limited resources, the local cash-flow is maintained chiefly by remittances from Wallisians working in New Caledonia and subsidies from France.

The mission expressed general satisfaction after the Paris talks with latest French government hand-outs promising to cover a variety of needs. These, reportedly, included the provision of vehicles for the hereditary King of Wallis and the two Kings of Futuna as well as about \$A18,000

towards the renovation of the Wallisian King's palace. Other grants were promised for water and electricity installations on Wallis as well as a fuel depot, which would avoid the expense of shipping petrol in drums from Noumea.

While there are only about 5,000 islanders left on Wallis, about 11,000 Wallisians live in New Caledonia. For this reason, the Paris government has promised about \$A150,000 for a Wallisian centre in Noumea.

Depending as they do on the generosity of France, the Wallisians have always been relied upon to vote anti-autonomist. The French administration counts on the large Wallisian community voting in Noumea to continue this tradition. At the same time, the recent Paris subsidies provided a happy conclusion to the incidents in Wallis last November, when island protests forced the removal of the chief French administrator, Mr Jacques de Agostini.

● The New Hebrides tourist industry will get a boost in 1976 with the new cruise liner, the Pacific Princess, scheduled to make four visits. P and O recently bought the liner from a Dutch company. Twenty-one visits by overseas liners are so far scheduled for 1976, and more are likely.

ERUPTION SHAKES FORUM . . .

*From ADISHWAR PADARATH
in Suva*

South Pacific leaders obviously feel an annual summit conference insufficient. The sixth South Pacific Forum meeting which took place in Tonga early in July decided to experiment with informal discussions in between.

It all began when Nauru's President Hammer DeRoburt spoke during opening ceremonies on behalf of all delegates.

"We have a full agenda and we are going to be put on our mettle to get through it", he said. "I wonder whether as activities develop and new problems challenge the Forum, an annual meeting is sufficient to enable itself to consider fully and in depth the weighty matters requiring our attention."

"We should not lose sight of our priorities. We have work on hand,



Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara . . . said he was accused of lying.

work which is not only necessary and challenging to do but which must be worth our while as heads and representatives of our respective governments".

Later, New Zealand's Prime Minister Wallace Rowling issued invitations to leaders and their wives to be guests at the next South Pacific Festival of Arts at Rotorua in March. Leaders decided to hold an informal "mini Forum" while there.

New Zealand will meet all internal costs.

The formal Forum will be at Nauru next August.

The Tonga Forum began with the admission of Niue as a full member and ended with an almighty upheaval involving Fiji and Australia.

By then Mr Rowling had left for home.

Australia's Senator Don Willesee managed to get himself offside with all Island leaders who threw in their lot with the Prime Minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.

The row was over regional shipping.

Ratu Sir Kamisese launched a blistering attack on Australian and New Zealand maritime trade unions and their attitudes towards Island-flagged vessels.

Mr Willesee wanted Ratu Sir Kamisese's observations struck out of the official communique.

At some stage he asked Ratu Sir Kamisese to "prove his point".

The Fiji Prime Minister then erupted.

He said he was accused of lying and angrily threw on the Forum table a letter about an Australian trade union demand relating to a Fiji-crewed ship.

PNG's Michael Somare supported Ratu Sir Kamisese saying what Willesee wanted deleted was an "accurate report of discussions".

French accuse 'subversives'

A recent attack upon "leftist" British civil servants in the New Hebrides has now been followed by a French denunciation of the "subversive action carried out by the Presbyterians and Fijians" working among the Melanesian people.

Through the Noumea Press, the French are expressing a growing concern that they may lose out in the New Hebrides, as the time approaches for the first general elections. Voting for seats on the first municipal councils is scheduled for August 16, while elections to establish the condominium's first legislative assembly are expected to be held between November 15 and December 15.

The latest French claims about "outside interference" concern members of the Presbyterian Church and Fijian political influence. French journalists in Noumea report that the French minority in the New Hebrides is fearful of being tossed out of the islands in view of the campaign currently being waged for local independence.

The Noumea Press refers to the British as "perfidious Albion", never to be trusted, trying to gain independence "within an English framework". In this context, the militant National Party is said to be "supported by the subversive action of the pastors and submitted to a growing Fijian influence".

The Presbyterian campaign for independence is said to be typified by a recent letter to the Anglo-French authorities, written by Pastor P. K. Taurakoto. The letter, reportedly, complains that very few indigenous people have been involved in political decision-making, and urges that islanders who have long been prepared to handle their own affairs should have a chance to be politically involved, to be ready for future development.

A more dramatic display of outside political manipulation was detected by the French late in June when a group of demonstrators with cars blocked the runway at Vila airport, trying to stop the departure of an Air Pacific plane scheduled to fly a "Black Power" member out of the country. Twenty sympathisers of this agitator from the British Antilles were subsequently charged by the police over interfering with airport traffic.

Members agreed to retain the item in the communiqué.

The "offending" paragraph reads: The Forum recognised that a vital factor in the viability of a regional shipping line was a co-operative attitude by the maritime trade unions of Australia and New Zealand towards the Pacific Island Line".

Mr Willesee was the official Forum spokesman.

A solid battery of about half a dozen New Zealand journalists and three from Fiji travelled to Tonga for the Forum but surprisingly none from Australia.

A Wellington-based ABC reporter arrived late on the Tuesday night after the Forum had been going for a day. Mr Willesee, at times, adopted a flippant attitude during press conferences.

For instance he told us that the EIC Chief Minister, Naboua Ratieta, and Solomons leader Solomon Mamaloni, would be speaking.

Willesee added that the "lads" could talk about developments in their respective countries.

At other times he was vague and always bent upon getting through a press session in the bare minimum time.

The Forum agreed unanimously to ask the Tongan Government for an extension of the term of SPEC's sector, Mr Mahe Tupouniua, whose present term expires in November.

New Zealand made two grandstand stunts during the meeting. It announced a \$NZ5000 gift for Tonga's Queen Salote Memorial Hall and an extra payment of \$NZ1 per case of premium quality bananas.

Fiji offered its brown sugar to members of the Forum, Ratu

Kamisese saying his country could be willing to conclude long-term sugar agreements with each of them.

SPEC is to co-ordinate arrangements.

Australian white sugar sells in Tongan shops at 44c a lb. Fiji brown sugar, when available there, sells at 2c a lb.

Footnote: The Solomons Islands Chief Minister, Mr Solomon Mamaloni, on his return home, said that unless the Forum defined its aims more clearly, the Solomons would not become a member. The Forum, a sort of UN of the South Pacific, could have been dealing with political matters, he said. Instead, affairs of its economic arm, the South Pacific Bureau of Economic Co-operation, took up most of the agenda.

... AND A WIND BLOWS IN FROM OCEAN ISLAND

From a special correspondent

Some chilly political winds sent shivers down quite a few spines at the South Pacific Forum meeting in Nukualofa in July.

They blew into the Tongan capital with representatives of the Banaban community on Rabi who were launching their latest campaign for self-determination of Ocean Island, their ancestral homeland.

The Banabans were seeking Forum support for their cause, and, as they expected, the mission members found themselves at the centre of a delicate web of diplomatic and protocol-related manoeuvring.

"We're not used to this sort of thing", said a senior Tongan official. "Why did the Banabans have to choose our Forum to bring this issue up?"

The Tongans, as hosts, were cautious in the extreme. The Banabans, they said, were not affiliated to the Forum and could not, therefore, be accorded official status. Would they be prepared to be part of the GEIC delegation?

"Not on your life", said the Banabans. Perhaps they could join the Fiji team? The Banabans dismissed this idea too. Fiji was in a delicate position. The Banabans' current home, Rabi, is part of that country and the Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, while sympathising with them, did not wish to appear too partisan.

So the Banabans were on their own. They quickly became aware of some subtle undercurrents designed presumably to throw them off balance. A British official had allegedly told a senior Forum figure that Ratu Sir Kamisese was angry about their presence in Nukualofa. If they lost his sympathy, they were told, then they had lost a strong ally.

The Banabans were concerned at first. Then they became sceptical. The Fiji Prime Minister had been informed that they were Nukualofa-bound and had not indicated annoyance.

The report, decided the Banabans, was a British scare tactic.

One non-Island observer suggested that the Banabans had come to Nukualofa to cause trouble. Didn't they realise they were faced with an uphill task and didn't they know that

the British were trying hard to keep the question out of the Forum?

"Well," said the Banabans, "how do you define trouble?"

Certainly, they were faced with an uphill task—but over the years they had become used to fighting against big odds. And it wasn't really surprising that the British were unhappy about their presence in Nukualofa. After all, the United Kingdom was their chief opponent.

One of the first delegates the Banabans made contact with was Mr Naboua Ratieta, GEIC's Chief Minister.

Mr Tekoti Rotan, the Banaban mission leader, felt Mr Ratieta, as a matter of courtesy, should be told why the Banabans were at the Forum. He listened, and reaffirmed his position.

The Banabans approached other leaders, provoking responses ranging from caution to outright sympathy and support. But would the Forum debate the issue? It was not on the prepared agenda and it appeared that the only part of the forum session offering scope for its introduction was "other business".

One of the Island leaders, after a full briefing, indicated willingness to make the first move. Then there was a new development.

Reports reached the Banabans' camp that the Fiji Prime Minister might be prepared to act as an intermediary in a get-together outside the Forum.

Mr Ratieta, apparently, was aware of this fresh proposal and had indicated his willingness to keep the matter out of the Forum.

In the meantime, the Banabans distributed a document to each delegation outlining their case and appealing for support.

(The distribution of this submission was a separate exercise in itself. It involved a carefully-timed plan to hand the document to the leaders personally as they left an official luncheon).

The ball was back in Mr Ratieta's court. It was time for him to make his maiden speech.

Reading from a prepared address, Mr Ratieta described some of his country's problems and its constitutional progress. He spoke of the need for Pacific nations to respect territorial sovereignty and refrain



The Pacific way . . . Kani Tauri, secretary to the managing director of Rabi Holdings, and Mr Naboua Ratieta, Chief Minister of the GEIC, find time to chat in Tonga during the South Pacific Forum. Kani was handing out information to delegation heads about the Banabans and their fight to become independent from GEIC.

from any action which might 'threaten the sovereignty of another territory'.

Then he added, "I say this because at this very moment we have a very serious issue at home where the Banabans have demanded independence for Ocean Island in Association with Fiji."

Mr Ratieta repeated his Government's objection to the Banaban demand.

Ratu Sir Kamisese said later that he was 'stunned' that Mr Ratieta should have broached the topic in view of the unofficial agreement between them to keep it outside the Forum.

The Prime Minister told the delegates in session that he was disappointed that the Banaban question had been raised in the absence of one of the parties. The introduction of the controversy would have left people wondering about the other side of the story.

Discussion outside the Forum would have given all those involved an opportunity to resolve the problem by consensus—the Pacific way.

The Banabans were quick to comment on Mr Ratieta's speech. In a Press statement they said the Chief Minister continued to trot out the "same tired, tattered, British-inspired propaganda".

Mr Ratieta's reference to territorial problems of other countries was a red herring, an attempt to blur the issues. Each move or separation and self-determination must be judged on its own merits.

They posed a question that had possibly not crossed Mr Ratieta's mind. If he continued to insist that Ocean Island belonged to his country they assumed that his government was making provision for the rehabilitation of the island. The Banabans calculated that this would cost about \$84 million.

For the Banabans their journey to Nukualofa was another step forward on a long journey. It resulted in a new development which could bring independence that much closer.

The Banaban issue did not "fizzle out" as implied by one journalist. The same reporter suggested that Forum leaders reacted against 'intensive lobbying' by the Banaban representatives.

This diagnosis illustrates an inadequate grasp of a complex situation and a sad lack of understanding of the Banaban attitude. Most delegates would agree that although the Banaban dispute did not occupy much agenda time, it was one of the hottest questions at the Nukualofa Forum.

Said one delegation member, "There was a feeling of suspense—almost tension—and everyone was wondering what the outcome of the Banaban mission would be".

The Banabans' representatives, above all else, were conscious of the need to tread quietly and with care. They did not go to Nukualofa to brashly blare out their message. The 'intensive lobbying' was conducted quietly—and with respect. For that is the way of the Pacific.

Tongans want more MPs

Tonga's Legislative Assembly considers it should have more members. The assembly in a motion responding to the Address from the Throne opening the latest session of parliament, sought an amendment to the constitution to increase the number of members because of population growth and other matters.

Masao Paasi, Vavau People's representative, said there were seven representatives of the people in 1911 when the population was only 20,000. There were still only seven people's representatives, with the population close to 100,000.

The Hon Luani said that in 1875 the House consisted only of noble representatives. Later seven cabinet ministers and seven representatives of the people were added. A few years ago the number of ministers was increased to eight. It was time to consider increasing representation for both nobles and people.

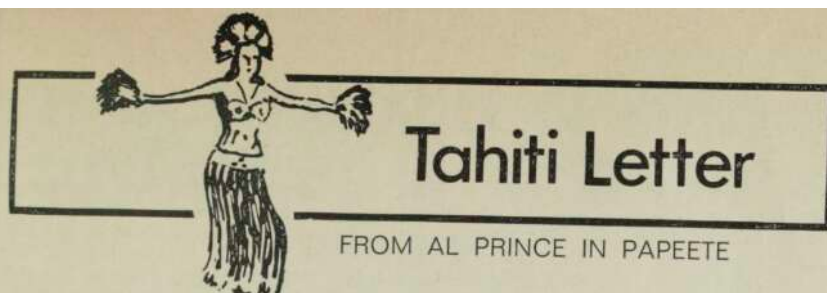
The House carried the motion by 15 votes to two. The "antis" were the Acting Minister of Finance, I. Sione Tapa, and the Hon Havu Tu'ihanga, Haapai Nobles representative.

In future, a prayer may be said before the King gives his Address from the Throne at the opening session. The assembly debated for two hours, before carrying by 15 votes to six, a motion asking that the request for a prayer be sent to His Majesty-in-Council.

The Hon Luani, No 1 Noble Representative, Vavau, moving the motion, said it seemed the House was neglecting the religious side and the implications of the motto, "God and Tonga are my inheritance". Police Minister, the Hon 'Akau'ola, in principle in favour of the motion, said the Legislative Assembly regulations would have to be amended and anyway there was no official pastor to say the prayer.

There were now 14 denominations in Tonga. If the House saw fit to select from three or four churches what would the other churches say? And if all 14 denominations were used, it would take a whole day to open parliament.

The Hon Ma'afa was unconcerned who would say the prayer; the reason for a prayer was to seek divine guidance and inspiration so that members could carry out their obligations to the best of their abilities.



A scientific bang and a political whimper

FRANCE'S first nuclear test of the year went off with a scientific bang, a positive fallout, a political whimper and an historical footnote. The "bang" was the explosion itself, France's first underground nuclear test, which occurred on June 5 at the remote French Polynesia atoll of Fangataufa, 800 miles southeast of Tahiti.

The "positive fallout" was France's almost immediate eagerness to announce the test's success. The "political whimper" was the half-hearted, for-the-record protests from other countries, notably Australia and New Zealand. And the historical footnote came 12 days later when one of the most dramatic protesters in the history of French nuclear testing—David McTaggart of the 1973 protesting yacht *Greenpeace-3*—won his suit against the French Navy.

Then, when there was almost nothing more to say about the test, a Paris correspondent for *Le Journal de Tahiti* interviewed well-known volcano expert Haroun Tazieff, who had come here prior to the test at the invitation of French test officials to examine the Fangataufa atoll. Although Tazieff said he is opposed to all such tests, he endorsed the test site to the extent of saying that if he could choose the exact drilling place for the underground explosion he would not hesitate to put his house right over the blast site, as long as certain security measures were taken.

Asked if such security measures were taken at Fangataufa on June 5, Tazieff said, "I think so and I hope so. But I wasn't there at H-hour. It is impossible to confirm in the absence of control by an independent scientific organisation". Tazieff said he would certainly agree to be part of such an organisation if one were formed.

"In principle, I'm opposed to the continuation of such tests", he said. "But if these must continue, I wouldn't be better off hiding my face. If they can't be stopped, it would be much more useful to control them".

Thus, France entered the realm of underground nuclear testing in the South Pacific. As has occurred since the 1973 testing programme, Australia was the first to announce this year's initial blast. But France did not waste much time in ending its two-year news blackout on all tests as it announced in Paris four days later that it had opened a new chapter in nuclear testing. Instead of the traditional "no comment" following previous tests, French officials could hardly wait this time to express how pleased they were with the first underground explosion.

"It was a completely successful operation", one government spokesman said. This was expanded into details of how officials and technicians of the French Atomic Energy Commission returned to the atoll within hours after the explosion, finding "no radioactivity escaped from the explosion site".

ALTHOUGH France is still not a signatory to the nuclear test ban treaty, the lack of any serious international protest against this year's initial blast seemed to put France in the "good guy" nuclear club along with the United States and the Soviet Union, who signed the treaty banning atmospheric tests, but still conduct underground nuclear explosions.

In Tahiti, it was difficult to find any interest in the story to the world, but only carried a "news flash" of one sentence on page one two days after the test, quoting unidentified unofficial sources as saying an explosion had occurred. *Le Journal de Tahiti*, which in the past had always tried to beat *La Depeche* with a story of each test, later claimed it knew of this year's test at the same time as *La Depeche*. But *Le Journal* acted like it had not missed anything by not saying anything.

The local politicians, who normally condemn the tests, were off in Paris discussing the future of French Polynesia with French officials. Nevertheless, Tahiti's French National Assembly Deputy, Francis Sanford, held a press conference in Paris, calling the bomb "disgusting". Sanford said it was disgusting the way the French Government conducted this year's nuclear explosion at the very time when French Polynesia's elected officials were in Paris for negotiations with the government.

But even Sanford's comments sounded much the same as those of Australian, New Zealand, Japanese and other political leaders—protests for the record. There was one exception, however. Fiji officials, once the most vocal opponents of French nuclear testing, did not say a word. If they did, it never got to Tahiti or to the international news media.

Little wonder then that *Le Journal de Tahiti* decided to poke some fun at the tests, running next to its interview with the volcano expert a cartoon showing Tazieff's house and the surrounding land, coconut trees intact, being blown skyward by the explosion. Tazieff is shown saying, "Didn't I tell you that the atoll wouldn't split!"

BUT in Paris, David McTaggart, who almost lost an eye protesting French nuclear testing in the South Pacific in 1973, was not poking fun at anyone. For the rugged Canadian yachtsman, it was the beginning of the end of two years of litigation when the Paris Civil Tribunal ruled on June 17 that the French Navy was guilty, as charged by McTaggart, of ramming his ketch, *Greenpeace-3*, and that it must pay damages. A court-appointed assessor will determine the amount of damages to be paid by the French Navy.

McTaggart, however, has not finished his litigation. There was a second, related charge of piracy. But the court ruled itself incompetent, on the ground

that this is outside its jurisdiction, telling McTaggart that if he wants to pursue the matter he must apply to another French court, the Conseil d'Etat.

"They gave me a carrot", McTaggart told the International Herald Tribune over a mug of beer at a Paris sidewalk cafe the afternoon of the court's ruling. But he later conceded that the court's action might also be construed as half a loaf. As McTaggart sees it, the court's assent on the ramming charge was inevitable, and therefore winning this point is a comparatively minor victory. As far as he is concerned, the big, unresolved issue is the "piracy" charge—the boarding incident inside the Mururoa test zone area where McTaggart's Greenpeace-3 was boarded by French sailors who removed the ketch from the blast zone and beat him so severely that his sight was permanently damaged. (The French Navy contends that McTaggart hurt his eye when he fell during a scuffle with the boarding party.)

McTaggart's bitterness toward his own government, the Canadian, was apparent following the court's ruling. He contended, in fact, that the Ottawa government acted "in collusion" with the Paris government in ousting his 12-metre ketch from the nuclear testing zone. If there was no collusion, he said, "then why hasn't the Canadian Government protested vigorously to the French, as the Australian and New Zealand governments did?"

Looking to the future, McTaggart said he plans to

press his own case vigorously enough, this time "with Prime Minister Trudeau", and demand that the Canadian leader try a new approach—bypassing the French Foreign Ministry officials, whom he claims have a vested interest in the case and therefore cannot be trusted to follow an objective course.

Meanwhile, he said, the book he has written about the Greenpeace-3 episodes, which was published first in Canada, is now being translated into French, Spanish, Italian and German. With the proceeds of the book sales he hopes to be able to finance the next stage of litigation. If this proves insufficient, he said, his only alternative will be "to move to the level of skulduggery—for want of a better word—that's been used against me". McTaggart, 42, explained that he believes there is an international conspiracy to deceive the public about atomic weapons testing and that he is one of the victims of this conspiracy.

WORD reached Tahiti in June that the one-time French nuclear testing protest yacht Fri arrived in Tokyo with its peace mission aimed at convincing all the nuclear powers to stop all testing programmes. Upon arriving in Japan, the weathered Fri persuaded Japanese officials to help in overhauling the yacht. The next planned stop for the Fri is the People's Republic of China. There has been no word received here yet whether the Fri has been granted permission to enter China.

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IS THE DOMINANCE OF ROYAL SONS ENDING IN W SAMOA?

From FELISE VA'A in Pago Pago

Prime Minister Mataafa's death marks not only the end of an era of personal, political leadership, but probably also that of the dominance of the *Tama Aiga* (Royal Sons) in Western Samoan politics.

Since the office of prime minister was established in Western Samoa almost 16 years ago, Fiaame Mataafa was prime minister for 13 years, an achievement any leader in the South Pacific, or anywhere else in the world, would be proud of.

During his term of office, Western Samoa made rapid progress in the social, economic and political spheres and became more involved in regional and international affairs.

With him gone, the effects of his work, though not perfect by any means, are being felt and will long be felt for most of Western Samoa's current leaders are conservative to some degree and will probably be disinclined to make changes just for change's sake.

But the more important issue at the moment is how is Mataafa's death to affect the power struggle in Western Samoa? More specifically, what are the chances of a non-Tama Aiga for the position of prime minister?

These questions are hard to answer but a consideration of the status quo of the Tama Aiga may help clarify the matter. In Western Samoa, there

are four Tama Aiga, each representing one of the four royal families of Western Samoa. They are Malietoa, Mataafa, Tamasese and Tuimalealiifano; personal names, not titular ones.

Malietoa is Head of State and has been since 1962. He will hold this position for life after which the position will be subject to election by the legislative assembly and the term will be limited to five years.

So, as things stand, Malietoa is not likely to be a candidate for prime minister. If he dies, there is no knowing at this stage who will succeed to his title. His sons, such as Laupepa and Moli, are strong contenders for the title but other relatives are also likely to have strong claims. Whatever happens, it will be up to the members of the Royal Family of Malietoa (*Sa Malietoa*) to make the final decision.

Mataafa has just passed away and no doubt the Royal Family of Mataafa will soon be meeting to consider the various candidates for the title. Whether the next Mataafa will be Naomi, the late Mataafa's daughter, or some unknown is hard to say. Again, the final decision will come from the members of the Royal Family, those whose business it is to bestow the title.

Tamasese, who was sworn in as prime minister only hours after Mataafa died, is in a relatively strong position. He has, so to speak, inherited Mataafa's political empire. But he is reported to be a sick man.

The late Tuimalealiifano died late last year and it is reported that there was a deep division within the Royal Family in the election of a successor. It appears that the division has been settled but so far, the writer is not aware as to whether the title has been bestowed.

That is the picture, though a very faint one, of the Tama Aiga at the moment. In any future election for a prime minister, Tamasese will be the Tama Aiga with the best chances of being elected.

Malietoa is not likely to leave his present position and any successors to the Mataafa and Tuimalealiifano titles will most probably be newcomers to the political scene and inexperienced in the affairs of state.

Thus, a future Mataafa or Tuimalealiifano is not expected to be a



Tupuola Efi . . . not the only likely choice.

strong contender for prime minister.

Based on these assumptions, the future is very ripe for a member of parliament, other than a Tama Aiga, to become prime minister. Into this category will fall the so-called present Leader of the Opposition, Tupuola Efi.

But Tupuola is not the only likely choice. One can name others who have distinguished themselves in government administration, such as Lauofo Meti, Aumua Ioane and possibly Faimaala Taulapapa and Leota Pita. If the Masiufo Fetaui Mataafa gets into parliament, she could also be a strong contender. And there may be others too. All of them will now have a good chance of being the next prime minister.

There are some people in Western Samoa who openly prophesy that Tupuola Efi will be the next prime minister. No doubt Tupuola is perhaps the strongest non-Tama Aiga candidate. However, he has in Tupua Tamasese, the present Prime Minister, an opponent of high calibre, of proven accomplishment, and of considerable power. For Tamasese not only has a following of his own, he is also likely to draw to himself the Mataafa supporters. This combination may be just too much for Tupuola.

But whatever happens, it is not likely that there will be any immediate drastic changes in the government and it can be stated for sure that never was a time so ripe for a non-Tama Aiga to be the next prime minister.

Writing from Apia, Peter Plowman, a veteran in the Samoan political field, puts his money on Tamasese for prime minister in next year's elections, pointing out that, although the legality of the action of the Head of State in swearing in Tupua Tamasese as Prime Minister

Continued on p 73



Tupuua Tamasese . . . in a relatively strong position.

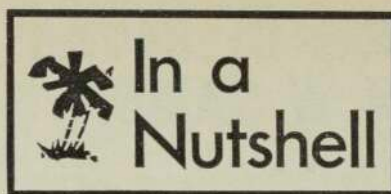
PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY—AUGUST, 1975

CRIME-WAVE

Housebreakings in Port Moresby are now running at the rate of 2,800 a year, a magistrate, Mr M. L. Mackellar, told a crime prevention seminar in Port Moresby in July. He described the figure as "incredible" in a city with a population of less than 100,000. Mr Mackellar said that 90 per cent of Port Moresby burglaries appeared to involve the selective theft of food, drink, clothing and money. The records showed that the only tools necessary for most breakings were pocket knives or even stones. "While houses continue to be built in this breezy old-fashioned north Queensland manner, they must continue to remain attractive to burglars", Mr Mackellar said.

'STICKY BEAK' SHOT

A 69-year-old Australian woman received an arrow wound in the ankle when she was caught between warring tribesmen in the Highlands on July 9. The woman, who wouldn't give her name but said she was a PNG resident, said she had been one of several whites who were "sticky beaking" at a tribal compensation ceremony which erupted into a fight on the banks of the Chimbu River near Kundiawa. "I guess I just got



in the way—no one really meant to shoot at me", she said. The incident prompted police to issue a warning to tourists and white residents who try to get close to "delicate tribal situations". "If you must have a look keep right out of the way and use a pair of binoculars" said Inspector John Monk of the Chimbu police district. Later, the tribesmen called a truce.

COOKS TRAGEDY

John Bridgart, 29, assistant secretary to the Premier of the Cook Islands, Sir Albert Henry, failed to return from a night fishing trip off Rarotonga recently. He went alone. Later his canoe, containing a torch and other fishing gear, was found, damaged, on a reef near the entrance to Avarua Harbour. A search lasting several days was negative. Mr Bridgart was married, and had four children.

PIG MASSACRE

Kusaie Island in the Carolines, will soon be pigless. Every pig will be killed in a determined effort to eradicate hog cholera disease, which had accounted for more than 120 pigs by the beginning of July. Experts expect they would complete the eradication programme in two to four weeks after which 1,000 young pigs would be shipped in from California as replacements. Dr Larry Dean, the Trust Territory veterinarian said it was suspected that the hog cholera virus could survive in frozen pork for one to two years.

SAMOA SACKING

Dr Fanaafi M. Larkin, former Director of Education in Western Samoa, has been dismissed by the Public Service Commission following a commission inquiry into her alleged adulterous association with Leota Pita, a Member of Parliament.

Asked if such liaisons were against the public service regulations, the commission chairman, Mr Faamatuainu Tala Mailei, said such conduct was unbecoming of a person holding the post of a director. The regulations were quite clear about the conduct of an officer in relation to the good name of the service.



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The Editor's Mailbag

LEO HANNETT

This is not a case of the early bird eating the early worm, as I refer you to your February publication. In it an article by Denis Fisk "Blood is much thicker than copper say the Shortland folk" (PIM, Feb, p 7) has been drawn to my attention.

Mr Fisk's statement regarding Leo Hannett is patently inaccurate. Very little of Mr Hannett's time in Honiara was spent as a genuine researcher, at least from an academic viewpoint. Mr Hannett joined The East West Center Project to the Western Coast of Guadalcanal in 1972, but after a few weeks in his field site at Marau Sound went back to Honiara to read council minutes and attend a session of that council.

The next the members of the Project heard, Mr Hannett had found Bougainville more attractive and had left the British Solomons.

To the best of my knowledge Mr Hannett made no attempt to contact either the project leaders or other members after his departure from Honiara, despite letters sent to him including those accompanying his personal effects which had to be sent on to him from Marau and Honiara.

Let us not create any more myths concerning Melanesians. Individuals such as Mr Hannett doubtless have good reasons for their actions. But for the record, let us not try to have it both ways. Politics in Bougainville were more important than research in Marau Sound, Guadalcanal.

Mr Hannett chose the former and did not complete either his planned research for the East-West Center Project or his Master's degree at the University of Hawaii.

A. J. BENNETT.

Research School
of Pacific Studies,
ANU, Canberra.

BANABANS v GILBERTESE

Having just caught up with some recent PIMs, I'm concerned to see the fuss and hullabaloo the 2,000 Banabans have created in their determination to gain ownership of the remaining Ocean Island phosphate estimated at \$60 million.

With a public relations team and

expert legal counsel (all no doubt getting whacking great fees and marvellous publicity) and even Australia's Dr Cairns putting his oar in on the Banabans' behalf, no wonder the 50,000 Gilbertese on their coral atolls, whose economy, to date, has rested heavily on the income from Ocean's phosphate, are feeling the impending chill winds of poverty and a setback to their independence aspirations.

From their new home on Rabi Island in the Fiji Group—a fertile, potentially productive island—it wasn't homesickness for Ocean Island that got the Banabans calling for a return to "Home, Sweet Home", but sheer envy of the other great phosphate island in the Pacific—Nauru Island—160 miles distant from Ocean.

In the 60s the Nauruans were becoming wealthy. Cars, motorbikes and every modern mechanical, electric gadget could be found in any fibro-cement Nauruan home. If you had enough money or you could get it from someone who had, you didn't work.

The Banabans, although receiving royalty from Ocean's phosphate, had to share this with the Gilbert Islands into which group it had always been accepted they belonged. Since their move to Rabi they still received these royalties, but after the Nauruan successes at the United Nations forum the Banabans decided to make their play.

Backed by powerful friends and with Nauru's President Hammer DeRoburt, himself a Banaban by birth with a personal stake in Ocean's phosphate and who initially offered to fight the Banaban's cause after the Nauruan successes, the Gilbertese could well feel that the odds were stacked against them.

Ocean Island has two years to go before being thoroughly worked of all its phosphate. Great areas of this tiny island will have been denuded of topsoil, and deep crevices between the coral pinnacles, from which the phosphate was quarried, will remain. The island has no permanent water supply, is subject to extreme drought conditions, has no fertile soil for growing things (all food being imported), no employment opportunities once the Phosphate Commission

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moves out, and yet the Banabans with a marked disinclination to make a go of it on Rabi, are telling the world that it is to these bones of an island that they wish to return.

If it hadn't been for the cheap (by Western standards) and ready availability of Gilbertese labour, neither of the huge sums accruing from phosphate on Nauru or Ocean Island would have been possible.

And it might be remembered at this stage that it was the Gilbertese workers who were massacred on Ocean Island by the Japanese at the end of the last war. They've given their blood as well as their sweat in the cause of phosphate.

The Gilbertese need all the advocates they can get if they are not to be driven into real hardship through loss of phosphate revenue.

ANON

● Name and address supplied.

NIUE'S BURIAL CAVES

I was rather amused to see Fetau-laku Siale's letter (PIM, June, p 29). While the writer's plea for the protection of burial places on Niue is commendable and one with which I heartily concur, I fear he is both ignorant and ill-informed in regard to the actual situation.

For both Mr Siale's information and for the sake of other readers who may have been misled by the published statements, I would like to point out firstly that the photograph in the March PIM was posed by the photographer to provide a "human interest" illustration. The archaeological survey was carried out at the invitation of the Government of Niue and with funds provided by them.

Because no previous study had been made of ancient Niuean burial customs, this aspect comprised a major part of the survey; yet no cave was entered without the owner's permission, and usually only in his presence. Contrary to your correspondent's assertion, a vast amount remains to be learnt about the prehistoric people of Niue; virtually no study has yet been made of their skeletal remains, and this is the first time that the burial caves and other prehistoric sites have been scientifically recorded, let alone studied. About 60 per cent of my work was on the burial caves and this is reflected in my report to the Government.

One of the main outcomes of the survey is the recommendation that, where possible, sites be afforded greater protection against any form of "interference". Incidentally, the survey was carried out by Niueans

under my direction; the two USP students were there to gain experience in field archaeology. My work was greatly facilitated by the friendliness, hospitality and co-operation of the people of Niue, and there was never any suggestion that the study was in any way disrespectful to the remains of the dead.

Finally, I would like to point out to Mr Siale that if he is ever asked by the Government of New Zealand to study burials in a Christchurch cemetery, and he obtains the necessary permission from authorities and relatives, he will be perfectly entitled to do so. In fact, graveyards in New Zealand have on a number of occasions been dug up merely in the name of progress to make way for housing developments and new roadways.

MICHAEL M. TROTTER.
Christchurch, NZ.

My attention has been drawn to Fetaulaku Siale's letter (PIM, June, p 29). I haven't seen the photograph to which he objects, but suspect it to be one of those unfortunate illustrations with which the media like to titillate their audience, and which the serious worker in this sensitive field has to try to avoid when his work is being publicised. I can't imagine anyone more concerned with controlled field research and further removed from idle curiosity than Michael Trotter.

Mr Siale's general sentiments on the protection of burial places are of course completely right. But he is not correct on what is known and what is yet to be learned. To alter his words slightly: there is virtually **everything** yet to be learned, archaeologically, from human remains today in the Western Pacific. It would be most unfortunate if controlled field research were to be hampered by a belief to the contrary. We have very few answers. We are largely ignorant of many aspects of stature and body form, of health and disease, and even of the relationships to other peoples within the Pacific.

I suppose the real reason there is more interest in burial material from the Pacific than from the Canterbury churchyard Mr Siale mentions, is that the latter is historic, and we do now a great deal about the people buried there, their society and their me. Yet, somewhat ironically, I have just been asked today to examine material from a Canterbury *akeha* burial ground of the 1890s, which is now to be used for other purposes. Even here we will learn something.

In this sensitive field it would be

unfortunate if widespread objection to controlled field research arose. I hope it will be possible to continue such work in a scientific manner, respecting the dead, and with the approval and understanding of their descendants.

PHILIP HOUGHTON.
Lecturer in Anatomy,
University of Otago,
Dunedin, NZ.

ARTIST'S APPEAL

I am a Maori artist living in Australia. I wish to reach as many South Pacific artists, writers, poets, musicians, photographers, carvers and sculptors, who are interested in forming a group to promote a South Pacific Arts Festival either on an annual or biennial basis. A different South Pacific nation to play host each year—and all South Pacific governments to be asked to either foot the bill or award substantial travel and accommodation grants to participants.

In an over-westernised environment, there is a growing need for creative people living in isolated and far-flung places in the South Pacific to get together every so often and exchange ideas, renew aesthetic values, come to terms with present trends and above all understand our changing conditions and why certain things are happening around us.

Creative people make a major contribution to the community and the image of their country and in the South Pacific we have our own unique quality which is changing in

the face of Westernisation and the mighty dollar—and I feel there is a great need for us to do something constructive in seeking to strengthen old relationships, forge new ones and create our own shop-window of the South Pacific for at least the duration of a cultural festival.

I would certainly like to see work of New Hebridean artists, listen to poetry by Fijian poets, drama by a Noumean dramatist and I know there are hundreds of others who feel the same way. And hundreds more who've never travelled far from their community and would never leave their shores unless given a push.

A cultural festival could not take place without government support and finance and such a venture, well presented, would be a boon to any tourist department. So to this end, I am seeking the views of "working" creative folk in the South Pacific and any interested parties who can lend moral and vocal support to such an eventuality.

By South Pacific participants, I mean, Polynesian, Micronesian, Melanesian, Aborigine. There is such a great need for unity among mankind today; this small cultural gesture could be one small step in the right direction.

I am already corresponding with something like 60 people all over the Pacific and various governments who are formally disposed towards such an event.

MRS E. P. FINNEY.
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Letters continued on p 21

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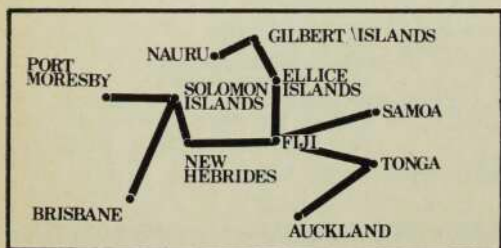
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PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY—AUGUST, 1975

Letters

IN PRAISE OF PIM

I'd like to shout from all house-tops everywhere, how much I appreciate and anticipate each issue of Pacific Islands Monthly. I do read a lot—but this is my favourite publication.

Queen Emma, Day That I Have loved—and others, have become a part of me! MANA is my first reading each month. The short tales, the poetry, the items are a delight. The information in New Creations From the Sepik excites me beyond description. As an art teacher I visited the Sepik and Chambri Lake area two years ago—and was heartsick to realise the remarkable creativity was slipping away.

My every good wish to Mrs Denett that she can and will hold fast to this remarkable culture. The artist Simon Norep is to be highly congratulated on his fine work. I sincerely hope the young folk find inspiration in such fine aid—my hat's off to Simon Norep. I do hope more of his work can again be seen.

And to your Editor—Mr Inder—may you publish for many, many, many years! Congrats.

ELLYN A. GREYWITT.
San Francisco, USA.

FRANCE'S 'QUIET' THREATS

Re Mr Grocott's letter (PIM, June, p 26). I agree about condemnation of atomic tests, and, even five years ago, led petitions of protest in the Cairns area, as (1) A French-born Australian, and as (2) Husband of a Melanesian woman (West New Britain).

However, before opposing "French Colonial System" white Australians and New Zealanders should meditate about their treatment of Maoris and Aborigines.

Well Mr Grocott at PNG University, what about former "colonisation" of Baining by Tolais?

Finally, as a lecturer in history, Mr Grocott committed the error (PIM, Feb, p 71) in calling Galapagos Islands a "Colonial outpost". I visited the islands in 1948 and observed that they are part of the public of Ecuador, and historically never an autochthonous population (a basic condition for "colonisation").

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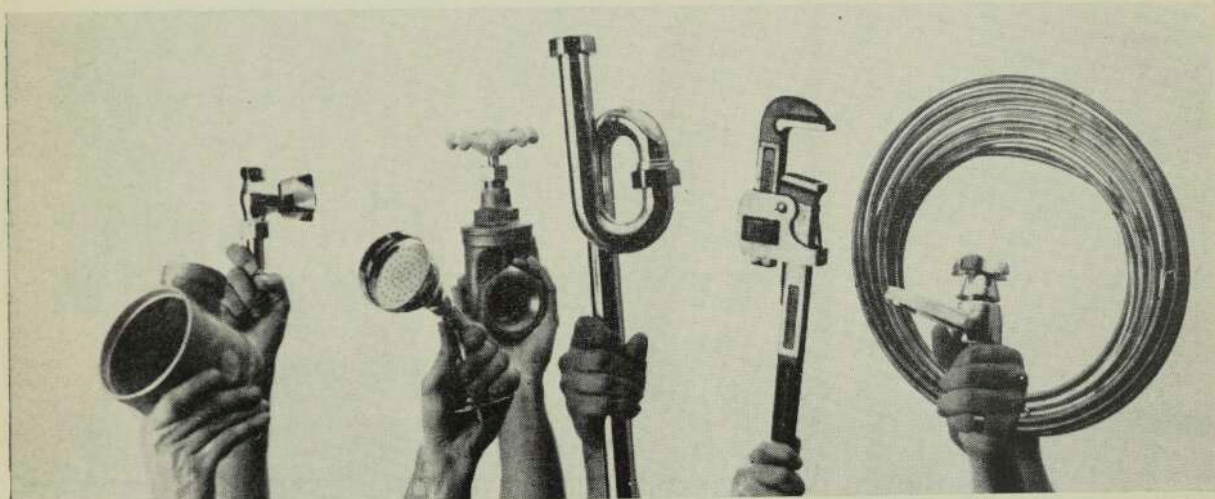
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Tropicalities

Innocents abroad

New South Wales poker machines and "King's Cross hospitality" are a trap for young New Guineans training in Australia, Australian government officials believe.

So Australia has issued a book explaining the dangers of poker machines, expatiating, too, in somewhat roundabout terms, on what is described as "relations with the other sex" in Australia.

Two officials touring Papua New Guinea told of Australia's concern at the ever-present possibility that incidents could occur involving trainees from overseas.

The comments were made by the deputy head of students in the Australian Development Assistance Agency, Mr Fred Lussick, and the first secretary of development assistance in the Australian Government Office, Port Moresby, Mr Bill Shippley.

Mr Lussick, visiting PNG to recommend ways in which the Australian Office in Port Moresby could brief New Guinean trainees on their way to Australia, said Australia was anxious to develop an effective system of pre-training briefings. Many students arrived in Australia with ideas which were "not completely realistic".

This meant they were not always properly equipped to cope with situations which could arise, and there were many ways in which they could come to grief.

"For instance they can't go anywhere without coming face to face with poker machines," Mr Lussick said.

He explained that some trainees could easily be "conned".

"It can happen in King's Cross, for example—and not just by men," he said.

The booklet, which Australia is distributing to trainees, says, "Informality is the keynote in relations

between young men and women in Australia.

"Friendships exist which need not be based on love or the intention to marry."

Mr Lussick said that racist incidents were not common, but, when they were alleged to have occurred, they were taken very seriously by the government.

If an incident occurred it was taken up by the Prime Minister's office, and also taken to the State Premier concerned.

Mr Lussick said, "But it doesn't happen often. Most Australians think of New Guineans as a bit special".

Our father—at the White House

Yap Senator John A. Mangefel, nominated Man of the Year by the Congress of Micronesia last February, has re-written the Lord's Prayer.

He suggested that prayer was the best medium for solving the territory's financial problems when he spoke at the late June session of the Congress of Micronesia.

In seeking solutions to problems



Senator John Mangefel . . . a new Lord's Prayer.

such as the world shortage of gasoline, ping pong balls, toilet paper and other life essentials, the senator suggested "We must consult with that higher administering authority and his words as promulgated in that ethereal order, the Good Book".

But, it was obvious the senator was addressing the Deity at the White House. His version of the Lord's Prayer, which, he said, should be recited before important meetings such as the High Commissioner's Cabinet, the Congress of Micronesia and the US Congress, went like this:

Our Fathers, who are in Washington, hallowed be the funds; thy authorisations come; the appropriations be done, in Saipan as they are in the President's budget office. Give us this day our quarterly allotment, and forgive us our over-runs, as we forgive our deficits. And lead us not into dependence, but deliver us from inflation. So ours will be the territory, and the power, and the fiscal authority, forever.

Snail hunt on Guam

If any New Caledonian athletes miss out on the medals expected of them in Guam, there will probably be quite a valid excuse. The Caledonians will have more than sport on their mind at the South Pacific Games since they have been preparing for nocturnal sorties of a special kind.

The Caledonians will no doubt be searching for special trophies, prize animals if you like, in the form of *Euglandia rosea*, whose pinkish-brown conical-shaped shell measures approx 5 cm (2 in.). This cannibal nocturnal snail is in keen demand back home in Noumea to help wage war against another recent import, the Giant African snail (*Achatina fulica*).

The African giant, although a delightful dish for French snail-gourmets, is, nevertheless, depriving the Caledonians of their lettuce and other green vegetables upon which it feeds. It is only in the last few years that



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This pest has been introduced to French Polynesia, New Caledonia and the New Hebrides, after reaching Papua New Guinea. Before that it was deliberately imported into Japan to be reared for the dinner table.

The snail thrives in sub-tropical conditions, spreading easily through 10mm-diameter eggs laid in clusters of about 100.

The Noumea press has suggested that Caledonian athletes in Guam might collect the local specimens of the cannibal snail, which is also found in Hawaii. Carefully wrapped in paper to avoid breaking the shell, the snails should be popped into a box to be handed over to quarantine authorities at Tontouta airport on their return home.

Other territories sharing the Caledonian problem might be interested to join the snail-hunting in Guam. In fact, if only the Games Council had been sufficiently prepared, extra medals could perhaps have been allotted for this novel sport.

Wrong colour is right colour

A Fiji twopenny stamp, printed between 1878 and 1900 in the wrong colour, was sold recently in London for \$3,850. It was an unused stamp, and part of a collection owned by Sir Lacon Threlford, an accountant.

Sir Lacon has a collection of Fiji and Tongan stamps, said to be one of the most comprehensive in the world, and worth about \$40,000. The stamp was printed in a faded blue colour instead of the proper yellow-green and blue-green combinations.

A leading London dealer said there were not many rare Fiji stamps about.

Old treasures for museum

The United Church in Papua New Guinea has given a large collection of Trobriand Island artefacts on loan to the PNG Art Gallery and Museum.

The 626 artefacts have been collected over many years by the church in the Trobriand Islands and consist of objects which have been used in daily, ceremonial and Kula trade activities of the Trobriand people.

They include fishing gear, garden tools, weapons, artists' tools, splashboards and parts of canoes (splashboard, prows, bailers), ornaments including the very important



Some of the Trobriand treasures, splashboards of seagoing canoes called Lagim.

Kula ornaments, betelnut mortars, pots, food-trays, lime gourds and many more items from the Trobriand culture.

Several objects in the collection are very old and obviously made with traditional tools.

The collection will be kept by the National Museum until the Trobriand people establish a suitable museum or cultural centre in the Trobriand Islands to display the collection.

The museum director, Mr Geoffrey Mosuwadoga, accompanied by his assistant, Mr Dirk Smidt, flew to the Trobriand Islands to view the collection and select pieces for the museum.

Apart from the 626 pieces on loan from the United Church, the PNG Art Gallery and Museum also bought several hundred objects for its collection.

The total collection of about 1,000 pieces was flown to Port Moresby by special charter.

They will be on exhibition later this year.

Changing wine into water!

Liquor laws are always good for political debate, because there are always anomalies to talk about, and comparisons to be made.

During a recent debate in the Gil-

bert and Ellice Islands House of Assembly, the practice of serving drinks close to closing time at the Otintai Hotel was raised by Mr Bwebwetake Areieta, Minister of Communications, Works and Utilities.

He said drinkers were allowed to buy drinks five minutes before time, and when closing time arrived, someone came along, took the drinks away and poured them out. A way to overcome that had been devised. People, before the call of "time", and that included distinguished persons, poured their drinks into lemonade or orange cans and sipped away contentedly at an apparently innocent drink.

Now it's OHMS stamps

Besides placing in circulation in March sterling silver coins and a \$100 gold coin containing half an ounce of pure gold, the Cook Islands Government has introduced something else which is a little old-fashioned. They've changed the system of government departments using ordinary postage stamps and issued them with OHMS stamps which can be used for official purposes only.

OHMS stamps were previously used in Great Britain, and most of



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he empire, and "official" stamps were used in the United States and many other countries, but were gradually replaced when meter mail came into use, and the usage of mail could be controlled.

In the US, officials use an envelope which bears the legend "For Official Use Only" and a warning that if used on private matters it subjects the user to a penalty of several hundred dollars.

The Cooks OHMS stamps can't be used for private mail and their introduction means the tightening of fiscal controls. They are issued under strict controls to government departments and are not sold by the post office in mint condition.

Overseas philatelists, however, were allowed to buy them in sets but only in cancelled condition. When news of these stamps reached the international stamp market it attracted a tremendous amount of interest among philatelists—as did the gold coin among numismatists—and the number of orders sent in for the cancelled stamps was so large that the philatelic bureau had to ration them lest supplies were exhausted.

Slow ships, fast shells

Fiji's new naval squadron's decommissioned United States Navy minesweepers may only have a maximum speed of about 12 knots, but that will not help faster ships, engaged in illegal activities in Fiji waters, to get away.

The Fiji Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, remarked recently that he was quite unconcerned about the apparent slow speed—the missiles from the minesweepers would travel much faster than the 12 knots.

Ratu Sir Kamisese, no doubt,opes such situations will never e. He said the squadron would lp to police territorial waters, sist customs, fisheries and immigration officials, and engage in a wide nge of other work. It will work thin the overall framework of the ji Royal Military Forces. Captain an Brown, former commander of e old Fiji Royal Naval Volunteer ervice, and Colonel Paul Manueli, mmander of the RFMF, were in e United States in June, investigat- g crew training and refuelling the nesweepers.

There was no lack of volunteers ervice in the ships. There were ndreds of applicants, and only 62 e required. They included former

sailors, members of the Marine Department, school-leavers and students. Interviewers were unable to cope, and had to turn many away.

Captain Brown said the 62 men selected would go to Seattle for 2½ months of training, which would cover radar, electronics, sonar, gunnery and engineering. He was highly pleased with the standard of the applicants, and considered they would make excellent naval men.

Fishermen in the soup

Two Micronesian fishermen, fishing with Japanese-type long lines from a canoe off Parem Reef in Ponape District in late June, caught a large Leatherback turtle, the largest ever recorded in the area.

There were visions of almost unlimited supplies of turtle soup—until the fishermen discovered they'd broken the law. Leatherbacks, threatened with extinction—this one certainly was—are listed in the United States and in the Trust Territory as an "endangered species". What's more, the Trust Territory code prohibits the taking of any kind of turtle between June 1 and August 31 and between December 1 and January 31.

This one was over seven feet overall, with a carapace (the shell, for those who don't know) measuring 5½ feet and weighing 978 lb.

Burying the hatchet in PNG

They've got long memories in Papua New Guinea! Fifty years ago a villager from the Kumai clan in the Western Highlands was killed in a dispute over potatoes growing in a Niniga clan garden.

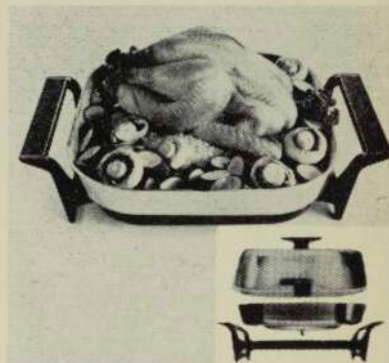
The Niniga people claimed that the man was caught stealing potatoes but, obviously, the Kumai people didn't think the potatoes were as valuable as a man's life and demanded compensation. The Niniga people paid compensation—500 pigs and traditional riches, but the Kumais weren't satisfied. They wanted more, and for half a century they've asked for more.

Now, there's a good chance that the Kumais have buried the hatchet, but it was a dear burial.

In June, more than 4,000 warriors, resplendent in traditional costume, met in a payment ceremony and the Ninigans handed over 200 pigs, four cassowaries and 2,000 kina.

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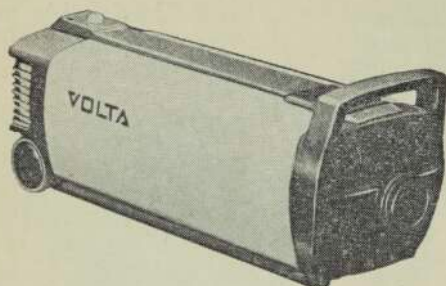
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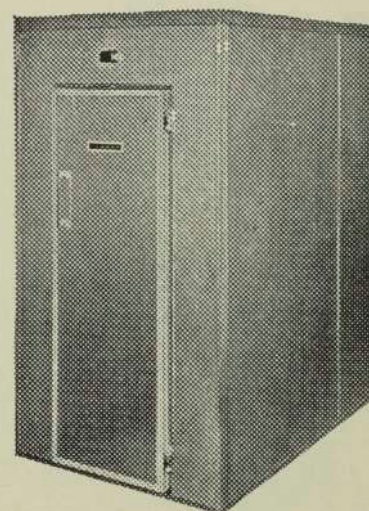
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Self-help and festival in the Trobriands

From KIRSTY POWELL
in Port Moresby

Kabisawali is a self-help movement in the Trobriand Islands, founded by Chief Nalubutau, but given new impetus when his nephew, John Kasaipwalova, returned home in 1972. Since then, a remarkable number of young, educated Trobriand Islanders have followed suit, throwing up university courses and other occupations in the cities, to return home and help the movement.

At the outset, Kabisawali activities were focused mainly on tourism and the sale of artefacts. These are still the prime money-making activities, but the movement has expanded in other directions, political, social, and cultural. It has largely taken over the functions of the Kiriwina Local Government Council; has helped stimulate something of a cultural revival, one sign of which is the new Sopi Arts Centre for the encouragement of carving and other arts.

And it has plans to improve water-supply, sanitation, and health in the villages—tourists who have searched for water for a drink or a wash could vouch for the need for improvement.

Recently, plans to set up a Kabisawali Bank, were announced. The opening—on Sunday, June 1—of the headquarters in which the bank is to be located, was an occasion for festival.

From early morning, people started streaming along the flat, coral roads of the island to the festival ground near Yalumugwa village, bearing food—yams up to five feet long carried in wooden frames; live pigs slung upside down on poles; tall, feathery clumps of sugar cane; big, bulbous taro; bunches of betel nuts, green and yellow.

Not even the fickle Trobriand rain, or the ubiquitous mud and slush could extinguish the excitement and fascination of the occasion. The food was displayed in tall racks at



A building such as the Trobriands have never seen before—the Kabisawali headquarters decorated with betel nuts in the windows and a large yam on display at the front.

one side of the dancing ground; sprays of betel nuts were hung in the windows of the new headquarters; a huge yam was displayed to one side of the entrance; and a live, black pig was slung on a pole in front of the door.

The headquarters is a building such as the Trobriand Islands have never seen before. Owing little to the decorated, rectangular styles of typical Trobriand houses, it is built in the style of a huge Chimbu round-house, about 60 ft in diameter and 40 ft high, with walls of pandanus matting and a thatched roof. It was still green on the day of the opening, for it had been built by Kabisawali supporters in a team effort over the previous three weeks.

Inside, the building is divided with pandanus walls into little dark offices and a shop, and in the very centre, a bank.

From all over Kiriwina and from some of the islands beyond people came, several thousand of them, dressed in their best—traditional or modern. Women wore gay grass skirts and protected them from rain and mud with drab, mud-spattered lap laps. The men wore lap lap, or Western trousers, or the spare, traditional Trobriand dress.

As protection from the rain, people used umbrellas, or pandanus hoods, or a large leaf plucked from a convenient tree. On arrival, they attended to the display of food, or made preparations for the feast or the dance. With great patience, the men decked each other with beautiful

white cockatoo feathers, putting the feathers into their big hair one by one to form a shimmering white ball surmounting the head.

The building was officially opened by Motuan Moi Avei, chairman of the National Cultural Council, who deputised for Chief Minister Michael Somare. He likened Kabisawali to the Hiri Association of the Motuans, and urged mutual friendship and goodwill.

Later, John Kasaipwalova compared the Hiri, the great Motuan trading expedition, to the Kula. They were cross-cultural gestures, like the round-house itself, that unlikely reminder of the New Guinea Highlands set on the meagre soil of a Papuan coral island—in front of which the red, black and yellow flag of united Papua New Guinea flew.

There was no doubting that it was a Trobriand Island occasion, however.

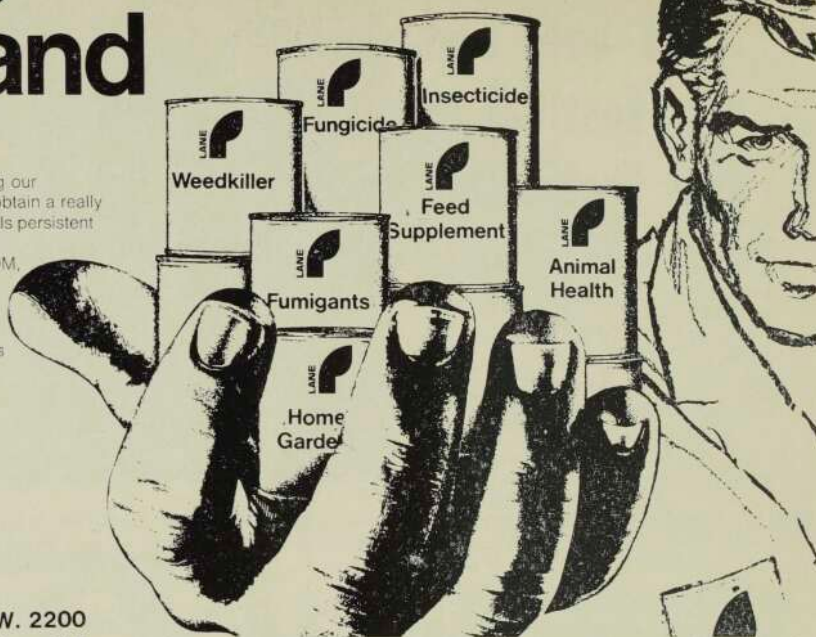
The ceremonial in which the chiefs played their unostentatiously important role, the ancient war chants, the speeches in Kiriwina language, the copious food with which guests were regaled, all came out of ancient Trobriand culture in its continuing state of change and adaptation.

And the climactic moment of the day was an essentially Trobriand one: the procession of chiefs, led by Tabalu chief, Pulitali, across the dancing ground to the bank, bearing in their hands the shining, axe-like stones of traditional Trobriand money, in token of their support for the new venture.

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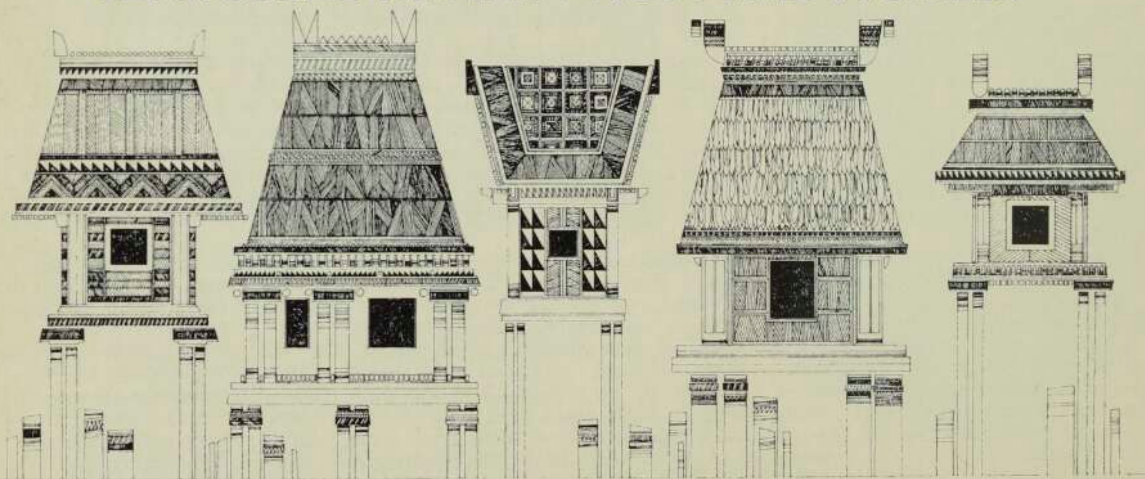
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TOK PISIN—A SIGN OF THE TIMES IN THE SOLOMONS AND PNG

By DENIS FISK

Pidgin as a national language is now receiving the same impetus in the Solomon Islands as it did in Papua New Guinea in the late 1960s, through its informal adoption as the language of the legislature.

In both places the change has come about with the confidence arising out of decolonisation, with the feeling of the local politicians that they are taking over power from the colonial motherland and the actual, announced progression to self-government with independence promised soon after.

Papua New Guinea is still to actually achieve its official independence five or six years after pidgin—with a little Motu, the other lingua franca, thrown in for Papuan pride—overcame the English that had been used officially in the House for so long.

I remember well the despairing efforts of people like Tei Abal from the Highlands, who was later to become Leader of the United Party, to learn this English that appeared to be the key to communication in government. His ability in pidgin was undoubted, yet he was supposed to speak in English so it could be translated back to pidgin and Motu through the earphones all the members could wear.

Such was the power the Australian administrators used, probably, not so much because of the sectional belief that pidgin was a "bastard" language but because not all the Australians in the House and serving it could speak or understand pidgin well enough. Since they were still making the big decisions, they had to know what was going on as well as they could.

Then the weight of numbers of the Highland members especially, who spoke pidgin to a man, overwhelmed the attempts to teach them the impossibly difficult English they were coached in at Konedobu.

Quite suddenly, pidgin became Pidgin. It stood up and was proud, because it was recognised as the only successful means of communication, a language which was reasonably easy to learn even if you did come from non-Pidgin speaking Papua. As well, it became a political weapon of those illiterate in English who were fed up with being underdogs.

Members such as the Western



Ebia Olewale . . . "Tok Pisin" they yelled at him.

Papua Member, Ebia Olewale, a fluent English-speaking teacher, lost their advantage. When they rose to use English they were yelled at, "Tok Pisin", and had to stumble through speeches of Pidginised English with their sophisticated grammar now out of sympathy with the times.

Melanesian grammar was triumphant. Anyone who continued to argue that you could not put legal English language precisely enough into Pidgin to be sure it would be understood properly was told it would work itself out. And it did, although there were a lot of problems.

Later on, the other nationalists, the Papuans, jumped on the bandwagon with their less-weighty numbers but just as good a claim to have a genuine lingua franca, and the translators were really working then to feed the bulk of members and officials and virtually all the press gallery.

In the Solomons, the time during which "Pisin" has taken over has been telescoped, just as has the progress to self-government, when compared with Papua New Guinea.

The need has not been there in nearly the same way in the Governing Council or the Legislative Assembly which took over last year. Virtually all Solomon Islander members could speak English, with the important exception of the new Leader of the Opposition Jonathan Fifi'i, and

a few who were not very comfortable in English.

But Pidgin had always been the medium of expressing any heartfelt sentiment, the medium of appeal or anger.

"Return alienated land to our land-hungry people" always sounded more convincing as a genuine sentiment rather than as, perhaps, a political hobby horse if roared in Pidgin across the echoing, appalling acoustics of the domed chamber that doubles as the High Court.

But, it was not until plans for self-government were accepted among the politicians late last year and this year that the same nationalism arose to almost banish English from the mouths of Solomon Islander MPs.

I remember last year in the House that a number of members had discovered the Oxford Book of Quotations, and their speeches during one meeting were liberally salted with quotes from famous English writers.

The affectation rather got to Honiara Member, Ashley Wickham, who despite his Australian secondary education, is quite nationalistic.

To set things right he devised a means of having read into the official record the words of the Solomons' best known Pidgin song "Wokabout long Chinatown" (pardon the dated spelling).

The change to pride in Pidgin has been set in concrete by this year's decision to broadcast live over Solomons Radio the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. There is little point in using English, plain or fancy, to preach to the Solomons. Even Pidgin is not known in all villages, and is used mainly by those men who have worked in other islands at some time or another to overcome the barriers of about 70 different languages among 180,000 people.

As New Zealand overseas service volunteer, Hugh Young, has just reminded people in a letter in the News Drum newspaper, the vast majority of women know nothing but their own language.

He, and others, hope the adoption of Pidgin by the Legislative Assembly members will encourage its spread. As he says in a language he has picked up in less than nine months, "Bikos olketa bikman i save iusim Pisin long Lejisletiv Assemblies, hem i olsem Pisin hem i nomoa

rabish lanuisei nao"—Now that the big men are using Pidgin, it is no longer denigrated.

He thinks they want Pidgin to spread, for the important reason that women should learn it to learn in turn to improve health and prevent illness, to make better food, and "plande samting moa".

It is not even two years since the first real effort was made to standardise the writing of a language which is spoken in a variety of ways according to local language variations.

It was the Christian Churches which got together a committee

which evolved a modest spelling book initially, and from that came various bible tracts, prayers and stories which have begun to spread the standard spelling, although not without some wayward examples.

The reasons for the use of English in the legislature in the Solomons were much as in Papua New Guinea—there were too many expatriates involved to allow Pidgin, despite some of them being expert speakers.

Certainly, though, the secretaries to departmental directors and other high officials who doubled as Hansard reporters during the legislature meetings could not cope with Pidgin.

Which leaves me wondering how the official report of debates is being kept now? The Solomons has not the money to spend as Papua New Guinea had to establish translation channels. Do the secretaries now take the Pidgin in shorthand? If they do, who translates it into an English book as it has traditionally been?

On the same subject, GUS SMALES writes from Port Moresby:

Melanesian Pidgin (or, if you like, pidgin English, neo-Melanesian or Tok Pisin) is on the up and up in Papua New Guinea. It's fast acquiring a new sort of status symbol, dictated largely by the growing spirit of nationalism.

English remains the official language of PNG by default rather than by edict, but the status of Pidgin is paradoxically rising despite the growing sophistication of politics and public life.

The Transport Minister, Mr Iambakey Okuk, bluntly told a white interviewer on radio that "If you want to discuss something properly with me, you had better learn Pidgin". That was from a man who speaks English, but who pointedly prefers Pidgin if he is not using his home language.

The three recognised languages of the House of Assembly are English, Pidgin and the widely-spread Motu.

But during the June debate on a Constitution for PNG, and despite the operation of a translation service, there have been several interjections of "Talk in Pidgin" when ministers attempted to explain points in English.

Of the 100 members in the House, 35 speak only Pidgin apart from their home languages. Most of the others are fluent in Pidgin and English, but the records show that the use of Pidgin in the House is increasing.

This has particularly followed the withdrawal from the House of Australia's officially-appointed representatives, with its overtones of territorial control.

A special society in Port Moresby—the Tok Pisin Society—exists to keep the language alive and current. Appalled by the efforts of some whites, who try to write Pidgin advertisements or public notices, it has offered its help free of charge.

On present indications the increasing use of Pidgin in high places is a side issue in the nationalism which is accompanying PNG's approach to independence.

In the next few years its use will probably tend to drop off again, but it still has a long, long life ahead of it as a link between far-flung communities in PNG.



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Magazine Section

IN-AT LAST! AND OUT AGAIN: A MAGIC MOMENT IN TONGA

By *PATRICIA LEDYARD MATHESON*

Twenty-six years ago, when I first came to Tonga, I had already read of Mariner's, the famous Vavau cave that can be reached only by diving. Naturally, I decided I must see it. I had heard, too, the oft-told tale of the young Tongan chief who, having fallen in love with a beautiful maiden of a family that was due for extermination in the civic broils of the time, spirited her away from danger and hid her for two weeks in the cave.

There he brought food and protestations of love to sustain the girl until he was able to prepare an expedition to Fiji. Then he picked her up enroute, married her, and, when the time of trouble had passed, brought her back to Vavau and lived happily ever after. My determination to get into the cave was strengthened by the romantic story.

My own romance thwarted me. My newly-married husband shook his sober Scots head and gave me a gruesome account of an officer from a copra ship who, while attempting to swim in, smashed into the coral at the top of the passage, cracked his skull and died.

"I wouldn't do that," I said, with all the courage of ignorance, but, when my husband spoke of the obvious fact that I had no skill whatsoever as a surface diver, and mentioned the eight-foot descent to the entry to the cave and the 14 feet of the passage in, I hesitated and in that hesitation fear was born.

The cave is miles down the harbour from my home, but that did not keep it from haunting me. As the years went by, humiliation was added to fear as hosts of people of every age and both sexes came to boast to me that they had been "in" and to give vivid descriptions of the place's eerie beauty.

The crowning humiliation came when—our daughters half-grown—my husband said one day, "Oh go in if you must and get it out of your

system". With so much agreement from him, I set out that very afternoon with visiting American yachtsmen, undaunted by the grey blustery weather that threatened to blow up a storm. As we left our home beach my husband bade us farewell and added sternly, "You mustn't let the girls attempt it today".

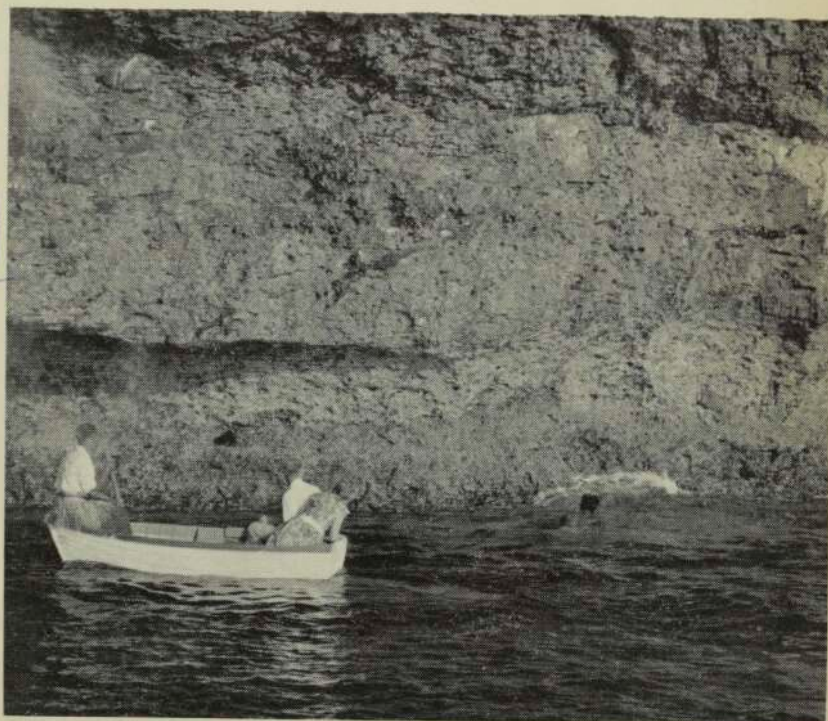
The warning was unnecessary. Long before we'd reached Nuapapu, the island on which the cave is located, one of them was violently seasick and the other was shivering with cold. It was, to say the least, an unpropitious day for diving.

By the time we reached our destination, the sea had risen so high that

we had to anchor far out lest the yacht be dashed against the island's sheer coral cliffs. Mrs Yacht took one look at the stormy world and said at once that she didn't feel up to trying it and would stay on board with the girls.

What could I do but follow Mr Yacht and the Tongan guide we'd brought along? I slipped over the side into the wild, grey waves and beat my way towards the forbidding-looking island. Long before I got there, I was winded and, when at last, I stood on the narrow ledge beside the cave's entrance, I was panting for breath.

The guide stood beside me and



... "That's where we go in".

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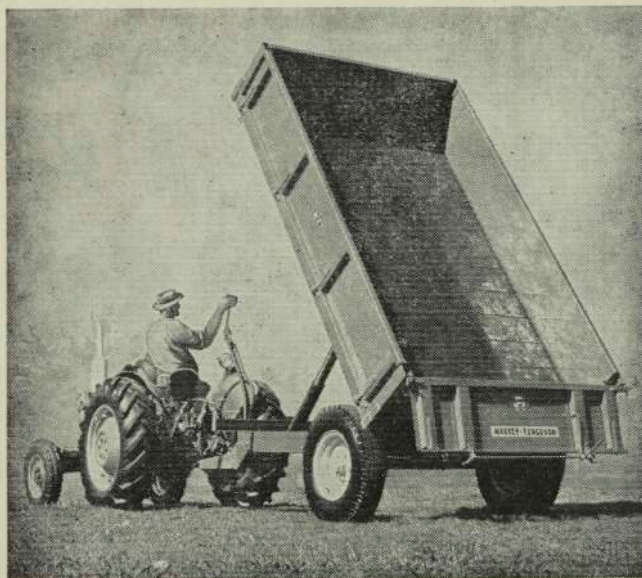
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seemed in no better state although he pointed authoritatively to a spot in the nearby sea. Mr Yacht nodded, flipped his feet into the air and disappeared from sight. Before long he was back shouting excitedly to the guide and me to follow him . . . and then he was gone again. I looked down at the sea and in the uniform greyness could see no spot that looked more like an opening than any other.

I thought of the girls on the boat, of my husband at home, of our happy life together, and saying to the guide "Go on. I can't", plunged into the sea and swam, defeated, back to the yacht.

All the way home the proud Mr Yacht regaled us with the ease with which he had glided into the cave and of the beauty he had found there and I—I felt as anyone feels who's had a chance to do the thing he wanted to do—and has muffed it.

And so the years sped by. My husband died and, full of new responsibility as head of our little family, I told myself and all my friends that I couldn't think of going into the cave "until the girls were through school". With my fears thus disguised as maternal virtue, I felt better than I ever had before about sitting in a boat watching other people go into the cave.

Last year, both my girls were through school and I was free to do any foolish thing I wanted to do, but time, meanwhile, had played its usual tricks. My rusty hair is almost white and any day I can hear the village children referring to me as "that old papalangi woman who lives on the beach". I told myself, not without a sense of relief, that for me the time of diving into caves had passed. I was too old for such antics. I accepted my defeat so gracefully and so finally that I wrote it into a chapter of a book and so, I thought, laid for all time the old ghost of my desire "to get in".

This year, my daughters are back in Tonga teaching in Nukualofa. They came home to Vavau for the May holidays and brought with them a houseful of their friends. The young people had read my book and knew of my long failure with the cave. One night we all sat in the living room discussing it.

Suddenly, in a lull in the conversation, Tom, a tall blond New Zealander, who has that most wonderful of all qualities, the ability to inspire confidence in his hearers, looked across the room at me and said, "I can take you into Mariner's".

As he spoke, my fears—and my years—dissolved. "Are you sure?" I



The Mathesons at Vavau, 1958.

asked. "Certainly," he smiled. For a few minutes I let myself believe him. Then I laughed and said, "That's not good enough, Tom. I'd have to come out again, too".

"I'll bring you out, too," he said and although he's not yet so old as my fears, I found myself believing him.

A few days later, my niece and her husband from England arrived and we decided to make up a small party to show them the harbour—just the two of them, my daughter, Tami, Tom and myself.

"We'll go to Nuku for snorkelling and a picnic lunch," I said, "then on to Mariner's". Tom looked at me and smiled.

May 14 was sunny and Nuku was as ever—a perfect gem of a tropical island. We lunched in the shelter on the white sand beach and after lunch we snorkelled, but the wonders of the submarine world did not, as they usually do, make me lose all sense of time. A feeling of urgency swept through me.

I took off my mask and went ashore explaining to our English visitors that I didn't want to get too tired before I went into the cave. They had been diving last year in the Mediterranean and remarked as casually as one chooses cakes at tea, that they'd probably go in, too.

When, however, we arrived at Nuapapu and stopped the engine before the grim grey cliffs and Tom, who had been in before, waved a careless hand toward one of them

and said, "Just there . . . that's where we go in," my relatives changed their minds and kindly volunteered to keep the boat afloat; so Tami, Tom and I got into the water and left them in command.

Tom decreed a practice period. "We'll swim under the boat," he said, and gave me time only to adjust my mask and take a deep breath before he grabbed my hand and down we went.

"Nothing to it!" he laughed as we surfaced 10 feet the other side of the boat. I laughed, too. Practice was fine, but it was not the real thing. Out of the corner of my eye I could see Tami impatiently circling the entrance waiting for us. Slowly I swam towards her and soon all three of us were treading water over the dark sapphire hole in the sea.

It was to be Tami's first time in, too, but she had been kept out by nothing more than parental restrictions. Going in was merely one more assertion of her new, grown-up status. As for me, I was rushing towards the object of my defeat with 26 years of accumulated fear clinging to me.

"Ready?" queried Tom. "No," I wanted to shout, but I swallowed the "No," fitted my mask as tight as I could, gulped in a massive lot of air and did what I imagined was a surface dive.

I'm sure it wasn't, but Tom had one firm hand on my middle pushing me down. The other I clung to with a vice-like grasp. I wanted to breathe. Coral and sea were a bluey-white blur beyond my mask. I wanted to breathe. I looked at Tom, arrow straight, swimming beside me. I had to breathe.

The sea rushed in on me. Choking through all my body, I resolutely shut my mouth—and my eyes, and moved through oblivion. Suddenly, I felt Tom shoving me upward. I opened my eyes. My head came up above the surface. Once more there was air to breathe. I gulped it greedily.

"You all right?" Tom shouted and I realised I had never let go of his hand.

"Yes, fine. Fine!" My ears were popping and my chest felt as if someone had broken it in two, but I felt reassured by the sight of Tami who came swimming up behind me in her leisurely, amphibious way.

I crawled onto a coral rock and sat on it while Tami and Tom bobbed in the water in front of me shouting congratulations. Only then did I feel secure enough to look about—but, I had waited too long.

A thick green fog filled the air, plunging everything into obscurity.

Then, as suddenly as it had come, it was gone and I was in a magic place—a large domed chamber, whose walls and ceiling seemed to have been sculpted of some rosy, lucent rock.

Directly across from me, beneath the watery floor was a heart-shaped opening through which I had just come and through which surged the sapphire, strange light that filled the place. And it was gone again. Gone in a swirl of green fog. The fog disappeared. I looked down at Tami and Tom who were making bubbles and marvelling at them as well I might for they were like no other bubbles—big, round sky-shining globes that broke into silver-edged pieces.

Tami pointed to the wall above her and I looked up to see the ledge where the maiden of the old story is said to have waited for the young chief. It faded in the fog, same back into view, faded and came back again like some fleeting, half-recaptured dream.

I wondered if the moonlight and the bright shine of the stars penetrated the cave at night and shuddered, thinking of the watery darkness of moonless nights.

What a stout heart that girl must have had, and I thought, with a sudden return to reality, after a fortnight in this place of fog that recurred every time the tide surged in, even her thoughts must have been wet.

But by then I was breathing more or less normally so I slipped back into the water and joined the bubble makers for a time before swimming leisurely about, passing from fog to brilliance and back again. When I had returned to the young people once again, I said, "I guess we'd better go out now".

Tom's smile flashed; he held out his hand as if he were offering to lead me in the grand march. I took it—and a deep breath and, "You came up like a cork out of a bottle" said my niece, minutes later when I was back in the boat.

Yes, I know, people go in and out of Mariner's Cave all the time and, as those who are given to belittling every experience say, "There's nothing to it", but for me there was something to overcoming 26 years of fears and failure.

Beyond that, there is the dream-bright memory of the blue beauty of that place which—along with everyone else who's been "in"—I shall treasure for the rest of my life.

So, I must say, thank you Tom, for taking me in—and for bringing me out.

Going to church in the Cooks

From G. K. CHAMBERS
at Rarotonga

Since the missionaries arrived in the Cook Islands over 130 years ago a great deal of importance has been attached to church-going and religion. You may be at a boxing tournament, a dance, a meeting at the airport, or an election meeting and you will be asked to join in prayer. Prayers asking for prowess in boxing, happiness at a dance, safe engines in the planes, success to the political party.

Religion is at the stage it must have been in England in the 1890s. The churches are very impressive, heavily - buttressed structures of coral. Usually stark white, they are surrounded by spreading flame trees and tipani bushes. The cemetery with the classic tombstone and figurehead is also found within the coral wall which surrounds the church grounds.

When the bell rings on Sundays at 6 am it signals the start of a number of services, the most popular of which is that at 10 o'clock. About 30 minutes or more before, families set out on the walk to the nearest church. There are six Cook Island Christian churches in Rarotonga alone.

The women, invariably, dress all in white, many with large white hats. Younger women and girls, however, are now dressing in other colours and not all wear hats. Shoes are optional.

Men dress in their 'Sunday Best'—often a dark, wide-lapelled, striped suit, complete with tie. Black shoes would complete the picture of a typical English gentleman, but the white sandshoes, usually without socks, tend to give a more Polynesian appearance.

Before the service proper, there is singing in the traditional manner. Women, in a rather high-pitched intonation, begin a phrase which the men very forcefully repeat. For the European who cannot understand the words, and

The Christian Church at Avarua, Rarotonga, described by the Earl of Pembroke (Puritans in the South Seas) as a "vile black and white abomination; paralyzing one of the most beautiful bits of scenery in the world".

for many of those who can, these *imene tuki* seem to continue for an inordinately long time.

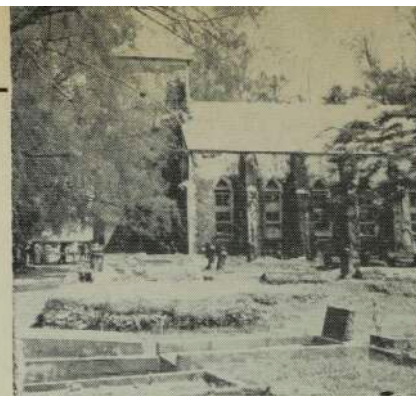
It is no wonder that the boys and girls who sit on separate sides of the church (upstairs in the Avarua church) begin to fidget and chatter at the 11.30 mark. If you can understand both English and Maori, as most of the younger generation can, then those services which translate into English for the benefit of the few *papa'a* who may be in the congregation must be something of a bore.

If you do go to a local service, however, you are generally made to feel very welcome and will probably be escorted right up to the front into the area reserved for visitors. Since this is on the side, you are in full view of the congregation, which can be rather disconcerting.

Only four main denominations are allowed in Rarotonga. The traditional London Missionary Society—now the Cook Islands Christian Church, the Seventh-day Adventists, the Latter Day Saints and the Roman Catholic Church.

There is considerable political interest in religion. The Cook Islands Party seems to aim at the older members of the community, and those "upright" members of the CICC. Premier Sir Albert Henry considers God is on his side, especially in his fight against what he calls the "corruption of the Papa'a and the Opposition Democratic Party", which is threatening his rule.

Yes, the Cook Islands are definitely church-going islands—Even if many consider they are not particularly Christian.



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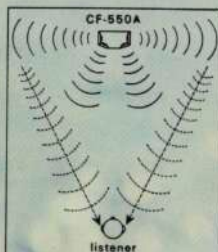
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PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY—AUGUST, 1975



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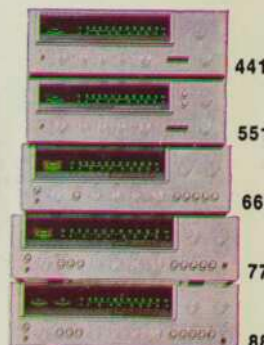
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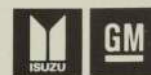
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The big shipping companies were starting to show interest in the Pacific, PIM reported in August, 1955. The chairman of the Orient Line said the frequency of the trans-Pacific service would be increased to six voyages a year in each direction (Sydney-American west coast ports of Vancouver and San Francisco) via Auckland, Suva and Honolulu. And the Matson Line announced that two 14,000-tonners would run on the California-Australia run in time for the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne in November.



Twenty years ago Lieutenant A. M. Andresen RNVR, (pictured) was awarded the United States Medal of Freedom for meritorious service against the Japanese. Lieut Andresen, who lived on Mandoliana Island in the Solomons was a coastwatcher on Ysabel.

Yesterday

Progress was in the air in Suva, in August, 1955, when Burns Philp (SS) Co announced a couple of what were rather ambitious building projects—Victoria Arcade, on the site of Donald's Hotel (blown down in the 1922 hurricane) and a new motor showroom, opposite the company's headquarters. Victoria Arcade, a fine building which surrounds a central courtyard, was the start of a building boom which slowly gathered pace in the 1950s, carried on to late 1973 early 1974 and made Suva the most developed (sic) capital in the islands.

There was concern in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and New Caledonia about increasing drunkenness, often involving serious crime. In Suva, drunkenness became so bad that the police banned any form of dancing in three Suva halls. The object was to encourage dance organisers, when dances were again allowed, to refuse admission to drunken people. New Caledonia capitalised on the demand for intoxicating liquor by imposing a five per cent tax on imported alcohol, excluding beer, wine and medicinal alcohol. The estimated revenue of 100,000 francs a year was to subsidise the price of seed potatoes.

British soldiers fighting communist terrorists in the Malayan jungles, were happy about the conduct of many islanders. One of them, in hospital in England before going back to Fiji, said the troops were rather tired of fighting for civilians who helped the enemy. He added: "The civilians who helped the terrorists and give them food. The terrorists are not good fighters."

"When we shoot at them, they just run". But look how that ability to "melt away" transformed the war in Vietnam!

Distinctive uniforms, similar to those available to district service staff in the old New Guinea Administration, should be worn by the staff of the Department of District Services, Mr Don Barrett, said at a meeting of the PNG Legislative Council. The officers of that department had a very grave responsibility, they had a dignity to uphold. They represented a service with a very fine tradition. Unfortunately, some officers of the public service dressed sloppily, and that was putting it mildly. Official dress is still something they're talking about in PNG—but with a lot more sense.

Tommy Grahamslaw, whose feats during World War II were described in PIM a few years ago, made public service mean something after Rabaul businessmen protested vigorously through the local press against the red tape of the Customs Department. They claimed this was slowly strangling the progress of the town, there was discourtesy, and cargoes were piling up in the customs sheds. Mr Grahamslaw, then Collector of Customs, made a quick trip to Rabaul and, during a stay of 1½ days, interviewed businessmen about their complaints. He also addressed the staff on its obligations to the public. After his departure there was an amazing transformation. No problem was too difficult for the clerical staff to solve, and gone were the days of petty, pin-pricking regulations that wasted manhours and energy. The staff said there was "no change at all", that the newspaper complaint had nothing to do with it, and Mr Grahamslaw's visit was a "routine annual visit".

About 1500 Javanese were left in New Caledonia after the July repatriation of 590, which marked the winding-up of the government-financed repatriation system. Javanese who wished to go home in future would have to do it at their own expense. A good many of the 1500 were born in New Caledonia and believed—apparently with good reason, PIM said—that they were better off there than in their ancestral homeland.

There were increasing complaints about the quality of the main products of Western Samoa—copra and cocoa. Compensation was paid to the UK Ministry of Food on several shipments of copra, and the local board was trying hard to tighten things up, even to the extent of exporting only copra that had been screened. The standard of the one-time high-quality cocoa bean slipped markedly, mainly because keen buyers were often willing to buy it before it was sufficiently fermented and dried.

The policy of employing Cook Islands labour at the Makatea phosphate workings was being reconsidered by the Government of French Polynesia. It appeared there was a surplus of Polynesian labour at Papeete. The Compagnie Francaise des Phosphates de l'Océanie was advised not to contract fresh Cook Islands labour till authorisation was received from the government. The scheme to supply Makatea with labour from the Cooks started during World War II, when there was a labour surplus in the Cooks. The money the men brought back was a welcome source of income to the outer islands in the Cooks.

India's representative in the United Nations Trusteeship Council did not go ahead with a campaign for UN criticism of Australia's administration of Nauru (UK, Australian and New Zealand trust territory). The council adopted a report which "noted with interest" the progress made at Nauru, and "with appreciation" that the search to find unpopulated and suitable areas where the Nauruans might be resettled was continuing. Australia was urged to pursue, with all possible vigour, the policy of fitting Nauruans to take more responsible positions in phosphate-winning. Approval was given to plans for developing farming and fishing. The Indian delegate, Mr Rikhi Jaipal, said India reserved the right to raise the subject of criticism at the next meeting of the UN General Assembly. It was left to the Nauruans themselves, headed by Chief (now President) Hammer DeRoburt, to really get a move on, "with all possible vigour".

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N4

From the Islands Press

7 days on Niue as the Tohi Tala Niue saw it:
day in the life of a Niuean. Steinlager, steinlager, the church and more steinlager, but now there isn't a drop to be bought at the Bond Store let alone steinlager, but there is one consolation, there's plenty of wine but how many Niueans have developed a taste for fermented grape juice . . .

From a letter by Mrs I. T. Moceletu, The Fiji Times:

When there is a garden party at Government House, people go to a lot of trouble and expense to get new clothes so they can look nice for the occasion. It is very disappointing when the party is cancelled at the last minute because of rain.

From a letter in the Tonga Chronicle by Mr Heinz Oster, of Hamburg, sent along with \$US100 as a donation to the Queen Salote Memorial Hall Fund:
I can't understand why Tongans need eight years to build a memorial hall for the unforgettable Queen Salote. I hope when I come to Tonga in January next year I will see more than Inca ruins . . .

From the masthead of The Norfolk Island News, newcomer welcomed on Norfolk Island:
The Norfolk Island News—Maybe the only newspaper in the world without a telephone.

From a speech by Fiji Minister of Finance Charles Stinson at the opening of a new shopping complex as reported in The Fiji Times:

It offered greater opportunity for young men and women than any other part of the world, the Minister of Finance, Charles Stinson, said at Lautoka on Saturday night . . . Stinson told about 700 guests, who attended the opening, that Fiji was a place for people who were prepared to work. "This is not a place for lazy people or people who cannot make up their minds whether they should go away or stay here", he said.

Debate on women's rights at the GEIC House of Assembly session, as reported by the Atoll Pioneer, introduced this from Mr Toalipi Lauti (Funafuti):
The said the Colony is overpopulated, so is the world and it is time we realised the importance of a control which can be effective if women are free to know they are the only ones who can do it.

From a letter on "Loose girls" by Semion Iputu, Fiji, in the Solomons News Drum:
I am quite surprised when I read Mr Basil Alec's letter "Pray for pros" . . . He was trying to change the behaviour of prostitutes "by praying" . . . I would have been on your side if your letter was written

a hundred years back when christianity was not yet in existence. But, today, these so-called "loose girls" are from religious families; therefore, I cannot see any reason why we should pray for them . . . I am doubtful whether our prayers will change the minds of prostitutes or will just make their organisations flourish . . .

From a caption in the PNG Post-Courier under a picture showing a large hole in the side wall of a flat in New Boroko Road, Gordon:

. . . A spokesman for Property and Accommodation, Department of the Interior, said yesterday the hole could have been left there deliberately. About K300 of furniture was missing too, the spokesman said. Mrs Luta Frank, who lives in the same block, said she was awakened by a bumping noise one morning at about 3 o'clock. "It was a shake; just like a bump. None of us saw it until later in the morning . . ."

Under The Fiji Times heading of "School students accused of champ racket":

Some secondary school students at Nausori (near Suva) were enrolling in different schools just to play for the champion soccer team, a school manager said yesterday. The manager of Vunimono High School, Mr Krishna Chaudhary, the Mayor of Nausori, told The Fiji Times he had discovered that a student from his school was one of them. Although the student was enrolled in his school, he was representing another school at soccer, he said. This same student switched to another school in Suva after his team lost. The student had joined three schools in the past three weeks, Mr Chaudhary said.

Dr A. H. Sarei, Bougainville's District Commissioner lets his hair down in a letter in the Arawa Bulletin replying to critics:

. . . Someone at Panguna has referred to my statement as a "lot of hot air from the Waste Digester". Others too called me such names as "bloody stupid bastard", "rubbish" and "wooden head". I wonder how many of such persons ever said a word of thanks to those who worked very hard to do anything they could to protect the people and their families at the mine during the riot. I bet the poor police got no thanks either . . . For the gentlemen who called me a "bastard" I wish to say I was born of a mother legally married to my father. For the person who called me "wooden head" and "stupid" I would like to point out my I.Q. has enabled me to go to one of the international universities in Europe for three years to study for my degree. I graduated with the second highest award from the university . . .

From a GEIC Atoll Pioneer report of the House of Assembly session:

Mr Ingitae Tobeba, of Tamana, initiated the adjournment topic about the upgrading of schools on the outer islands. He told the House about a degrading thing he witnessed on his home island when Mrs John Smith, wife of the Governor, was visiting Tamana. When she entered a classroom of senior pupils she greeted them, saying: "Good morning boys and girls" and the reply: "Good morning Sir". This, he said, reflected that there was still room for improvement in schools on outer islands.

mana



MANA is a vehicle for Pacific Islands' writers and artists to publish their work. It is an organ of the South Pacific Creative Arts Society and its editorial committee comprises writers from many islands.

Material for publication must be sent direct to MANA's editor, Marjorie Crocombe, South Pacific Creative Arts Society, Box 5083, Suva.

The four poems by Samoan poet Sano Malifa in this issue represent the talent of this writer who has spent some time in New Zealand, Hawaii and, now, in Washington (DC). He first wrote *Belching Flame* which was published in MANA. The South Pacific Creative Arts Society is publishing a book of Sano's poetry edited by Albert Wendt. Short story writer Satish Chandra is a Fiji teacher and Jane O'Neill, whose story, *Kindness* has its own reward, was highly commended in the Fiji Association of English Teachers' short story competition, is a student at St John's College, Cawaci, Ovalau, Fiji.

CHARLEY'S STORE

By SATISH CHANDRA

CHARLEY'S Store is like any other small village store found throughout Fiji. Situated at the intersection of King's Road and Wainikoro feeder road it is a concrete and iron construction. The shop is divided into three distinct sections. The large front room is for business, the shelves are always full of canned goods.

Parallel to the shelves is a long masonite board counter, and underneath this are kept bags of sharps, rice, dhal and all the other paraphernalia associated with a village dry goods store. Near the entrance are two huge built-in show cases displaying items ranging from breakfast crackers to flip-flops.

Sandwiched between the store and the living room is the bulk room which is always in partial darkness. This section is stacked with stock which cannot be accommodated in the front room. Apart from these there are bottles and even 44-gallon drums strewn all over the place. It has a very suffocating atmosphere. I once entered the room to serve myself a gallon of kerosene and I couldn't stay there even for a minute. The smell of kerosene and oil mingled with rotten potato odour can be very nauseating, particularly on a hot day. I once pointed this out to Charley, the owner. He gave his protruding belly a rhythmic pat and laughed and told me it was a good deterrent for undesirables.

The third and the last section of the structure is Charley's private quarters. An air of mystery hangs about this room. Very few people have been inside it. Once, while buying a couple of bottles of beer from the back entrance, I managed to peep inside the partially-open door.

I could glimpse only a pair of shapely legs before the door banged shut in my face. I was puzzled, for Charley is a bachelor.

The store sees hardly any business during the day. It is usually locked and if someone wants to buy something he has to knock on one of the windows. Charley works as a hotel barman during the day so his father Bhutto, his brother, Choro, looks after the shop during his absence. Sometimes one has to wait for quite a long time before one of them comes to serve you. Choro does quite a bit of other chores around the farm and old Bhutto sleeps under the mango tree, behind the store, most of the time. To wake him from his siesta is an eternal sin. If some inconsiderate person happens to wake him, he had better buy a lot of goods or else he has to put up with a volley of invectives. For this reason many village youngsters think twice before venturing to buy a few cents worth of sweets. So the day passes on.

THE evenings, on the other hand, are very busy. The business is very brisk, and the store is full of hustling and bustling people. Though it is an Indian-owned shop it gets Fijian customers as well. The reason, I suppose, is that there are three *koros* not too far away from the store. From five to seven the shop is so crowded that the father and the two sons have to work hurriedly to restore some semblance of order.

Probably the most interesting feature of the place is its grog drinking sessions. Many motorists, who have stopped for refreshments, have claimed these sessions to be some of the most fantastic they have ever



Satish Chandra

across. I agree with them. From five o'clock people start streaming into the place. Fijians and Indians. Old and young. The interior of the shop verandah is not enough. Men drag out big pieces of sacks and lay them together and spread them on the big lawn. Then they grab a basin and get into groups of six to ten. Profession-wise, gossip-wise, sometimes kin-wise. It is a sugar-cane farming area, and, after a hard day's work, the farmers always seek to drown their tiredness in yaqona. This is their only means of recreation. They discuss their common problems, current events, international politics, and religion. Whatever they discuss, whether amiably or heatedly, gives them great satisfaction and gives them experience a sense of brotherhood.

The boys, on the contrary, seek the confines of the shop for a different reason. Though some also go to drink grog, their main idea is to get away from nagging mothers (occasionally from hard work), and to listen to yarns spun by the older men. These boys are usually village youths doing nothing. Since most of them often do not smoke in front of their parents or relatives they sit somewhere in darkness so that they can smoke away at their cigarettes, surreptitiously.

A huge crowd had already gathered when I reached the shop. Three groups of elderly men were seated outside. As I passed them one of them stopped talking and looked at me. One old-timer looked at my long hair and then diverted his gaze towards my new Levi's. He shook his head slowly.

"Thinks this is bloody Suva", someone stated.

"Looks like no barber in Suva", the old man said.

"There used to be many, but this modern fashion has led them to bankruptcy", a skinny middle-aged man remarked.

FEELING uncomfortable I hurried on. I threw a last glance over my shoulder and in the process nearly put my right foot in a basin of grog.

Someone swore under his breath. I swore back. Before I could get a suitable reply I was inside the shop.

"Come in, fallah! Have a bowl", one of my friends welcomed me.

"Yeah. How's life?" said another, offering a bowl.

"Thanks", I replied. I took a long pull and settled comfortably in a corner.

There were about a dozen youths in that group except Fatty. Though he is well over forty he is always welcome in the younger group. I suppose it's his bawdy stories that attract the boys.

"... This Punjabi was new to modern toilets", Fatty was saying, "and he had eaten quite a lot. He went inside the toilet and stared at the sparkling water inside the pan. Feeling thirsty he helped himself to a few palmful of gulps". Laughter.

THAT was when Che entered. He could hardly walk. Nearly thirty he already had *kanikani* or yaqona scales all over his skin. He swayed drunkenly and then seated himself on the shop's only piece of furniture, a rickety wooden bench. He glanced at the gathering. His gaze fell on Fatty. After blinking twice he grinned.

"Hey, Fatty, you paying for the grog?"

You, parasite!" he called.

SEA

By MAKIUTI TONGIA

*Speak to me,
O stupid sea,
tell me why
you knock ceaselessly
on my shores.
What secrets do you hide
under that thundering water?
Lo, I will whisper
to the fluttering spray
and the god Tangaroa
to reveal your secrets to me,
I will also ask:
"O Tangaroa, grant me this wish
that my ancestors may wake
from their sleep to salute me".*

"I am not a five-cent fallah like you, you bull!" Fatty replied. Silence had descended in the room. "Bull, your father, you thief!" Che yelled.

"Don't bring in my dead father," Fatty replied.

"You stole my rope".

"You got any proof?"

"Don't need any proof. Everyone know you a thief", Che replied.

"You going too far?"

"What you gonna do about it?"

"Well, I've drunk my mother's milk and I have got blood in my veins!" said Fatty. He got up and challenged, "Let's see if you have any guts".

I thought things were going too far so before Fatty could get up I chipped in: "Look, Che, take it easy, cool down".

"No, I am going to straighten out this thief", Che replied.

Since he was weak from drink I managed to make him sit down. Still they kept on arguing and exchanging insults. Most of the boys were enjoying this tirade and did their best to add fuel to the fire. I found this rather strange. They should be trying to pacify them, I thought.

"Your father was also a thief and ..."

Before Che could say anything else, Fatty was on his feet and yelling, "I'm gonna kill this insulting pig!" Somebody managed to seat the inflamed Fatty. I was getting sick of the whole affair.

For nearly an hour they swore at each other. During this time many basins of grog took its toll. At eight-thirty, after a fresh bout of insults, both of them got up and angrily faced each other. Hands on their hips, they bared their chins at each other. The crowd looked at them expectantly. A couple of broken jaws were imminent, I decided.

"You try it!" dared Fatty.

"You try it!" shouted Che.

"Let's see how brave you are!"

But nothing happened. They just stood there and glared at each other.

"Come on Ali and Frazier, have it out!" someone encouraged them. Still nothing happened.

"Oso, oso!" chorused the crowd.

AT this stage Papa, a veteran of many yaqona brawls, got up. He was a tall and dark young man, who was noted for his jokes. He stepped between the two and held them by the shoulders.

"Look, you two. You have already wasted a lot of time. If you bastards have to fight, why not start now? I'm sick of you two". Papa addressed the crowd. "You know what these two need? They should be hoisted

up-side down, stripped off their pants, arse soaked with benzine, and then lit. Only then will they get any sense. Probably their arsens have more sense than their brains". This was greeted with howls of laughter.

"You have no manners and absolutely no sense of values. You should be setting an example to the younger generation instead of squabbling like two old women having nothing better to do!"

"I was just joking", said Che lamely.

"Me too", added Fatty, now that the crisis was over.

"Bloody funny kind of joke!" Papa replied. "Swearing your heads off. Insulting the dead. Funny, my arse!"

Things returned to normal. Che and Fatty were made to forget their quarrel. They sat in a corner and talked amiably.

That's when Charley appeared out of the backroom. He puffed out his chest and glowered at the crowd. "Who were fighting?" He demanded.

"No one was fighting", replied Papa.

"No one? Eh? You, fallahs, think this is a boxing ring? If you have to fight when these people were arguing? Underneath the bed, I suppose", asked Papa.

"Push you fallahs out next time".

"Ha! Ha! Ha! you almost frighten me", mocked Papa. "Go and get you". This time both Che and Fatty get wild once again—this time with you". This time both, Che and Fatty, joined the crowd in the laughter.

RELAX

By FRANCIS TEKONNANG

*Relax in a cushioned arm-chair
Just looking out to sea
A vast flat pane
Glistening in the quiet afternoon
And the breeze
Gently fanning your thoughts
To sleep.*

*In bed, dream
Not of a child
In mother's arms
Nor of a suitor
In a wedding gown
But of you
A light green river
Plaiting, curling and flowing
Into the depths of darkness.*

SHORT STORY

Kindness has its own reward

By JANE O'NEILL

AS old Matai trudged homewards weighed under a basket of vegetables and a length of sugar-cane, he was brought to a halt by an elderly woman sitting on the roadside. She was weary and showed signs of having travelled far. Being a curious man, Matai began to converse with her and found that she had walked from Ba towards Vatukoula and now, as night was close at hand, she sat down to rest her weary body.

She had a basket with an old tattered dress, a tin of Capstan tobacco, and 50 cents in it. She now brought out her tobacco and began to role a cigar, and as he was not offered any of this tobacco, Matai stood silently observing this strange lady. Her face showed the faded beauty of youth and wrinkles of old age.

The sun went down lower and because Matai could not imagine himself sleeping in his snug bure while the old lady lay out in the cold, perhaps even in the rain, he invited her to his house. The lady at first wanted to refuse the invitation but for his pleas.

On arriving at the village the people viewed the pair with curiosity for Matai hardly ever had anything to do with visitors to the village. His wife received them with warmth and having learnt how the old lady came to be with Matai, she graciously invited her in and prepared a meal while Matai entertained their guest.

After a meal, the visitor was refreshed and became lively. They sat drinking yaqona until the small hours of the morning and retired for about five hours' sleep.

THE hosts saw to it that their guest was as comfortable as possible and as they were not very wealthy by village standards, it meant going without their own warm blankets. The lady accepted this hospitality without protest and did not reveal much of her life, but within the few hours that she had arrived, she knew all there was to know about Matai and his wife. They were poor but happy and as all their five children had married, they were now on their

own except for a few occasional visits from the children.

Mereani, Matai's wife, rose early to prepare breakfast. Her eyes travelled to the corner, where their guest had slept, only to find a bed which did not seem to have been slept in and the only trace of the mysterious visitor was her little shabby basket.

Mereani woke Matai and together they tried to work out where she could have gone. They searched their compound and asked their neighbours if anyone had seen her leave, but no one had. While Matai searched outside, Mereani held the shabby basket wondering whether she should open it or not and as her curiosity won her over, she excitedly unclasped it and with an exclamation called for Matai. She was excited, and at the same time scared, but Matai reassured her that it was all right.

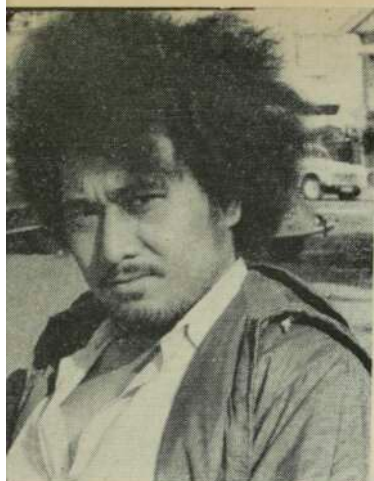
In the basket lay a whale's tooth of the finest quality with silver trimmings and an old necklace of pigs' tusks.

Matai, an honourable man, decided that he would guard these priceless items with his whole life and return them to the old lady.

One of his neighbours, being of a chiefly family, now residing in Matai's village, heard through the village gossip of the old lady's visit and what she forgot, or what they thought she forgot, and asked Matai to let him see the basket and its contents. To his amazement, he recognised the items.

He explained that the lady was the wife of the great chief Taraniqio who was his ancestor. She was the kindest lady that ever lived and she had come as she had gone to many a person, to test their kindness and generosity and this was her present to good people.

Matai and his wife, were from that day respected by everyone who knew them and they guarded their treasure meticulously. Matai and Mereani vowed never to close their door to anyone and to live up to the honour of generous people, bestowed on them by their visitor.



Sano Malifa, an up-and-coming Samoan poet, author of the three poems on this page and a fourth poem, A word for the tourist, on the next page.

Hello! just to say hello!

People are known to be snobbish creatures
I stark too.

They walk sophisticatedly along the street
I never stop to talk to anyone
I listen to the silent
rubble of rainfall.

They walk quietly listening to their
own thoughts, undeciphered like stones.

You are different.
You stop to talk to me and listen
even if there was nothing to listen to
sometimes think that maybe
I am not a people.

Questions and Answers

When I visit my sister at Epuni, she says to me:
'aren't you working, Sano?'—what she means is,
'aren't I have a regularly paid job like the others.'
Now my sister is worried about my future.

'No, I'm not', I tell her.
My sister is curious and wants to know what
I'm doing. 'I'm working at home', I say.
My sister knows what I do at home but she is
worried about my future.

My sister is silent and serves me food
I fight with her husband's money.
I eat it because I am hungry.
'Have you sold anything yet?'—my poor sister.
'No, not yet'.—food tastes no different whether
I bought it or someone else did. Tastes good.
When do you think . . .?—oh sister, poor sister.
I don't know. Maybe never', I munch it out.

My sister looks at me and she is sad.
I am still eating because I am hungry.
My sister says nothing more about my work
because she is worried about my future.

POEMS BY SANO MALIFA

House at Midnight Lane

Here at Midnight Lane, I built a house
walled around like the inside of a cone:
a cloister, a quiet—
its door is not opened to any man.

This is where I come always to burrow,
disengage, to unravel the mysterious substance
without the usual victory,
to disremember the unforgettable
behind pitiless eyes of strangers.

I sit listening to the dark, the stoical moon silence,
hear a name mentioned, your name maybe,
my mother, grandmother how are you?
I see a street in Wellington, the ruined one
that led out into the mouth of an engulfing storm;
I see faces laughing, the mute sunrises, cold wind,
the bird in the rain, sadness in her eyes
weeping oceans of tears.

I try to visualize the present and the distance
holding the future at arm's length.
Empty is the world inside the cone sphere,
so much space between uttered words.
Oh I am sick to death with simple necessities.
Here at Midnight Lane I built an institute,
sepulchral-shaped to house my sanity.

I stand up walk around like an orator,
demanding attention, mesmerizing an audience:
books, floor mattress, ashtray, wrinkled paper;
pacing the whole length of the stage
back and forth,
addressing the beautiful ruins
on this side of America's head.

Oh my sister, daughter of my mother, is in love
with me because I am simple and young and I see
so much and I will never be old enough to be her man.
My sister is jealous of my pain—she won't hide,
she won't pretend . . . my mother's daughter.
I always thought brothers and sisters carried
each other's pain like a birth mark.

But here is my sister who looks and looks
at me as though searching for a definition
with eyes of shiny pebbles.
Oh dear sister, what do you know of a vibrating
desire? What is a heart if it doesn't pursue?

It might as well be plucked out
and let's end it.
What if I told you that a stream searches
for the sea among valleys and hills and never tires.

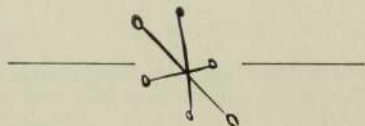
But my sister is quiet, she won't listen,
she won't hear.
She goes on looking at the way I eat,
estimating my limits, the distance . . .
because she is worried about my future.

A word for the tourist

(To the woman selling handicrafts outside
Burns Philp's doors: Samoa 1974)

*You have to walk slowly now:
these are treasures not to be missed—
stop, maybe, and inspect, feel the polished shell,
the turtleshell bracelet and the ring, unique.
The oyster sadness dusted clean
countless times a day just for your eye,
for you alone they labour, for your dead riches.
See the handbag! Such beautiful designs!
And those fingers weaving like spiders,
those arms sagging and frail can do wonders still—
watch the fingers alone—oh how dexterous!
Unpolished dedication! See the stringing of
pearly shells. How lovely!
But you don't understand how they're stringing
their life beads outside these doors,
daylight madness, and at night bundled-up
like corpses, the concrete mattress gathers
the cold and pumps it home.
But don't consider, inspect and make a bargain.
And you have to look a little above the collar bone
at the fleshy neck, blue veins, the wide jaw.
Remark! The high cheek bones,
the strong forehead, black hair locked or loose
and somehow stained at the edges,
those narrow-lidded brows and the brown
texture more like driftwood.
You look disappointed, surprised? Surely you
must have seen this face somewhere before,
perhaps in a museum: the Polynesian goddess,
a Gauguin's brown virgin, the Viking queen going drab,
all here now at your service, so be cheerful,
this is her in flesh and bone,
in rags and cheap stones.
Now you wonder why there isn't a better place,
a house, a counter, a few stools, something else, better.
Well knock wood, dear tourist, raise hell!
And if you have heart, ask around
because in all these years, I have never
heard the question raised;
in all these years, I've heard the desire
to breathe rich being smothered in the dust
outside these doors, these famous
Burns Philp's coffin doors.*

*But don't speak, dear tourist.
I didn't say a word.*



Another striking example of PNG's traditional art
Jangfop, a Yuat River (Western Highlands) ancestor
figure by Manabma Fuliba of Andafuga village.



Books, Reviews, Writers

DISSECTED SAMOANS—AN EXILED COMMUNITY IN NEW ZEALAND

Auckland University's Department of Sociology has planned a series of studies of small societies within the New Zealand complex, and *Emerging Pluralism* examines some nuclei of the rapidly growing Samoan community, now perhaps around the 30,000 mark in New Zealand. At least there were 22,198 in 1971, with subsequent migrant growth as well as natural increase.

The Samoans under dissection come from three centres: Auckland, which, in numbers, is the largest Polynesian city anywhere, Wellington and Tokoroa.

This latter, though the study takes it for granted that you know, is itself a phenomenon in New Zealand, a town, perhaps a city now, in Matakana county 140 miles south of Auckland city. It had a population of 320 in 1947, of more than 7,000 in 1961, and today it's probably in excess of 20,000. Of this number nearly half are Polynesians and about 2,000 would be Samoans.

The mushroom growth of the town devolved entirely from the development of forestry pursuits and products, harvested from the large exotic pine forests of the upper Waikato. Despite a raw climate the occupations seem to suit the Islanders, mostly employed in processing.

Among the factors, which differentiate the migrant Samoan from his new-found neighbours, his loyalties seem paramount, particularly those he shows to his extended family and his church. Both these allegiances tend to make him a good citizen; both help him towards a settled life, and through them both he assists others.

Through the extended family too he gives very material monetary help to relations back in Western Samoa; he would give more but that New Zealand's currency export regulations restrict him.

Both church and extended family help him to settle by providing a social life, opportunities to speak his own language, and advice on all the mysteries an urban existence presents to a Polynesian villager. Typically, he doesn't change jobs much.

Students of Faa Samoa will welcome two new books, one sociological, the other fiction, which have just been published in New Zealand. Two sociologists at Auckland University examine the comparatively large Samoan community in New Zealand, a study which might help to solve some of the problems faced by Islanders in a Europeanised society. Samoan author Albert Wendt also mirrors Samoan custom in a book of short stories. Both books are reviewed by the well-known New Zealand-born author, Olaf Ruhen on this page and overleaf.

The Samoan community in New Zealand is a youthful one. Regulations restrict migration to a quota of which members must be between the ages of 18 and 45, but the Samoan family in what might be termed exile includes an average of four children; most of these are New Zealand-born. Many of them do not have fluency in the Samoan language or familiarity with all the traditions, and these conditions tend to widen the generation gap that the extended family ('aiga) bridges in the home islands.

Problems of propinquity also threaten the traditions when they are translated to the New Zealand scene. In Samoa the extended family typically enjoys special unity; its members all live in the same village or in the same segment of the same village. They also inherit the rights to the same land and their livelihood depends on being members of a group.

Attempts to extend this to a new community meet many barriers. To begin with, there's the availability of housing. The house in New Zealand is nowhere as elastic as the house in Samoa. It's necessary for the intending immigrant to have accommodation

available before a permit is issued to him or her, and government inspectors check that it is available, unused, and adequate according to New Zealand standards.

So the members of the 'aiga may be separated by considerable distances. The sense of family is strong enough to overcome this and other handicaps; the first generation, despite an acquired European quality of thought, will probably be influenced sufficiently to maintain something of family intimacies, but it's an open question as to how many generations will pass before an integration with the total community becomes an established, though probably or partially unwelcome fact.

Just the same, Samoa needs to put down roots in countries remote from the limitations of the home islands. There's the desirability of a cash income greater than Samoa affords, and more potently, the educational opportunities in New Zealand which appeal to the Samoan sense of values.

Samoan pride keeps the hived-off community intact as yet. Too few New Zealanders, though, appreciate the differences between the Samoan, the Tokelauan, the Cook Islander and the indigenous Maori.

Emerging Pluralism touches on all these and other related topics, so it offers ample food for thought. Tables analyse occupations, locations, educational attainments, job mobility, inter-marriage patterns, desire for permanent severance with the home islands—all the factors that go to establish the community.

A tendency towards generalisations is probably more apparent than real. A writer like Albert Wendt can lend a situation much greater conviction and drive its realities home far more than computations expressed in percentages, but a complete understanding, I should think, requires both methods.

Additionally for any wider enquiry into transplantation of people, this book offers the advantage of clarity with its sample community as small as the Samoan yet significant in the microcosm of New Zealand.

Albert Wendt sings thru'

The Samoan voice of Albert Wendt comes singing through again in a collection of short stories of commendably wide range. Extremely regional, as good stories should be, they have a universality of theme modified only by Wendt's strong analysis of the peculiarly Samoan character which, incidentally, he conveys very well.

In the nine offerings here, nine short stories or, depending on your classification, two short novellas and two short stories, my preference runs to a couple in heavy idiom, mainly because of inspired characterisation.

Captain Full—the Strongest Man Alive who got Allthings Strong Men Got, is a classic examination of a Samoan Pal Joey. Told in the first person it offers a thought-provoking entertainment of high good humour, based on a thorough appraisal of a reasonably worthless character.

In the same idiom, Virgin-wise—the Last Confession of Humble Man who is Man got Religion, flourishes the philosophy of acceptance which, good or bad, rules many a Polynesian life. It is one of the two which

have previously been published in magazines; the other, A Descendant of the Mountain seems to me to lack the resolution its situations deserve, and perhaps it was an early attempt.

But most of these stories are well designed and all of them probably tell far more of Samoa than a shelf of guide-books. The longest, the title-story, is an understanding account of an adolescent's slide into a more than personal tragedy.

Now in his late thirties, Wendt should be on the threshold of his effective writing career, and it is to be hoped that his recent appointment to the University of the South Pacific, after being Principal of Samoa College, will leave him time and opportunity for the writing of more good fiction.

(EMERGING PLURALISM: THE SAMOAN COMMUNITY IN NEW ZEALAND, by David Pitt and Cluny Macpherson. Longman Paul Ltd. Cased \$5.95, paper \$3.50.)

(FLYING-FOX IN A FREEDOM TREE, by Albert Wendt. Published by Longman Paul Limited, Takapuna, Auckland, NZ. Cased, \$4.95; Pacific paperback, \$2.50.)



Albert Wendt

Western artists' interest in Papua New Guinea is by no means a recent phenomenon. Among the masterpieces in the exhibition, Modern Masters—Manet to Matisse, which the Museum of Modern Art, New York, brought to Australia last April was one by Emil Nolde, a German painter who visited New Guinea in 1913.

And other recognised painters, eg Australians Lawrence Daws, William Dobell and Sidney Nolan, have spent some time in the country. Most have gained inspiration from its multi-faceted scenery and traditional art forms, and it is certain that the growing prominence which comes with nationhood will bring an increasing number of foreign painters and other artists to Papua New Guinea.

True art transcends political and traditional frontiers and, inter-culturally, enriches both host and guest. The recently-founded Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies at Port Moresby has already made a valuable contribution in this context.

Few foreign artists have been as ambitious as Glenys Kohnke, whose New Guinean oeuvres are in painting, sculpting and writing. In the Shark Callers, Kohnke, a young Australian who has spent some of her childhood

AN ARTISTIC LOOK AT SHARK CALLERS

at Madang and now lives at Port Moresby, tells of the traditional way of catching sharks by a fast-diminishing number of men on the west coast of New Ireland.

Shark calling is central to the life of their people—not merely their main source of protein but also an integral part of that synthesis of spiritual and temporal life which is so characteristic of Melanesian communities.

Abel Janszoon Tasman's Journal which mentions it and contains a sketch of three New Irelanders in a canoe (April, 1643) is probably the first account by a visitor.

The Shark Callers encapsulates an interview, held over several months, with a man who specialises in the unique technique by which he and certain fellow villagers capture sharks.

With empathy and patience, and able to communicate through fluent use of Pidgin, the lingua franca, Kohnke has obtained an in-depth

account and used her skills as a painter and sculptor to enhance it visually. Most of the paintings are vivid and express the spiritual, which is inseparable from the physical, in shark calling.

A foreigner from a totally alien culture does inevitably see things differently from a local person, and this book needs to be read and looked at with this in mind. Now that more Papua New Guinean artists are coming to the fore, some strongly influenced by their country's traditional art styles, others using a rather iconoclastic approach, we can look forward to paintings, sculptures and other forms of artistic expression—and to books incorporating them—different from the one under review. With it will assuredly come an enrichment of the aesthetic life of the world at large.

This book is extremely well produced, a pleasure to read and look at. Glenys Kohnke has been awarded a young writers' fellowship grant for 1975 by the Australian Council for the Arts. There is much promise of it being put to good use.—Harry Jackman.

(THE SHARK CALLERS, by Glenys Kohnke. Published by Yumi Press, Boroko, 1974 (available from Robert Brown Associates, Port Moresby). \$5.95.)

FLIGHT PLAN PNG: AN ESCAPE FROM DULLNESS?

One wonders what sort of people pay \$5.50 for books like Eileen Steenson's *Flight Plan PNG*, published by Rigby, and one wonders so what sort of people write such autobiographical books.

Writing is a skill, not necessarily endowed simultaneously with the occurrence of some event in a person's life. Writing autobiographical material is highly-refined skill and only a very few have ever succeeded at it: the rest have merely achieved the listing of events which have occurred to colourless non-humanised participants in the events.

Eileen Steenson is a woman. She makes this clear by saying so. But other than this—and that she drove an aircraft in Papua New Guinea (which the title does not make clear everyone), used a sewing machine and has permission to publish in her book a photograph of Lord and Lady Casey—nothing of her as an individual emerges from her book. Of course not: she is an aircraft captain, not a writer. One wonders, in fact, whether she had not been a woman how much interest Rigby's would have shown in her book?

Captain Steenson arrived in Papua New Guinea too late to experience the really exciting adventures of aviation, the early days of which Bobby Gibbes, to whom she gives chief passing mention in her book—did spelling his name incorrectly without the final "e"—and Johnnie Rose (to name only two) might have written. Even passengers who hitch-hiked, and I mean this literally, by air in Papua New Guinea before the days of the Department of Civil Aviation might have much to contribute.

I remember, only too vividly, the young pilot who, running his own line with one aircraft, killed himself in taking off from the Goroka strip, when that strip was situated on a higher plateau than it is now, and thereby caused dinner to be delayed while the District Officer (as was then called) arranged to have a container made for the body. When it was made, it was placed with the body in it in the dining-room while we ate our dinner with numerous toasts to the occupant. We all knew and liked him and it would have been inhospitable to have left him outside while we were eating.

And the number of aircraft which came airborne only by flipping

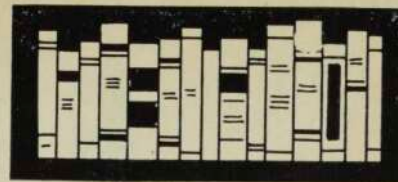
themselves over the edge of the airstrip at Oglbeng. Twenty years and more, all of this, before our authoress had her big adventure!

I suppose Captain Steenson's book is of interest to those who have no adventure in their lives (one reason, I suppose, why books are published) but it's a pretty dull list of events to those who have.

I cannot help feeling that such books are written by people, surrounded by a dull family, who wish to show that they have escaped from this dullness. Other than this use, I see no useful purpose in such books: they really do not make interesting reading except to their authors, add little, if anything, to our store of knowledge. In this case, it is doubtful if any contribution is made to the history of aviation in Papua New Guinea, whose history is so wrapped up in aviation, and which has had so many outstandingly interesting and devoted personalities in that field from the days of the old Junkers until the present time.

Captain Steenson's experiences in Papua New Guinea, if you count up the hundreds (yes, hundreds) of pilots who had similar, and exactly the same experiences, were not unique.

What we want, please, is not only someone who has had experience but someone who, having had them, has the literary skill to record them in



their right perspective, and in doing so, not to forget entirely the many others who have done, or are doing, the same things. The experience and the ability to record it are not one and the same thing. Publishers, it seems, are beginning to think so. Sorry, Captain Steenson: it's not so much your fault as the fault of the publishers.

There are thousands of bikeys every week-end who collect more vivid experiences than Captain Steenson has had, and do not regard them as worth mentioning, and 40 per cent of those are women who do not regard the experiences as anything but completely self-existent and sexless.

It is time someone pointed out to publishers that people like Miss Elliott and the Misses Bronte wrote because they were writers and had something to write about, and not because they were women.

It was nice of Lady Casey to write an introduction to the book, but I think that the Literature Board of the Australian Council for the Arts, with whose assistance the book was published, might more usefully occupy itself.—*Peter Livingston.*

(*FLIGHT PLAN PNG*, by Eileen Steenson. Published by Rigby Limited, 30 North Terrace, Kent Town, South Australia. \$5.50, cased, illustrated.)

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Pacific Transport

UNIONS' SHADOW SEEN OVER PLAN FOR REGIONAL SHIPPING SERVICE

The South Pacific regional shipping line should be an accomplished fact in about a year, with chartered ships. But it will be on a limited scale. This was revealed at the South Pacific Forum in Nukualofa in July.

The forum unanimously approved plans to set up the line although the Fiji Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, had doubts. He said the success of any shipping venture in the Islands depended on the attitude of Australian and New Zealand maritime unions.

Australia's representative at the forum, Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator Don Willesee, and Ratu Sir Kamisese disagreed about whether Ratu Sir Kamisese's statement should go into the forum communiqué. Senator Willesee, as might be expected from a Labor Minister, did not want it in. Ratu Sir Kamisese disagreed and won.

Routes will be surveyed covering Papua New Guinea, the New Hebrides, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Western Samoa. The shipping line will be known as Pacific Forum Line, operating under the trade name, Pefacac.

On the aviation front, President Hammer DeRoburt, of Nauru, urged those governments which had airlines to concentrate on improving services before looking to a single regional line. Mr Robert Rex, Niue, and Sir Albert Henry, Cook Islands, both said they were concerned about the lack of airline services to their countries.

Mr Michael Somare, Papua New Guinea, said some airlines were forced to fly uneconomic routes, but did so reluctantly. They had to be responsible to their shareholders.

It was revealed that a consultative body, appointed in 1974 to look into the concept of a regional airline had never met, because, as Ratu Sir Kamisese said, it was not given terms of reference, and no single organisation was given the responsibility of convening meetings.

The forum agreed with a sugges-

tion by Senator Willesee that ministers meet and draw up terms of reference for the South Pacific Bureau of Economic Co-operation.

Meanwhile, at a time when it is cutting back on ship crews, Tonga is looking to expand its fleet with a 65,000 tonne bulk carrier. The Pacific Navigation Co has given its Australian brokers the go-ahead signal to look for a suitable carrier. The board thinks such a huge carrier would be an economic proposition, and hopes to have a deal wrapped up by September.

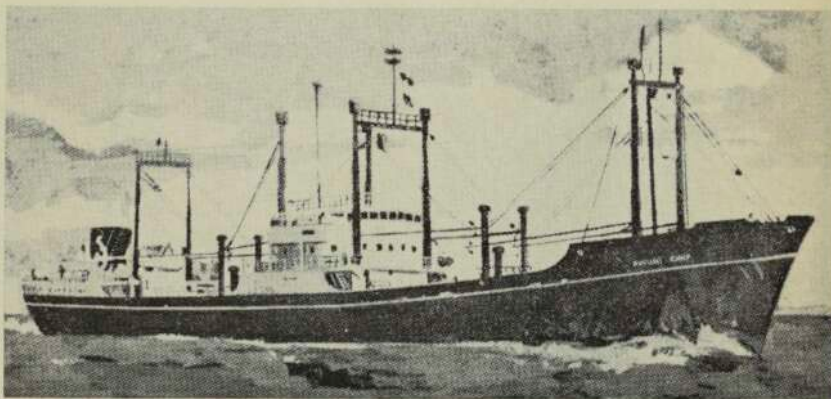
The carrier would absorb crews laid off from a number of other ships in the Pacific Navigation Co's fleet. Late in June, the acting general manager of the company, Mr Sione Faletau, said 35 officers and crew would be laid off as an economy measure. At the same time he announced that

five cargo-carrying landing craft could be ordered in the next two years to service outer islands in Tonga.

Mr Faletau said some of the fleet had been "grossly over-crewed" in the last year or two. The cut-backs would not leave the ships short-handed. They would conform with international manning scales.

The crew of the Tauloto, the biggest ship in the fleet, which operates to Fiji and Australia, faced a cut of 10 officers and crew. The Niuvakai, which now carries a lot of coal for the Fiji cement manufacturer, Fiji Industries Ltd, lost eight. The Aoniū, which operates between Tonga and New Zealand was to lose four crew.

Two inter-island ships, the Pakeina and Olovaha, lost nine and four respectively. Mr Faletau said the company was enforcing strict cost



The Papuan Chief (pictured) operated by the New Guinea Australia Line, made her last Australia-Papua New Guinea voyage in July, after which she was returned to her owners, John Swire and Sons, of London. The Papuan Chief went into the Australia-PNG service in 1967, and made 132 round trips covering those two countries, plus some to the Solomon Islands.

She was chartered to Burns Philp for the Australia-Pacific Islands service from May, 1969, to November, 1970, and in that period was known as the Marsina. She is depicted on a Solomon Islands stamp.

She was built in Norway in 1953, and was the Bahia till acquired by NGAL. NGAL converted her into a sideport loader—the first such ship in the NGAL fleet. NGAL will bring another ship into the service to replace the Papuan Chief.



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control, and could not afford to overman ships. Economies were being made wherever possible. There would be cutbacks in victualling of ships.

Mr Faletau hoped an overseas trip to New Zealand, Australia and Norway, which he started late in June, would result in a streamlining of operations, which would enable the company to operate on a sound economic base.

He said the landing craft, three of 30 tons and two of 55 tons, would service the Niuas, Vavau and Haapai, as well as Tongatapu and Eua. A 30-tonner would be stationed at Pangai to service all nearby inhabited islands. One, based at Nukualofa, would service the Niuas internally, and would connect with the trunkline ship. The third 30-tonner would operate from Neiafu, to carry copra and other produce within nearby islands.

The 55-tonners, operating from Nukualofa to Eua and Haapai, would carry mainly heavy machinery, primary produce and petroleum products.

Mr Faletau said the use of landing craft with loading and unloading ramps was a far more economic proposition than building jetties for conventional small ships.

The company, using Australian aid, has called tenders to build a 50 ft passenger ferry for the Nukualofa-Eua service.

A MINI-SERVICE FOR COOKS, NIUE

New Zealand, the Cook Islands and Niue will have their own "mini" regional shipping service following agreement at a recent conference in Rarotonga. The CI Premier, Sir Albert Henry, presided. Those attending were Sir Basil Arthur (NZ Transport Minister), Mr Robert Rex (Premier of Niue) and Mr G. Ellis (Associate Minister of Shipping in the CI).

They agreed it was essential to link the islands and New Zealand with regular and adequate shipping services which would ensure the highest development of the three countries. Policy will be laid down and controlled by a ministerial committee on which each country will be represented.

The conference confirmed guidelines laid down on an interim basis in August, 1974, for the operation of the Lorena and the Toa Moana.

The service will not cut across the proposed regional service which is now in the process of being set up by the South Pacific Bureau of Economic Co-operation. Some co-ordination will be maintained between the two, but the SPEC regional ser-

ce will not be allowed to reduce the int NZ-CI-Niue services.

Shippers can expect to pay higher eight rates to meet ever-increasing sts, but there will be a simplified riff, which should make matters sier for both them and importers.

The governments are now studying oposals to upgrade shore facilities that cargo may be handled quickly. t present loading and unloading at atotonga and Niue is anything but e easy proposition.

FIJI TAKES OVER AIRPORT

An era in Fiji's aviation history ded on July 1 when the Fiji Civil viation Department took over con- ol of Nadi international airport. ne New Zealand Government had en responsible for administrative ntrol of the airport since the early 40s.

Along with the takeover was the pointment of four senior local hnicians to key posts at the air- ort. They are Mr Brama Govind, r Jone Koroitamana, Mr Ahmed i and Mr Norman Yee, who will in charge of electrical and mech- ical equipment, traffic control, mmunication operations and tele- mmunications and engineering.

Three of them studied overseas for their technical qualifications, while the fourth trained while in service, as well as covering several overseas courses.

The civil aviation directorate of the Fiji Department of Transport and Civil Aviation has been hived off in an effort to improve its standards. The upgrading of the directorate met the requirements of the South Pacific Air Transport Council (the UK, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia).

The director of the department, Mr Michael Varley, said one of its priorities would be to introduce stringent controls on airport operations and facilities which had been lacking.

Captain Dion Bennett, who has been flying for more than 20 years, and who has retired from Air Pacific, has been recruited to look after the air crew licensing section of the department.

FIJI CONTAINER BAN TO STAY

Fiji's dockworkers are holding firm to a resolution made in March to refuse to handle ships carrying more than 10 per cent of the Fiji-consigned cargo in containers. The ban was imposed because the union believed containerisation would cause redundancies among wharf workers.

Efforts since the ban was imposed

to lift the percentage margin to 30 per cent have failed. Three meetings involving the government, five shipping companies and the union have failed to bridge the gap.

The next meeting will be on a "date to be fixed", to give the shipping companies and the union a chance to sort out their arguments.

AIR FAMINE NOW AIR FEAST FOR LORD HOWE

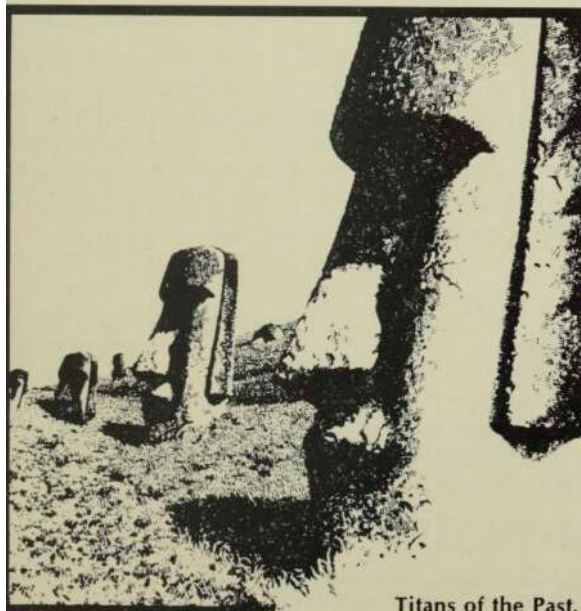
Lord Howe Island, which lost its flying-boat and subsequent Heron links with Sydney, is now receiving a service from three airlines, and another is in the offing. Advance Aviation Pty Ltd, of Bankstown, Sydney, was recently granted a licence to operate a regular service, using a seven-seater turbo-prop Commander.

At present, operating from TAA terminal at Mascot, Sydney, the airline is flying return services to the island each week—on Thursdays and Sundays. The number will be increased during holiday seasons, when there is a big demand for services to the island.

The airline plans to alter the configuration of the aircraft, by converting it to a nine-seater. The return fare to the island is about \$140.

Advance Airlines has been in the charter field for some time now,

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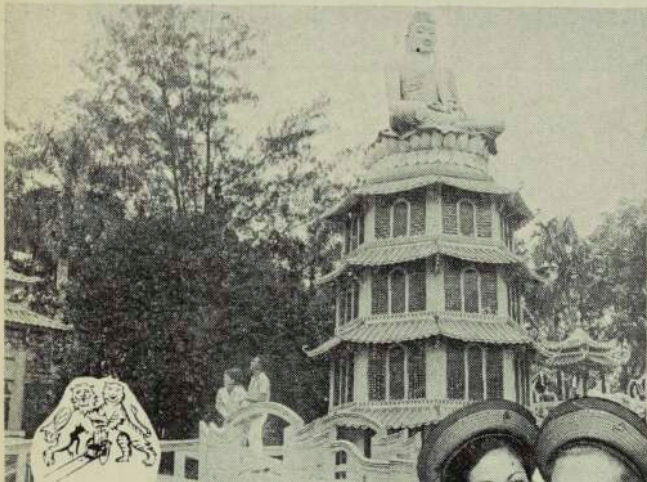
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operating within New South Wales. Lord Howe Island is also serviced by two other charter flights from New South Wales—one leaving from Port Macquarie and the other fromoffs Harbour.

The Brisbane-based Norfolk Island Airways Ltd, expects to open a new service to Lord Howe Island from Brisbane and Norfolk Island when a new Beechcraft King Air Super 200 goes into operation in September. This will probably be a charter service according to the Australian Transport Department.

The airline expected to take delivery of the aircraft at Witchhata, Kansas, in July, and fly it to Brisbane via Seattle, Washington, Anchorage (Alaska), Adak (Aleutian Islands), Midway, Majuro, Fiji and Norfolk Island. The airline's chief pilot, Captain Tony Snell, and a director, Mr Gerald Goudie, were to make the delivery flight.

Norfolk Island Airways Ltd also plans to fly to New Caledonia. This would be a matter for negotiation between the French and Australian governments. Early in July, however, the Australian Transport Department had not received an application to start the service.

STANDING RIGHTS IN PNG

Talks started in Canberra recently between the governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia aimed at reaching agreement on air services after PNG becomes independent. Representatives of Air Niugini and Antas attended. The PNG delegation was led by the Associate Controller of Civil Aviation, Mr J. J. Luvasa.

Australia was represented by officials of the Department of Civil Aviation and the Department of Foreign Affairs. The talks were the first in a series to be held by PNG with countries seeking rights in PNG after independence. PNG has received a number of inquiries about this, particularly from south-east Asia.

PALAUANS WILL SERVICE TAIWANESE BOATS

The Palau Fishing Authority has signed an agreement with Taiwan fishermen under which the authority will service Taiwanese fishing boats operating at Palau. The Taiwanese are interested in developing Micronesia's fisheries through joint and cooperative ventures after they make a survey of the territory's fishing potential.

Mr Francisco T. Uludong, manager of the Palau Fishing Authority, recently visited Taiwan where he in-

vestigated a number of aspects of the fishing industry. He said on his return he had warned the Taiwanese that the Trust Territory Government was now taking strong measures against those who violated Micronesian waters. Officials in Taiwan promised to advise their fishermen not to fish in Micronesian waters.

FREIGHT RATES RISE AGAIN

Northbound freight rates from Australia to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands rose by \$3.40 a ton from June 1. The increase followed a 15.5 per cent rise from April 1. When the April rise was negotiated, options were kept open for a further rise, depending on the effects of an impending increase in wages for waterside workers in Australia.

This increase was 30 per cent, and applied to other wages as well. The companies concerned in the rise are Conpac, Karlander, New Guinea Express Line and New Guinea Australia Line. The new rates for general cargo from Australia to PNG ports are:

Sydney-Brisbane to Port Moresby-Samarai—\$49.65 a cubic metre, \$55.35 a tonne.

Sydney-Brisbane to Lae-Madang-Rabaul—\$51.35 a cubic metre, \$56.75 a tonne.

Sydney-Brisbane to Wewak-Kavieng-Kieta—\$57.30 a cubic metre, \$63.45 a tonne.

Melbourne to Port Moresby-Samarai—\$54.40 a cubic metre, \$59.80 a tonne.

Melbourne to Lae-Madang-Rabaul—\$55 a cubic metre, \$60.80 a tonne.

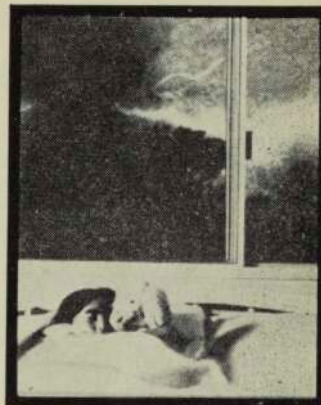
Melbourne to Wewak-Kavieng-Kieta—\$61.40 a cubic metre, \$68.15 a tonne.

● The costs of the Suva-Nadi highway are escalating. The latest estimate of \$29.5 million is likely to be even higher before the highway is finished. Originally the Fiji Government borrowed \$19.8 million to construct the highway.

● The first step in a direct air link between Japan and Fiji could be Japan Air Lines charter flights with tourists. JAL has approached the Fiji Government suggesting a number of charter flights to start in February or March, 1975. There would be 10 to 14 flights for seven-day periods. Each flight would bring about 140 Japanese tourists.

● Captain M. Peters, well known in the South Pacific as a master of Pacific Far East Line ships, has retired. He had held command of 10 cargo ships, and also of the luxury liners, Mariposa and Monterey.

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Cruising Yachts

● In mid-June it was reported there were 35 yachts in Nukuhiva headed for Tahiti.

● **ALKINOOS**, a 32 ft sloop built in France in 1967 and owned by Jim Duncan, 30, of Vancouver, BC arrived in Tahiti in mid-June after Jim sailed single-handed down the coast of the US and Mexico and then to the Marquesas and Tuamotus. His plans were to remain in Tahiti until Bastille Day, July 14, and cruise the Societies before heading on to the Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand. Asked why he decided to sail to the South Pacific, Jim replied that he got tired of sitting on a plough in the hot summer and freezing in the winter.

● **AMAZING GRACE**, a 24 ft steel life conversion boat, was once owned by the Canadian Coast Guard. But they finally rejected the 25-year-old boat as being unseaworthy and sold it at public auction, where it was bought by Dave Boyes, 21, and Tim Noot, 22, both of Vancouver. Dave and Tim sailed **Amazing Grace** into Tahiti around mid-June with a big hole they acquired in the Marquesas. Their plans were to remain in Tahiti about a month while they patched the boat and then head for the Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand. Tim likes to surprise the Islanders with his favourite musical instrument, the bagpipes, as he strolls the streets playing the hymn *Amazing Grace*.

● **BABALATCHI**, a 45 ft ferro-cement flush deck ketch from Vancouver, was in Tahiti during most of June. Aboard were Frank and Pat Braithwaite and their children, Joann, 12 and Patrick, 9. They left Canada in August of 1974 and sailed to Mexico. **Babalatchi** was sailing to Rarotonga, Tonga and New Zealand before heading back home.

● **BETTY J**, is a 40 ft yawl-rigged Cheoy Lee registered in Heber Springs, Arkansas. She is owned by Leonard and Betty Pratt and their two sons, Landon, 17, and Michael, 16. After a sail from Miami through the Caribbean and Panama, the Pratt family spent three months in the Galapagos before cruising to the Marquesas and arriving in Tahiti in mid-May. They planned to leave Tahiti around July 1 and sail to Rarotonga, the Samoas, Australia and New Guinea before going on around the world. Leonard is a retired pilot for Frontier Airlines in the United States.

● **BRIGHT EYES**, a 35 ft Polynesian-type Wharram catamaran, was built in 3½ years by Trevor Tutte of Rochester,

England. Trevor, 25, and his crew-mate, Lynda Peters, 25, of Dundee, Scotland, left England in July, 1974, and sailed through the Atlantic, Caribbean, and the Panama Canal, before arriving in the South Pacific. They sailed to the Marquesas and Tahiti, where they arrived on May 28. They left June 23 for Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand, where Lynda hopes to find work. Trevor plans to sail **Bright Eyes** on to Japan.

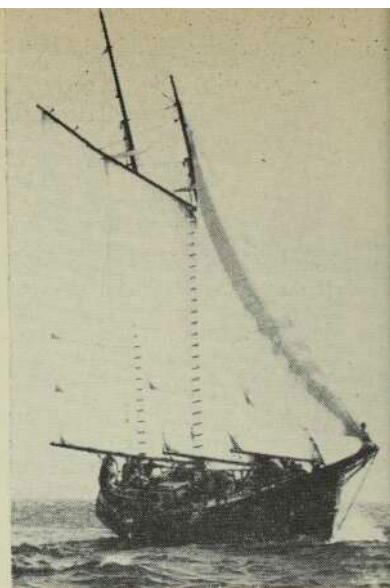
● **CANDIDE**, an 84 ft two-masted gaff-rigged schooner from El Dorado, California, left New Zealand on April 15 and arrived in Tahiti early in June, after having been caught in a gale, then in hurricane force winds. Owners Jon and Penny Stegenga and their son, Will, have been sailing in the South Pacific since June, 1972, and spent 1½ years in New Zealand while Will attended school. Jon reports that **Candidate's** shaft to the rudder was broken by the winds and high seas and they sailed 1,200 miles by steering with the sails until a hole could be bored through the rudder and ropes attached to steer by. A crew of three New Zealanders sailed to Tahiti with the Stegenga family.

● **DOVE**, a 33 ft Luders Design sloop, made famous by the circumnavigation of single-hander Robin Lee Graham, was in Tahiti in June. **Dove** was bought in 1971 from Robin by Dave and Sue Alfson of Los Angeles. Dave and Sue and Sue's brother, John Reinhart, have been sailing in the Pacific for a year and were in New Zealand when the movie *Dove* was playing. Dave says the rumour going around yachting circles that Robin was killed in a motor-cycle accident is completely false, claiming that Robin is living in the mountains of Montana.

● **FAIRWINDS**, 40 ft Newporter ketch from Honolulu, returned to Tahiti for the second time on May 24. Owners Dave and Beverly Taskett of Berkeley, California, have been sailing in the Pacific for 6½ years and have visited the Samoas, Fiji, New Zealand and French Polynesia. Their plans were to leave at the end of June for Hawaii and San Francisco.

● **FELIX**, a 40 ft steel ketch registered in Hamburg, was in Tahiti in June with owner Jack Alexander, Minnesota, aboard. With him was his daughter, Kim, step-daughter, Jane Gordon, son, John, and crew, Steve Rice. Jack bought **Felix** in Martinique and sailed to the Marquesas and French Polynesia in late April. They are going to New Zealand to live. But the most immediate plans were to fly back to the States for a short time.

● **GATITA**, a 32 ft wooden sloop from Guayaquil, Ecuador, arrived in Tahiti in June with single-hander Whitt Birnie, 29, of Westport, Connecticut at the tiller. Whitt bought the 27-year-old boat after backpacking to South America and sailed her to French Polynesia in June, 1972, after spending nine months in the Galapagos. Since then Whitt has



Candidate

been exploring the islands collecting research material for a new book. His first photographic interpretation of nature was a book entitled *Start With the Sky* published in the States. He says he particularly enjoyed Rapa and has been photographing the life under the water and on land. He will be in Tahiti for a while.

● **GAVIOTA II**, a 40 ft Trimaran ketch from Vancouver, with owners Wayne and Brigid Walters aboard, arrived in Tahiti on June 12 and planned to sail the Societies for a couple of months. They rendezvoused with **MARITA SHAN** across the Pacific from Mexico.

● **GROG**, a sleek 50 ft Kettenberg wooden sloop from Portland, Oregon, left Tahiti in June for Honolulu. Captain Dor West of Phoenix, Arizona and crew members Dick Miller and Kirby Bennett arrived in Tahiti on the last day of April after cruising the Marquesas and Tuamotus. They could not find the entrance to the harbour when they arrived at night and were happy to find an English speaking fisherman (he was from Fiji) to guide them in. Don says they are coming back next April and going to New Zealand.

● **HONEY WIND II**, a 40 ft Marine ketch owned by Jim and Janet McNabb of Newport Beach, left Tahiti on June 13 for Hilo. It was their second attempt to leave French Polynesia after spending four months sailing the Marquesas, Tuamotus and Societies. When they reached Bora Bora, their bow stay broke and they developed engine problems and returned to Tahiti. With them was crew member Mike Taylor of Maine.

● **LA PAZ** is a 35 ft Holiday sloop owned by Lee and Shirlee Richey of Morro Bay, California. They left California in November, 1973 and sailed to Costa Rica, the Marquesas, Tuamotus, Tahiti



After sailing the South Seas for the last two or three seasons, the captain and crew of the 48 ft ferro-cement yawl, **ARWEN**. Australian anthropologist Adrian Mackey and Scots girl Anne Hill embarked on the Sea of Matrimony recently. And they are pictured at the Arwen's film, champagne drinks in hand, after the ceremony aboard the yacht at Cammeray marina, Sydney, "being the place to love best", they told PIM. As any good cruise yachtie would say about his lessons for getting wed, Adrian said, "Good crew are hard to find these days!" They are now off to the Solomons via Queensland and the Chesterfield reefs. Arwen was named in PIM several times in 1973-74.

ooks and New Zealand, where they spent six months. When they arrived in New Zealand they discovered the keel was hanging on by only two of the original nine bolts. Lee, who is a professional diver and abalone processor, as **La Paz** had a knock-down of 90 degrees during a gale encountered from New Zealand to Tahiti. They arrived back Tahiti on June 9 and planned to remain for 30 days before heading to Hawaii.

● **LAUREE SUE**, a 37 ft Alberg sloop from Vancouver, arrived in Tahiti in mid-June. Aboard were the Stickney family: George, wife Joan, and daughters Karen, 13, and Susan, 11. They left Canada in August, 1974, and intended to sail to Mexico and home again, but decided to see French Polynesia also. So they set out with photo-copies of charts and only tracings of the dangerous Tuamotus. They will be cruising the Societies at the end of July before heading toward the Cooks, Fiji, Samoas and New Zealand.

● **MARITA SHAN**, a 61 ft ketch built in Taiwan, is owned by Dr Jim Proctor of Victoria, BC and wife, Carole. They arrived in Tahiti on June 12, along with their children, Margaret, Carita, Shannon, and Mark, and crew member Peter Zales of Pasadena, Calif. The Proctors

are US citizens living in Canada. They have been cruising for a year and will be in French Polynesia for two months or more before visiting the Cooks.

● **PAPAKI**, a 28 ft double-end cutter from Lahaina, Hawaii, was built in 1948 and is now owned by Richard Postma, 24, Charles Sghonp, 25, and Leonard Scott, 27, all of Hawaii. **Papaki** and her three owners arrived in Tahiti on June 5 and plan to remain for several months before sailing to the Cooks. It is Richard's second trip to French Polynesia. He spent three months in the Tuamotus on a previous sailing trip and speaks the Paumotu language.

● **SILVER SWORD**, Morgan 54 ft racing sloop from Honolulu, arrived in Tahiti on June 6 from Rarotonga and left the following week for the Tuamotus and Marquesas. Aboard were skipper Jay Lambert, his sister Lou, Walt Busch, Linda Cheyney, Pip and Cindy White and two newcomers, Pahl and Lowry Powers, all from Hawaii. **Silver Sword** was custom-built in 1970 and won the Transpac-Tahiti race that same year under the name of **WIDGEON**. Jay's parents bought her in 1972 and in 1973 she sailed in the Transpac race to Hawaii. Then most of the present crew sailed throughout the islands of Marianas, the Marshalls and Carolines before coming to French Polynesia. They particularly liked Kapingamarangi, one of only two Polynesian-inhabited islands in Micronesia.

● **SOUNDER**, 43 ft fibreglass sloop from Santa Barbara, California, was brought to Tahiti in June, 1974, by owner Harold "Warty" Ward and a crew of three. They made a movie of the trip through the Marquesas and Tuamotus for television in the States, toured French Polynesia for six months and went back to California, leaving **Sounder** in Tahiti. "Warty" then returned to Tahiti with crew member Kevin Sears, a professional abalone diver, and their girl-friends, Cindy Ward and Julie Jones. Their plans in late June were to sail to Huahine and wait for a friend to join them in a cruise to the Cooks, Fiji, Samoas and New Zealand.

● **MY LOVE**, a 50 ft ketch registered at Pinetop, Arizona, arrived at Rarotonga on June 24 from Papeete and Bora Bora. On board were Mrs Randy Weston, owner-skipper, her three children, Arthur, Pamela and Shea, and three crew, Henry Proske, Jerry Radimacher and Caroline Bliss. Next port of call was to be Pago Pago.

● **KARMA**, a 26 ft sloop registered at Auckland, arrived at Rarotonga on June 22 from Bora Bora with single-handed Leon Ernest Smith who planned to make Tonga his next port of call.

● **AKURAKU**, 36 ft sloop, registered at Freemantle arrived at Rarotonga on June 5 from Papeete with Fred Grimminck, his wife, Lesley, and their young son, Tony. They left Freemantle in June,

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PIM'S POWER

A nice thing happened to PIM recently—this letter from Mr Peter Ell of the Niue Island and Blue-water Yacht Club. It speaks for itself but we are proud to add that it just shows how our Cruise Yacht section travels as widely as our very generous readers.

"The publicity you gave Niue Island Blue Water Yacht Club when you printed my letter in PIM (Hey Yachties! Feb p 75) really has made a difference to us here. Many people from as far away as USA and Australia have sent our club donations as well as buying our fund-raising club shirt. Again, many thanks Mr Editor.

"The money we have raised recently has been put to immediate use; several of our members assisted in installing a mooring buoy at Utuko, close by the Alofi landings; so when Niue Public Works Dept gets motivated enough to re-install the old mooring buoy at Alofi there will be two spots for visiting yachts to take a mooring".

1972, and called at islands in the Indian Ocean, off South Africa, and South America and in the West Indies. Tony was born in Trinidad. They passed through the Panama Canal in February, 1975, and expect to reach Australia in September, after calling at Tonga, Fiji and New Caledonia.

● **GYPSY COWBOY**, 41 ft ketch from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, arrived at Rarotonga on June 9 with owner Bill Duncan and Captain Carl Erickson. They called at the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Panama where they stayed six months. Pacific ports of call were the Marquesas and Society Islands. The cruise has lasted 18 months and they plan to complete a circumnavigation within five years.

● **WENDY**, 29 ft sloop, arrived at Rarotonga on June 10 with Bruce Silock and Anne MacNiven from Papeete and Bora Bora. The yacht is registered at Southampton. Plans were to visit Aitutaki and Tonga.

● **WHITE HORSE OF KENT**, 38 ft ketch, carrying owner-designer-builder Colin Usmar and Ruth Boydell arrived at Port Moresby on May 29 from Auckland. Colin built the ketch at Cape Town in 1971. He planned to sail for Africa, via the Seychelles, after Port Moresby.

● **MYONIE**, 36 ft ketch, was a recent arrival in Port Moresby from the Solomon Islands, carrying Dr Al and Helen Gehrman. They intended to sail through Torres Strait and then return to their home in the US after their third world cruise.

● **RONNARCHY**, 36 ft ketch, was abandoned about 60 miles east of Cape Brett, New Zealand, early in June, while on the way from Auckland to Fiji. The three people on board included the owner-skipper, Mr Rob Ray. The three were picked up by the freighter, Union Wellington, which was diverted to the area in response to distress signals.

● **MARIS**, 36 ft wooden yawl, which left Sydney in September, 1974, arrived in Honolulu in April carrying skipper Ian B. Kiernan, of Mosman, Sydney, and Mark Fraser, of Half Moon Bay, California. On the way Maris stopped at Lord Howe Island, Rarotonga, Tahiti, the Marquesas and Hilo.

● **VIAJERA**, 27 ft fibre glass sloop, arrived in Honolulu on May 12 from Papeete, carrying skipper William E. Lonz, of Riverside, California, and Pamela G. Richmond, of Bay of Islands, NZ.

● **PAGURUS**, 42 ft wooden ketch, reached Honolulu on May 26 from French Polynesia. She sailed south on August 4, 1974, from Santa Cruz, California, and before arrival at Honolulu called at Acapulco, Galapagos, the Marquesas, Tahiti and Bora Bora. She weathered a hurricane and a six-day gale off Acapulco. On board **Pagurus** were skipper Albert Towle, Brad Towle and Russell Magardy.

● **LEAU'I**, 45 ft ferro-cement ketch, carrying Webster and Wilma Larsen, of Honolulu, returned to Honolulu on May 31 after a voyage to the Marquesas. Also on board, as crew, was Tom Sawyer, of Millbrae, California.

● **LA CARETA**, 32 ft sloop, carrying Anders and Gunnar Eriksson, arrived at Niue on May 20 from Rarotonga, and sailed on May 26 for Vavau.

● **MYANNA III**, 30 ft yacht, was a May 23 arrival at Niue from Rarotonga, carrying Daniel Roose and Denise Plourde. She left for Vavau on May 31.

● **AQUARIUS**, 34 sloop, arrived at Niue on May 26 from Rarotonga and sailed in June for Pago Pago. On board were Othell and Maxine Mallouf.

● **MOANA**, 34 ft ketch, arrived at Niue from Rarotonga on May 28 and sailed on June 4 for Vavau, carrying Raymond Quint.

● **SHAULA**, a 48 ft yawl registered at Seattle, Washington, USA, arrived at Rarotonga on June 27 from Pago Pago and Suvarrow. On board were owner-captain Gordon Crawford and crewman Ken Vogel. Plans were to call at Tahiti, Hawaii, and the west coast of the USA.

● **MUSCARI**, a 29 ft sloop, registered at Faversham, UK, arrived at Rarotonga on June 26 from Bora Bora with skipper D. J. Morely and crew H. M. Downie. Next port of call was to be in Tonga.

● **ALEZA**, a 40 ft yacht registered at London, arrived at Rarotonga from Auckland, Raiatea and Bora Bora on June 26 with an all-British crew—skipper R. Hood, M. Price, E. Hammick and A. Julian. Plans were to call at Tonga.

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Business and Development

SOLOMONS' REEFS MAY BE A VAST LABORATORY FOR THE EXPERTS

From DR JIM BOUTILIER in Honiara

Two vessels were in Point Cruz roadstead in June which were representative of different aspects of development in the Solomon Islands. The larger vessel was the Sitmar cruise ship Fairstar, which put 900 tourists ashore for a day of shopping and sightseeing in Honiara.

Pan pipe players performed for them in the grounds of the Solomon Islands Museum and enterprising vendors enjoyed a brisk trade in curios, shells, and woodcarvings from impromptu stalls which they had set up near the waterfront.

The Fairstar passengers exemplify the growth of a modest tourist industry in the Solomons which has seen not only an increase in tourism by air, but also the arrival, at roughly two-month intervals, of P and O liners and Russian cruise ships. Over 1,000 tourists visited the Solomons last year and the Chief Minister's office is preparing a policy paper on future developments in the tourist industry.

The smaller vessel, which few people probably noticed in the Fairstar's lee, was the broad-beamed 64 ft steel-hulled research ship, *El Torito*. The owner and master of the *El Torito* is an American marine biologist and ichthyologist, Dr Walter Starck, a highly-experienced diver and authority on diving technology. He comes from a family closely connected with the sea. Both his father and grandfather were fishermen on the coasts of Florida, the only marine area in North America with coral reef formations similar to those in the Pacific.

It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that Dr Starck's main interests should lie in the field of reef ecology.

This is his second major visit to the Solomons. He spent six months in the islands in 1973 conducting a preliminary survey of marine resources during which he and his colleagues discovered 30 varieties of fish hitherto unknown to ichthyologists. Much of the cost of this work was defrayed by the production of documentary

films on marine life, including an ethnographic study of the shark people of Laulasi on the western coast of Malaita.

Coral reefs, like tropical rain forests, he explained, are incredibly stable and rich environments. Eniwetok Atoll, for example, has coral formations dating back 60 million years. While land formations are worn away coral reefs are renewed continuously. Thus conditions are created for very high degrees of specialisation in the plant and animal life on the reefs.

Toxins and poisons, he observed, develop a degree of strength in reef conditions unknown almost anywhere else in the world, and this is one of the reasons why Japanese medical specialists have chosen to use a derivative of the poison from puffer fish to deaden the pain suffered by cancer patients.

The Solomon Islands are linked, in terms of marine ecology, to an enormous reef system which stretches through New Guinea and Indonesia

to South East Asia. As such they enjoy a remarkably rich and varied marine life whereas the presence of large stretches of ocean between the island groups further to the east has resulted in the number of fish species falling off sharply in the New Hebrides, Fiji, and beyond.

Having completed his preliminary study, Dr Starck approached Chief Minister Solomon Mamaloni with a proposal that he be allowed to purchase the southernmost of the Three Sisters, off the east coast of San Cristobal, from Levers Pacific Plantations Limited as a site for a marine research station.

Malaupaina Island appeared ideal from a marine point of view and also because it had no permanent residents apart from Lever's employees. The Chief Minister consulted with his Cabinet, explained the situation to the people of the area, and gave his consent to the scheme.

Negotiations are underway with Levers and Dr Starck and his wife Janice, a New Zealander, plan to



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begin work shortly establishing research facilities. These will be available to experts in the marine sciences and the Starcks hope that people will join them in tackling some of the problems of reef ecology.

The potential of the reef environment, Dr Starck feels, is immense, but hitherto many fisheries schemes have failed because they attempted to apply in tropical seas fish-catching techniques from northern waters.

There may be 200 different varieties of fish in temperate areas while in an area like the Solomons there may be upwards of 2,000 varieties.

The limited number of varieties in colder regions is offset by the greater number of fish within each variety. Thus, bulk fishing techniques can be developed which are not readily applicable where there are fewer fish of each variety.

Dr Starck hopes that his research operation will permit a study of more appropriate methods of fishing in tropical waters, the preservation of reef environments, and the exploration of new areas of reef use.

There is, he observed, a substantial market in North America for aquarium fish. These fish are the small, brightly-coloured, coral reef fish which reproduce swiftly, grow quickly and fetch the same prices as cod fish 50 to 100 times their size. The Philippines exports millions of dollars in tropical fish to the United States each year, and sales of such fish could, Dr Starck feels, contribute materially to the national income of the Solomons.

Fiji brewery loses down

Lautoka, the second biggest centre in Fiji, may not be a "town with no beer", but since June 27 it has been a town with an inoperative brewery. The South Seas Brewery closed suddenly that day, without notice. The company decided to recommend to shareholders that it go into voluntary liquidation.

The closure caused general gloom in the town, not because of the absence of the beer, but because about 100 people lost their jobs. The pressure was hard on the heels of a fire which destroyed a furniture factory on the opposite side of the road, causing some unemployment pending rebuilding.

The brewery never really got off the ground. One initial brand, No 1, was changed because it did not appeal. As for the other brews, the company claimed they were excellent quality, but the local drinker was used to Fiji Bitter and Fiji Lager,



Mrs Ellen B. Allan who has been appointed sales and public relations manager for Regent of Fiji, the hotel on Denarau Island, about 20 minutes drive from Nadi Airport. She was previously sales and marketing manager of Cope Allman (South Pacific) Ltd. She worked for a period in Sydney for the Fiji Government, and was closely associated with the Fiji Visitors Bureau. In Fiji, she was employed by Pacific Hotels and Developments Ltd on the Pacific Harbour project.

brewed at Suva, that they did not want to switch.

Even though South Seas Brewing won 17 per cent of the market at Lautoka, it needed 30 to 40 per cent. There will be substantial losses. The Fiji National Provident Fund was owed \$210,000 according to the July, 1974, balance sheet. The Fiji Development Bank stands to lose its investment of \$75,000 in the brewery.

The July, 1974, balance sheet also showed a net loss of \$359,000. The company then owed \$442,500 to the Bank of New Zealand and \$302,360 to Marac International Ltd. Assets were valued at \$1,498,000. Cash in hand was \$40.

Television, a rival to Fiji tourism

The introduction of colour television in Australia is having an unpredictable effect on the tourist industry in Fiji, according to the Fiji Visitors Bureau chairman, Mr Dick Warner.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the FVB board he said that instead of waiting a year or two till colour television sets become cheaper, Australian people were buying them now. Thus, they did not have the money to go for a holiday—to places like Fiji.

The industry is concerned about a continuing decline in the number of visitors, although the board is confi-

dent that, long-term, there is reason to be optimistic. FVB officers in Australia and New Zealand reported rather gloomily on the economic situation in those countries, which suggested they would provide fewer tourists. The withdrawal of several cruise ships from the South Pacific suggests this once lucrative traffic is falling off.

The board is also aware that Fiji is meeting competition from New Caledonia, where there is a gambling casino at Noumea. And there are enough gambling Australians who would regard that as a tourist attraction. Gambling casinos have been suggested for Fiji in the past, but the government has turned its face against them, just as it did, very firmly, against poker machines 12 or 13 years ago.

The board recognises that Fiji must be prepared to meet competition. The tourist industry has had it easy for too long, and needs to take a searching look at itself, not only for its own sake, but also for the sake of Fiji.

NZ boost for Islands bananas

New Zealand has introduced a new system of payment for banana imports from the Pacific Islands under which it will pay a premium of \$NZ1 a case for quality premium grade. The scheme is based on New Zealand's wish to revitalise the ailing Pacific Islands banana industry. It will improve employment opportunities and should lift the quality of bananas sold to NZ consumers.

The basic price will be \$NZ3.56 a case fob, but with the premium growers can earn \$NZ4.56 a case. The new pricing system is only one of the steps NZ is taking to help the banana industry. Other measures include changes in production and packaging methods, shipping and scientific research. NZ is already providing banana research assistance worth \$NZ100,000 to Tonga and the Cook Islands.

Five million dollars for the Solomons

The accent is on primary industry in a United Nations Development Fund \$5 million programme for the Solomon Islands over the next five years. Particular attention will be paid to agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry, transport, health and vocational training.

A United Nations report said that in agriculture, local processing of fruit and vegetables could offer the best opportunities for additional in-

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come. Coconut research is also envisaged. Much of the aid will be supplied in the form of consultants and fellowships for Solomon Islanders.

The advice from consultants should ensure that various projects are properly launched.

Copra planters feel the pinch

New Hebrides copra exports in the first five months of 1975 at 11,937 tonnes, were well down on the 15,438 tonnes exported in the corresponding period of 1974. Lower values reflected the decline of the world copra market.

Fiji planters too are feeling the pinch, so much so that the government has introduced a subsidy scheme under which \$2 million will be available to keep the price of grade one copra at \$190 a ton, double the grade one price in June.

However, the subsidy is no more than a palliative. It will ease the economic strain on planters till Christmas. Unless there is a dramatic increase in world prices before then, the government may have to look at providing another subsidy.

Copra mill for Micronesians

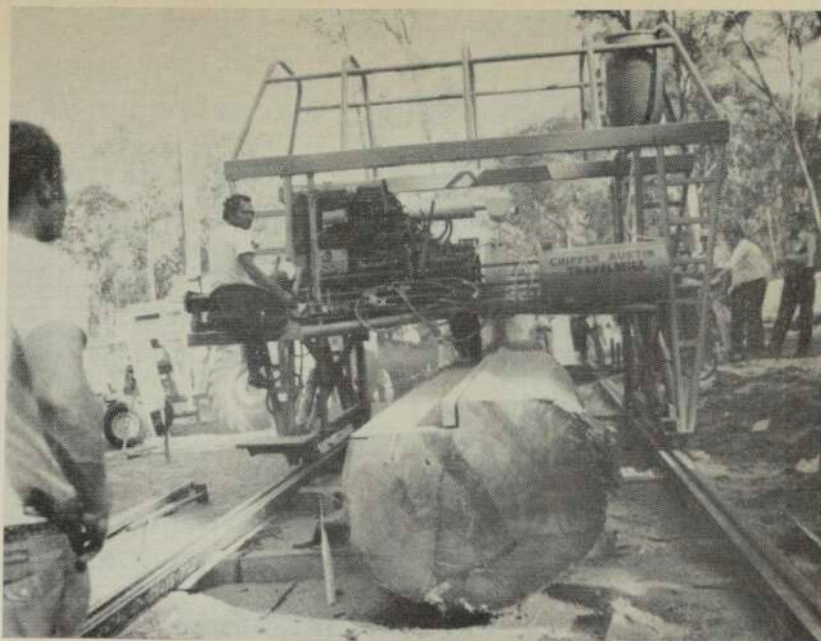
The Micronesian Industrial Corporation is able to press ahead and set up a copra oil mill on Palau. The president of the corporation, Mr Guy A. Luttrell, expects that, barring unforeseen delays, the mill will be operational in July, 1976. The copra storage building will be finished about the middle of December, and the corporation will be ready to buy the entire production of the Trust Territory from next January 2.

If necessary, copra will be bought from the Philippines to augment the mill output. The mill will be able to produce about 100 tons of oil and about 40 tons of copra cake a day.

Fiji town council backs new sawmill

An Australian company, Robb and Brown Ltd, of Queensland, is interested in setting up a sawmilling venture outside Savusavu in Fiji. The Savusavu Town Council recently approved the company's plan for a 22-acre mill site on the town's outskirts. The company, in 1974, bought control of Whites Enterprises Ltd, a Savusavu timber milling company.

The Mayor of Savusavu, Cr Hugh



Thaggard, said the project was of vital importance to the future of the town, particularly as copra prices had slumped. He understood the company would invest about \$3 million in the project. The project would give fuller use of the Savusavu power station, which was running at only a fraction of its capacity.

A Mini-Moke coming to PNG

Papua New Guinea will have a new heavy industry when British Leyland (Aust) and Aveling-Barford Pacific, which have formed a new company, start a vehicle assembly venture. The plant will be at Lae, and will be operated by Leyland Pacific Pty Ltd, which will aim at an export industry for the South Pacific Islands.

Initially, production will be confined to the Leyland Mini-Moke, at the rate of 25 a month. Production

Australia saw the industrial beginnings of independent Papua New Guinea at a huge Forest Industries Machinery Exposition in north-eastern Victoria. This machine (pictured above) claimed to be the first ever to come out of PNG, called the "Chipper-Austin" Travelmill" was displayed and demonstrated at the Exposition by New Guineans. It is the end result of six years of research and development. The machine was originally designed and built as a grass roots sawmill which could be operated by New Guineans without supervision. Easily transported, rugged and of low cost, the mill can be set down and erected in the forest thus cutting log hauling distances to a minimum. There are eight such units operating in PNG and a further five under construction. The Djaul Island Timbers operate two Chipper-Austin Travelmills each with a production target of 5,000 super feet of sawn timber per day. The machines are manufactured and sold by J. Austin Engineering of Rabaul.



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will be stepped later, and so will the local content of the vehicle.

A share in the new company will be available for Papua New Guinea people. Whether this will be by government shareholding, by Development Bank involvement, or by direct share issues, will be decided by the government.

A survey by Aveling-Barford suggested that local assembly would reduce costs sufficiently to enable the Mini-Moke to compete with Japanese vehicles in the 1,000 cc range.

Gilbertese hopes for Christmas

Christmas Island may provide a substitute—though not as remunerative—for the Gilbert Islands when revenue ceases to come in from Ocean Island phosphate which now provides about \$10 million a year for the GEIC.

The GEIC Government recently sent a high-powered team to Christmas Island to get first-hand knowledge of resources being developed by the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Development Authority.

The team comprised the Chief Minister, Mr Naboua Ratieta, the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mr Otiuea Tanentoa, the Minister for Communications, Works and

Utilities, Mr Bwebwetake Areieta, and the Minister for Education, Training and Culture, Mr Roniti Teiwaki, with GEIDA officials, including the manager, Mr Soutar Brown, and scientific consultants from Honolulu.

The team saw a number of industrial sites, including those for the brine-shrimp factory, the copra industry and the fisheries industry. There is also a site for a hotel, which will be the base for a tourist industry for the island. The brine-shrimp industry is likely to be the first to get off the ground. Markets have been found in Europe for this delicacy.

The seas off the island are potentially rich in fish resources.

PNG government buys rejected cars

The PNG Government has quietly bought five of the controversial 25 Mercedes cars which precipitated a major political row earlier this year.

The purchase price is believed to be \$10,000 each, and the cars will be part of the VIP fleet for independence celebrations in September.

Late last year, the Transport Minister, Mr Iambakey Okuk, ordered the 25 cars from Germany at a bulk order price totalling \$185,000—equal to \$7,400 per unit.

Cabinet endorsed the order, but a political row erupted over what was described as unnecessary and irregular expenditure. The Chief Minister, Mr Michael Somare, cancelled the order on his own initiative as political pressures mounted.

However, the cancellation came too late to prevent the arrival of the cars—complete with fittings for pennants and flags. Since then the government has been negotiating compensation arrangements with the importers.

A few of the cars have been sold privately, but five are now being registered for the government.

Koreans to develop PNG timber

The Papua New Guinea Government will spend up to \$30 million in the next 10 years to develop the Kapuluk timber area on the north coast of West New Britain. One of two Korean companies will be chosen to develop the area. The National Resources Minister, Mr Bruce Jephcott, said a new town and an industrial complex would be established to meet development needs. The timber area covers about 180,000 hectares, and is estimated to contain about 5.8 million cubic metres of saw-veneer log and 7.3 million cubic metres of pulpwood.

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After struggling for two years, trying to build up a handcrafts business in Papua New Guinea on an initial capital of \$5, Mrs Hannah Basinauro (above) with the help of a bank loan, now operates a thriving business from an air-conditioned shop.

In the first 18 months she found it difficult to break into the competitive handcrafts market. Each day, she spent a few hours in a shop at the Small Industries Centre, Waigani, Port Moresby, selling on consignment colourful handwoven rugs, pottery, handpainted materials, beads, necklaces and jewellery.

Now, in her new shop, in a business known as Higoardis Handcrafts, she has put consignment selling behind her. She operates in cash only, buying what she needs from potters and weavers at the Small Industries Centre and other sources.

Fiji smells the smoke in Australia's loans battle

Smoke from the battle in Canberra over Australian Government ministers' attempts to raise a loan of 4,000 million petrodollars from the Arab oil sheiks drifted over Fiji in July with the revelation that the Fiji Government had been approached by some of the actors in the drama.

The central figure was Mr Philip Cairns, stepson of the dismissed Australian Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Jim Cairns, who was successively sacked from the portfolios of Treasurer and Minister for the Environment.

The argument centred round whether Mr Cairns, who was private secretary to Dr Cairns, was acting on behalf of the Australian Government or in a private capacity. Fiji ministers said discussions and correspondence supported the view that a trip he made to Fiji in May was official.

But the Australian High Commission in Suva said that in his activities in Fiji he was acting in a purely private capacity. He had no authority whatsoever from the Australian Government to enter into negotiations with the Fiji Government.

Mr Cairns, on May 7 and 8, with General Galal, of Egypt and Mr Ian Richardson, both representing a Melbourne consulting firm, Rawia International (Aust) Pty Ltd, met Fiji ministers and officials in Suva.

Ratu David Toganivalu, Minister for Information, said the talks were entirely exploratory, covering such matters as possible oil and sugar refineries, and direct loan investment.

Fiji, at those talks, made no request for any particular form of industrial development or financial aid.

Dr Cairns bought into the controversy to say that Philip Cairns was never, in any way, authorised to act on behalf of the Australian Government over any loan transactions in Australia or Fiji.

This was after Ratu David said Mr Cairns sent him a letter thanking Fiji ministers for his reception in Suva. The letter was typed on Australian Treasury letterhead, and thanked the ministers on behalf of himself "and my minister Dr Cairns". Mr Cairns denied that he had at any time said he was in Fiji in an official capacity.

Next, there was a report from a Melbourne businessman, Mr D. Jennings, that Mr Cairns tried to get him to back a beef cattle project in the western area of Viti Levu. Mr Cairns had said there were 48,000 acres available. His idea was to build up an export market for beef and end Fiji's dependence on imported meat.

Commenting on Mr Jennings' remarks, Mr Cairns said 50 per cent of the development would have been provided by the Fiji Development Bank. He envisaged a joint venture between the *mataqali* (Fijian land-owning units) and Mr Jennings, with the *mataqali* holding 51 per cent and Mr Jennings 49 per cent.

Mr Jennings said that as far as he was concerned it was an Australian Government-backed project, but Mr Cairns replied that it was a private arrangement.

... and briefly

- Fiji cane farmers expect to earn record \$43,405,000 payout from the 1974 crop. Their payment of \$20.50 a ton from the Fiji Sugar Corporation is more than double the previous record payout—\$10.06 in 1972. They can expect even better in 1975, provided Fiji is able to meet its new commitments to the European Economic Community. But one or two recent rumbles of discontent caused the Minister for Information, Ratu David Toganivalu, to say that disruptions could cost Fiji millions of dollars.

- The Bank of Tonga in its first year of business, issued more than 100 personal loans of about \$1,000 each, mainly for housebuilding. The number of inquiries increased as the year drew to a close.

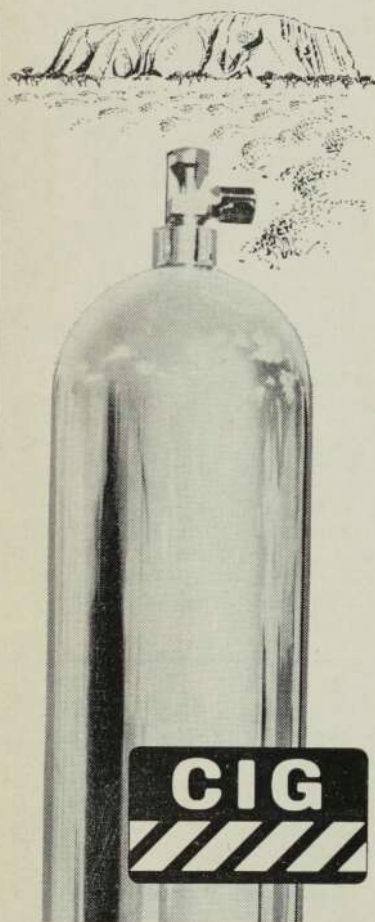
- Another attempt is being made to set up a sheep industry in Papua New Guinea. A flock of about 900 ewes in lamb arrived from New Zealand recently to test the possibility of establishing a combined mutton and cottage wool industry. The late Sir Edward Hallstrom, of Sydney, more than 20 years ago, introduced sheep to the Highlands of New Guinea at Nondugl, as a wool industry experiment. The experiment was discontinued several years later.

- Papua New Guinea and Australia have announced agreement in principle to a mutual long-term free trade policy after PNG achieves nationhood. The PNG Trade Minister, Sir Maori Kiki, and the Australian

Overseas Trade Minister, Mr Frank Crean, announced this in Port Moresby after three days of talks and said that officials from the two countries would meet soon in Port Moresby to begin drafting a formal agreement.

- Mr Phillip Best, general manager of Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, has been transferred to Burns Philp and Co Ltd in Sydney to become assistant to the general manager, Mr M. O'Connor. Mr Best, Fiji-born, joined Burns Philp in 1952, and held several senior appointments before becoming general manager of the South Sea company. He has been succeeded in Suva by Mr Ronald Rowland, who joined the company in 1974 after a career in commerce in Australia and the Far East.

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Produce Prices

Unless otherwise stated, quotations are in Australian currency. Australian dollar (July 14) equals New Zealand, \$1.0254 (buying), \$1.0210 (selling); Fiji, \$1.0811 (buying), \$1.0571 (selling); Western Samoa, tala 0.8401 (buying), 0.7931 (selling); Tonga, pa'anga 0.8826 (buying), 0.8650 (selling); US, \$1.3192 (buying), \$1.3142 (selling); UK, £0.6017 (buying), £0.5965 (selling); French Pacific, CFP, 100.647 (buying), 99.169 (selling).

COPRA

Copra industries are controlled through copra boards in PNG, the Solomons, the GEIC, both Samoas, Fiji, Tonga, the Cooks and the US Trust Territory. New Hebrides, French Polynesia and New Caledonia do not have boards and copra is either sold individually by growers to overseas buyers or used locally.

NEW GUINEA:—The board, with planters' reps, directs distribution and sales and pays planters. Shipments are made to UK, European markets and to Australia and Japan, and coconut oil mills on New Britain.

Prices, April 1, were: Per tonne, delivered main ports, hot-air dried, k145; FMS, k142; smoke-dried, k140.

FIJI:—The board fixes prices on Philippines copra, taking into account freight, taxes, selling costs, shrinkage, etc. The price is subsidised. Prices on July 7 were: Fiji 1, \$190; Fiji 2, \$171; CAS, \$63.

NEW HEBRIDES:—Copra sold direct by planters to France and Japan. Burns Philp paying on wharf, Vila or Santo, July 7 3500 NHF, July 11, 97.75 met francs.

US TRUST TERRITORY:—1st grade, \$200, 2nd grade, \$190, 3rd grade, \$180. Outer islands, \$175, \$165 and \$155 ton for the three grades, if serviced by government ships, and \$165, \$155 and \$145 if serviced by private ships.

COOK ISLANDS:—All production is sold to Abels Ltd, Auckland. Prices are based on average world prices for the prior three or six months, and remain in force for three months.

GILBERT ISLANDS:—\$179.20 a ton, or 8c a pound.

WESTERN SAMOA:—1st grade, \$WS102; 2nd grade, \$WS89.50.

OTHER PRODUCE

COCOA:—Islands rates are based on Ghana prices. Ghana price on July 14 was spot Estg 684 ton, c.i.f., UK, Continent.

July 14, in store, Rabaul, export quality, k800 per tonne; delivered ex wharf Sydney \$935 per tonne.

Solomons:—Delivered to Agriculture Dept. offices in Honiara and Auki. Recent price was 25c per lb dried beans first grade, 20c second grade.

COFFEE:—PNG, July 15: Good quality. A grade, 46c per lb; B grade, 44c; C grade, 42c; Y grade, 40c (ex-store Sydney).

W. Samoa:—Recently, WSTEC ground and dried beans, 60 sene per lb wholesale.

PEANUTS:—PNG: Sydney agents reported recently f.o.b., Lae: Kernels—white Spanish 19c lb.

RICE (Aust):—PNG: Dried brown, 25 kilo bags, \$298.94 per tonne. Vitamin enriched white, 25 kilo bags, \$303.94 per tonne, all f.o.w. Sydney/Melbourne.

Pacific Islands: Calrose med. grain, white, 25 kilo bags, \$310 per tonne. Kulu long grain white, 25 kilo bags, \$355 per tonne. All prices c.&f. Sydney/Melbourne.

RUBBER:—Singapore, July 14: 37c a kilo. **VANILLA BEANS:**—Prices recently were: White and yellow label processed standard packs, \$7.50; green label \$7.40, c.i.f., Sydney. Tonga—\$T4.20, f.o.b., Nukualofa; \$T4.50, Melbourne.

EXCHANGE RATES

FIJI:—Through Bank of NSW, ANZ Bank, Bank of NZ, Bank of Baroda, First National City Bank, Aust \$ on Fiji \$ buying \$F1.0811 = \$A1.

COOK IS., NIUE:—New Zealand currency is used.

NEW HEBRIDES:—Through Bank of NSW, ANZ Bank, Commercial Bank of Australia, National Bank of A'asia, Banque Nationale De Paris, Barclays Bank, Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corp, Mosbert Bank. \$A1 = 89.19 New Hebridean francs (buying); 87.98 (selling)—airmail transfer rate.

WESTERN SAMOA:—Through Bank of Western Samoa, controlled from NZ. \$WS Tala 1 = \$A0.8041 (buying), \$A0.7931 (selling).

TONGA:—Tongan dollar (pa'anga) = \$A0.8826 (buying), \$A0.8650 (selling).

NORFOLK IS., SOLOMON IS., GEIC, NAURU:—Australian currency used; no exchange payable in transactions with Australia.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA:—PNG and Australian currency used; no exchange payable in transactions with Australia.

FRENCH PACIFIC COLONIES:—Pacific francs (CFP) are used in New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna Is, and Fr Polynesia. French Bank, Sydney, on July 15, quoted: \$A1 = 100.33 CFP (buying), 98.98 (selling). Paris-London, July 14: £1 = 9.1500 francs (buying), 9.1400 francs (selling). Pacific franc—London, July 14: £1 = 166.3636 CFP (buying), 166.1818 CFP (selling). CFP to 1 metropolitan franc 18.43 (buying), 17.94 (selling).

Banks should be approached for daily rates.

● Twenty-eight cruise ships carrying 30,361 passengers called at Vila in 1974. The ships generally stayed for less than 12 hours. Projected for 1975 are 42 ships, which will make Vila the third busiest port for such ships in the South Pacific. Santo is in the list of ports-of-call for cruise ships from 1976. The number of visitors to the condominium in 1974, apart from those in cruise ships, was 17,247, a figure slightly higher than that for 1973. The average stay was 9.9 days.



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SAMOA'S ROYAL SONS

From p 15

only four hours after Mataafa's death, had been questioned by some, there had been practically no objections and the Legislative Assembly had confirmed it.

"It's an omen in Tamasese's favour for next year's elections," Mr Plowman writes.

He continues:

In 1969 Tamasese left a doctor's chair at the hospital to enter politics and take over the reins of his country as Prime Minister and in the three years as PM he demonstrated his ability to govern. There is little doubt that he would have been returned to office in 1972 but for the waywardness of some of his ministers during their term of office. Tamasese's honesty of purpose is beyond question. He has little personal ambition but a lot for his country.

But as it has proved, a rotten plank on a good ship can sink the ship and a good PM should see that there are no such planks in his cabinet.

The Hon Tamasese is now in the unique position of completing a term with a cabinet that is not of his choice and, actually, was in opposition to him at the last election for PM. The recent tabling in the House of the findings of the Public Accounts Committee strengthens his position.

Tupuola Efi is undoubtedly a candidate for the PM stakes, but the question being asked is—is he ready for the responsibility? Everyone remembers the great work of his father, the late Tupua Tamasese, CBE, for independence for his country, and it is fitting that his son should follow in his footsteps, but it must be remembered that the future of many a good colt has been ruined by too much racing too early.

The beach has other candidates for the office but whoever is nominated my guess is Tamasese will be our next PM. Western Samoa, at this stage cannot afford any form of unstable government that might be introduced by an untried prime minister.

We are nearing the completion of a three-year term of financial control introduced by the present Minister of Finance, Sam Sali. Whether such control has been beneficial to Samoa as yet to be proved but, according to evidence dug up by the Public Accounts Committee, Sam himself has had some benefit.

In the years of self-government, I have closely observed the results of long hours we spent at the two constitutional conventions. During the debate on the selection of the minis-

ters for the cabinet by the prime minister, Mr Timu K. said, "It will mean that the prime minister can select his friends and relations".

The late Dr Jim Davidson replied, "I think that fear is quite baseless for two reasons. The first is that the PM will always find it necessary to select the members of the Legislative Assembly who he believes are best suited to help him carry out the work of government efficiently".

The second reason was the fear of a vote of "No confidence".

Since there has been more than one candidate nominated for the office of PM at three-year intervals, the elected PM has been compelled to select his ministers from his supporters. And how could he do otherwise. Mr Timu K. was right and Dr Davidson wrong, but none of us could see it at the time.

The present method of the elected PM choosing his own ministers from his supporters is not in the interests of good government as it has been proved.

And again, is it fair to the newly-elected PM that the responsibility of selecting a cabinet is his entirely. He may have to choose a minister against his better judgment who he already knows he will have to replace in the near future. And this has happened.

The solution to the problem, in my opinion, is that a panel of 10 to 12 members should be elected by the Legislative Assembly from which the PM should select his cabinet of eight ministers, so that the choice is a responsibility equally shared by the House and the PM.

The fear of a vote of "No confidence" is remote. Most members of the assembly sacrifice time and money to become members and it is not likely that they will support a vote that will send them back to be reselected, as it is understood that on a vote of "No confidence" being successful the House will be dissolved and new elections called.

The next term of parliament will be the last when two candidates will be selected from the Individual Voters Roll. There is a possibility Peter Paul will be standing again, and Tom Ott tells me he intends to make a comeback.

Alfonse Philips after three years as Minister of Education has been cured of politics, and like many men who have been heckled by women, he's going fishing. If Sam Sali has any ideas about standing again he should go with him.

Still friends in Micronesia

Although the Micronesians voted by more than three to one in favour of the covenant which will set up the US Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas—voting in the plebiscite in June was 78.9 per cent in favour of union with America—there's still a lot of sentimental regard for the rest of the Trust Territory.

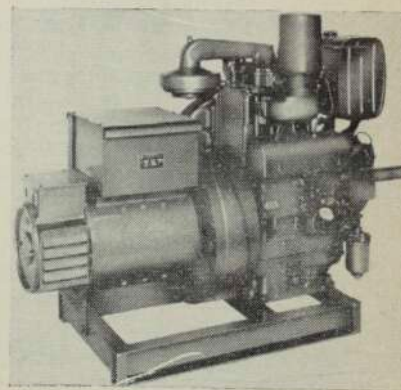
So much so, in fact, that the Marianas senators reversed a previous decision and decided to take part in the Micronesian Constitutional Congress scheduled to begin mid-July.

In view of that, there was a surprising lack of interest by the Marianas in the Trust Territory-wide referendum in July over future political status. Only five per cent of the Marianas people cast their votes, and reports were that the voting was "generally low" throughout the territory.

Results were not available for the Marshalls and the Carolines.

Any real opposition to the Marianas decision to separate from the rest seems to have disappeared—nowadays there are only good wishes voiced by all—and it is expected that the US Congress will ratify the covenant shortly. President Ford has sent it to Congress with his "strong endorsement".

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HD529

New Hebrides nationalism

from p 7

Leadership has failed to overcome the gulf that has emerged and which seems to be widening. Almost none of the National Party leaders speak French and only a few French-educated New Hebrideans have any connections with the party at all. At the moment hardly one-fifth of the New Hebridean population is French-educated—but with the activist policy of the French Government this is likely to change rapidly over the next few years. Unless the National Party can establish a secure base among French and British-educated New Hebrideans, as well as among the rural community, its long-term prospects for success as the leader of a nationalist movement must be doubtful.

For the student of politics, the present situation in the New Hebrides is a perplexing one. Will the municipal councils turn out to be the strong-arm of the government as some suspect? Will the new Representative Assembly be prepared to accept a role subservient to that of the colonial government? What will be the strength of the nationalists within the Assembly? How stable is the UCNH-MANH-Nagriamel alliance? Is there a chance that a new, black nationalist united front will emerge to combat colonial politics? These are only a few of the uncertainties which affect New Hebrides politics today. Perhaps by the end of 1975, after the first real rounds of the political contest have been played, the nature and the likely outcome of the conflict will be clearer.

FORGOTTEN MONEY !

Four organisations in the Islands appear to have forgotten they have money in the bank! The Australian Commonwealth Bank published in July a list of unclaimed balances in the savings accounts in NSW. The balances, unclaimed for seven years, included Gilbertese and Ellice Protestant Youth Fellowship \$82.94; Nauru Administration Hospital Ladies' Auxiliary \$482.55; Nauru Christian Endeavour \$65.87 and the Solomon Islands Planters' Association \$1,123.54.

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★ ★ ★

BUDGETING FOR SUNSHINE IN SAMOA

From FELISE VA'A in Pago Pago

"It could have been worse," the philosophers said here in late June, after they'd heard the best and the worst about American Samoa finances from Lieutenant-Governor Frank Barnett on whose shoulders fell the job of presenting the 1976 Budget to the 14th Legislature.

Governor Earl B. Ruth was away, attending the national governors' annual convention in Louisiana, after which he managed to squeeze \$US3 million from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for American Samoa's water supply.

Things have been in such a mess in the territory lately, that Barnett's task of bringing in a Budget which would spread a little sunshine over the gloom wasn't an easy one. But Barnett, an ex-FBI agent, played his part immaculately.

The times were not so happy but neither were they so hard, Barnett seemed to be saying. In brief, the 1976 Budget showed every sign of being an "austerity" one. Government expenditure for basic operations has been held at a minimum level. On the other hand, the major financial efforts will be in the field of capital improvements for electricity, water, roads, sewers and so on.

The government's strategy will then seem to be to hold one flank steady while delivering the major blow with the other. Obviously, as the administration now sees it through

the eyes of Governor Ruth, Barnett and the Department of the Interior, the road to prosperity for the territory lies in projects for improving the territory's electrical system, water supply, road networks and sewer system. These may be classified under the term "capital improvement" because they either directly or indirectly promote further wealth for American Samoa.

Last September, the administration put to the *Fono* (legislature) a preliminary budget proposal for 1976. In that preliminary proposal, it was estimated that local revenues would come to around \$15,993,000.

However, the *Fono* had not reckoned with two things:

- The fish catch received by the Star Kist and Van Camp canneries was only a quarter of that normally received.

- A severe drought late in 1974 forced the two canneries to cease operations for a considerable period.

Both these facts could mean only one thing: reduced output at the canneries which, in turn, meant reduced income from taxes. Now, it is estimated that local revenues for 1976 will come to only \$8 million.

However, the administration has a well-known ace up its sleeve. Ex-congressman Ruth earlier in the year had applied to the Interior and Congress for an additional \$10,292,000

to finance capital improvement projects in the territory for 1976. His application is still being considered but if approved, it will be a big help to the territory's ailing economy.

It will also have the effect of freeing local funds to meet matching requirements for an additional \$5.55 million in capital improvement funds. So that all in all, American Samoa's total budget for 1976 (beginning July 1, 1975, and ending June 30, 1976) could come to \$47.3 million.

Barnett told the legislators he had not said much about unemployment and underemployment. However, he did point out that if the governor's request for an additional \$10 million for capital improvements was approved, this would mean opening up new employment opportunities for the people of the territory.

"We need people to work on the water, road, power and sewer projects," he said.

As was expected, both the Senate and the House of Representatives approved the whole of the Budget. The only major change made was to divert \$149,000 from the Department of Education operating budget to the scholarship fund, thus raising the total available for scholarships from \$101,000 to \$250,000.

Among the significant changes proposed under the new budget is the separation of the television station KVZK-TV from the Education Department.

Henceforth, the television station will come under a new entity, the Office of Television Operations. It will continue to broadcast educational lessons for the schools, though at a much reduced rate than in the past.

The educational system, it appears, has gone full circle and is returning more fully to the old system which stressed the importance of the teacher rather than the medium. This return has been due partly to social pressure, and also to lack of funds to run an expensive station and pay high salaries for contract employees.

The station staff maintain Governor Ruth had not consulted them about the move to separate the station from the Education Department.

It perhaps illustrates the governor's determination to solve the financial riddle which now faces his administration. He is prepared to solve this riddle regardless of whose toes he may step on, and it appears he is annoying some people.

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Shipping & Airways Information

SHIPPING

SYDNEY - NZ - FIJI/TAHITI - UK

Chandris Lines maintains a twice-monthly passenger service from Sydney via NZ, Suva or Papeete.
Details from Chandris Lines, 135 King Street, Sydney (28-2451).

SYDNEY - LORD HOWE IS - NORFOLK IS - NEW CALEDONIA

Somacal operates 25-day service from Sydney to Lord Howe and Norfolk Is.
Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-6301).
Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operates four-weekly cargo service Sydney-Lord Howe Island-Norfolk Island-Noumea.
Details: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 17-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

SYDNEY - NORFOLK IS - AUCKLAND - NEW CALEDONIA

Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operates four-weekly cargo service from Sydney to Norfolk Island, Auckland and Noumea.
Details: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 37-9 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

SYDNEY - NZ - FIJI - HAWAII - CANADA - US

P and O liners call at Auckland, Suva and Honolulu on eastbound and westbound voyages between Sydney and the US.
Details from P & O Australia Ltd, 55 Hunter Street, Sydney (230-0177).

SYDNEY - NZ - FIJI - TONGA - VILA - NOUMEA - SAMOAS - TAHITI

Shaw Savill liner cruises in the Pacific sailing from Australia and New Zealand calling at Suva, Lautoka, Tonga, Vila, Noumea, Pago Pago, Tahiti, Apia, Vavau.
Details: Shaw Savill Line, 62 Pitt St, Sydney (241-3921).

Sitmar Cruises operates a South Pacific cruise programme to include most of the above countries plus the Solomons.

Details from Sitmar Line (Australia) Pty Ltd, 22-30 Bridge Street, Sydney (27-4521).

Royal Viking Line, with luxury cruise ships Royal Viking Sea, Star and Sky, cruises the Pacific from Sydney, calling at most of above countries.

Details from Wilh. Wilhelmsen Agency Pty Ltd, 13-15 Bridge Street, Sydney (2-0517).

P & O liners call at Suva, Honiara, Pago Pago, Auckland, Vila, Noumea, Honolulu, Nukualofa, Vavau, Savusavu, Jakarta and Bali regularly on cruises from Australia.

Details from P & O Australia Ltd, 55 Hunter Street, Sydney (230-0177).

AUSTRALIA - NEW CALEDONIA

Sofrana-Unilines operates a 21-day service from Sydney to Noumea.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 37 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2031).

AUSTRALIA - NEW CALEDONIA - NEW HEBRIDES

Sofrana-Unilines' ships call regularly at Sydney, Noumea and Vila.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 37 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2031), Burns Philp and Co Ltd,

340 Collins Street, Melbourne (67-8941) and John Swire and Sons, Brisbane (46-1155).

South Pacific United Lines with Polynesie maintains cargo-passenger sailings—Sydney, Noumea, Vila and Santo.

Details from Omni Traders & Brokers Pty Limited, 261 George Street, Sydney (241-2872/6).

Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operates three-weekly cargo service from Sydney to Noumea, Port Vila, Santo.

Details: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

AUSTRALIA - FIJI

Sofrana-Unilines operates Melbourne-Sydney-Fiji every 28 days.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 37 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2031); Burns Philp and Co Ltd, 340 Collins Street, Melbourne (67-8941).

Nauru Pacific Line operates cargo/passenger service to Fiji and South Pacific ports.

Details from Nauru Pacific Line, 227 Collins Street, Melbourne (654-4977); Intercean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (20-522); Dalgety Shipping, 291 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane (31-0331).

Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd operates three weekly cargo services from Sydney to Suva and Lautoka.

Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-6301); Dalgety Shipping, 461 Bourke St, Melbourne (60-0731); Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva and Lautoka.

AUSTRALIA - TAHITI - MEXICO - US

South Pacific United Lines has two vessels, Newfoundland and Krohn Trader, maintaining six weekly service from Sydney to Papeete, Mexico and US.

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CARGO VESSEL: Built Brisbane 1970, P.N.G. Survey 5/75; LOA 60' 6" DWT 65 tons approx (700 bags) M.E. Single Screw Diesel Gardner 6 LX BHP 110; 1 x 1½ tons SWL Derrick, Radar, radio, dinghy. Accomm. for 10 + Saloon/Galley. \$A70,000.00 cash.

CARGO VESSEL: Built 1971 Halvorsen Sydney; Wooden Const; LOA 55' Draft 7' approx. Carrying Cap. 350 bags copra/25 tons; M.E. 4 cyl. Caterpillar 180 BHP 12 knots. Derrick 25 cwt lift; Accomm. Master + Engineer + 8 crew. \$A42,000.00.

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SHIP BROKERS,

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Telephone 42 4305

Cables: Marineserv.

Telex: NE 42518.

Details from Omni Traders & Brokers Pty Limited, 261 George Street, Sydney (241-2872/6).

AUSTRALIA - PNG

Containers Pacific Express (Burns Philp and AWP Line) operates four-weekly cargo service from Melbourne (direct) with Milos & Samos and Sydney and Brisbane to Lae and Port Moresby with Nimos.

Details from Burns Philp & Co Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (241-3816).

Pacific Far East Line operates a service every 18 days from Tasmania, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Lae, Rabaul and Kieta.

Details from PFEL, 50 Young Street, Sydney, (27-4272), 454 Collins Street, Melbourne (67-7237), Burns Philp (NG) Ltd, Rabaul and Kieta, Robert Laurie-Carpenter (NG) Pty Ltd, Lae.

New Guinea Express Lines with two ships operates three-weekly Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul.

Details from New Guinea Express Lines, PO Box R73, Royal Exchange PO, Sydney (241-1396) and 72 Eagle St, Brisbane (21-9333), Westralian Farmers Transport Pty Ltd, 459 Collins St, Melbourne (67-8291), Breckwoldt's Shipping Agencies in Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul Niu-gini Pty Ltd, Rabaul.

Karlander New Guinea Line's cargo vessels call at Melbourne, Sydney, Lae, Madang, Wewak, Manus, Kimbe.

Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-6301); Dalgety Shipping, 461 Bourke St, Melbourne (60-0731).

AUSTRALIA - PNG - BSIP

New Guinea Australia Line's vessels operate from Sydney and Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kavieng, Honiara, Kieta, Gizo, Madang and Samarai.

Details from Intercocean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (20-522).

AUSTRALIA - NG - MICRONESIA - GUAM

Nauru Pacific Line operates monthly conventional/container service Melbourne/Sydney to New Guinea, Guam and Micronesia.

Details from Nauru Pacific Line, 227 Collins Street, Melbourne (654-4977); Intercocean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (20-522).

AUSTRALIA - PNG - FAR EAST

E. and A. Line passenger ships make regular round voyages from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane calling at Port Moresby, Manila, Hong Kong, Keelung, Kobe, Yokohama (Tokyo) and Rabaul.

Details from P & O Australia Ltd, 55 Hunter Street, Sydney (230-0177).

US - PNG

Pacific Far East Line operates regular services from all US west coast ports to Lae, Rabaul, Kieta.

Details from PFEL, One Embarcadero Centre, San Francisco, Burns Philp (NG) Ltd, Rabaul and Kieta, Robert Laurie-Carpenter (PNG) Pty Ltd, Lae.

PNG - US - CANADA

Pacific Far East Line operates regular services from Lae, Rabaul and Kieta to US west coast ports and Vancouver.

Details from Burns Philp (NG) Ltd, Rabaul and Kieta, Robert Laurie-Carpenter (PNG) Pty Ltd, Lae, PFEL, One Embarcadero Centre, San Francisco and 50 Young Street, Sydney (27-4272).

FAR EAST - FIJI - NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Unit Express (CNC, MOL, RIL) operates a three-weekly cargo service from Hong Kong to Lautoka, Suva, NZ ports, Manila, Kaoshiung, Keelung, Hong Kong.

Details from Intercocean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (20-522).

Royal Intercocean Lines operates monthly passenger/cargo service with three ships from Surabaya, Bangkok, Port Kelang and Singapore to Suva and NZ ports.

Details from Intercocean Australia Services, 261 George Street, Sydney (2-0573), Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd Suva and Lautoka.

Ben Shipping Pty Ltd, with Liverpool Clipper, operates monthly cargo service between Singapore and Suva.

Details from Seatrans (Fiji) Ltd.

FAR EAST - PNG - BSI - NEW HEBRIDES - NOUMEA - TAHITI - SAMOA

China Navigation Co's vessels operate a regular cargo service from Hong Kong to Rabaul, Wewak, Madang, Lae, Port Moresby, Honiara, New Hebrides, Noumea, Papeete and Samoa.

Details from Intercocean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (20-522).

NORTH EUROPE - NEW CALEDONIA

Hamburg/Sued operates monthly cargo services from Dunkirk and Le Havre to Noumea, via Panama.

Details from Columbus Overseas Services Pty Ltd, 333 George Street, Sydney (290-2966).

Messageries Maritimes operates five cargo services a month from north and Mediterranean European ports to Papeete and Noumea.

Details from Messageries Maritimes, 332 Pitt Street, Sydney (61-6664).

JAPAN - GUAM - FIJI - SAMOA - N CALEDONIA - N HEBRIDES

Daiwa Line runs a monthly cargo service from Japan via Guam to Suva, Lautoka, Pago Pago, Apia, Vila, Santo and Noumea.

Details from Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva.

TONGA - SAMOA - FIJI - AUSTRALIA

Pacific Navigation Co Ltd operates a monthly cargo service between Nukualofa, Apia, Suva and Lautoka to Sydney.

Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt St, Sydney (27-6301); Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd.

NZ - FIJI - TONGA - SAMOAS - TAHITI

Union Steam Ship Co of New Zealand operates a fully containerised service Auckland, Suva, Pago Pago, Apia and Nukualofa every 14 days.

A unitised service is operated Auckland, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Auckland monthly.

A 28-day service is operated from Auckland to Papeete.

Details from any office of the Union Steam Ship Co, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Auckland.

NZ - NORFOLK IS

USS Co vessels operate 40-day cargo service Auckland, Norfolk Is., Papeete.

Details from Union Steam Ship Co of NZ Ltd, PO Box 12, Auckland.

NZ - N CALEDONIA - N HEBRIDES - NG - BSIP

Sofrana/Unilines with four ships operates to Vila and Santo; to Honiara and New Guinea; and to Noumea.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 42 Customs Street, Auckland (73-279), P.O. Box 3614. Telex: NZ 2313.

NZ - PNG

Pacific Far East Line operates regular service every 18 days from Auckland to Lae, Rabaul, Kieta.

Details from PFEL, 109 Queen Street, Auckland (31022) Burns Philp (NG) Ltd, Rabaul and Kieta, Robert Laurie-Carpenter (PNG) Pty Ltd, Lae.

NZ - FIJI - NORTH AMERICA (WC)

Crusader cargo ships call at Suva, Levuka and Honolulu on NZ-US west coast trips and at Suva and/or Lautoka on US-NZ return trips.

Details from Blue Star Port Lines (Management) Ltd, P.O. Box 192 Wellington (70179); Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd.

NZ - FIJI

La Bonita operates a regular 18 day service from Auckland to Suva and Lautoka.

Details from Reef Shipping Agencies Ltd, P.O. Box 13-315, Onehunga, NZ. (Phone 663-918, 663-928).

NZ - TONGA

Pacific Navigation Co Ltd operates two ships Auckland-Lyttelton-Nukualofa-Vavau-Haapai, on a 14-21-day schedule, and other ports by inducement.

Details from the Northern Steam Ship Co Ltd, 22-24 Quay Street, Auckland (362-730).

NZ - FIJI - SAMOA

Pacific Line with one ship operates monthly cargo service, New Zealand, Lautoka, Suva, Apia.

Details: Sofrana-Unilines, 42 Customs Street, Auckland (73-279) PO Box 3614, Telex: NZ 2313.

UK - PANAMA - SAMOA - FIJI

The Fiji Direct Service, cargo only, is maintained by Conference vessels, sailing at regular monthly intervals out of London, via Panama, for Apia, Suva and Lautoka.

Details from Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva.

UK - PNG - BSIP - GEIC - N HEBRIDES - N CALEDONIA

Bank Line operates a monthly direct cargo service from Europe, via the Panama Canal to

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Details from Bank Line (A/asia) Pty Ltd, 1 York St, Sydney (27-2041); Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva.

EUROPE - TAHITI - W SAMOA - FIJI - N CALEDONIA

Nedlloyd offers regular cargo services from Northern Europe and UK to Papeete, Apia, Fiji and New Caledonia.

Details: InterOcean Aust. Services Pty Ltd, 261 George Street, Sydney (2-0573).

US - A. SAMOA - NZ - AUSTRALIA

Pacific Far East Line LASH ships operate regularly from US to Australia, via Pago Pago and Auckland, returning via PNG ports.

Details from PFEL, 50 Young Street, Sydney 27-4272), 454 Collins Street, Melbourne 67-7237), One Embarcadero Centre, San Francisco (576-4000), 109 Queen Street, Auckland (31-022), Kneubuhl Maritime Services, Pago Pago (633-5121).

US - SYDNEY - GEIC - HONOLULU

Columbus Line operates a three weekly container cargo sailing from West Coast, US to Australasia, returning via Tarawa, GEIC and Honolulu to Nth America.

Details from Columbus Overseas Services Pty Ltd, 333 George Street, Sydney (290-2966).

US - FIJI/TAHITI - AUSTRALIA

Bank Line Ltd operate regular cargo services from US Gulf ports to Australia and NZ calls at Suva, Lautoka and Papeete on demand. Details from Bank Line (A/asia) Pty Ltd, York St, Sydney (27-2041).

Pacific Far East Line cruise ships operate regularly from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Moorea, Papeete, Rarotonga, Auckland, Opua, Sydney, and return via Suva, Papeete, Pago Pago and Honolulu to San Francisco.

Freight is carried on these passenger liners. Pacific Far East Line cellular container vessels operate regularly from North American east coast ports to Australia, via Papeete, returning via Auckland and Pago Pago. Details from PFEL, 50 Young Street, Sydney 7-4272).

US - TAHITI - SAMOA

Pacific Islands Transport operates a five/six weekly cargo service from North American west coast ports to Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia.

Details from Trans-Austral Shipping Pty Ltd, Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2441).

Polynesia Line operates cargo service from west coast ports to Papeete and Pago Pago.

Details from Funness Inter Ocean Corp, 465 California Street, San Francisco (398-2000).

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PAA (707s and 747s)—Fiji, American Samoa, Hawaii, US.

CP Air (DC8)—Fiji, Hawaii, Canada.

JTA (DC8s and DC10s)—New Caledonia, Fiji, New Zealand, Tahiti, US.

Air-NZ (DC10s)—New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii,

Air Nauru (F28)—New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tarawa, Majuro.

Insett and TAA (727s)—PNG.

Advance Aviation (from Sydney), North Coast lines (from Coffs Harbour) and Oxley Airlines (from Port Macquarie)—Lord Howe Is.

FROM NEW ZEALAND

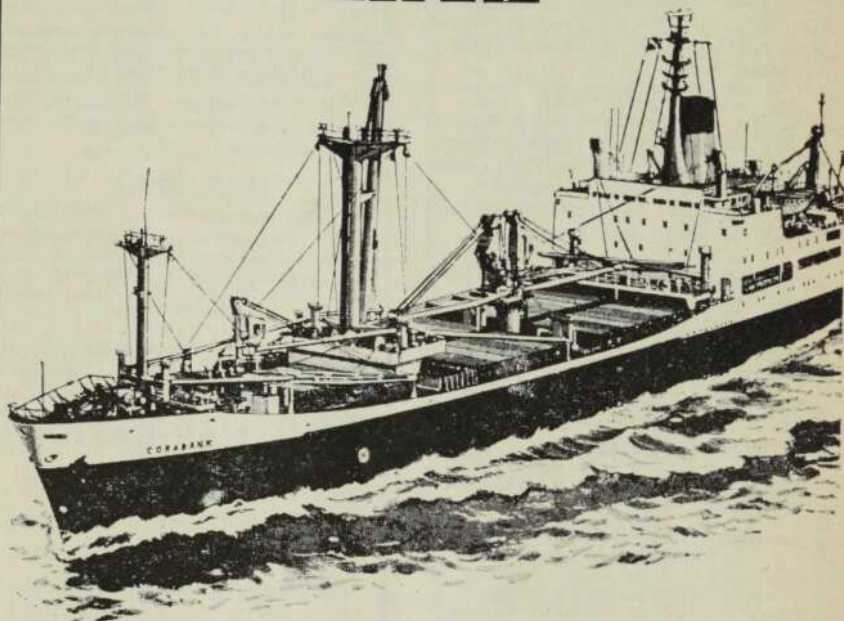
Air-NZ (DC8s and DC10s)—Fiji, American Samoa, Cook Is, Tahiti, US, New Caledonia, Norfolk Is.

PAA (707s)—American Samoa.

JTA (DC8)—Tahiti.



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Deaths of Islands People

Mr R. Boyd

Mr R. (Bob) Boyd, who died recently at Rarotonga, aged 78, was a well-known figure in the Cook Islands. He was a signwriter, and Rarotonga shows many examples of his work. Mr Boyd served in World War I. He leaves three sons and a daughter.

Mr G. Teisseire

Mr George Teisseire, who worked in the New Hebrides Public Works Department, died suddenly in June. He owned Le Mer Restaurant at Melcoffee, Vila. Mr Teisseire worked mainly on Efate and Tanna.

Mr Willie Netvunei

Mr Willie Netvunei, of Rampnuingo village, Erromanga, New Hebrides, who died recently, was believed to be more than 100 years old.

Airways contd

PACIFIC - FAR EAST - S. AMERICA

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Air Pacific (BAC111)—Fiji-Tonga-NZ.

INTER-TERRITORY

Lan-Chile (707s)—Easter Is, Tahiti, Fiji. Air Pacific (BAC111 and HS748s)—Fiji to GEIC, Nauru, Western Samoa, Tonga, New Hebrides, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, PNG. Fiji Air Services—Wallis and Futuna (charter). Qantas (707s)—PNG to Singapore. PAA (707s)—Hawaii to Am. Samoa and Tahiti, US.

UTA (707s, Caravelles) from New Caledonia to Fiji, New Hebrides, Wallis Is, Tahiti. Continental-Air Micronesia (727s) from Hawaii to Micronesia.

Air Nauru from Nauru to Tarawa, Marshall Is and Western Samoa.

Polynesian Airlines from Apia to Tonga, Niue Is, Fiji, Am. Samoa.

Air Tahiti from Tahiti to Cook Is.

Air Niugini to Irian/Jaya, Solomon Is.

INTERNAL

Fiji—Air Pacific (HS748s and Trislanders), Fiji Air Services (Beech Barons and Islanders). French Polynesia—Air Polynésie (Fokker Friendships), Air Tahiti.

US Trust Territory and Guam—Continental-Air Micronesia (727s) and Air Pacific International Inc.

GEIC—Air Pacific.

PNG—Air Niugini, Aerial Tours, Talair, Melanesian Airlines, Crowley Airways.

Bougainville—Bougainville Air Services.

New Caledonia—Air Caledonie (Twin Otters).

New Hebrides—Air Melanesiae (Islanders).

Solomon Is—Solair (Beech Barons and Islanders).

Tonga—Tonga Internal Air Service (Islanders).

Cook Is—Cook Island Airways (Islander).

He owned the biggest part of the kauri forest on the island, and was well known to the many people who visited it. Mr Netvunei was unmarried.

Mr H. M. Poole

Mr Howard Milton Poole, who was born on the island of Taveuni, Fiji, died recently at Southport, Queensland. He worked at the goldmine at Vatukoula for a number of years.

Judge I. V. Benavente

Judge Ignacio V. Benavente, presiding judge in the Marianas, died recently, aged 76. Before appointment to the bench he was a political and civil leader. He served a term as Mayor of Saipan. He is survived by Mrs Benavente, four sons and four daughters.

Mr D. Muller

Mr Domingo Muller, a well known Tarawa businessman, died in May, aged 54. He was managing director and owner of Urban Tarawa Taxi Services. He had served in the civil service as a wireless operator, and later became a ship's engineer. He leaves a widow and seven children.

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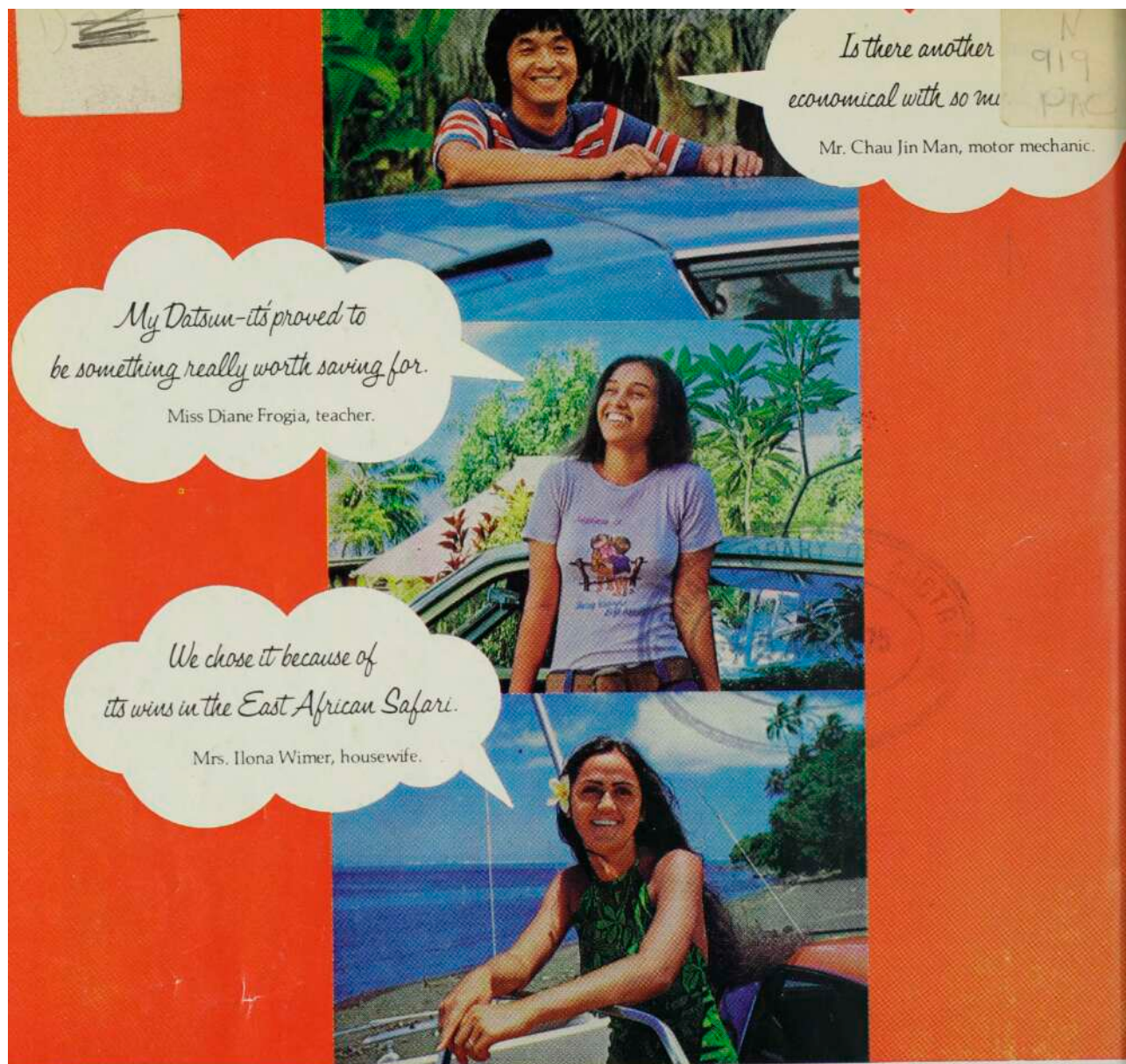


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