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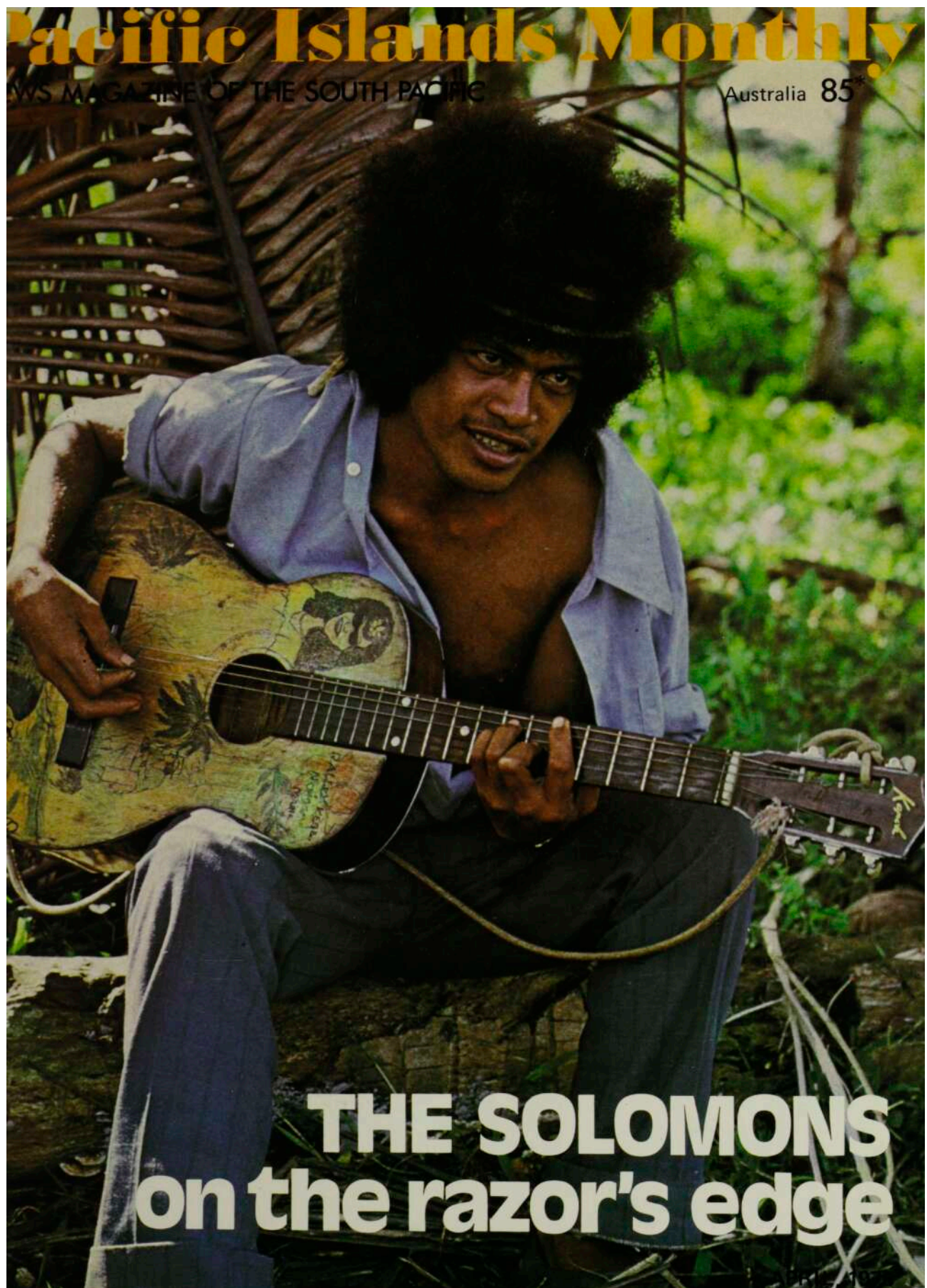
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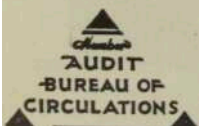
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April, 1976

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY—APRIL, 1976



Up Front with the Publisher

FOR a number of years after World War II, PIM's pages included a regular smattering of Island-flavoured poetry and fiction, almost all of it submitted by expatriate Islands residents with a literary bent. But as the postwar Island development boom grew apace, and PIM's space was under pressure, this kind of material was squeezed out until eventually we decided to give it no room at all. There were other, more literary-orientated magazines available to expatriate writers of fiction and poetry.

Then in 1972, Marjorie Crocombe of Suva, a Cook Islander herself, drew my attention to the fact that during the years we had dropped expatriate fiction, a widely-dispersed body of indigenous writers were developing who would be encouraged by having their material published regularly in a special PIM section and being able to compare their works with each other.

Thus were born the MANA pages of PIM.

MANA appeared in March, 1973: the organ of the newly-organised South Pacific Creative Arts Society, which had, and has, an editorial committee drawn from writers in many Pacific Islands. Marjorie, MANA's editor, said then that she hoped the monthly publication of the material in PIM would influence Islanders to write, and furthermore, "to have courage to submit what they write for publication".

PIM also agreed to assist with the publication each year, in a MANA annual, of all the material printed in the monthly MANA sections, together with some additional new material. When the third MANA annual comes out soon, something like 250 pages of drawings, poetry, short stories and folk tales will have been published in the last three years. To Marjorie has fallen the onerous task of getting all this material together, but her reward, she says, has been in seeing the development of confidence by young Pacific writers over this period.

There will be no more MANA pages in PIM. Three years have been

enough to prove Marjorie's view that only encouragement was needed for Island writers to develop their own momentum. They don't need to be reserved a special section in PIM. They can compete on equal terms, and in future PIM will include a regular leavening of Island short story writers and poets in its pages. I invite them to submit their material direct to the editor.

Meanwhile, MANA will continue to see the light of day in the form of the MANA Review, to be published in Suva twice a year by the South Pacific Creative Arts Society, and also to contain, among other good things, critical essays on South Pacific fiction, poetry and language. The society, c/- P.O. Box 5038, Suva, will have it available for a subscription rate of \$F4.00 for one year.

And now, since this is our Easter issue of PIM, I'm going to take the opportunity to reprint one of my favourite poems from MANA, by Western Samoan writer Eti Sa'aga and first published in 1973. It's called Him Fella Saviour.

Him Fella Saviour up in the tree
wanting to come down.
Another fella spear-carrier fun-
making standing on the ground.
All the time Him Fella Saviour
make sad noise,
While his momma cry begging mercy
with sad voice
Then earth-shaker come,
stopping all the fun,
Making all the noisy people
Talk little but run.
But Him Fella Saviour just hang
there on his tree, looking red,
And according to some untrue
reports, real dead.

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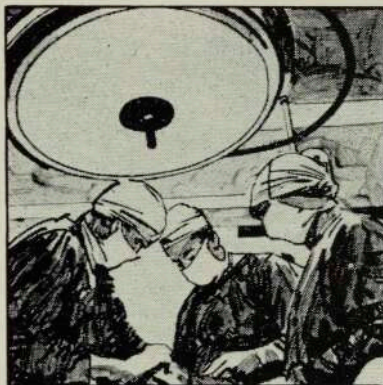
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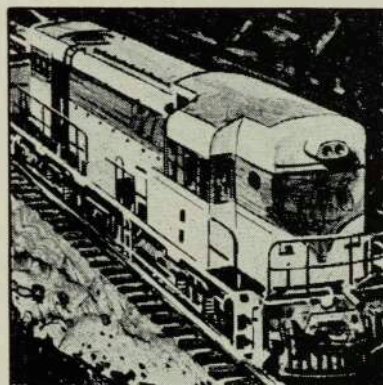
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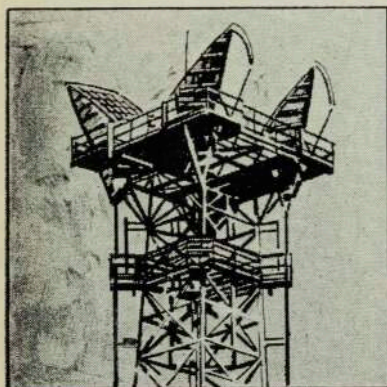
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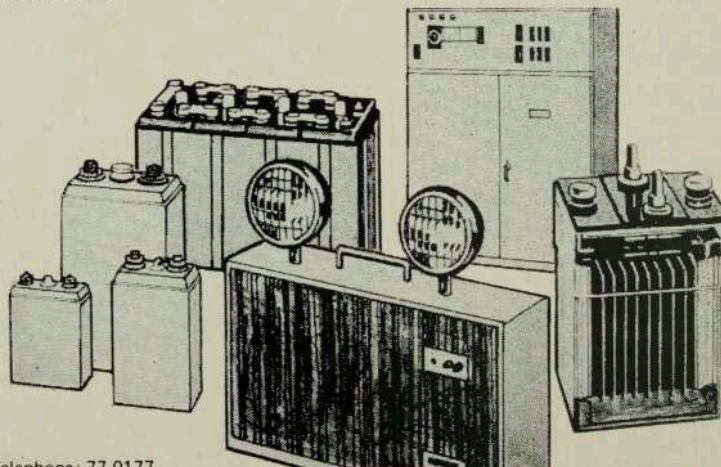
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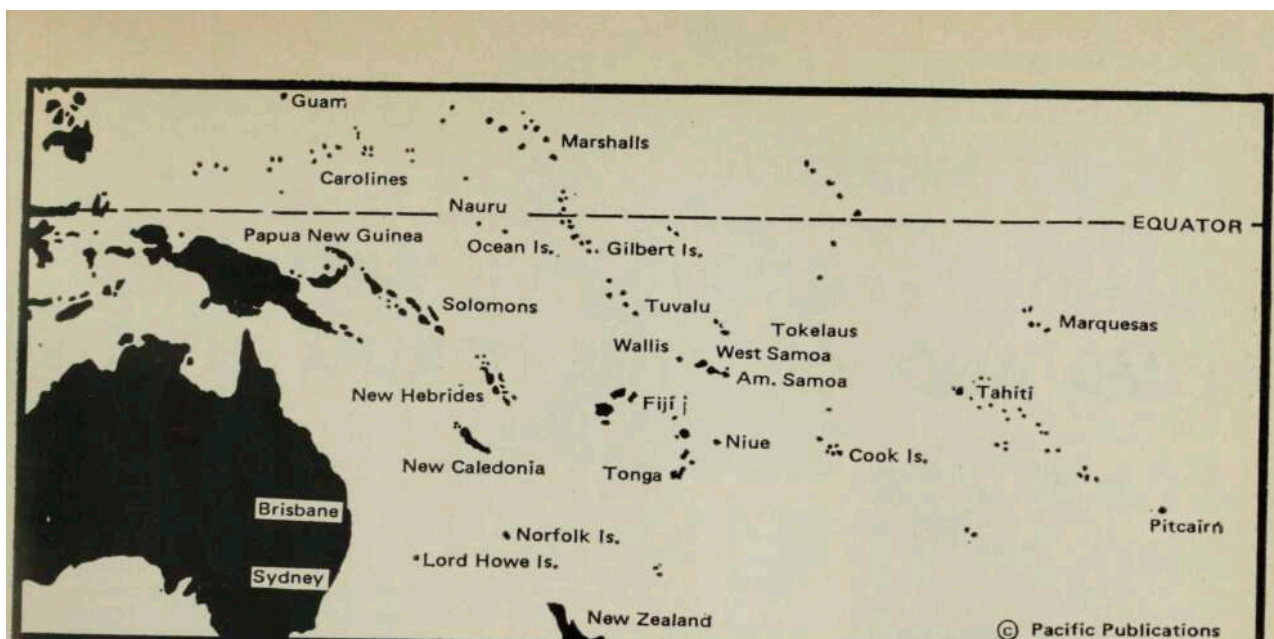


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OUR COVER

This young Rennell man photographed by Denis Fisk today lives a quiet, rural life raising coconuts and gardening on his remote island in the Solomons. Will he soon be a miner? Will he and his fellow Rennellese and neighbouring Bellonese be compensated and then dispersed to other islands for the sake of riches from bauxite and phosphate exploitation? Along with these two islands' peoples, much of the Solomons' future life-style and degree of dependence on the rest of the world hangs on whether these mines are opened. See story on page 11.

Pacific Islands Monthly

ISLANDS LEARN TO LIVE WITH THE BOMB AND KEEP THE FORUM INTACT

By JOHN CARTER who was at Rotorua

The seventh meeting of the South Pacific Forum, held over two days at Rotorua in March and co-inciding with the second South Pacific Festival of the Arts, was an exercise in the Island art of avoiding the reefs of controversy. Taking no longer than 4½ hours it was conducted in a spirit of sweet reason and light—to the disappointment of Australian and New Zealand metropolitan newspapermen.

They had created headlines about a coming split over the Islands' campaign for a nuclear-free South Pacific. They based their hopes—and they were hopes because the Forum hasn't produced a world-shattering story yet—on an apparent change by the newly-elected Australian and New Zealand governments of the previous Socialist governments' policy of support for a nuclear-free zone. Both NZ's Prime Minister Robert Muldoon and Malcolm Fraser, his Australian counterpart, who were meeting Island leaders for the first time as prime ministers, had said only weeks before that a nuclear-free zone was impractical.

"That means a row at the Forum", reckoned the metropolitan newspapers, but they also reckoned without the Islanders' Pacific Way, reaching a consensus and avoiding a row. I told them there would be no row, no split. I reasoned that the Islands would be satisfied with continuing support for a campaign against nuclear testing like the French tests at Mururoa and for a denial of nuclear bases in the South Pacific to any power.

Australia and New Zealand had had second thoughts about the wording of the resolution which New Zealand, Fiji and others had managed to steer through the United Nations' General Assembly. It was too loosely worded and its scope could refer to the passage of nuclear-powered ships carrying nuclear weapons though the Islands—United States nuclear submarines, for instance.

That would be against the ANZUS

Pact and was bound to upset America, which has been having second, or third, thoughts about its foreign policy of bearing the burden of overseas defence. Upsetting the Americans could perhaps mean a return to the old isolationism. In which case the lesser of the two evils would be a watering down of the resolution for a nuclear-free zone.

When the nine Forum member countries got down to business for a 90-minute session on the first day, the nuclear-free zone loomed large on the small agenda and consideration of it was adjourned until the following day.

The press concluded that was because there was a risk of a row. I think it was because Mr Fraser wasn't due at the meeting until the following day. Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock was there, but the earlier comment on the impracticality of a nuclear-free zone had been made by Mr Fraser, so, obviously, he would like to handle it. Anyway, the Forum is regarded as a summit meeting of prime, or chief ministers.

It took them half the following morning to settle the matter. But there was no row. There was a resolution with intriguing wording—a face-saver for somebody? An attempt to avoid the ambiguity of the UN resolution? A compromise? Mr Muldoon, in off-the-cuff comments afterwards—he wasn't the Forum's chosen spokesman—called it a clarification. And it was. It certainly won't upset the ANZUS Pact.

It was plain then that the impracticality was in assuming that the UN resolution was meant to ban the free passage of ships on the high seas. The former Australian and NZ governments had probably not given that aspect a thought. The Islands would sooner have nuclear weapon-carrying ships at the other side of the world but they weren't going to insist on it at the expense of the loss of American defence.

Mr Muldoon, probably playing politics, talked about the "duplicitous"

of the old NZ government and said the new resolution tidied up a lack of understanding that had been compounded by the previous government.

Well, that lack of understanding was repaired and the Islands have the assurance of their more powerful partners that they'll continue to back them in opposing nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Fiji's Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, had the job of explaining, as official spokesman, the resolution to the press. They gave him a hot time, mainly because they believed there had been a row behind closed doors and there were headlines to justify. Ratu Mara, however, wouldn't concede that at all. There was no row, he insisted. The resolution showed the true position. There had been no alteration. He didn't say there had been clarification but that's what he meant.

He made it plain that he wouldn't object to nuclear-powered ships sailing into Suva. In fact, he said he wished he had the services of such vessels to save Fiji's dearly-bought oil. As for ships carrying nuclear weapons, he also made it plain that he wouldn't welcome them, but if they were ships belonging to the Western powers (he didn't use that term but that's what he meant) and they insisted in tying up at Suva, he would tell them that he would also have to allow Russian ships to do the same.

Here is the resolution:

"The members of the Forum agreed that in carrying forward their consultations under the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 11, 1975, endorsing the idea of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the South Pacific, their objectives would be to advance the cause of general disarmament and to seek the cessation of nuclear weapons testing in the South Pacific. In taking such action they would respect the principle of the freedom of navigation of the high seas. They agreed that in developing the concept embodied in the General

Assembly Resolution along these lines there would be no incompatibility with existing security arrangements".

The previous day, Australia's Mr Peacock expertly fielded questions from the press about the nuclear-free zone and gave an assurance that Australia would continue to be totally opposed to any atmospheric testing. That was what has really bugged the Islands.

Any other business didn't matter a cracker. As Ratu Sir Kamisesse told me: "It was a good idea to have an informal meeting. It keeps the mill grinding. We had a check list of the resolutions or decisions made in Tonga and one or two of them needed interim decisions which we made".

Regional shipping was on the agenda and the Forum considered a report of SPEC's work on this project which was said to be in its final stages of completion. It expressed satisfaction and decided on further consideration at the Forum meeting which, the leaders later agreed, would be at Nauru for three days beginning on July 26.

Whatever anyone might think about the Forum meeting and the idea some have that the Islands lost out so far as the nuclear-free zone was concerned, Fiji's Prime Minister was more than satisfied that it had been held. He was able to kill two birds with one stone, the other bird, and maybe a more important one, being Fiji's future relations with Australia and New Zealand.

Ratu Mara had private talks with Mr Fraser and Mr Muldoon. Both satisfied him that they would continue in the same vein as their previous governments.

Mr Fraser went further. He agreed that machinery should be set up for meetings between Fiji and Australia to discuss problems arising in political and industrial relations. Using that machinery, Fiji might be able to get more satisfaction over such intricate matters as immigration which didn't get on to the Forum agenda.

Ratu Mara also tackled Mr Muldoon over the loss to Fiji's sugar industry of NZ dollars caused by New Zealand's devaluation last year, and airline landing rights. He failed to get an assurance from Mr Muldoon that New Zealand will make up the difference in the price Fiji would have got for the sugar she has sold under a two-year agreement to New Zealand if the latter had not devalued its currency. But he's still hoping.

With regard to airline rights, Fiji is at a disadvantage in having Australian and New Zealand partners in



Sir Albert Henry, Cook Islands Premier, whose enjoyment of the South Pacific Festival of Arts at Rotorua was cut short by a heart attack about midnight on Wednesday, March 10. Earlier in the week, Sir Albert had attended the two-day Forum meeting. At the time of printing, his condition was said to be satisfactory. This is his third heart attack.

Air Pacific, having to exchange her national rights for airline co-ordination. Ratu Mara said Fiji had tied up her civil air rights for the sake of a regional airline associated with Air New Zealand and Qantas.

Fiji wants to be free to negotiate with airlines like Singapore Air Lines, Japan Airlines and others. And Ratu Mara is hoping he'll get some change out of New Zealand—and some liquified gas if and when that country produces any. He told me he has put Fiji's name down as a customer. At present, Fiji has to buy from Australia and, because of difficulties with the Australian Seamen's Union, she has to import it in Australian ships.

Attending the Forum were President Hammer DeRoburt (Nauru), Ratu Sir Kamisesse Mara (Prime Minister, Fiji), Mr Malcolm Fraser (Prime Minister, Australia) and Mr Andrew Peacock (Foreign Affairs Minister, Australia), Mr R. D. Muldoon (Prime Minister, New Zealand), Mr Michael Somare (Prime Minister, Papua New Guinea), Prince Tu'ipelehake (Prime Minister, Tonga), Sir Albert Henry (Premier, Cook Islands), Mr Robert Rex (Premier, Niue), Mr Aumua Ioane (Finance Minister, Western Samoa) and, as observers, Mr Naboua Ratieta (Chief Minister, Gilberts), Mr Toalipi Lauti (Chief Minister, Tuvalu) and Mr Benedict Kinika (Education Minister, Solomon Islands). Mr Mahe Tupouniua, Director of SPEC, which acts as the Forum secretariat, was also present.

Too much talk upsets talks on Bougainville!

From a Port Moresby correspondent

The sensitive Bougainville talks nearly broke down when reports from an Australian press conference by the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, Mr Somare, gave the impression that the secessionists had agreed to government proposals for a settlement involving autonomy within Papua New Guinea for Bougainville.

Some Bougainville leaders were upset and cut communications with the team representing the government at the talks. The government, for a while, could not get in touch with the secessionist chairman, Father John Momis.

Almost immediately after reports of the Australian press conference were published and broadcast, Mr Somare issued a statement denying that he had said the secessionists had agreed to proposals put forward by the government. He claimed he had been misrepresented by Australian reporters who were not familiar with the situation.

"I intended to convey only that Bougainville leaders had agreed that we present a package deal", he said. "Whether or not they agree to the proposals we put forward will be up to them".

A copy of the statement was quickly sent to Bougainville and in the following days the Prime Minister's press office desperately tried to get a transcript of the Australian press conference to substantiate Mr Somare's denial.

Nevertheless, the exercise has left government specialists on Bougainville worried. They fear that next time the secessionists will not accept any excuses for wrong impressions given by Mr Somare at press conferences. The Australian instance is the second occasion when Mr Somare has had to despatch urgent messages denying reports of what he had said.

Following a Port Moresby press conference late in February, Mr Somare, quickly telexed a transcription of the proceedings to Bougainville to correct any impressions that the government had decided to reinstate the island's Provincial Government which was abolished last year when no agreement could be reached and trouble erupted.

Whether or not Mr Somare was

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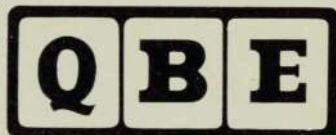
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misrepresented at the two press conferences is debatable. Deliberate or not, Mr Somare is always vague at his press conferences never giving precise answers. Even seasoned political roundsmen find his vagueness trying at times. To avoid further misrepresentation, his advisers have decided that he should either refrain from answering or play it low-key when asked for comment on Bougainville.

They are also considering joint statements with the secessionists on all Bougainville matters. When that will be effected, remains to be seen.

The second round of talks that forged ahead with major breakthroughs late in February presents analysts with intriguing politics at its best. With malicious aforethought, the Tolais lobbied to have the talks held in Rabaul. Before the talks began, the Tolais invited Mr Somare to a rally where they successfully put their case for provincial government, and called on the government to include in the constitution the provincial government recommendations of the Ledderman-Watt report which recommends more provincial autonomy. Outspoken parliamentarian, Mr John Kaputin, was prominent in the Tolai lobbying. Behind-the scene moves by him, Tolai Provincial Affairs Minister, Mr Tammur, Tolai East New Britain Commissioner, Mr Rabbie Namaliu, and the Prime Minister's Tolai press secretary, Mr Bill Kuamin, enhanced the conducive atmosphere that led to the major breakthrough in the long Bougainville dispute.

Naturally, having the talks in Rabaul gave their people the opportunity to put their case for provincial government to Mr Somare. Beyond that, however, the scenario becomes puzzling. Why the other three acted is understandable. While they are nationalists, who share the same principles with Fr Momis and Mr Kaputin, they work for Mr Somare.

Mr Kaputin, on the other hand, is an arch-enemy of Mr Somare. His only respect for the government is with his compatriot, Mr Tammur. Thus it is hard to work out why he figured in the talks. Did he do it because of his friendship with Fr Momis and Mr Tammur or did he do it out of self-interest?

What about the next South Pacific Festival of the Arts? PIM will take a forward look in a report, with pictures, in the May issue of the eight-day festival at Rotorua (NZ).

The Solomon Islands are going through the most convulsed period in their history, facing, after more than 70 years of somnolent colonialism, the harsh realities of emerging into the world around them. Swift withdrawal is underway by the UK from its former protectorate; foreigners are discovering some of the prizes of these quite large, fertile and mineral-rich islands and their seas; improved health—probably the most significant change brought by colonialism—has resulted in a galloping birthrate; the politics of a legislature only a few years dominated by local people is confused and still lacking in firm purpose.

THE SOLOMONS AT THE CROSS ROADS WITH RICHES IN THE GROUND

By DENIS FISK

Many would say today the Solomon Islands are a fortunate country because the British administrators hardly developed the Solomon Islanders' own economy in the 79 years it has been a protectorate.

For most of this century there was hardly an argument raised against the "development" of such countries' resources—these days more properly, and neutrally, called exploitation. But how many of the developing countries today could, if there was reason, chop off all overseas trade and aid and return to self-sufficiency?

That's an extreme way of putting it, but the Solomons, in this year of self-government and only a year or so away from independence, still could.

No doubt in the next decade or two many of its people will wish it was doing just that. And they could be sorry they and foreign partners are increasingly exploiting their natural and human resources, and irretrievably becoming part of "the mixed-up community of nations" with all the hoped-for benefits and the problems that brings, as Chief Minister Solomon Mamaloni pointed out in January.

He was making the point that deep involvement with the outside world was essential to finding jobs for the large numbers of young people who will double the population well before the year 2000. At the same time he commented: "Actually, I think the world is full of hungry sharks swimming around looking for nice little developing countries to swallow up".

It's the dangers I'd like to discuss, since they are less-often debated publicly.

- How much of the Solomons' self-sufficiency in food and way of life will be left in 1966:

- When the population will be about 400,000 instead of the 200,000 of today;

- When the much-promoted and Australian-subsidised export cattle industry will have taken over most of the coastal land which has always

been available for rotating root crops and other crops;

- When at least two and probably more big mining projects could be operating, distorting forever the economy and the expectations by Solomon Islanders of consumer goods;

- When rice, grown commercially by (at present) an American company, will have taken over as the staple food of all town dwellers and as the desired food of villagers, in place of the independently-produced garden vegetables which today give order and meaning to village life;

- When it is a way of life to pander to foreign visitors because they bring money and make jobs;

- When more Solomon Islanders aged between 15 and 50 will be working for a wage rather than supporting themselves because they will be too proud to garden or even to raise commercial crops.

Does all that sound too harsh, too far-fetched, when the present government is planning how the new country will find interesting and useful ways of life for thousands of young people every year, new jobs, training and rural development and land reforms to give some of the growing army of landless their chance, and how it can join the world of the sharks.

It remains to be seen whether the increasing hunger of the sharks and their weakening bargaining position will eventually favour little developing countries like the Solomons with their tasty but limited resources of land, sea-life and minerals.

Will the Solomons develop enough of its own wisdom and get enough help to be able to feed the man-eaters enough to keep them happy but not so much that the feeding ground is destroyed and the occupants left dependent?

Already, the Chief Minister has had a chastening experience with the

Letcher Mint of the USA, where he appears to have acted without sufficient forethought, perhaps distracted by the problems of putting together a workable and able combination of ministers to govern.

Already, the Solomons are experiencing imported political and social problems, partly inspired by self-interest among their own peoples.

Self-government in January came in the midst of the country's first general strike. It was partially effective in advancing claims for the General Workers' Union and the Government Non-established Workers Union (mostly labourers) which joined in striking for a week, in some cases for longer. It brought about the first confrontation by riot police who, fortunately, readily dispersed a mob of a few dozen young men with tear gas, but a number of stores were damaged by stones during the retreat.

One of the more radical thinkers



An attractive Rennellese . . . a future in an industrial age?

in both union and government affairs (now the new Minister for Works and Public Utilities), the Member for Honiara, Ashley Wickham, called the clash with the riot police and the damage afterwards a shameful display of irresponsibility.

The current General Workers' Union president, Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, has brought tactics with him from the much more sophisticated union scene of Papua New Guinea, including opting to serve jail sentences in place of paying fines for his participation in civil disturbances.

Both he and the union's secretary, Paul Belande, appear to be using their positions to build a power base in national politics.

Mining is a virtual certainty in the Solomon Islands, sooner or later. The government does not like talking about it publicly, and almost all the information made public has come in response to questions from the opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

A written request I made last year to have confirmed and expanded some published information about the likely mining of bauxite on Rennell and Wagina (also called Vaghena) Islands was refused.

The Rennell/Wagina proposal has reached the stage of an exchange of letters of intent between the Mitsui Mining and Smelting Co of Japan, which has the Rennell deposit, Conzinc Riotinto of Australia, which has the Wagina deposit, and the government, dependent upon a feasibility study carried out last year and supposedly finished about now.

The government has been doing its utmost to reach agreement with the companies to create the jobs and income it wants. It has already said it would like to see not only mining involving maximum participation by local people but an alumina plant—the first stage of bauxite processing for aluminium—to be built on Rennell. Despite the good deal the government seeks—50 per cent of the total proceeds through taxation, dividends and royalties—it has not been anxious to promote a public debate about mining, apparently because of what it could mean to life in the Solomons.

The thoughtful Finance Minister, Willie Betu's modest estimate that at least \$200 million would be needed in capital investment, and thousands of expatriate workers to establish mining and the alumina plant, are indications enough.

The \$400 million copper mine on Bougainville has changed the life-style, the topography, even the rainfall, it is said, on a large island of



Bellona islanders waiting for the boat and the "bright lights" of Honiara.

90,000 people. It is by far the dominant economic influence in Papua New Guinea with 2½ million people. It has greatly influenced the politicisation of Bougainville into pro and anti-secession camps, and threatens the existence of the Somare government. It also brought to a head the first international political problem for the still loosely-united Solomon Islands.

What can be foreseen as the result of a similar investment in a similarly new nation of less than one-tenth the population?

What will happen to the people of Rennell on which, Mitsui in Tokyo confirmed for me, there are about 2,600 acres of land to be mined for 30 million tonnes of ore, with an alumina plant to produce 600,000 tonnes a year, rising perhaps to 1.3 million tonnes? Roughly half of this alumina would result from the mining also of the Wagina deposit of about 28 million tonnes, by CRA which would ship it to Rennell.

Rennell has about 1,000 people, Polynesians, who with about another 500 Bellona Islanders on a much tinier atoll 15 km away, make a distinct remote community, different from the bulk of Solomon Islanders.

For years the government has been trying to persuade the Rennellese to agree to compensation per head for land and for each coconut tree and other useful tree which would be lost to mining, and to agree to being resettled at the other end of the Solomons some 600 km away. Government would prefer the island deserted for Mitsui, who have carried out extensive trial mining at one end.

Agreements have been made, and then upset, causing concern to government and Mitsui. The last I heard, the Rennellese were busy with unusual industry, both planting coconut trees in any available space

and making babies, to increase compensation should it come.

It would be ironical if Rennell's coconut industry disappeared, since it was this remote atoll which produced by its own natural selection the prolific coconut variety which has been exported as seed coconut to so many tropical countries.

The situation is ripe for another *cause celebre* like phosphate-rich Ocean Island which has involved the UK, Fiji and the Gilberts administrations in international litigation many years after its original inhabitants were transplanted to a Fiji island.

Even if the Rennellese agree to being resettled, for how long will they be happy away from their homeland? Their gods were wiped out just before World War II by the dramatic arrival of Christianity, but the pull of the land is more subtle than that, especially for a people with their own miniature environment.

Will they return? The government has talked of filling in the holes with imported soil when the 40-odd years of mining is up. What will be the state of the Rennellese after that long? The Western Solomons, where they could be resettled, doesn't want them as a unit, but fragmented.

If they stayed, it would be no time before the invading mining technology and a huge camp of foreign men, not to mention a polluting alumina plant, would wreck remaining traditions, social order and environment.

Government has an unenviable decision to make, and it is more on the shoulders of Solomon Islanders than the decision to mine Bougainville ever was for Papua New Guineans or Bougainvilleans.

Neighbouring Bellona too is threatened with violent change, but by a more subtle and, for the time being, more uncertain expectation of mining for phosphate.

I am told there is estimated to be some 10 million tonnes of phosphate-bearing material spread over about 115 hectares of this atoll which measures only 11.5 km by 3 km at its widest.

The Bellonese were told the interested miner was the British Phosphate Commission, through a hired Englishman who has spent many years in the Pacific. Last year he offered the Bellonese participation in a venture tentatively called the South Pacific Development Company.

The man is Fred Dixon, a small, balding character well known in Bougainville where he worked for Bougainville Copper in community relations. In the Solomons he was equally well known for the stormy period he spent as manager of the Honiara Hotel for local businessman, Jimmy Chan, before walking out and onto a visiting cruise ship, and again when he returned until about the end of 1974 for the time he spent living with the closely-knit Gilbertese community whom he helped establish and promote outside Honiara as an entertainment unit for local and overseas visitors. (The Gilbertese came to the Solomons during a famine in the Line Islands in the 1950s).

Their emphasis on retaining customs is a good indicator to the feelings that might be within the Polynesian Rennellese and Bellonese who have no ties other than political with the rest of the Solomons.

Mr Dixon's proposals, first made during a visit on May 6 last year, followed visits he made in 1974 when he was talking to the Rennellese and Bellonese about "settling" there. No Europeans live on the atolls.

He depicted for them a multi-million dollar industry which would result in "all means of comfort and luxury and an undreamed Utopia", as one Bellona man put it, if the island was given up to mining.

The proposal has divided the island into two hostile camps, turning father against son, brother against brother, in-laws against each other, and so on. In general the division is between the older generations who are sold on the idea, and a minority group of younger people who are mostly educated and believe they see the implications better. They see their people being divorced from their culture and lands, and the end of them as an ethnic group.

Opponents formed an organisation to fight against mining, fittingly naming themselves the Mau Tiki Tiki Movement after a culture hero.

The government has heard many representations from both sides.

Opponents were frightened by the early agreement of supporters who told the Permanent Secretary for Trade, Industry and Labour, Dr Dick Thompson, they were happy to see mining go ahead even before negotiations for compensation, equity, resettlement and other matters had been settled. The future of the phosphate appears suspended for the time being with government uncommitted either way.

It is not long since the Solomon Islands Government was committed to development based on widespread rural industry, multiple trading posts which could, in time, provide some urban amenities, and to restricting as much as possible the growth of the capital, Honiara.

Committal instead to an economy based for the next 50-odd years on mining would be the end of this answer to the electorate's demands in the early 1970s. Like people elsewhere, Solomon Islanders are sensitive to what earns them the most money the easiest way. When copra prices are low they turn to logging or fishing or spices or cattle or whatever is going.

Mining would pull thousands of farmers and self-sufficient villagers into actual mine work and the other industries that would grow with the import and export boom accompanying it, in addition to mopping up the growing numbers of school leavers who often want to hang around Honiara.

At this stage, there is hardly one generation which can really be said to know only urban living and working. Honiara has grown from nothing since the war, and half its population still gardens for much of their living. The educated elite, with hopes of living in the European way, is very small, a few thousand.

But it is they who will be making the decisions for the rest on what their future lives will be like: the elected politicians, some of whom have grown to depend too much on their privileges; the rather new public servants living in spacious brick and timber houses provided originally by British aid to house European public servants, and who, in some cases, have risen too quickly to desks at which they mainly spend time finding someone else to do their work; the small cohort of remaining British, Australian and New Zealand public servants on contract now with few exceptions, who try to find ways of making the Solomons pay its way; the earnest high school and university graduates infiltrating the community and impatient to lead; and the businessmen community acting like businessmen anywhere.

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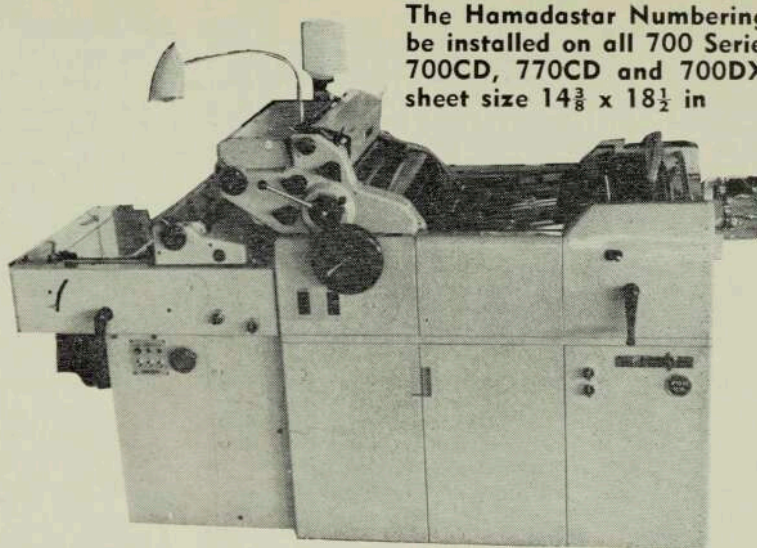
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cisions will probably rest with the somewhat unpredictable, supreme political tactician, Chief Minister Solomon Mamaloni—if he survives the general election in the middle of this year and can put together yet another ministry from the survivors of the present 24 member parliament, together with some new members one expects to be elected mostly from the ranks of the present public service.

For the remaining few months of this parliament he has a team which, for the first time, makes just about the most practical use of the executive talent available in the Legislative Assembly.

There are arguments that someone like David Kausimae with his long experience should not have been dropped. But Mr Kausimae is vehemently opposed by some of the new office-holders.

The rout of the standing members in 1973 may be repeated, leaving the Solomons again with a largely inexperienced parliament at an even more critical time.

Among the new ministers are several I would expect to have good chances of retaining their seats because they have consolidated their positions since their election: David Thuguvoda (Agriculture and Lands), a tireless worker at building influence in his electorate through a political instinct; Benedict Kinika (Education and Cultural Affairs) who avoided ferociously opposing Mr Mamaloni of his own island Makira in earlier days to maintain support of electors who could not understand his opposition to Mamaloni; Pulepada Ghemu (Foreign Trade, Industry and Labour), who came in through a by-election with a potent support base at home; probably Ashley Wickham, who faces the difficult electorate of Honiara (likely to be divided since it is twice the size of most others), but who has been the most persistent questioner and debater in the legislature on local and national issues; and Jonathan Fifi'i because of traditional respect for his role in the Marching Rule movement of 25 years ago and his more prominent role now.

Whoever is governing will have a classic decision to make as to whether having fairly rich resources to exploit is more of a problem than the resources are worth.

In some colonies and developing countries almost any change like this would be an improvement. But the Solomon Islanders are not hungry, not lacking in shelter, not very unhealthy, and many more are being educated. The only question is whether "development" will really benefit these particular islands?

AN INDEPENDENT GILBERTS IN 1978?

An unofficial timetable suggests that the Gilbert Islands will be independent in 1978. The House of Assembly in May is expected to fix a date, before the end of 1976, for internal self-government. When the date is known, the Chief Minister, Mr Naboua Ratieta, will lead a delegation from the House to London to take part in a constitutional conference.

This conference will deal with the timetable leading up to internal self-government, and eventual independence. Independence is expected 12 to 18 months after internal self-government.

The government considers, with constitutional advance in the offing, it should look closely at the security needs of the group, as well as the backlog of development works, such as road construction. It considers a suitably-structured defence force could take care of both security and some development.

A preliminary study suggested a defence force of about 170 men.



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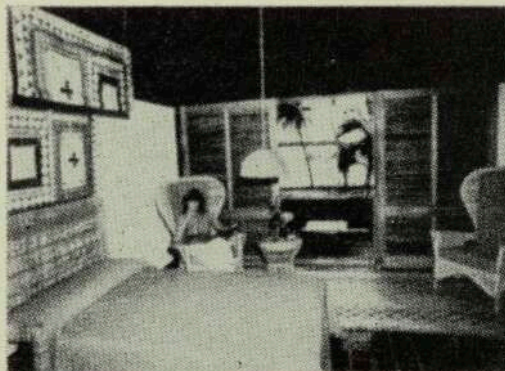
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Nickel-plated French cinema

From a Noumea correspondent

The New Caledonian public, which never knows what new spectacle Paris is going to surprise it with next, now has a new super-show lined up for the nickel industry in May.

The mining company Societe Le Nickel (SLN) plans to fly some 200 visitors to the territory over May 3-7, including representatives of French, US and Japanese steel smelting groups and members of the press. This mammoth sales promotion is planned at a time when the SLN is widely publicising its intention to gear up production capacity to 90,000 tonnes of nickel annually.

Caledonians would readily recall May 1971, when the Baron Guy de Rothschild himself flew in from Paris and hired a local cinema theatre to announce SLN expansion plans. As the then president-elect of SLN, Rothschild was accompanied by the top echelon of his company and the international press. His promises at that time included the famous assertion, "Poum will go ahead".

Yet Poum, in the north of New Caledonia, is still only a project under debate in Paris. Rothschild also claimed that SLN nickel production in Noumea would reach 80,000 tonnes in 1973: it reached 70,000 tonnes in 1975.

But the Caledonians, accustomed to shows performed to amuse the gallery will no doubt sit through the forthcoming May spectacle as through many others. And some of them, who have lost their right to export Caledonian nickel, admit grimly they have paid dearly for their front row seats. The plebs watch the show acted out by the chosen French "elite", and they love it.

There was a fore-runner to the SLN drama and that involved three Caledonian politicians who in February made another of those rushed trips to Paris to "sound the bell of alarm" they have been sounding, in vain, for quite some years now.

For the latest visit, it was made clear French Overseas Territories Minister Olivier Stirn would speak only to three particular members, and they happened to be all pro-French government. They went flitting around in the Paris winter trying to get some \$A10 million to balance the swollen Caledonian territorial budget.

THE CONDOMINIUM'S WATERLOO!

A referendum for islanders to decide which of the two nations, Britain or France, should remain in the New Hebrides to help prepare for independence, has been urged by the Rev Walter Lini, president of the National Party.

Walter Lini made this proposal after the late-January congress of the National Party which won an overwhelming majority in the territory's elections last November for the first Representative Assembly in the New Hebrides.

When the new Assembly still had not met in February, Mr. Lini pointed out that the National Party did not think the two governing powers could accomplish the preparation for independence together.

As proof, he pointed to the inefficiency of 60 years joint effort and the continuing problem over the election of a Chief to represent Central District No. 2. He said that in this electorate the British delegate was satisfied with the results of the first election and the French was not. "If we keep the two governments, it will always be the same", he declared.

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PIM last October gave an exclusive report on the surprise decision by World Bank president Robert McNamara that an independent Papua New Guinea would be considered "uncreditworthy" unless the Australian Government guaranteed her loans.

The decision caused ill-feeling in the PNG Government; nor was it supported by many senior officers of the World Bank. Bank officials felt that if PNG was independent then it could hardly be expected to take kindly to the suggestion that it should still be tied to somebody else's apron strings. In any case, they felt, PNG was "creditworthy" on its own

account; it had greater potential than many countries getting independent loans from the World Bank.

So in an attempt to counter the ill-feeling in PNG, a three week economic survey mission from the bank visited PNG in January-February. Its purpose was to review the earlier decision and if possible to reverse it. It was in fact something of a face-saving mission for Mr McNamara.

World Bank's re-think on PNG'S 'credit-worthiness'

The mission's leader, Mr George Baldwin, will be recommending favourably on PNG's situation, and will advise Mr McNamara to reverse the earlier situation. Mr McNamara is expected to act promptly, but it still could be some months before the machinery starts working and the way is open for substantial amounts of aid to be made available to PNG from World Bank sources.

Meanwhile, in a decision which not only came as a pleasant shock to PNG Prime Minister Michael Somare, but which also caused surprise in official circles in Canberra and Port Moresby, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser announced on March 4 that Australia would give PNG at least \$930 million in Australian aid over the next five years.

Officials of both governments had been expected to meet in Canberra in mid-March to hold discussions on long term aid arrangements.

At that meeting levels of aid for future years were expected to have been decided. Fears were held in Port Moresby however that hard-liners in the Australian Treasury would use the poor state of the Australian economy to justify an unreasonably low level of aid to PNG. This fear perhaps lay behind PNG Opposition Leader Tei Abal's call in February that Mr Somare, Sir Maori Kiki and Mr Julius Chan should go to Canberra to discuss future levels of aid with Mr Fraser.

It is understood that Mr Somare wrote to Mr Fraser in late January expressing serious concern at the state of Australian-PNG relations and specifically seeking a meeting to discuss the question of future aid. It was not however expected by PNG officials that the meeting which finally took place in Canberra on March 4 would be so productive.

Mr Fraser told Mr Somare at that meeting that, in determining the allocation of aid funds, Australia would continue to give the highest priority to providing aid to PNG on a substantial scale to assist it towards its objective of self-reliance.

Mr Fraser undertook that Australia would provide a minimum of \$180 million in social and economic aid to PNG for each of the five years beginning on July 1, 1976. It would also provide further annual supplements in the light of prevailing circumstances.

He said the supplement in 1976-77 would be \$10 million and \$20 mil-

RACE RELATIONS AND COLONIAL RULE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

by Edward P. Wolfers

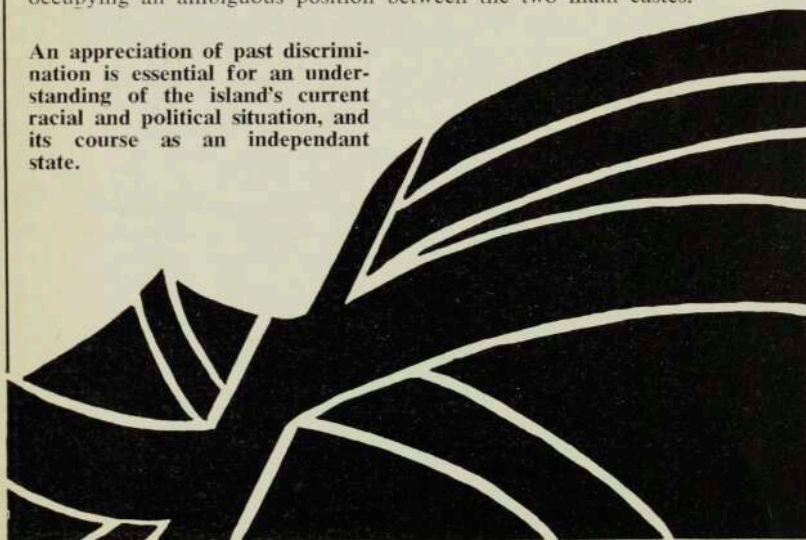
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An appreciation of past discrimination is essential for an understanding of the island's current racial and political situation, and its course as an independent state.



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lion in 1977-78, giving aid total for 1976-77 and 1977-78 of \$190 million and \$200 million respectively.

In addition to the above levels of aid, Mr Fraser undertook to make additional payments to cover among other things the Wabo hydro-electric feasibility study, payments relating to war pensions and cemeteries, and expenditures to cover completion of the current airport construction works at Port Moresby and Nadzab.

Australia is also obliged by legislation to make payments under the Employment Security Scheme which provides termination benefits to former expatriate employees of the Government of Papua New Guinea and which are estimated to cost \$37 million in 1976-77 and \$21 million in 1977-78. Other Australian assistance which lies outside the basic aid figure is the Australia-Papua New Guinea Training and Education Scheme, estimated to cost \$1.2 million in 1976-77.

Australian assistance to Papua New Guinea in 1976-77, for what are termed economic and social purposes, will therefore exceed \$195 million, an increase of \$33 million on the 1975-76 level of \$162 million.

Australia's previous Labour Government had agreed to give PNG \$500 million in aid over three years. The agreement still has a year to run, though with aid of \$195 million for 1976-77 it has been more than achieved.

Mr Somare warmly welcomed the "new and generous long-term aid commitment by the Australian Government" which he said the PNG Government found fully acceptable, as well it might. He also stressed that PNG would in no way be relaxing its serious attempts to live within its means in the years ahead. He has repeated this last point on a number of occasions since his meeting with Mr Fraser, and it is doubtless one on which Australia will be looking for some tangible progress in the next few years.

The Prime Ministers also discussed an earlier Australian Government offer whereby the Australian Reserve Bank would provide a \$30 million standby to the Bank of PNG to assist PNG to support its new currency. The \$30 million offer is understood to have been rejected as being low by Mr Somare in his January letter to Fraser. Mr Fraser has now offered to increase the standby arrangement to \$60 million, but it is not yet known whether this figure will prove acceptable to Papua New Guinea.

The two leaders also discussed telephone services between Australia and PNG, the Torres Strait question, the situation on Bougainville and other foreign policy issues.

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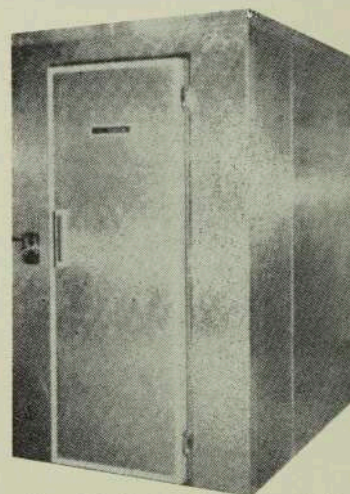
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Tropicalities

Fiji on the dope trail

Fiji may be a staging post for illicit drugs on the way to lucrative markets in Australia and New Zealand from the Far East. Drug runners probably reason that customs officers in Australia and New Zealand will not apply such rigorous tests to cargoes from Fiji as they would to imports from known drug areas.

However, alert customs officers in Fiji, in a number of recent incidents, intercepted drugs at Nadi Airport and at Lautoka. According to the Fiji Police Commissioner, Mr John Kelland, who believes Fiji is a dropping-off point for large quantities of illicit drugs, some drugs seized were consigned to Australia.

Smugglers used surfboards and children's water buggies to conceal drugs. These were consigned from Bangkok. A sniffing Labrador dog at Auckland, led searchers to a quantity of marihuana in water buggies. Fiji customs officers, hearing of this, searched some water buggies at Lautoka and found marihuana. They also found marihuana in similar buggies at Nadi Airport.

Five surfboards, consigned to Nadi Airport from Bangkok, lay at the airport for more than six months. When nobody claimed them, it was decided that they should be auctioned. But one suspicious customs man, knowing there was little or no use for surfboards in the placid waters round Fiji, decided it was time for a closer look.

He and other officers ripped the boards apart and were not altogether surprised to find 39 bags. It was believed there were hard drugs such as morphine or heroin in three of them, and marihuana in the remainder. The drugs could have been worth more than \$100,000 on the international market.

Fiji does not have an internal drug problem worth speaking about—except, perhaps, the opium smokers—but as an archipelago she offers many advantages to drug runners to drop off and pick up drugs. Dealers in drugs, the objects of close official

attention, are always searching for new ways to keep a jump or two ahead of the authorities.

And the suspicion remains, in spite of the good work of the Fiji customs men in intercepting the recent consignments, that a lot of drugs still get through.

Burial, Cook Island's style

Visit any of the Cook Islands and you will see graves in all manner of places . . . in church yards, in a few designated cemeteries, in the front and back yards of homes and, in at least one instance, in the middle of the back verandah.

On some of the coral atolls, for example, Manihiki and Rakahanga, the graves are monolithic and raised above the surface of coral debris. On Rakahanga there are grave houses which often shelter sewing machines, or lanterns, or some other article of possible future use to the dearly-departed.

There are legendary graves such as that of Rosa Cruickshank, the mystery European woman buried on distant Penrhyn Island. On Mangaia there used to be a ship's plate that marked the last resting place of a sailor who did not survive the wreck of the *Saragossa*. He was denied a Christian burial as, at the time of his death, he was under the influence of alcohol.

In a tropical environment time is the essential factor in the disposal of the dead. And death is not a matter to be put into the hands of a professional undertaker. It is the duty of the senior male members of the family to arrange and direct the funeral; grave-digging is a shared activity and after the ceremony is over, by custom, the mourners press gifts of cash upon the chief mourner.

When some time later, the grave has settled, a further ceremony is held to build up a proper grave setting and to erect the headstone. The chief mourner then provides a wake for all the mourners from the cash he received at the burial.

There are no restrictions upon where burials take place and quite usually the deceased is laid to rest near the family home. Often the presence of a grave will restrict the siting of a building. When the old Side School at Rarotonga was extended in the early 1960s the buildings were carefully laid out so as not to disturb an old grave.

There is an evening of sheer beauty associated with the Catholic Cemetery on Rarotonga. On All Souls' Night the burial ground is decorated with a multitude of chains made of thousands of frangipani flowers and many candles light the graves. A priest conducts the memorial service by moon and starlight to the accompaniment of the surge of the sea upon the reef and all about are people of all faiths come together amid the fragrance of the frangipani and illuminated by wavering candlelight.

Taking the 'thump' out of a drum

The Papua New Guinea National Museum at Port Moresby has acquired a real treasure, an ancient drum bought from the Belian tribe of Ambunti in the East Sepik Province.

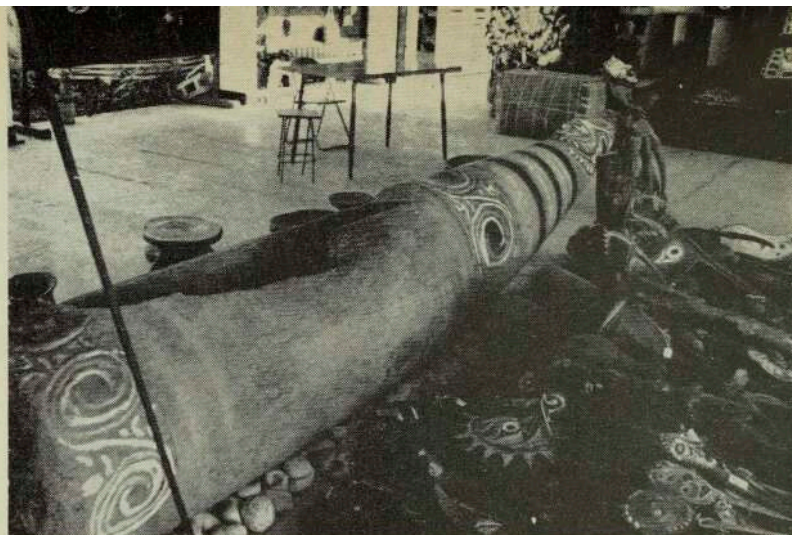
The drum, the Waskuk Garamut, named Wobnerluk, is believed to be about 200 years old. Its purchase from the tribe has filled neighbouring villagers with dread. They fear that its sale, which they regard as desecration, will bring death to the area but the Waskuk people say they have taken all precaution to ensure that no harm will result.

Using ancient ceremonial, they made a replica of the drum and transferred its *masalais* (protecting spirits) from the old drum to the new one. Tanget leaves were rubbed along both sides of the drum to tell the spirits to leave their ancient home and be happy in the new one. They talked to it, telling it that it was no longer beautiful or good, that it couldn't cry (sound) well any longer and that it was just a piece of rubbish. The villagers in the area hope Wobnerluk took notice.

The drum is made of wood from the garamut tree and no steel tool has ever touched it. The tools used were stone axes, teeth of the flying fox, possum and pig and the bones of the pig and *muruk* (cassowary).

The new drum, however, has been made with steel tools.

According to tradition, the history of which was recorded by a Roman Catholic priest in 1972, the garamut was made at a place called Sesubeliankom, where the Belian people then lived. It was named Wobnerluk



The Waskuk Garamut, one of the largest exhibits at the Papua New Guinea National Museum in Port Moresby.

(I am deeply moved, or disturbed, by the sight of this creation) by its maker, Kumapui, who poured semen over it and then vowed never to eat *hatwara* (jelly sago) until the day he saw the Wobnerluk's replacement.

It is only recently a replacement was made. Wobnerluk has featured for around 200 years in the tribe's ceremonies.

Marrying at the new mairie

The many functions carried out by Noumea's Municipal Council are highlighted by the numerous departments located in the city's new *mairie* which opened at the end of January.

This new four-storey town hall replaces the old single-storied *mairie* built of wood 100 years ago, in 1875. Both buildings face onto Noumea's central square. The old building, at the upper end of the park, will continue in use as headquarters for various sporting leagues as well as for the Society for Historical Studies.

At the waterfront end of the park, opposite what was formerly the Noumea main post office, the new cement and glass edifice accommodates all manner of municipal services from the Water Board, public works and health department, to the military service registration centre and municipal police office.

In between, on the first floor, is the marriage hall where, traditionally on Fridays, the mayor performs the legal ceremony uniting local young people, an interesting procession of Melanesians, Europeans, Vietnamese, Tahitians and all those others who make up Noumea's multiracial population.

French law requires partners to complete marriage documents in a civil registry to acquire official married status. Many couples also choose to have a church ceremony with their family and friends next day, which is quite a separate affair. In between times, the couple usually also visit their solicitor to draw up a marriage contract over their sharing or separation of property holdings. It all makes French marriage an intricate affair and one more job for a man such as the Mayor of Noumea.

Where time is of no account

Throughout the world Greenwich Mean Time, with variations for summer time or for such invisible barriers as the International Date Line, is the unshakable standard for the clockwatcher. Not so in the Cook Islands. Time and its observance or non-observance has been a continuing feature of life for Maoris and Europeans alike.

At one time according to the clock, the islands were on the wrong side of the International Date Line and it required an act of the old Cook Islands Federation which ordained a year of two Christmas days to put the matter right.

However, it is the observance of "Maori" time which is vital to all on Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia, Penrhyn, Pukapuka . . . "Maori" time is eminently sensible, it is flexible, it has no set intervals to be observed, it puts no real limits upon the activities of those who follow it.

In essence, if a meeting on Raro-

tonga, for instance, is announced as being for eight o'clock in the evening "European" time, then the participants know that they will be under an obligation to attend on or about the specified time.

Eight o'clock in the evening "Maori" time means that the first to appear may be there at say four o'clock, that by eight o'clock there may be a handful in attendance, and that perhaps, and only perhaps, the meeting may finally commence at 10 o'clock, or 11 o'clock, or midnight, or . . . But there will have been no hectic assembly and probably most of the issues will have been thoroughly but informally examined and the meeting can proceed along clearly-defined lines, without too many tedious diversions.

Ships also used to sail either by "European" or "Maori" time. On one occasion Dick Brown's old motor vessel Apanui was to sail for the Northern Group. Friday's Cook Islands News announced the departure as for Monday; Monday told the story that she would sail on Tuesday; Tuesday said she would not leave before Thursday; Friday told all parties that Apanui definitely would not sail before Tuesday of the following week.

At noon on the Sunday Dick Brown rang his passengers . . . he enquired: "Are you still coming on the Apanui? because if you are, the ship sails in an hour's time" . . . and she did.

Hiri, a new voice from PNG

The Papua New Guinea Government has gone into the magazine publishing business with a very workmanlike publication, Hiri, a monthly intended for overseas consumption.

According to Dr Reuben Taureka, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, whose department, the Office of Information, produces Hiri "to establish a communications link with people interested in our country".

As such, its name is appropriate. Hiri was an already well-established trading expedition when the first English missionaries arrived in Port Moresby in 1874. It was a major link of a trading network along the Papuan coast to the eastern point of the mainland, Dr Taureka says. One function of the expedition was the exchange of earthenware pottery or packages of sago and other foods. But along with the bartering went the exchange of customs and ideas and the renewal of friendships.

PNG hopes its new Hiri will per-

form the same function in the modern world. And it isn't partisan. The first issue contains a report of Opposition Leader Tei Abal calling for a general election because the government "has failed to manage the country in the best interests of the people".

Hiri's main circulation areas are in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Indonesia, Fiji and the United States.

Meanwhile, the PNG Government is cutting expenses. One victim of the axe is Papua New Guinea House in Sydney which will lose its trade and information departments. The Consul-General, Mr Vincent Iri, will remain with a small staff to handle entry permits and other travel documents.

The fate of the PNG Government news service which goes by telex every day to all the principal newspapers and news services in Australia was unknown at the time of writing, but it is likely to be retained.

Designed to feed the media with news from PNG "untreated" and without any special "angles", it costs only a few dollars a day.

Necktie party in Micronesia

Micronesian Congress jester, Senator John Mangfel, has come up with another historic bill—one to outlaw neckties, a "most insidious evil perpetrated upon the people of Micronesia", and a "nefarious invention", he said, when tabling his bill.

Congress solemnly accepted the bill for reading and referred it to the Committee on Education and Social Matters.

One of the evils, the bill said, was to compel its wearers to "suffer the constrictions of the throat and the chafing of the skin thereof, to say nothing of the effects of closing the system of ventilation permitted by the open collar".

Anyone committing the unlawful act of wearing a tie, the bill continues, "shall be an idiot, and upon conviction thereof shall suffer his neck to be permanently surrounded by a large piece of Yapese stone money".

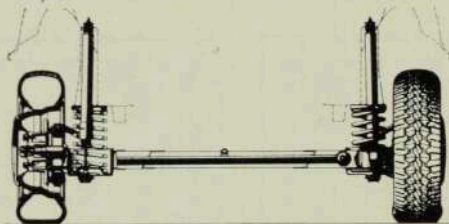


Unique artifacts found in Bougainville are reproduced in four new Papua New Guinea stamps. The stamps revive old traditions—the Rorovana carvings (7t), Upe hats (20t), kapkaps (25t) and canoe paddles (30t)—which played a vital part in the social and economic life of the Bougainville people. The Rorovana carvings and the Upe hats were used in solemn ceremonies, the former in puberty and burial ceremonies, and the Upe hats in boys' initiation ceremonies. The hats hid their hair which was not cut until the ceremony. First day for the stamps was March 17.

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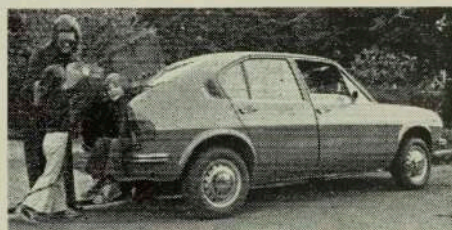
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The Editor's Mailbag

THE DEVIL WE KNOW

Over the years until now it has been noted that PIM makes a point of attacking the French; somewhat similar to Australian papers attacking the Dutch in Indonesia long years ago. Each country has its good and bad points. There is no perfection.

Many people in the islands come from a long line of mixed blood: Anglo-Saxon, European, Asian and Pacific. This makes them tolerant of bag-wavers who stress the ancient-history importance of "identity" as though it is some kind of stigma just to be an ordinary human being.

Do-gooders will say that we are born equal—what rot! Some are born leaders, others were made to serve whether they sweep floors, work in a factory, behind a counter, and the sick, keep books for a company, preach sermons or even become newspaper reporters.

In between the above-mentioned organisers and workers are the paralytic, unproductive ones: self-seekers who love to hear their own voice and influence the unwary, rusting mob; and those who sit behind a desk writing a heap of nonsense, based on hearsay, which creates mischief and disharmony.

Whatever the fate of the New Hebrides under the leadership of various present self-seekers, either mission-influenced or otherwise, an important point should be considered: while all the silly bickerings take place whether to remain Stone-age addicts with "customs", or go forward to keep abreast of the ever-changing world, the Soviets are not far behind. They are gradually infiltrating in Africa wherever Westerners moved out.

It is quite certain that Nagriamel, National Party, MANH etc., all joined together, will not be able to prevent Soviet overlords from moving in the New Hebrides after the democratic overlords leave.

Better the Devil we know . . .

MAXIM TEVI

into,
New Hebrides.

In defence of Fiji

No wonder we hear in Fiji of tourists who are disgruntled about the poor advice given to them by Australian travel agents.

The Sydney travel agent who preferred to remain nameless, but who tendered his advice to Fiji in the February issue of PIM (p 29) made a number of statements which are far from accurate.

Apart from suggesting that there are hotels here which are 20-storeys high (and his clients would tell him that is nonsense), he also is ignorant of the fact that taxi meters have been compulsory for several months. Perhaps Fiji has had its share of sharp taxi operators, but then people coming from Australia, myself included, would be well accustomed to, and perhaps even expect, that particular type of taxi operator.

To speak of the risk of being robbed in broad daylight is a gross exaggeration. Having lived in Fiji for the last three years, my wife and I have wandered night and day through towns and country areas of Fiji, with far less fear than would be the case walking in many parts of Sydney. In this context, it is worthy of comment that the crime rate in the more urbanised part of Fiji actually dropped by 28.1 per cent in January this year, compared to January, 1975.

While admitting that there is a degree of excessive drinking in Fiji, I am completely unable to confirm the travel agent's suggestion that Fiji is abound with "dangerous drunks". Coming from Australia, with its own particular drink problem, this suggestion is not only exaggerated, it is highly ironical.

If the writer is aware that Fiji is spending \$30 million on its "main road", he does not mention it. This amount is the equivalent of \$400 for every person in employment in Fiji, with the vast majority of them earning less than \$1 per hour. In this small country with few natural resources, luxuries such as tar-sealed highways do not come

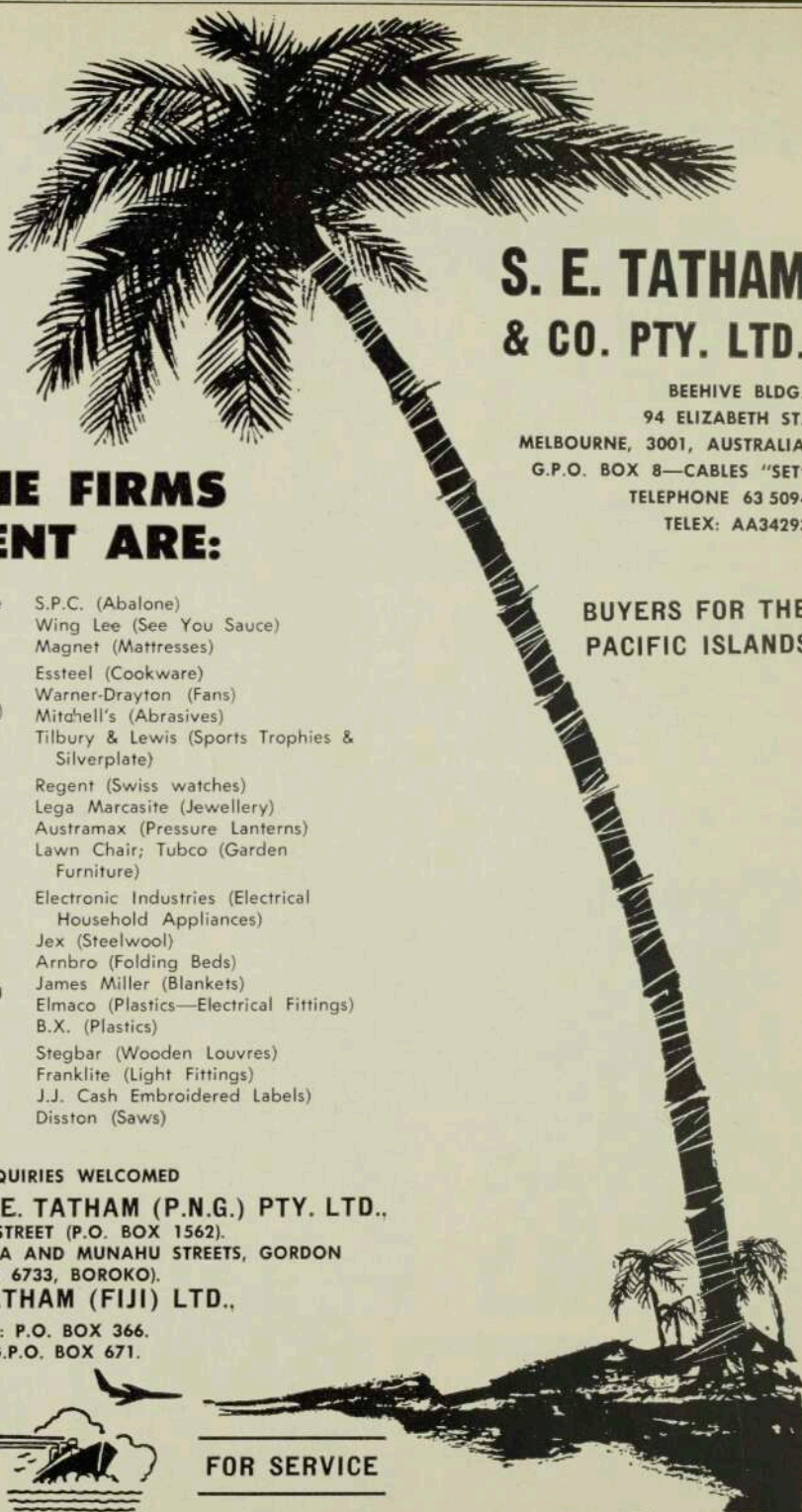
easily or rapidly or simply to meet the desire for comfort of the 3,000 or 4,000 tourists who happen to be in Fiji at any one time, important though they may be.

With the down-turn in tourist traffic of some 15 per cent, coinciding with the opening of a number of new hotels which were planned during the very recent growth rates of 20 per cent per annum, the industry certainly is facing a testing period, which, in the long run may turn out to have been a good thing. Only the better managers and the better hotels will survive, only the better staff will be retained, marketing will improve, some hotels have already cut their room rates, despite rising costs, and for those who care to look, there is available in the main urban areas a better range of good and cheap meals than ever before. One hotel in Suva is currently providing in attractive surroundings a four-course meal, followed by a free movie, for \$2.50. Good business luncheons are available for \$2.

It will be some months before any resumption of growth can be expected, but few people in Fiji in any event would favour a return to regular 20 per cent per annum growth rates such as were previously experienced. If the smiles are tending to disappear from the Fijian faces, it is due, at least in part, to the fact that the tourists have made them aware that they have to work for probably 120 hours per week if they are to achieve the same buying power as their more fortunate neighbours in Australia and New Zealand can earn in a normal 40 hours.

In common with the rest of the world, Fiji is changing, but its beauty remains untouched, as the many people who come back year after year still testify.

CLIVE SADLEIR
Managing Director,
Fiji Development Bank.
Suva, Fiji.



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Letters

WATERHOUSE PAPERS

I am making an extensive study of social and economic change in the Siwai area of south Bougainville.

In approximately 1932-1934, a missionary teacher Mr J. H. L. "Harry" Waterhouse, was living here before transferring to Rabaul where he died. During his stay he collected plant specimens, took photographs and gave at least one lecture in Australia on Siwai customs.

I have not been able to trace this lecture (or any other papers of his) through possible contacts in either Rabaul or Bougainville.

I would very much welcome any clues that could lead me to those papers and the new Bougainvillean museum might also benefit in other ways.

JOHN CONNELL (DR)
Dept of Economics,
Research School of Economics,
ANU, Canberra.
Identified with the Australian Army

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Any items of historical interest could be gratefully received and, if their return is desired, copying and safe despatch of same will be undertaken.

Should any reader possess any such material could you please contact Captain M. B. Meadows of the Land Warfare Centre, Kokoda Barracks, Canungra, Qld 4275. (Phone STD 075-435133 extension 236).

M. B. MEADOWS
(Captain for Commandant)
Canungra, Qld.

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY—APRIL, 1976

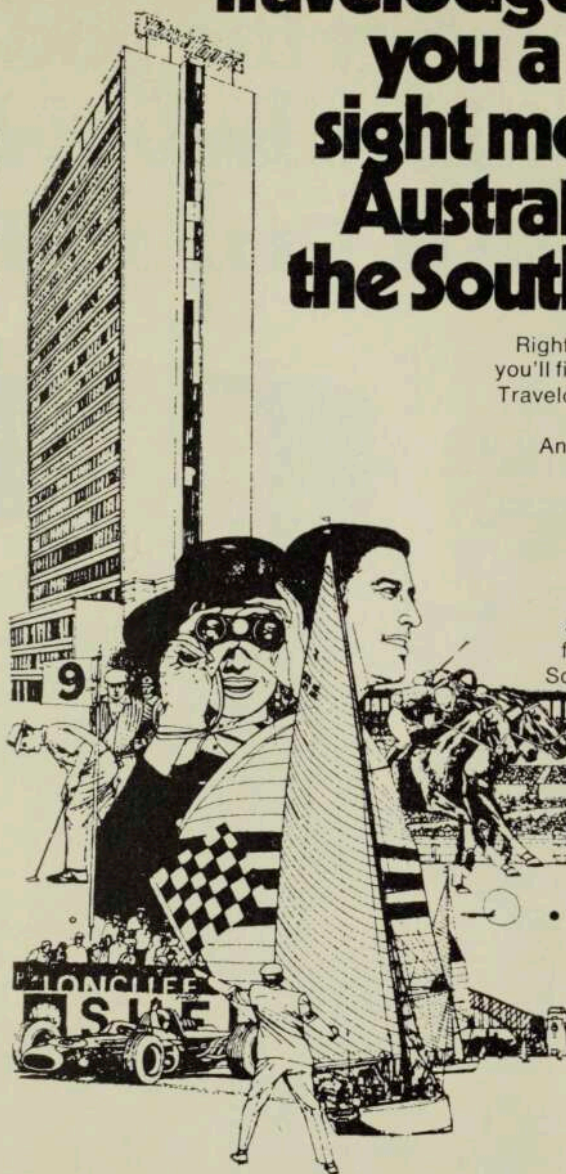
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OIL DRUM OVENS AND PRACTICAL MIRACLES IN THE SPC SCHOOL

By Joan Cobb

Miss Sue is an authority on how to use old oil drums and packing cases. She knows how to grow capsicums without much soil and she's pretty good at turning salt water into fresh. She's probably the best person in the whole South Pacific to be wrecked on a desert island with, and, incidentally, also pretty enough to qualify for any male's choice of companion. Miss Sue is a genuine authority on survival and if anyone can teach the art of turning a sow's ear into a silk purse, she probably can.

Miss Sue directs the South Pacific Commission's Education Training Centre at Suva.

"Ask for Miss Sue," they said in Suva, packing me off by car. A Victorian noveletish type of demand I thought as we twisted our way down the winding green lanes that gyrate off into the lush Fiji hills. Miss Sue, I concluded, should be nothing less than one half of a pair of sisters running a genteel school for young ladies.

I couldn't have been more wrong. The Miss Sue who met me in the reception area of one of the four army huts that make up the centre turned out to be Miss Mee Kwain Sue, and she is Chinese. She is also so tiny you could easily miss her first entrance into a room if you were looking above the 5ft level. She must almost disappear without high heels. She looks, in fact, like a primary school pupil who has been allowed to dress up, not a diploma holder in Domestic Arts from the Victorian Teachers' College, and certainly not the producer of sets of practical miracles.

Miss Sue has been director of the centre for two years now, taking over from a Professor Caroline Frederickson of the University of Minnesota, an FAO appointee. The centre, she explains, grew out of a 1961 training seminar on women's interests, after which it was suggested that a programme of community education, specially in home economics, might be set up. Such a programme, of course, needed a home base and also some substantial support. It got this from a variety of sources: The Australian Committee of the Freedom

from Hunger Campaign, the Home Economics Branch of the Nutrition Division of the FAO and its buildings—four army huts—from the Fiji Government.

Apart from Miss Sue herself, the biggest surprise on visiting the centre is actually learning that there is a need for something like a community training centre at all.

"We are here," Miss Sue patiently explains, "to teach practical education courses which will help to overcome some of the difficulties of living in the South Pacific."

Difficulties? Brought up in the tradition of coconuts, bananas and papaws for the taking, it's hard to realise that life in the Islands among all those happy, plump Islanders, has any difficulties at all. It does, however.

Balancing a diet rather than lack of food is one; better health and sanitation are others, and what are

usually in the shortest supply are the commodities to use for these jobs. It's a situation which could get worse as traditional Island life disappears and romping birth rates push the population curve up to the top of the graph.

This is where the community centre comes in. It has a mandate to teach 20th century standards—though it hasn't got 20th century facilities to do so, and it has to tackle every problem it faces at banana roots level. Consequently it's not academic. There's not a history book in evidence, or a scientific laboratory for that matter, and the pupils, all women, come in all shapes and sizes and range in age from 16 to 60. They also come from all over the Pacific and South-east Asian regions—Melanesians, Polynesians, Micronesians, Malaysians—each one to some extent already employed in a home education training programme. They are rounded up by their governments, church and mission organisations, the YWCA and women's groups of various kinds. Some are sponsored by these groups, some are on government fellowships and as all must board in Suva for the 10-month course, nearly everyone must make the sacrifice of leaving home and family. Most think the sacrifice worth it, and here are two songs from recent graduation ceremonies to prove it.

"Improve sanitation", sings Alesi Mafi of Tonga and Evisi Jino of the Solomons in a joint effort. "A subject we teach. Cleanliness all about our homes, control the mosquito and keep flies away. Good latrines and drainage must be".

Jessie Soroda of Papua New Guinea has this to say about budgeting: "See the new dress mother sewed for me; all my clothes mother makes for me; this is the way she saves dollars for our school fees. See, too! Mother has a garden; She grows rourou, bele and papaw; Seldom does she go marketing—she saves dollars".

Educational standards of students need not be high. Few are high-school graduates, which hardly matters. Nowhere in the course are they going to learn to appreciate an



Miss Sue and a doll of the "proper colour".

Miss Cobb is senior education officer in the NSW Dept of Technical and Further Education.

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iambic pentameter or how to analyse an irregular French verb.

"They're here", said Miss Sue, "to learn how to do a lot with very little; to tell their fellow Islanders how to cook better, sew better, keep their houses and huts better, grow more in their vegetable gardens, look after their children better, balance their budgets and raise their standard of living generally. Although we do teach remedial English and some basic psychology, music and first aid, students are here basically to develop practical skills and to learn how to pass them on".

There's a real educational concept behind all this, a highly pragmatic one—something along the lines of "waste not, want not"—or "God helps those who help themselves".

And what the students have to help themselves with is often pretty surprising.

"Take cooking", said Miss Sue, picking her dainty way outdoors and over to the fence hard by a primary school sportsground.

"In the south seas the ground oven is the general cooking method. Food is put into a shallow pit, warm coals put on it, the lot covered and everything is left to cook in its own juices and in its own time".

Cooking by this method is still a great attraction for tourists, but it's a slow method for the average Island family which seldom cooks daily as a result, often is dependent on group cooking and enjoys little variety in the long run.

"We wanted ovens—good cheap metal ones", said Miss Sue, "something every household could build if it wanted to".

"And here", she continued, patting a concrete hump against the school fence, "is what we came up with".

It was an oven all right, but not the sort likely to appeal to a Sydney housewife. Someone had thought up the idea of putting the ubiquitous oil drum on its side, building it up to leave a space for fuel beneath it and encasing the whole lot, for insulation, in cement. With a good door on it, it works well and bakes a first class cake.

The oil drum oven has been exported beyond Fiji now and returning students are teaching householders how to build them. A week later I saw one myself in perfect operation in Western Samoa.

"The teachers often learn as much from their pupils here", said Miss Sue, "I'm constantly learning something. Take a look in this kitchen and see



Lunch Island-style with good home-cooking.

all the things that people have thought up".

The school's large kitchen area—something of a lean-to against the main buildings—is not the sort of room likely to be featured in an ideal homes exhibition. It is scrupulously clean, however, with enough cupboards, nearly all of them made of packing cases, to satisfy any housewife in the world.

"Packing cases, like oil drums", explained Miss Sue, "are not generally in short supply on islands, and we beg every one we can get here in Suva. Packing cases make meat safes, crockery racks, bread bins, linen cupboards and food shelters of every kind. It all helps to improve people's attitudes towards general sanitation as well".

It also seemed to imply a fair degree of carpentry skill.

"Ah, yes", said Miss Sue. "We've a prototype bed in the main classroom. All the girls are taught how to build one and when they leave they receive an UNESCO tool kit containing a hammer, saw, chisel, screwdriver and combination square and lettering set. They have to be able to practise what they preach".

The kitchen wasn't short of other ingenious devices: insulated rush baskets to keep food hot or cold, cement tops for a fuel stove which don't work too well yet according to Miss Sue, and a Heath-Robinson contraption of threaded fruit tins which reached from the back of the experimental stove along the wall and through the window.

"No one need ever go without a flue", said Miss Sue, "while there's a pile of fruit tins to make a pipe with".

Outside there are kitchen gardens. Meal planning lessons are supplemented by instruction in how to develop green fingers. But on some

islands green fingers don't help too much without some extra assistance.

"Coral atolls tend to be short of soil", said Miss Sue, "and coral sand won't grow too much. Hence we also teach composting. Our students learn not to throw a single thing away".

The school also tries to make students better at sewing and to develop local designs and handicrafts into saleable objects. They teach child care too. In the classroom a large pink celluloid doll, its face scrubbed white from over-zealous cleaning, lay on the bench.

"We are about to change our dolls", said Miss Sue, "at least when we can afford it. Although these dolls are the normal ones for child-care courses, people usually forget that they have two drawbacks. First, they are too light. No baby weighs so little, and secondly they're the wrong colour for the South Pacific. Girls want not only to practise on a baby that feels like a human being, but on one which also looks like an Island child. Hence", she said, reaching into a cot, "We want more of these".

She came up with a heavy black plastic doll, weighing something like 12 lb and looking much more like the real thing.

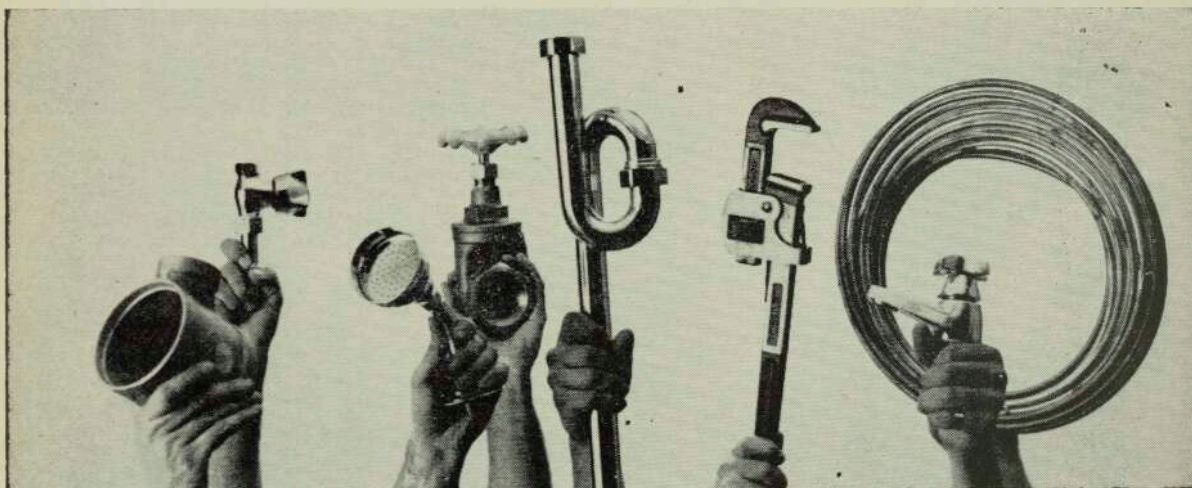
"They're French", said Miss Sue, "and worth \$30 each. So far we've only been able to afford two".

The women of the South Pacific will, it seems, shortly be equal to almost everything. Perhaps all that practicality 200 years ago would have deterred the Bounty Mutineers and another South Seas myth wouldn't have grown up. But there's not much room for myths in the face of 20th century realities and the problems of life, which is why the centre is flourishing.

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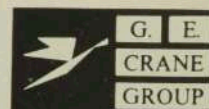
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Land hunger, a hot potato for Fiji's politicians

From ROBERT KEITH-REID in Suva

The Leader of the Opposition in Fiji proclaims: "My cup of disillusionment on the land question is full!" The Prime Minister looks bemused and asked the Opposition Leader to define what the land question is.

Over on the Island of Taveuni, a man, who for years have let Indian farmer Ashrak Khan till a bit of his fertile land, suddenly tell him to get off; he must; he hasn't got a lease, and he has to leave \$25,000 worth of maturing crops behind. Near Suva an Indian family wakes up to find that their tin shack house has been ringed in by a barbed wire fence; the Fijians from whom they lease the land they occupy are hinting they want more rent.

Fiji's biggest landlord, the Native Land Trust Board, suddenly realises it owes arrears of rent by most of its 27,000 or so tenants—just a matter of \$3,700,000.

At Nausori Mohammed Hussein defiantly; the NLTB has pointed out to him that he is improperly using the Fijian land leased to him for agricultural use and using it for industrial purposes instead, and that he has illegally built a house on the land only four years before the lease expires.

"I can vacate the land in a matter of minutes", he says, "if I get \$100,000 compensation".

Mr Ian Thomson, independent chairman of the Sugar Industry, chairman of the Coconut Board, one of the most widely-respected and trusted persons in Fiji, says its use talking about increasing sugar output, or any other agricultural output, until the Indian tenant smallholders, who do most of the growing, know that their tenure is safe.

The House of Representatives has nothing to improve the land tenure situation, he laments—"In the House positively caused uncertainties to develop in the minds of many cane growers because of the emotional debate on the issue".

Whatever emotions are aroused by the land problem, land is the most, most vexatious question that

there is in Fiji, and it looks as if it is, at last coming to a head.

Eighty-two per cent of Fiji land is communally owned by 250,000 native Fijians. They can't sell it, but they can lease it.

What little freehold there is—eight per cent of the total land area—is completely insufficient to satisfy the land-hunger of most non-Fijians, and they are mostly the descendants of indentured labourers brought from India to work sugar plantations.

Most Fiji Indians are farmers. Those who have not been able to buy land must lease it.

They do so through the NLTB, the statutory organisation in which all Fijian land is vested.

More than 20,000 Indian tenant farmers have the board as their landlord. The relationship between the two parties has never been an easy one.

The relationship between all Fiji agricultural tenants and landlords is ruled by the Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, a 1966 bit of legislation supposed to give a tenant more security on the grounds that insecurity is a prime factor retarding agricultural developments.

But the ordinance, usually referred to as Alto, had a bit of a backlash effect and actually causes more discontent.

Before Alto, tenants usually managed to get leases of about 30 years.

Alto said leases had to be for a minimum of 10 years, with the probability of an automatic 10-year extension, if the landlord could not show that he needed the land for his own use, plus a second 10-year extension under the same circumstances.

The NLTB promptly took the minimum as a maximum and tenants soon came to complain: "What's the use of doing much with the land if we might have to leave it after 10 years?"

The Fijians had gripes also. They said that at the end of the first 10 years they found it hard to prove that they had a case for getting the leased land back.

It was reported in February that 477 Fijian cane farmers in Nadroga Province, one of the choice cane areas in the country, failed to plant any cane in 1975. The loss of that production would cost Fiji several hundred thousand dollars. Nadroga farmers usually harvest about 200,000 tons of cane annually. In 1975, the harvest was down to about 150,000 tons, and the Fijians, more so than their Indian counterparts, were to blame.

A committee to review Alto was appointed in 1969.

But, what with changes in members, changes in government, and, not least of all, the sheer complexity of the issues involved, the report of its findings wasn't published until late last year.

Even then it wasn't a unanimous one. Basically, however, it said the minimum lease should be for 33 years and that a statutory board should be established to set fair farm rents.

A Fijian member of the committee was all for the retention of the 10-year minimum while some Indian members said the Crown at least should grant leases of 99 years duration, if not in perpetuity.

Towards the end of last year, Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said the Alliance Government accepted most of the report.

This year, legislation would be brought in to set the minimum lease period at 30 years while farm rents would be limited to a maximum of six per cent of the unimproved capital value of the property concerned.

Referring to the years it had taken to decide on reforms to Alto, the Prime Minister commented: "It has been a lengthy process, but too important to be rushed".

Unfortunately, the decision has far from appeased the National Federation Party leader, Mr Siddiq Koya.

In a series of speeches to farmers, from whom his party draws a good deal of its support, he has adopted an increasingly belligerent stance.

He has repeatedly accused the Alliance of breaking a promise to maintain constant close consultation with the NFP on land tenure issues on which, he says, Fiji's whole future hangs.

Other NFP personalities have frequently alleged that Alliance politicians use the land issue as a tool to try to win supporters away from the NFP.

What they do, the NFP men say, is go round offering to arrange long leases for farmers in return for their political support.

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Speaking to 500 farmers in the Ba farming district in January, Mr Koya said that unless the land problem was solved quickly, Fiji would have "the biggest political and industrial confrontation in its history".

Farmers had caused upheavals before and, he promised, they were ready to do so again.

"Fiji would be like a Timor" he predicted.

According to Mr Koya, the Alliance doesn't really want to touch the existing tenure set-up for fear of losing Fijian votes.

As the political temperature over land begins to rise dangerously, so are feelings about another aspect of the question.

For years the NLTB was a ramshackle, frustrating and highly-inefficient organisation.

Tenants who had to deal with it had just cause for resentment about the treatment they got. Getting a lease out of the board, or any other dealing was a trip part-way along the path to insanity.

Apart from being stupid, disinterested or just plain anti, some NLTB officials were also corrupt; a lease might cost somewhat more than just lease money.

The NLTB woke up to its faults about seven years ago and began praiseworthy efforts to reform. Its administration has been drastically reorganised, people have been fired, outside expertise brought in and much of the routine processes are now even done by electronic computer.

Efficiency has highlighted one glaring fact—that while some tenants have been mistreated, others have been getting away with murder.

They have not been paying rent on time, if at all, and have blatantly ignored the terms of their leases.

At the end of 1975 the board was owed \$3,718,606 in rent arrears.

Two years ago it began a drive to collect the money. At the outset it went kindly; it just asked the defaulters to be good and pay up.

The board got some response, but not enough.

So it began to get tougher.

Tenants, who did not pay up, faced eviction or would not get expiring leases renewed, it warned, and began issuing warning notices as a first step to court actions.

In January, the NLTB's manager, Mr Josefata Kamikamica, said a lot of tenants were still being "stubborn". Only a small number of cane farmers had paid promptly.

In February, the NLTB declared that it had been "too lenient to the point where its rights and integrity and those of the landowners have been threatened".



A typical Indian farm with rice padis on Dreketi Flats on Vanua Levu. How long can they expect to live there?

"Some tenants have sorely tested the patience of the landowners and the NLTB. When the latter have tried to be as reasonable as possible they have taken advantage of this reasonable attitude to presume the board's consent".

In the same month, it issued orders to a large number of tenants in the area around the market town of Nausori to quit their land due to breach of lease agreements. Others were told to pay money that was due or face eviction.

The board would not give numbers, but one source said 500 tenants were involved.

The NLTB, a spokesman said was going to put its foot down—and firmly.

Its hard line has caused widespread alarm and indignation amongst the big tenant farmer community.

The NLTB appears to be determined to have a showdown that is bound to produce some ugly situations when the time comes for defaulting farming families to be evicted.

The land issue is generating forces which could attain gale, if not hurricane proportions in months not too far ahead.

● Cane-farmers in the Nadi area of Fiji are growing zucchini with their sugarcane as a profitable sideline. The zucchini is grown to supply the New Zealand winter market. Thirteen farmers have a contract to plant the zucchini and sell it to the National Marketing Authority at 30c lb. The marketing authority air-freights the zucchini to NZ. One farmer harvested \$900-worth of zucchini from one square chain inter-planted with sugarcane.



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Magazine Section

TOURISTS ARE FLOCKING TO EASTER, THE ISLAND OF BROODING STATUES

By Dr JIM BOUTILIER

Shortly after nine o'clock each Saturday morning a LAN Chile 707 sweeps in over Cook Bay and touches down on Easter Island on its regular flight from Tahiti to Santiago. This air service is one of the few contacts which the 2,000 inhabitants of what Thor Heyerdahl once called "the world's loneliest island" have with the outside.

This "remarkable mote of land in the vastness of the Pacific" has many names which reflect its history. The islanders call it *Rapanui*; the Dutch explorer Roggeveen called it Easter Island; the Chilean administrators call it *Isla de Pascua*.

Deplaning passengers were greeted by a guard in a white plastic pith helmet and processed through customs and immigration in a tiny air terminal consisting of prefabricated units. The scene when we arrived was one of rank confusion. While 'onward' passengers wandered about aimlessly outside or bartered with curio sellers, a detachment of *carabineros*, in ill-fitting khaki uniforms, Sam Browne belts, pistols and truncheons, hurried about inside attempting to look important or at least busy.

Packages were ripped open uncereemoniously and their contents inspected for agricultural purposes, but with what one suspected was more than an ample measure of simple curiosity. One hapless Japanese tourist attempted in vain to explain that the contents of a sealed container were cakes. He knew no Spanish and his English pronunciation of the word "cakes" was barely recognisable. In due course the tin was pried open. The customs official grinned indifferently, and the tourist was left to repack his suitcase.

Other visitors, including an encyclopaedia salesman from Santiago, were attempting to exchange money at a neighbouring counter. A tall,

bearded American, who had been travelling around the world for over two years, produced his South American Handbook and checked on the exchange rate for Chilean escudos. It stood at 740 to the American dollar in mid-1974. Now it stood at 6,000 to the dollar.

While all this was going on, departing passengers and friends were pressing in at the door. The policemen shuffled from one foot to another and the LAN Chile manager, who looked like a Brilliantine advertisement from a 1925 edition of the *Tatler*, struggled manfully to cope with the exodus.

Outside as well were a handful of guest-house owners waiting to solicit custom from those passengers who were not planning to stay at the island's only, so-called, first-class hotel. The Hotel Hanga Roa, which derives its name from the island's only village, is operated by a Chilean company. It is a long, low, one-storeyed structure which stands on a barren headland near the end of the airport runway. It has a swimming pool without water and a book-

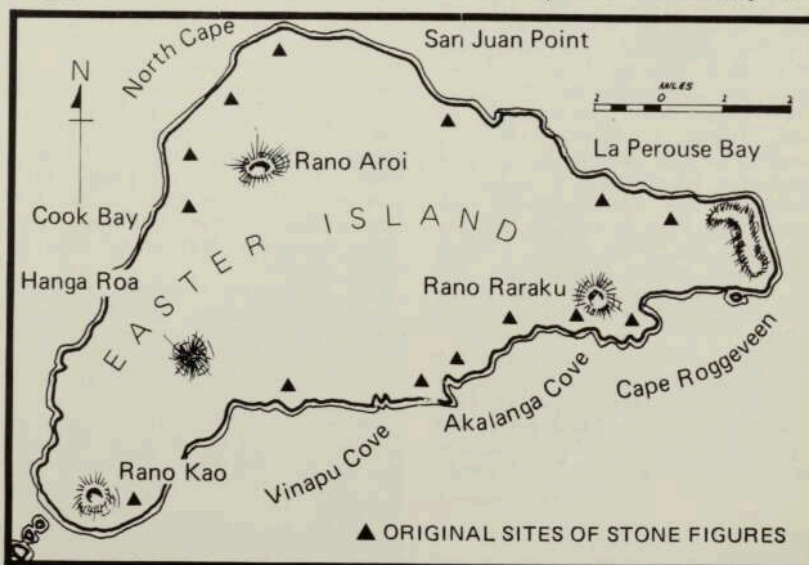
shop with hardly any books. As almost everything must be brought into Easter Island by airfreight such scarcity is common.

One thing the book shop did have, however, was a number of copies of *Youth Action News*; a right-wing American broadsheet which announced that the "Rockefeller mobsters (planned to) muscle in on the old established Rothschild gang in order to take over the world".

The other thing which the hotel has few of are guests. During our stay on the island about 25 of the 60 rooms were occupied. The daily charge per person, including three meals, is \$US32.

It had been suggested to us that we might like to stay with Señora Rosita Cardinali Haoa and we found her waiting outside with her husband Nicol. They are expressions of the island's varied past. Nicol's grandfather was a Scots shepherd named McKinnon who married a Tahitian woman from Bora Bora. Rosita's grandfather was an Italian, Señor Cardinali, who married a local Rapanui woman.

The Rapanui community is a





Easter Island, once called the "world's loneliest island".

poor one. There is little farming and many families support themselves by working for the Chilean administration or providing facilities for tourists. Señora Cardinali has operated a guest-house for four years and her husband is now in the process of building a six-room *pension* behind their house. We were particularly fortunate in our choice because, not only was the service excellent, but one of Señora Cardinali's daughters, Sonia, an anthropology student from the University of Santiago, was at home on winter vacation. Her command of English was very good and she was able to answer a great many questions for us about the island.

On Saturday evening, the Haoa family invited us to accompany them while they visited relatives who live in a modest prefabricated house of the sort which have been erected in fairly large numbers for employees of the Chilean Government. When we arrived we found the family and friends crowded about the dining table watching an old James Coburn movie on the television, which, with the exception of occasional renderings of "Jingle Bells", was dubbed in Spanish.

We were greeted warmly with handshakes, *abrazos*, and glasses of pisco sour, a clear and powerful liquor with an alcoholic content as high as 42 per cent. When it became apparent that not everyone could watch the same set, one of the guests rushed off to his own house nearby and returned with another TV set. Thus we found ourselves sitting in a horseshoe watching the movie intently while the other half of the party faced the opposite way.

Television was introduced to Easter Island in March, 1975. It seemed a strange priority to me in a community which lacks a secondary school, but one knowledgeable resident opined that it was yet another expression of that same Chilean nationalism which requires by law that the Chilean segment of Antarctica be included on all maps of the country.

On Sunday morning we made our way up the dirt road to the Roman Catholic church which stands on high ground overlooking Hangaroa. A row of Land Rovers and pick-up trucks was parked outside and people

were crowded about the doors. As we approached, a young man cantered by with a racy abandon and disappeared over the crest of the hill. Horses are one of the principal means of conveyance on the island and it is not at all unusual for the soft night-time sounds of wind and surf to be broken by the clatter of hooves on the hard road surface.

To the newcomer, at least, many of the horses appear to be sadly-neglected creatures, with a skeletal outline and forlorn countenance. Horses are everywhere, browsing on the volcanic slopes, transporting tourists, and wandering along the airport runway.

Every pew in the church was full and men and women were crowded together at the back and along the side walls. Overhead, sparrows flitted among the rafters or sat on the electric wires which serve a row of bare light bulbs. Father David Reddy, the parish priest, was intoning solemnly in Spanish as we entered. He was recruited for the post by the late Sebastian Englert, a Capuchin father from Germany, who, during 33 years residence on Rapanui, became one of the world's foremost authorities on the island's history. Father Reddy is an American from Staten Island, a book collector, teacher, scoutmaster, and student of psychology. He is also a ham radio operator and as such is one of the three "authorities" permitted to broadcast from the island. His station is unique and radio hams are particularly anxious to make contact with him.

His own favourite contacts are equally exotic—Tom Christian on Pitcairn and King Hussein in Damascus. He is a big man, gentle of manner with an engaging grin and a sense of humanity. He once had a flowing white beard, but when a little girl on a street in Chile called out, "there goes Father Christmas", he thought that it was about time to shave it off.

His duties are manifold. In addition to conducting regular masses, one of which is in Latin for the more conservative Pascuence who do not favour Spanish, managing the altar boys, who enjoy such ranks as private and corporal, and conducting evening classes in English, he also teaches at the primary school. He

runs the scout troop and finds himself called upon from time to time to bless whaling boats and even new outboard motors from Papeete.

The church is a simple structure; a large rectangular building with whitewashed walls, iron-framed windows with smoked glass, and a corrugated tin roof. At the front, behind the altar, are two ageing palm fronds (the agricultural authorities in Tahiti once refused to allow an Easter Island woman to bring holy Easter Palm into the island in her baggage), two four-inch brass shell casings filled with flowers, and a large crucifix. To the right is a large and rather masculine looking statue of the Virgin Mary and infant Jesus, carved from a tree trunk in much the same style as the great stone *moai* or Easter Island heads. To the left is a brown, framed pencil drawing of Brother Eugenio Eyraud, the first missionary to the island.

After the service, we set off in Nicol's new Chevrolet van (brought ashore from a freighter on board one of the three landing craft which serve as cargo lighters for the island). The main road or *calle principal*, which runs from the school to the airport, encompasses the community's history. It commences at the Plaza *Te Pito o te Henua*, or Plaza of the Navel of the World, a straggling cluster of trees. Nearby in the centre of the road is a *moai*, a great sombre figure which gazes down from its pedestal with a brooding and enigmatic look.

Two hundred yards further on is an obelisk dedicated to Capitan de Fragata, Policarpo Toro, the naval officer responsible for extending Chilean control over Rapanui in 1888. Markets are held here on Tuesdays and Saturdays. A dozen or so tables are set out beside the road and on these are displayed small quantities of garden produce, corn, tomatoes, cabbage, onions, garlicks, potatoes, carrots and other vegetables, while to one side of the *mercado* are displays of tourist goods, shell necklaces, mascara, wooden carvings, and packets of chewing gum at 3,000 escudos a packet. At the far end of the road, beyond the three tiny shops, which advertise ice cream and seldom seem to have it, is the naval headquarters where the governor of the island had his office for many

years. At this point, near the telegraph office the road turns and runs along the northern side of the runway.

On the southern side of the airstrip is a dark grove of eucalyptus trees. A small party of American servicemen have their camp here. United States military personnel came to Easter Island in 1966 and remained there until the early 1970s when the accession to power of the Allende regime necessitated their withdrawal. They left behind a water and electric system for Hangaroa as well as such Pascuense colloquialisms as "no problem".

Now they are back, ostensibly to conduct measurements of sea level, but more probably, one of my informants surmised, to maintain a distant watch on the French nuclear tests at Mururoa. Some of the people, he observed, were "delirious with joy" at the prospect of their return. It seems they found the relaxed and generous attitude of the Americans highly attractive; an interesting parallel with some of the cargo cults of Melanesia. Beyond the main gate of the airport is a small rock-crushing plant. Each day heavy-duty lorries rumble across the island bringing rock to be processed into various grades of gravel. Some of the gravel is used for making concrete blocks and some for building up the foundation of the runway extension.

It is extremely easy to obtain rock on Easter Island. The landscape is littered with volcanic debris. It is as if the fields of waving grass had been sown with boulders. From a distance this sea of dragons' teeth

give many parts of the island a sooty appearance. It is alleged that the warfare which racked Rapanui in the 1600s may have had its origin in a dispute over these rocks. Tradition has it that the *Hanau Eepe*, or late-comers to the island, wanted the *Hanau Momoko*, or the original inhabitants, to clear all the stones from the land and dump them into the ocean. The *Hanau Eepe* resided for the most part on the slopes of Poike, the volcano at the eastern end of Rapanui and the smooth, largely stone-free flanks of the mountain lend credence to the story. The *Hanau Momoko* refused to undertake the task and fighting broke out.

On another occasion rocks were dumped into the sea. A breakwater was being constructed at the tiny harbour of Hangaroa and one of the neighbouring *ahu*, or funeral platforms on which the moai stood, was destroyed in order to obtain stone; a tragic event on an island where stone is so plentiful.

The road winds across the countryside and runs along the south coast of the island past two lone coconut palms, the last survivors, apparently, of the original vegetation and past numerous *ahu*. At each of these sites the moai are toppled; mute reminders of the inter-clan warfare of the 18th century in which rival groups sought to diminish the *mana* or spiritual power of their opponents by desecrating the *ahu*. At *Ahu Tongariki*, however, other forces were at work. There the moai were scattered like tin soldiers by a seismic wave in 1960 which resulted from an earthquake at Valdivia in Chile.

We stopped at Anakena, one of the very few beaches on an otherwise ironbound island. Almost all the coastline consists of jagged black rocks, contorted and seared by volcanic fires. Against these the sea

pounds relentlessly, hollowing out enormous caverns of the sort found near Hangaroa and shaping tiny enclaves of sand like that at Anakena. It was there, according to tradition, that Hotu Matua, the leader of the first party of settlers, came ashore and made his camp. Thor Heyerdahl selected Anakena for his headquarters in 1955 and overlooking the beach is a moai which was re-erected at the time by the mayor, Pedro Atan.

On Sundays, the municipal bus (on this occasion with fish stuffed in the recess where the destination sign is normally located) makes a journey to Anakena carrying Pascuense for their weekend outing. It is an occasion for swimming, gossiping, eating, dancing and drinking the all too potent pisco. Alcoholism, in fact, is a significant problem in the tiny community.

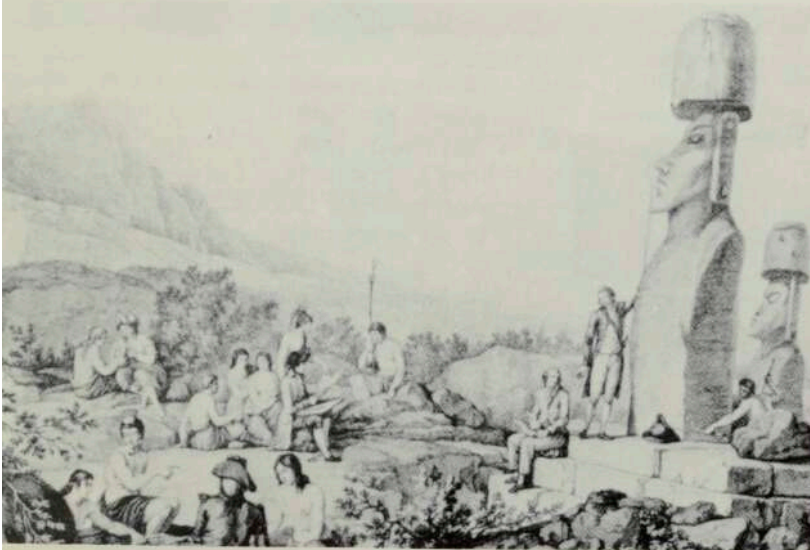
The following morning I set off to visit several archaeological sites near Hangaroa. I wandered down the road, past the soccer pitch and started along the shore. As I did so, I caught sight of three men building a small cutter. I admired their work which, though rough, was professional. Unfortunately, my Spanish was entirely inadequate to the task of discussing boat-building. I made a cut-away drawing of the hull and we had an impromptu lesson on top of a 44-gallon oil drum, naming the various parts. It was 10 o'clock and they invited me to join them for lunch. I had just had a large breakfast, but consented readily, contributing the bars of chocolate I had in my knapsack. One roast chicken and four bottles of wine later I took my leave, as best I might, and continued unsteadily, but happily, up the road.

Just to the north of Hangaroa is a large plaza where several *ahu* have been reconstructed and moai set in place. In the centre of the plaza is the ship-shaped outline in foundation stones of one of the traditional houses; a reminder, as Father Englert observed, of the marine heritage of the earliest inhabitants. I set off from *Ahu Akapu* towards *Ahu Akivi*. A short way along the road I met a man on horseback. I explained in broken Spanish where I wanted to go and with quiet deliberation he wheeled his horse about and led the way.

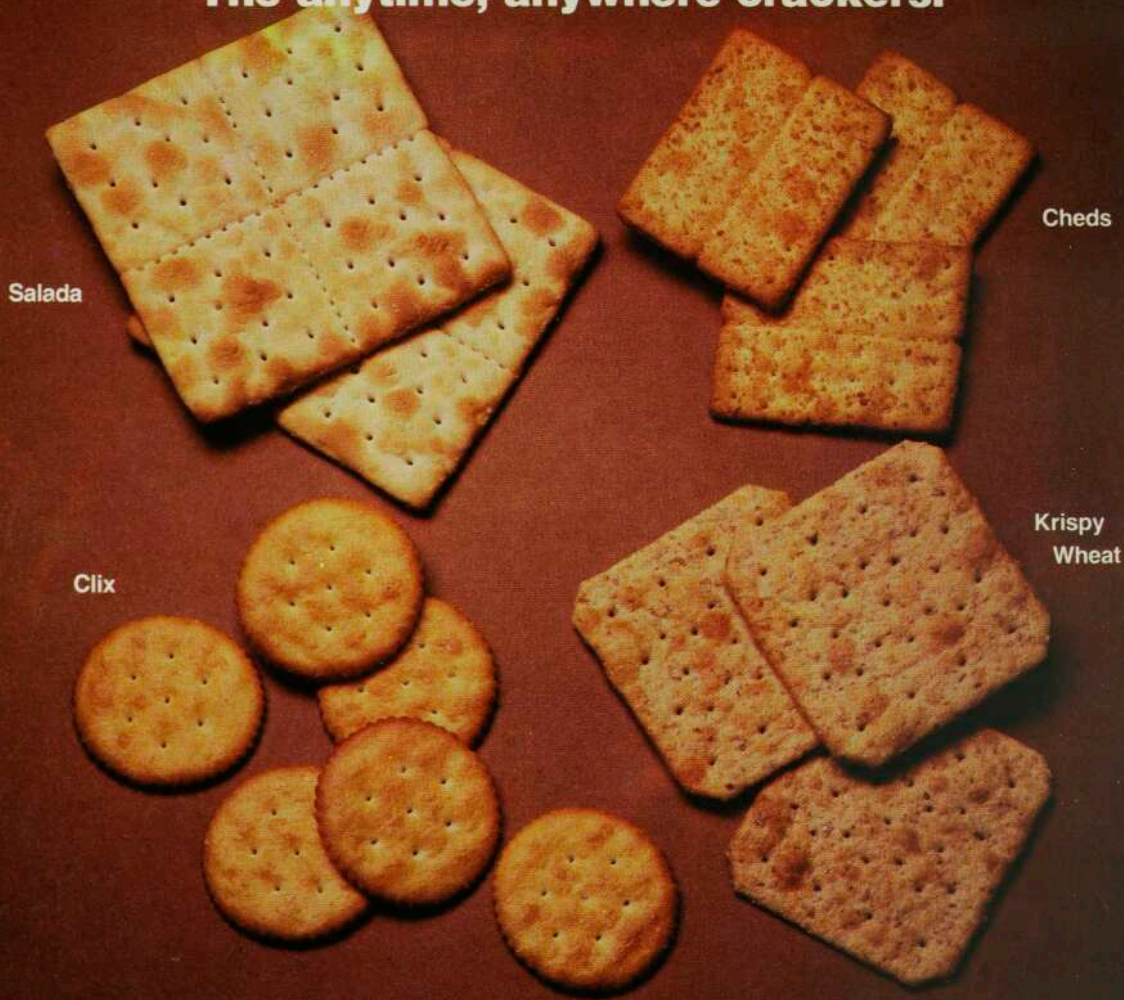
An hour's brisk walk brought me to the site where seven moai stand like solitary sentinels against a barren mountain side. On another occasion, when I visited *Ahu Akivi*,

Continued on p 45

The statues still wore their head-pieces when La Perouse visited the island. The sketch is from *Atlas du Voyage de La Perouse*.



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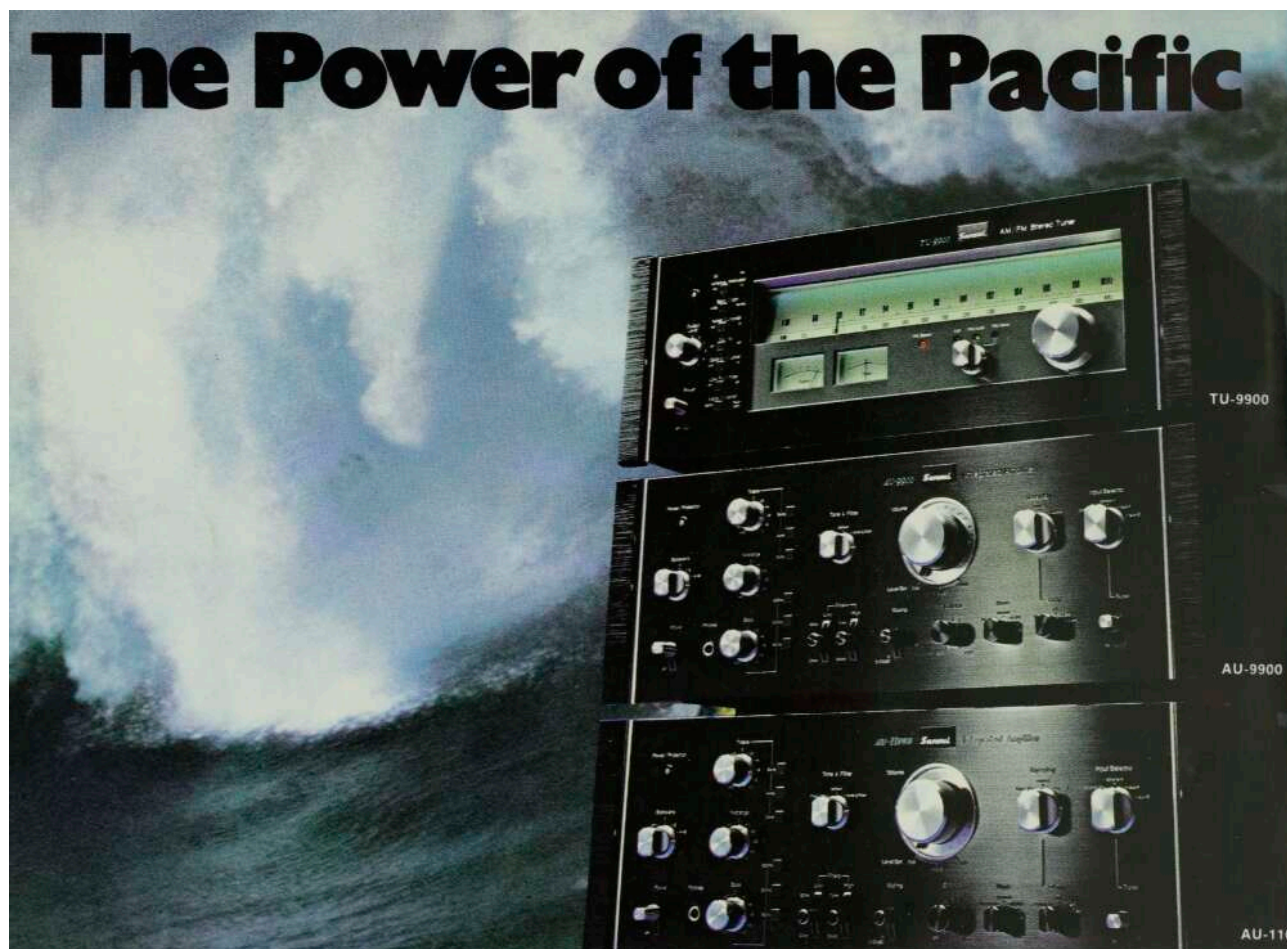


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Pitcairn's who-dunnit: where did Fletcher Christian die?

By DR W. WILFRIED SCHUHMACHER

At a time when even more important historical facts no longer are facts, it seems not inappropriate herefore to ask the question whether Fletcher Christian really did die on Pitcairn Island.

Unlike the other Bounty mutineers who were killed on Pitcairn by the Polynesians on October 3, 1793—John Mills, William Brown, Isaac Martin and John Williams—the founder and first leader of the Pitcairn settlement is still remembered, and many legends have come to be associated with his name. Thus, the story goes that he was not shot but ultimately returned to England ignominiously.

Of the places on Pitcairn Island, several are associated with Fletcher Christian, as the respective place-names contain his name (Christian's Cave, Christian's Point, etc) or refer to a historical event where he had been involved (Headache).

There is, however, not one place-name referring to the death of Fletcher Christian, and this fact

seems to support the strange story of his return to England, maybe to the Isle of Man, where his father's family had come from.

Others have expressed their doubt regarding the death of Fletcher Christian on Pitcairn, too. "As the spot in which he was buried on the island is not known, and as a person resembling him was seen, about the year 1809, in Fore Street, Plymouth, by Captain Peter Heywood . . . an impression in some quarters prevailed, that Christian had escaped the massacre of 1793, and had returned to England" (T. B. Murray, Pitcairn, 1857, p 106). The most plausible account of his possible return is in *The Wake of the Bounty* (1953) by C. S. Wilkinson.

In this the author postulates with some scholarship that he returned to the Lake District, and that this was known to the "Lakeland Poets" including William Wordsworth, Fletcher's schoolfellow, and that Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner" (1798) is an allegory about Fletcher Chris-



Christian's Cave on Pitcairn Island where the leader of the Bounty mutineers frequently went to brood.

tian. It further postulates that he with the possible acquiescence of his cousin, John Christian Curwen, a powerful landowner and politician with the possible acquiescence of his cousin Lord Ellenborough, Lord Chief Justice of England, and a Privy Councillor.

Fletcher's father was Charles Christian of Moorland Close, Cumberland, Coroner of Cumberland. His great-grandfather, Ewan Christian, had left Milntown, Isle of Man, his ancestral seat, for Ewanrigg in Cumberland early in the 18th century, after the power of his clan had been diminished by their part in rebellion against the Lord of Man (Earl of Derby) in the time of the English Civil War.

The heir of the clan was John Christian Curwen, who also had a seat in the Manx parliament, and whose son returned to Milntown as Deemster (Judge) of the island. Fletcher Christian was connected in several generations to many powerful Manx families, including the Taubman's of the Nunnery. It was they who secured him a place on the Bounty expedition through their influence in London. His mother, although of Cumberland descent, settled with other children in the Isle of Man on her husband's death.

There are no family papers from Milntown, the Manx seat of the Christians, as on the death of Deemster John Christian in the mid-19th century, they were all burnt. It might be however that the Taubman papers are about to become available, the family having become extinct a few years ago and their home The Nunnery Mansion sold up.

EASTER ISLAND

Continued from p 39

Three trucks appeared over the crest of a hill. Almost before they had come to a halt a party of French tourists tumbled out of them and warmed over the ahu like a company of marines storming ashore. They had flown from Santiago on the Thursday flight which arrives at 18.30 and were scheduled to leave at 06.20 on Saturday morning; a 4,600 mile journey in order to spend one day on Easter Island.

The island is experiencing an unexpected boom in tourism even though July and August are the "off season". Whereas a year ago 707s made the journey with 30 or 40 passengers, now they are sold out.

In fact on a recent flight the airline had confirmed bookings for 10 seats more than there were places on the craft and a number of wait-listed passengers, ourselves included, were asked to stay on the island for another week.

This was not a hardship. We

passed our time visiting the wind-swept summit of Rano Kau and the moai "factory" at Rano Raraku. This volcano is the most famous of the Easter Island sites. Dozens of moai stand in the shadow of the weathered outer face of the massif; some are upright and alert while others are tilted crazily or sprawled on the grassy slopes. They are silent and eyeless. Above them, hewn in the rock are partly completed figures, abandoned centuries ago.

We clambered up to the highest point of the crater lip and sat for the longest time gazing out across the countryside. We were absolutely alone. The only sounds were those of the wind, the crickets and the hawks wheeling below. The solitude reminded us of the words written by Mrs Routledge, the leader of a British expedition to Easter Island in 1914. "Everywhere", she wrote, "is the wind of heaven; around and above all are boundless sea and sky, infinite space and a great silence".

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Inclusion of West New Guinea in Indonesia was to take priority in the policy of the new government of Indonesia, the Premier, Dr Ali Sastroamidjojo, announced in Jakarta, in April, 1956. Towards that end, Indonesia would soon establish a Province of West Irian (the Indonesian term for Dutch New Guinea). Now it's called Irian Jaya and another "act of free choice" is to be decided in Timor.

Yesterday

A warm tribute to the services given to the Suva Chamber of Commerce and to the community in general by Sir Alport Barker, was made at a meeting of the chamber. Mr Maurice Helsen, acting president of the chamber and manager of the Suva branch of Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, said it was an appropriate time to pay a tribute to Sir Alport, who had recently disposed of the Fiji Times and Herald Ltd. He wished the new owners, Pacific Publications Pty Ltd, continued success in running the newspaper, that had been the means of information in Fiji, in good and bad days, for many years.

The Joyita disaster was caused by a pipe breaking in the cooling system, flooding the ship. That was the finding of a commission of inquiry, headed by the Chief Judge of Western Samoa, Mr Justice Marsack, which sat in Apia 20 years ago. The commission dismissed fanciful stories that were circulating at the time of the disaster. There was no evidence of mass murder, organised looting, attack by foreign vessels, waterspouts or submarine explosion. The commission made a number of criticisms. There was a lack of life-saving equipment. Captain T. H. Miller failed to ensure the Joyita was capable of making the voyage from Apia to the Tokelaus. The commission was unable to say why the ship was abandoned. Conditions on the ship must have been bad, but it was afloat and offered some degree of security. The Joyita left Apia early in October, 1955, on a voyage to the Tokelaus, normally a two-day trip. She was found floating and derelict, about 100 miles north of Labasa, Fiji, on November 10, 1955. No trace was ever found of the 25 passengers and crew.

Because of a 140 degrees deviation in the control compass of the automatic

pilot, Pan American Airways clipper, "Glory of the Skies" got off course on a flight between Nadi and Canton Island, and finally made an emergency landing at Faleolo, Western Samoa. Faleolo airport was seldom used by anything bigger than a DC3. NZ aviation officials refused to allow the aircraft to take off with passengers. A PAA DC4 went from Nadi to ferry the passengers to Canton. "Glory of the Skies" which had a successful takeoff from Faleolo was waiting there to meet them, and carry them on to Honolulu and the US.

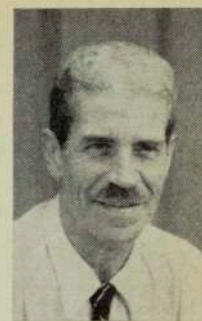
Faced with greatly decreased revenue as a result of the fall in cocoa prices and every sign of a poor cocoa crop, with all the emphasis on expansion of medical services, education, and public works, the Government of Western Samoa faced problems in 1956 that did not have to be considered in 1955, a prosperous trade year. Adverse weather in recent months seriously affected the cocoa crop, which was not expected to recover before the end of 1956. Some local businessmen were pessimistically forecasting the beginning of "the seven lean years". A steadily dropping copra price and a 10 per cent fall in the UK Ministry of Food price for copra showed that economies would have to be made somewhere.

Father George Hamilton Pearce, SM, was chosen to succeed the late Bishop J. B. Dieter as Vicar Apostolic of Samoa and the Tokelau Islands. He was known to the Samoans as "Patele Ameto". Father Pearce, an American, went to Boston for consecration by the archbishop there, Cardinal Cushing. Some years ago he succeeded Archbishop Foley as Archbishop of Suva.

Only Australian Commonwealth politicians would have free trips to Papua New Guinea under a ruling by Prime Minister Robert Menzies. That annoyed Premier Cosgrave of Tasmania, who had intended to send one government and one opposition member of Tasmania's House of Assembly to PNG at taxpayer expense. "It's very important that we should know what's going on in New Guinea", Mr Cosgrave said. "We want to know the position about defence". PIM made a brief comment: "People have been known to pay their own way, of course. Return air fare: round £120".

Only slight amendments to the proposals of NZ for a plan of constitutional development for Western Samoa were made in a joint session of the Fono of Faipule (Samoan Parliament) and the Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa. The only dissenting voice,

● Mr P. L. M. Morgan . . . his opposition to moves for self-government in Western Samoa led to stormy scenes.



opposing all resolutions passed by the two representative bodies, was that of elected European member P. L. M. Morgan. His opposition to every move towards self-government contained in the NZ proposals sometimes led to stormy scenes.

An old native woman who had lived all of her 70 years on Mare, in the remote Loyalty Group, recently flew to Noumea, PIM reported in April, 1956. That was typical of the air-mindedness that had developed among New Caledonia natives since the local air service, Transpac, started operations about six months earlier. Most traffic in that period was between the mainland and the Loyalty Group and the Isle of Pines.

According to Professor Y. B. Goto, a world authority on coffee culture, one quarter of the plantations he inspected in the Papua New Guinea Highlands in February were on good coffee land, about one-half on mediocre land, and the remaining quarter on poor land. Professor Goto was Director of the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Hawaii. He said he was greatly impressed with the extent and possibilities of the almost virgin PNG Highlands as a future coffee country. He turned out to be right, and the Highlands soon after began adding significantly to PNG's economy.

Father Edward A. Tremblay, SM, of Haverhill, Mass, US, who spent more than 30 years in the mission field in Tonga, has written another book of reminiscences, PIM reported in April, 1956. In true American style he sought a title to tickle the ears of the groundlings—it is "Grins and Chuckles in the Land of Upside Down". In spite of his long years of arduous service, Father Tremblay never lost his sense of humour. His new book was expected to be well worth reading. His order benefited from the sales of his book which included "When you go to Tonga". Fr Tremblay died in January, 1974 in Oregon, USA.



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From the Islands Press

According to the Tonga Chronicle, "a member of the German royal family, His Serene Highness, Prince von Thurn Und Taxis" on a visit to Tonga, gave this advice:

"Considering the size and population of this nation, I believe that feudalism is the right political system for Tonga", he said. "It is good to maintain the one-party system in Tonga because family ties are still strongly upheld by her people. It is like a big family under the control of the parents".

A "public accolade" awarded the Royal Fiji Police by The Fiji Times in an editorial on "Police success in preventing crime".

... Figures released by the police show a 28.1 per cent drop in the crime rate for the Southern Division, an area where crimes against property were normally high because of social problems created by rapid urbanisation. This is a significant victory in stemming the tide of crime which reached a dangerous level when the city streets had become virtually unsafe to walk at night.

From the New Hebrides radio news:

A custom ceremony at Bongabonga village was a part of the preparation of Willie Jack Moses, who will eventually become chief of Bongabonga. In Willie Jack's absence Pastor Fred Tapagongi, who is also of chiefly line, killed four pigs for him as customary on such an occasion. People from four villages came and pigs were killed and given to them with kava, bundles of sugar cane and other foods. Altogether, 10 pigs were killed and about 50 to 60 people were present.

One of 10 points made by Natui-Tanno, a political party in the New Hebrides, against Nagriamel declaration of independence for Santo, as reported in the New Hebrides News:

Santo used to be a happy place, but not now with people taking money from bushmen, and land too, and people making trouble at the time of the elections. Those white men who are making trouble in Santo should leave Santo and the New Hebrides.

From a letter by Moegagogo Tamasese in the Samoa Times:

It is about time the people of Samoa took a strong stand to protest and condemn the barbaric actions of the news media, the Government and the people of New Zealand for inhumanely projecting and creating such a senseless, irresponsible and evil attack on our people by publishing unfounded and false

information about Samoan bananas being contaminated with human excrement.

From a circular issued by the Fiji Ministry of Education and reported by The Fiji Times warning teachers over the use of corporal punishment:

... "Excessive use of punishment is a sign of general incompetency on the part of the teacher", the circular says. "If pupils are inattentive, noisy, frequently late or absent from the school, the teacher should realise that the fault is probably his".

From the Cook Islands News reporting a speech by Premier Sir Albert Henry on the creation of a market for small produce growers:

"I have been very concerned with the people who have to sit on the side of the road for long hours hoping that someone will come and buy their goods. This market will stop these people having to sit and hope", said Sir Albert.

"Bowlers defy Cabinet" headlined the Samoa Times and reported that before a team of five bowlers left to play in the World Bowling Championships in South Africa "despite Cabinet's disapproval of the trip":

... the team captain, Letaa Sulufaiga Devoe, told the Samoa Times that it was not their wish to be disrespectful to Cabinet, but they firmly believed that sports and politics must remain separate. The team, he said, was going as a team from the Western Samoa Bowling Association, and if the South African officials decided to raise the Samoan flag and play the Samoan National Anthem, they were not going to stop them.

From a speech by Micronesian Senator John Mangefel, of Yap, on plans to begin a US Department of Agriculture-sponsored school feeding programme in Micronesia as reported by the Micronesian Independent:

Mangefel said the children of Micronesia should not be fed by someone else. "If we want to be dependent on the United States for everything, including food, then we should forget about this business of future status, self-government and unity", he said. He said if Micronesia is not weaned from handouts, then instead of the future Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Micronesia will have a future USDA. He added USDA would not mean US Department of Agriculture, but rather "the United States of Dependent Adolescents".

A controversy about kissing as an educational activity as reported by The Fiji Times:

A Swiss Evangelical Mission school in Papua New Guinea's eastern highlands has been ordered to reinstate four students—three boys and a girl—who were expelled for kissing in the school grounds. The eastern highlands provincial commissioner for education, Mr Clemens Runawery, said he did not think kissing in the school grounds was a satisfactory reason for stopping the children from attending school.

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Books, Reviews, Writers

FROM BENGHAZI TO THE SEPIK — THE WAR OF ONE AUSTRALIAN

World War II gave many Pacific Islanders their first experience of modern war, its massive use of men and material and its miseries. The war is the subject of official histories of the nations which waged it, and of many books about the army units, naval ships, air squadrons, etc, which took part. But, as Francis Bacon observed, money is not the sinews of war. People wage war against other people, and it is the personal accounts of those who experienced it first-hand that often provide the best insight.

Geoff Fearnside had already written two books, *Sojourn In Tobruk* (1944) and *Bayonets Abroad* (1953) about the 2/13th Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, in which he served. Now, more than 20 years later, he tells his own story.

The 2/13th, 'Devil's Own', was one of the units opposing the Italian and German forces in North Africa. The author took part in the successful initial drive against the Italians and he was one of the many 'entries' in the 'Benghazi Handicap', the flight of Allied troops before the German Afrika Korps in 1941.

The 2/13th was among units which dug in at Tobruk and defied the Afrika Korps' attempts to dislodge them. Fearnside was wounded, evacuated, and, following a spell in hospital and leave, took part in the fighting in Syria against the Vichy French.

During one leave, he visited Gordon's Calvary in Jerusalem: "We had come, not as pilgrims but as off-duty soldiers whose hands were bloody and whose minds were conditioned to hate and kill. We profaned the Garden Tomb, its peace and tranquillity, as surely as did the machine guns of the British policemen down at the Wailing Wall".

By July, 1942, the 2/13th was on its way to the Western Desert where it took part in the bloody fighting with the Afrika Korps.

Fearnside writes about one of the many attacks: "It would be spring in Australia and the wattle would

be out . . . Could men die of madness and fear on a battlefield? A thousand deaths of madness and fear? 'The valiant never taste of death but once . . .' Where is the valour of cowering in the dust, swamped by a fury of frightening sound? Oh God, for a golden beach and the sound of surf".

The 2/13th sustained 285 casualties, about one-third of its strength, in that campaign. Several of the author's mates were among those.

The 9th Division 2nd AIF, of which the 2/13th was part, went home soon after. After three months at an officer cadet training unit and other training, Lieut Fearnside was sent to the 2/3rd Infantry Battalion which, with other units of the 6th

Division, was fighting against Japanese troops in the Sepik District.

He had a lucky escape when a camp of the 2/3rd was washed away by the rain-flooded Danmap River one dark night; several men were drowned. There was no large-scale fighting like the battles in the Middle East, but the jungle warfare in New Guinea, too, claimed lives. And malaria, scrub typhus and going 'troppo' (mental breakdown) were an even greater enemy than the Japanese who, in 1944, no longer received supplies from home, and who suffered even more.

In that campaign, 442 officers and men of the 6th Division were killed or died of wounds, 1,141 were wounded and 16,203 admitted to hospital because of sickness. Fearnside, no longer fit for front-line service, was sent home before the war ended.

Pacific Islanders, not least the Papua New Guineans, are beginning to write about their own or their people's war-time experiences. It is important that they do so, because warfare, of some kind or other, has been a part of human existence since times immemorial. It must, therefore, be included in the histories of nations.

Half To Remember, the unpretentious, sensitively-written account of one Australian's war, does a lot more than is done by official histories and the like to put to Papua New Guineans and other Pacific islanders what the many graves in the war cemeteries at Bomana, Lae and Bitapaka mean to Australians. And one does not have to be a political scientist or defence expert to see the message of those graves reflected in Australia's policy and dealings concerning Papua New Guinea. —Harry Jackman

(HALF TO REMEMBER By G. H. Fearnside, Haldane Publishing Co, 65 Campbell St, Surry Hills, NSW, Australia. \$7.95).

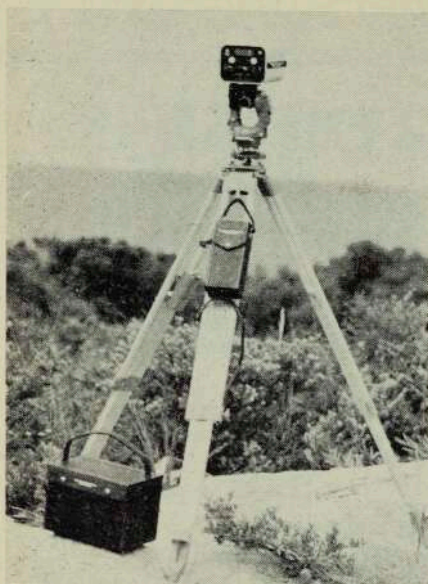
TOM HARRISSON DIES IN CRASH

Tom Harrison, the anthropologist and writer, whose book Savage Civilisation gave a valuable account of life in the Malekula (New Hebrides) bush in the 1930s, has been killed in a bus accident in Bangkok. He was 64. His wife, Belgian sculptress Baronne Christine Forani, whom he married in 1971, also died in the accident.

Harrison, educated at Harrow and Cambridge, arrived in the New Hebrides in 1933 and spent more than a year among the mountain people of Malekula who were still cannibal. He also worked in the New Hebrides as a civil servant to help finance his expedition and was involved in the production of a film on island life.

War service in Sarawak and Dutch Borneo organising guerilla activities against the Japanese gained him a DSO.

Dr Harrison paid another visit to the New Hebrides in the late 1960s.



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PROFOUND EXPERIENCE FOR A READER

The diary kept by a teenage girl forms the basis of an account of life on Tahiti in the early years of the second World War. Amusing anecdotes of delightful and sometimes frustrating Polynesian friends, lyrical descriptions of the tropical beauty of French Polynesia and intimate glimpses of a young American girl's innermost thoughts in such a setting are all to be found in the pages of *Sound of the Stars*. Nothing unusual in this, perhaps? But bear in mind that the writer of this book has been deaf from birth.

Deafness is an isolating and restrictive handicap, which spells seclusion from normal social intercourse because a deaf person does not speak and acquire language normally. The hearing person builds up a vast vocabulary during the formative years, without giving conscious thought to the matter, but, to a deaf person, every word learnt is a new and hard-won achievement.

To read this book is a profound experience to anyone aware of and sympathetic to the problems of the deaf.

Frances Parsons and her twin sister were discovered to be deaf at the age of five and not until the age of

10 did they learn to speak intelligibly. They attended the State School for the Deaf in California, but after five years of boarding school life, their mother determined to re-unite the family, rather dramatically, by moving lock, stock and barrel right across the Pacific to French Polynesia. They settled on Tahiti in the outlying district of Vairao, which was tenuously linked to the bright lights of Papeete by a quite hilarious and unpredictable means of transport, known as the "midnight truck".

The vagaries and marital disputes of the Parsons' Chinese neighbour and his Tahitian wife are described with great verve and racy detail and such local characters as Papa Poria and Mother Angel spring to lusty life for the reader. Through her literary-minded parents this young deaf girl also had the good fortune to meet such well-known characters as Charles Nordhoff, James Hall and Zane Grey.

Outer island travel on small schooners provided Frances and her twin with many adventures. Two adolescent girls are soon aware of life's finer and more intimate points and these are recounted with refreshing and unsparing candour.

The reader will discover some rather quaint English in this book. This is due to Frances' handicap as the deaf inevitably miss out on some structural language. But, far from detracting from the narrative, these small lapses add a charm and originality.

Today, Frances Parsons, holder of a Master of Arts degree and having passed her first half century, is a faculty member of Gallaudet College in Washington, DC—the only tertiary institution for the deaf in the world. She lectures in Art History and her idea of a good holiday is to bustle off to some far-flung corner of the world to help some project concerned with educating the deaf.

She is a remarkable woman who can make herself at home anywhere, undaunted by any language barrier. Those four adventure-filled years in Tahiti served to whet her appetite for travel and for understanding the world. Her very readable *Sound of the Stars* is surely worthy of a place on the book shelves of all who enjoy reading about the Pacific.

—Merle H. Coppel

(SOUND OF THE STARS by Frances M. Parsons. Published by Vantage Press Inc, 516 West 34th St, New York, NY 10001. US\$5.95).

Making maths a fun thing

The education authorities of Western Samoa, in common with those of other Pacific Islands countries, are engaged upon an extensive examination of the curricula offered to their pupils.

Quite obviously there is concern that, in many instances, the present syllabuses of instruction concentrate upon academic subject matter which has little or no relevance for the large number of students who will remain on the land or who will make up the greater part of the workforce.

The past emphasis upon academic studies had a principal objective of producing the educated elite which would receive tertiary education and form the higher echelons of the public service. This objective tended to ignore the interests of those who were screened out of the academic educational process.

In Western Samoa, Ian Lowe of the UNDP Curriculum Development Unit, working with the Western Samoan secondary schools mathematics curriculum committee has been engaged upon the task of designing a mathematics programme

relevant to those pupils who will not enter Samoa College.

The Schools Publications Division of the Western Samoa Department of Education has now published pupils' textbooks together with teachers' manuals to cover the Form III to Form V area. Mr Lowe spent some time in village schools and had extensive consultations with Samoan teachers before assembling the syllabus. The results are commendable as the programme is tailor-made to Western Samoan conditions.

Learning mathematics should be a "fun thing" as there is a great variety of material to study and a marked absence of tedious and repetitious tasks. The students, as an example, are introduced to the project of starting a village store by surveying the potential customers, transport facilities and the costs of stocking a store. They are also shown how to draw the floor plans for a *faleola* (counter-in-front store) or a small "super-market" store.

Book-keeping is taught on a premise of life in the village, with some notes of caution. The pupils are

warned for instance that "there may be some trusted friends and maybe your own family to whom you can give credit".

Fa'a Samoa is emphasised wherever possible. In the teaching of the concept of symmetry, there is an examination of the symmetry used in the traditional Samoan tattoo motifs, and the practical applications of studying symmetry are used in designing patterns for the laying of floor tiles.

The programme also extends beyond the school buildings and playground as the children carry out practical land surveys. They are also shown how to play interesting mathematical games at home with their families, using everyday objects such as playing cards, matches and bottle tops.

It is to be hoped the Western Samoan Department of Education will press on with similar revisions of the curriculum and that its example with the mathematics programme will become typical of similar programmes throughout the Pacific Islands countries.

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Office equipment throughout the Pacific Islands is undergoing a gradual but traumatic change and in this special and unique survey PIM examines the latest trends.

There are two major reasons for the accelerating changes in Islands offices—the first comes from the office users themselves, the second, from the huge Japanese, American and European suppliers which make the multitude of products involved here.

Users of offices, particularly Islands governments and the big businesses, are undergoing sharp clerical costs spirals.

And with competition and margins all that keener today, these users are anxious to boost efficiencies and upgrade productivity.

Thus labour-saving and/or new performance achieving equipment which will make possible the above needs and meet costs spirals, make sense.

At the same time, from manufacturers, comes a burgeoning rush of new technology and better products, with an "automatic office" a lot closer than most observers think.

The Islands are a part, though minor, of a veritable revolution in the office, by far the most important in this area for 100 years.

And an office is one of the most visible areas where new things and new thinking pay big dividends.

Islands move into Electronic Age

From ROBERT KEITH-REID in Suva

Electronic data processing is one of the up and coming industries of Fiji. Five computer centres, three installed within the last 12 months, have created around 250 jobs in a community which counts an undertaking employing 100 people as a major one.

For seven years an International Computers Ltd model 1902-A in the Electronic Data Processing branch of the Fiji Ministry of Finance had the field to itself. Then the state-controlled Fiji Sugar Corporation got two small Burroughs computers in 1975.

Last year, the Suva branch of the Bank of New Zealand invested \$250,000 in two ICL model 2903s, the Native Land Trust Board bought one of the same type, and the Fiji National Provident Fund paid around \$260,000 for an NCR Century model.

IBM opened a centre in Suva in 1967 at the government's request, but its capacity quickly became inadequate.

The government accepted a proposition from UCL that has kept a 32K capacity computer busy in Suva ever since. This runs 16 hours a day in two eight-hour shifts, plus 16 more hours at weekends.

ICL has a resident engineer in Suva. Apart from one overseas analyst the staff of the government unit, about 40, is local.

Hiring the computer costs the government about \$150,000 a year

and salaries and other costs took the total bill for the service to about \$349,000 last year.

Revenue, about \$94,000 last year, comes from a commercial user who hires time on the government installation.

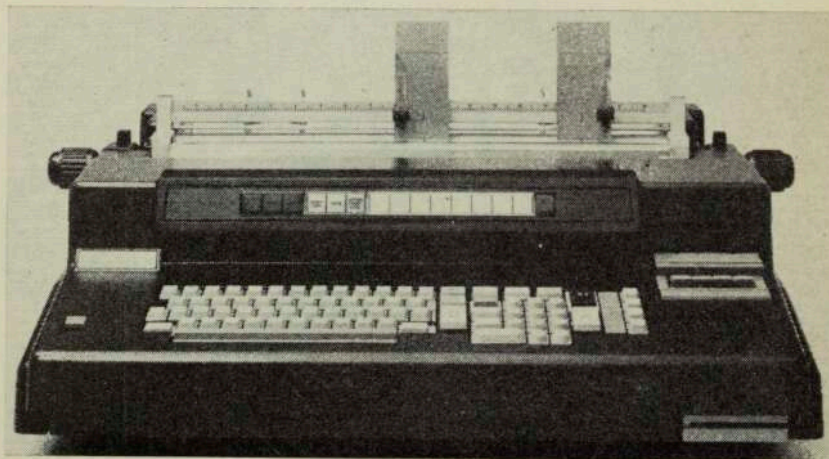
The ICL computer handles the government's entire pay roll, trade figures, tax figures, migration and employment figures and processes foreign exchange transactions.

It keeps checks on stock movements in the Government Supplies Department, and does work for the

Town Planning Department, Lands Department, Electoral Office, school examination result analysis and a host of other duties.

About 20 hours a year is spent working for the University of the South Pacific and other users are the Solomon Islands Government, various Fiji statutory organisations, and the Suva City Council.

Mr C. Lee Joe, the unit's acting manager, says it is impossible to estimate what the computer saves in terms of paper work and repetitive figure-checking exercises.



Mini-computers like this Olivetti A5 are now dramatically altering office procedures throughout the Pacific Islands. The PNG Banking Corporation has just announced the purchase of this particular model.

"It's not so much cost saved as time saved", he says. "With access to instant information, government officials have more time for creative work".

About one-third of the business handled by the government computer is for International Data (South Pacific) Ltd, a New Zealand-owned company which started business in Suva in 1970.

Beginning with a staff of three and eight clients, manager Cam Goodir recalls, it now employs 25 people and has custom for 50 different services.

The company devises a programme to suit a client's needs, punches out the information and sends the cards along to the government centre for processing. Most of its work deals with company accounts and pay rolls, but the range runs from quality control matters to updating company share registers.

At one time International Data was employing 60 key punch operators in two shifts handling business for clients in Australia. But this business collapsed when the Australian economy began tottering and hasn't recovered yet.

Another New Zealand-backed operator, Pacific Computer System (Fiji) Ltd, recently entered the field but apparently intends to have its

data processing carried out in New Zealand.

The new ICL and NCR computers, which arrived in Suva last year, went to buyers with a big volume of work and some special problems to handle.

The Bank of New Zealand has been trading in Fiji for more than a century; as the first bank in the country it's also the first to have its accounting system computerised.

The Native Land Trust Board, as Fiji's biggest landlord, has already found its ICL computer an invaluable aid in sorting out thousands of complex land transaction matters, but it is still having some work done for it by the government unit.

With 100,000 accounts to look after, the Fiji National Provident Fund bought its computer to overcome the sheer physical problems posed by sorting through strip ledger cards.

Although the three new computer operators have plenty of capacity to spare, they do not envisage taking on any outside work.

During 1974-75, Fiji firms and organisations invested about \$940,000 in computers and related equipment.

Sales of "mini computers", highly-sophisticated electronic accounting machines in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 class, are going well.

Data Processing by Fiji—N.Z. Partnership

An Auckland-based computer data processing company, Pacific Computer Centres Limited, has received Fiji Government approval to set up a key-punching and computer processing centre in Suva.

The new centre started last year.

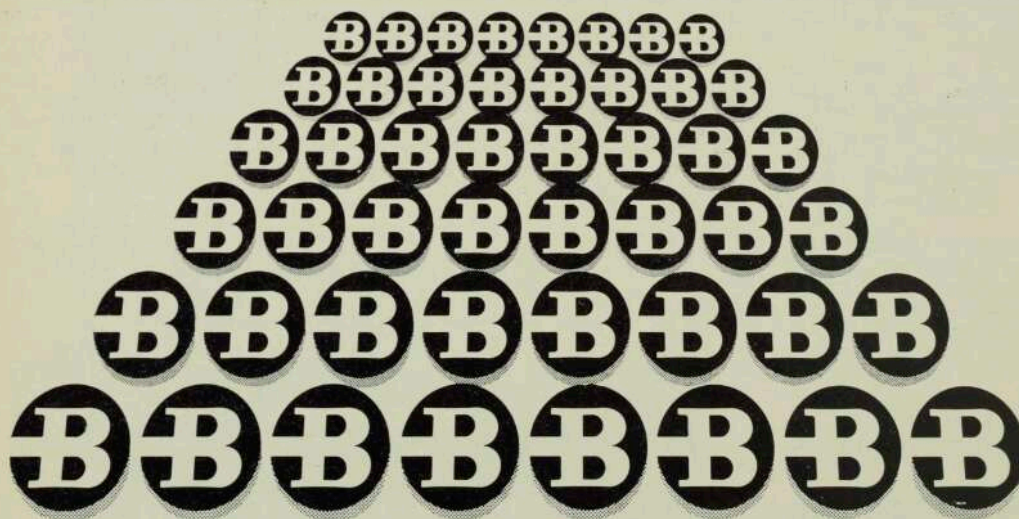
The centre will use Singer (US) equipment, and Pacific Computer Centres has also secured the Singer agency for computer hardware for Fiji.

The Fiji venture marks the start of PCC's export efforts; previously it was restricted to within New Zealand.

The new centre is called Pacific Computer Systems (Fiji) Ltd.

By utilising the company's staff and data processing equipment in Auckland, the Suva centre will convert company data into computer-readable format.

Government approval, at both ends, has been received by Pacific Computer Centres to establish a Datel link between Fiji and New



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Mr Rod Hunter, managing director of Pacific Computer Systems (Fiji) Ltd, was addressing technical staff about computer systems when this picture was taken.

Zealand. This will ensure uninterrupted transmission of data by telephone between the two countries.

The Suva centre will capture customer's data and transmit it by telephone to the Auckland centre where it will be received on magnetic tape, processed on the company's IBM 360/30 computer and transmitted to Suva where it will be printed out by line printer.

In the event of a breakdown in the link, or bulk data requiring transporting, the data can be flown by air freight.

The centre will also be equipped to process any overflow key-punching from New Zealand or Australia, and any computer-processing that needs to be done in Suva will be carried out on a Fiji government-owned computer.

The company is incorporated in Fiji, with the holdings halved between Fiji and New Zealand.

The Fiji partner in the new company is the well-established Suva company, Office Equipment Ltd, whose managing director, Mr James M. Ah Koy will be chairman of directors of Pacific Computer Systems (Fiji) Ltd.

Pacific Computer Systems (Fiji) Ltd occupies 1,000 sq ft of leased floor space in a modern, four-storeyed building in downtown Suva. It is managed at the outset by Mr R. (Rod) Hunter, general manager of Pacific Computer Centres, in Auckland.

As managing director of the Fiji operation, Mr Hunter is responsible

for all aspects of the new centre's administration, marketing and technical functions. He envisaged staying in the Fiji capital for six months—or however long it takes to train a local manager to take over from him.

"Data processing is very much in its infancy in Fiji. Existing computer services there are taxed to the full and we feel by offering a competent service we will make heavy inroads into the market", he said.

"Fiji is no longer the quiet tropical backwater the tourist pamphlets would have us believe. It's a major South Seas business centre and a base for flourishing overseas and local business interests.

"Companies there are having to compete without the advantage of adequate local data-processing facilities. We hope to change that".

PCC's managing director, Mr Kerry R. C. Hart, who spearheaded the negotiations with the Fiji Government, said the decision to set up in Suva has been received favourably.

"Fiji will benefit from new employment opportunities, New Zealand skills and expertise that will be passed on to Fiji nationals, and export earnings from key-punching.

"We will bring Fiji nationals to Auckland to train them in key-punching and in the use of data terminals. Further staff will be trained as the centre expands".

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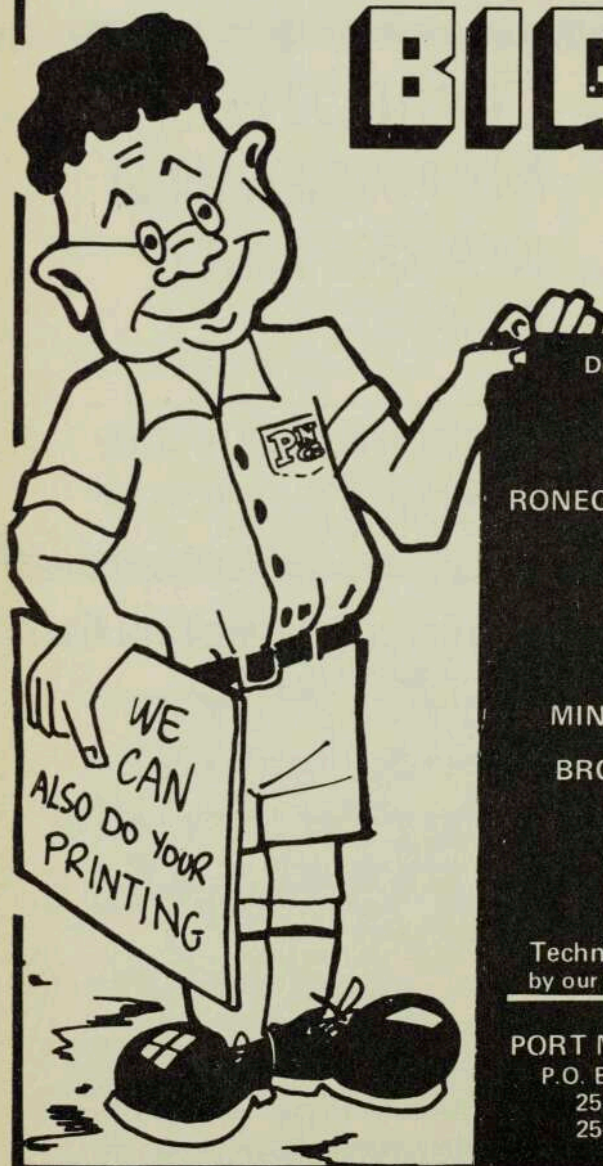
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Multi-nationals vie for sales in PNG

A handful of multinational corporations from the US, Britain and Italy dominate the data processing and office supply market of Papua New Guinea.

With this industry sector worth about 20 million kina a year and with growths of various sub-sectors ranging up to 100 per cent a year, it is an exciting time.

The imminent arrivals are expected in word processors, online banking terminals, sophisticated office computers and data communications between large towns, such as Port Moresby, Keita, Rabaul and Lae. Plus a computer output to microfilm (COM) bureau.

PNG's very advanced Posts and Telegraphs Exchange at Lae will play no small role in the expected new communications facilities and indeed this American-built exchange is crucial to most plans.

It is no secret PNG's major banks

are currently evaluating their first online banking terminals systems.

The three major user areas for all equipment remain government, commerce and finance (including banking) in that order, with government said to comprise 37 per cent of all purchases.

Electric typewriters are certainly not uncommon; electronic accounting machines are numerous, the latest copiers are ubiquitous and modern microfilm gear, such as manual duplicators and readers, are all there.

In the larger computer area, British supplier, International Computers Ltd (ICL), has eclipsed the entire market with its low end mainframe, the 2903 model, plus two much bigger systems with the central government.

Other important suppliers which come to mind include NCR, which has a data services base and over

This office and computer feature was compiled by Ken McGregor, a former PIM staff man and now a specialist writer with the Australian Financial Review.

1,000 machines of smaller type installed with a multitude of users, and PNG Printing Company of Port Moresby, which has a variety of agencies including fast-growing Olivetti.

Then there's 3M, which set up a branch in Moresby just over a year ago, headed by Geoff Ballance, Sperry Remington, Addressograph Multigraph, Brownbuilt, Kalamazoo Business Systems and Burroughs.

PNG Printing may well be the most important locally-controlled concern here, with astute local businessman, Ray Thurecht, in charge. Ray is reported to have just acquired a small light plane for his operations, which should prove a key sales aid.

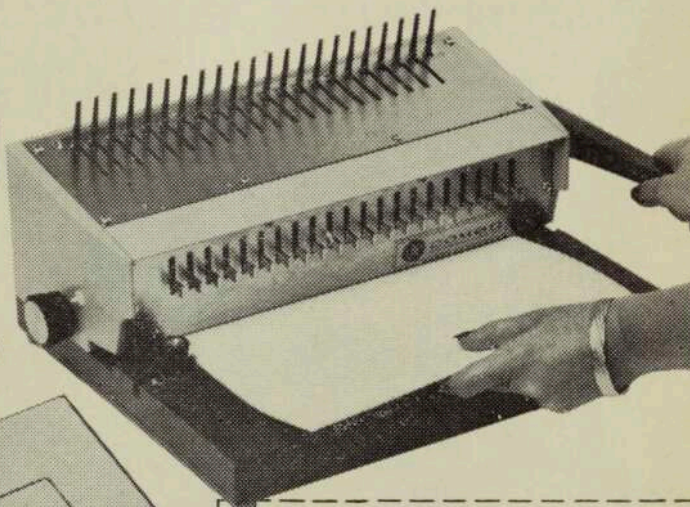
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THE PNG SCENE

PNG Printing has placed big emphasis on service and support for all its office agencies and there is a highly-trained team of between 10 and 15 people dedicated to this aim in Port Moresby.

Mr Jack Mol, Olivetti Australia's divisional manager, agents and dealers, who works closely with Mr Thurecht, reports in Sydney that while Olivetti has been selling for over 15 years in PNG, it is only in the most recent three to four years that sales have really grown with PNG Printing.

This 18-year Olivetti career executive explains that all Olivetti's office range, including typewriters, adding machines, calculators, accounting machines and now computerised systems, such as the A4, A5 and A6, are sold in PNG.

"We're budgeting for a 100 per cent increase in PNG sales this year", Mr Mol says. "We are tremendously impressed by the potential in PNG for office equipment and we feel our real dividends are still in the future".

ICL is similarly optimistic about its prospects for sales of computers in the K80,000 plus bracket, and it can claim users here including Steamies, Bougainville Copper (K300,000-worth), Talair and the University of Technology at Lac.

And that's not forgetting what is probably one of the largest Islands computer installations—the two million kina dual processor ICL system at the PNG Government public service board which acts as a data services bureau for many government departments.

American supplier NCR, is ICL's major computer rival in PNG. It boasts an impressive list of users, such as BPs, Carpenters, and several government departments.

Total NCR equipment population for PNG exceeds 1,000 machines, incorporating cash registers, electro mechanical and pure electronic accounting systems, electronic banking systems and microfiche viewers.

Two Australian computer software consulting companies which have got involved with important contracts in PNG are Datec and PA Management, both of Sydney.

Datec is headed by a most energetic computer professional, Harry Douglas. Mr Douglas is familiar with PNG on a personal basis and about six years ago his company won a contract to process education statistics with computers for the Education Department.

A little over a year ago Datec was involved with introducing information-processing systems for the PNG National Investment and Development Authority.

Two major computer suppliers who have tendered but so far haven't been successful in PNG, are IBM and Honeywell. Both tried, unsuccessfully, for the Bougainville Copper contract, which was let in December, 1974, to ICL.

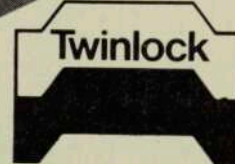
PNG is hardly an important computer market by world criteria—it is worth significantly less than five per cent of the market in Australia for computers. And Australia comprises under one per cent of the annual world sales for computers.

But, from a modest base, the growth in PNG outstrips most other countries, including Australia, and the office area, prodded by changing technology and the need to cut costs, is changing fast indeed.

Twinlock saves your arms and legs.

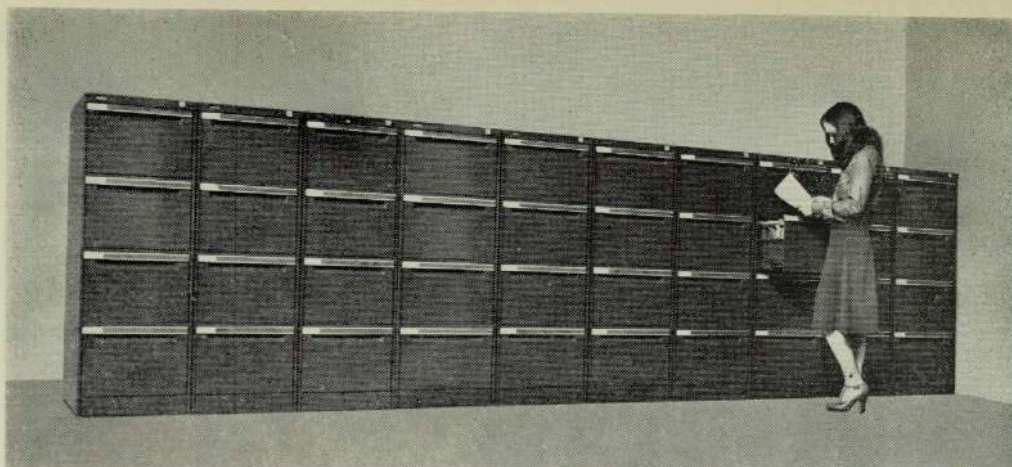
Twinlock discovered the easy way of moving your computer printouts and special reference sheets around the office on wheels—in the Twinlock Universal Filing Trolley. It saves your arms from carrying files and your legs from tracking back and forth to filing cabinets. This versatile unit stands at desk height and is fitted with twin track castors for fingertip mobility. It allows 69 cm of filing space and is adjustable up to 50 cm wide. The Twinlock Universal Filing Trolley is ideal for computer printout and by using Twinlock Crystalfiles, doubles as a suspension filing trolley.

All Twinlock products are available from office equipment dealers.

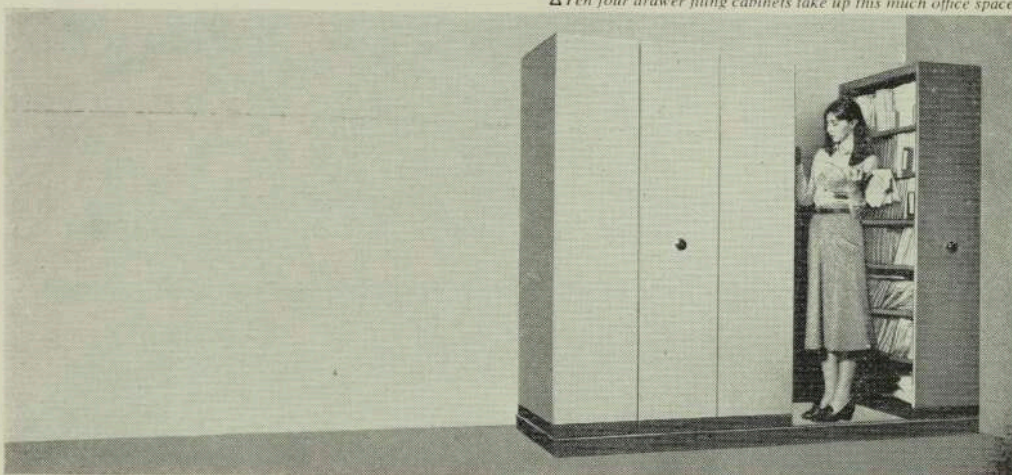


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FROM ADDING MACHINES TO COMPUTERS

Burroughs Australia interest in the Islands began in the early 1950s when sales of adding machines and cash registers were made in Fiji. The marketing and servicing of this equipment was carried out by field engineers who reported directly to Burroughs Australia head office in Sydney.

However, due to the growth of sales and the introduction of more technically-advanced equipment, the Fiji operations began in January 1972, to report to one of the Burroughs marketing/servicing branches in Sydney.

In 1972, Mr Don Hardman, now branch manager, Rockhampton, was appointed sales/service manager in Fiji and with the support and guidance of Mr R. Gooch in the Sydney South West branch, sold the first Burroughs "office computer" (Series L visible record computer) in Fiji. Each year since 1972 has seen increasing sales of L Series computers to today where about 40 such machines have now been installed or are on order.

Emphasis has been placed on the availability of proven software which minimises the effort by the customer to get the machine to produce the results he wants.

Also, these machines incorporate a higher degree of electronic circuitry, improving their reliability.

These Series L machines have been sold to a diversified range of users, both commercial, government and local government authorities.

Also, a Series L has been donated to the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and this will train students in the writing of computer programmes.

Besides Series L machines, adding machines and electronic calculators, Burroughs has also been successful with the marketing of larger, "mainframe", computers.

Two mainframes, B 700 models, have been installed by the Fiji Sugar Corporation. The corporation has also installed equipment to prepare data for subsequent processing on the B 700s.

Fiji operations are today directed by Mr Peter Hales, manager, South Pacific Islands, and he is supported by another Australian Mr J. Gorman, who has combined sales and field engineering responsibilities.

Sales and field engineering personnel have been recruited from among Fiji residents.

These Fiji citizens receive training at the Burroughs Pacific Area Training Centre, Sydney, followed by practical experience with one of the Sydney branches.

As regards activities outside Fiji, three Series L machines, will be installed in the Gilbert Islands with personnel from there being trained in programming and field engineering so that they will be able to support these machines.

However, if and when necessary, additional support will be forthcoming from Fiji.

Other Pacific areas where Burroughs has done business include Nauru and Western Samoa (handled by Burroughs New Zealand).

Keen market in islands for office equipment

Three international companies keenly interested in Island markets for office equipment are Addressograph Multigraph, Kalamazoo Business Systems and Twinlock Australia. Each of the three are known already for their products, particularly in the larger centres such as Fiji, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

Addressograph Multigraph, for one, considers the rate of growth in office equipment buying in the islands as greater than anywhere else in the world.

Mr Tony Arnouts, general manager for AM in the Far East and Pacific areas, mentions phototypesetters in PNG, automatic Multilith applicators in Nauru and the latest Kalamazoo products in Fiji.

He says the major reasons for this growth are constant rises in labour

costs and the need for automation necessary to combat high costs.

Addressograph Multigraph is expanding its operations in the Asia-Pacific area. Pacific countries serviced either with a subsidiary office or dealerships include: New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia.

Papua New Guinea is pushing ahead with many new AM systems installations in both government and the private sector.

Kalamazoo (Aust) Ltd is Australian owned and based in the Sydney suburb of Lane Cove. Its area of influence extends beyond Australia, encompassing the numerous islands of the South Pacific Region, Kalamazoo claims.

The company specialises in standard systems for the basic accounting records such as cash receipts, cash payments, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, stock control, job costing, plant, staff, etc.

In addition, systems are also available for purchases control, share registry records, wall charting, strip indexing, cheque protection, etc.

The tremendous growth that has taken place in the South Pacific Islands in the post-war years has

created an important market for Kalamazoo products.

Kalamazoo representatives make regular trips to the area, servicing and instructing staff in the operation of the systems sold on the previous trip.

It is only possible for the Kalamazoo representatives to visit the major areas so that transactions with businesses in isolated locations are handled by correspondence in the same way as transactions with businesses in the remote areas of out-back Australia where distance makes personal contact uneconomical.

In these cases, instruction booklets, written in simple terms, accompany the principal accounting systems, so that by following the routines and procedures enumerated, the recipient can understand and operate the systems efficiently despite the lack of personal service.

The Kalamazoo organisation is most optimistic concerning the growth potential of the area.

Twinlock Australia Limited has introduced a low-cost archival storage system which saves time and space in dead-file storage.

The system consists of a wire-reinforced plastic clip and a strong,

Microfilm saves space-and costs

Interest in microfilm and demand for the associated equipment that goes with this technology, is now accelerating as Islands government and big business hasten to cut costs and reduce their paper usage and space demands—and space costs money!

Office users, particularly in Fiji and Papua New Guinea, report greater interest and the desire at least to "hear out" microfilm propositions, but they criticise the lack of local processing facilities.

Big companies, such as Burns Philp (South Sea), say they already use microfilm, roll or fiche for some applications, and admit that they will use it more, but they explain all processing must be carried out in Sydney, not at their headquarters in Suva.

Suppliers claim that individual Islands markets for microfilm do

not yet warrant the investment of local processing plants, but they hint that "a first one" may not be "far away".

The three "giants" of microfilm in the world—3M, Kodak and Bell and Howell—are all in the Islands, with varying strengths, plus several of the smaller microfilm suppliers.

One of the Americans, 3M, set up a Port Moresby branch in February last year and appointed Mr Geoff Ballance as PNG manager.

Mr Jim Hutchinson, 3M Australia's director of market services, who is responsible for 3M Islands operations, claims current Islands microfilm usage is rising steeply.

In PNG, Mr Hutchinson told PIM, that manual duplicators have sold strongly. He predicts that the market is moving towards automatic duplicators.

There's an increasing range of flat-bed and flow cameras, and a full range of readers finding customers. The PNG Government, he says, is now starting to replace its paper files with microfilm.

In Fiji, 3M uses a direct representative, Sirtag Ali, and it reports a "fair spread" of microfilm throughout the dominion with some interesting commercial application.

No one supplier, Mr Hutchinson says, has a dominant share of the microfilm market in Fiji, and he adds that 3M is now considering setting up a Fiji processing plant.

While he can see no computer output to microfilm (COM) operation as a service bureau in Fiji imminent, he predicts the first PNG COM operation "soon".

COM is an advanced machine which automatically converts computer data—which would normally be produced on big print-out paper—directly into microfilm.

New Caledonia is reported as a smaller market so far for microfilm, although the reverse is true for larger computers in these two territories.

Mr John Nixon, NCR's top man in Noumea, reports little interest in microfilm in the New Hebrides, Solomons and New Caledonia.

cardboard case—all called the D-clip system. The system retails at less than 70 cents.

D-clip has been designed to aid all types of file storage and is already widely used throughout Europe, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, South Africa and Japan.

A new loose-leaf flexible system to assist bookkeeping and analysis

has also become available with Twinlock Variform.

It is a lightweight working account book in loose-leaf concept introduced by Twinlock Australia Limited. All rulings are international metric depth in A4 size.

The system avoids the waste of unused pages and the excessive storage of fast-bound books.

How to overcome paper problems in business

The collation and preservation of business papers is a constant problem in today's office. The daily flood of mail, swelled by copies of internal output, has to be sorted, disseminated and filed away for reference. General Binding Corporation has built a world-wide business on the fact that business now needs help with paper handling, collating, punching and binding equipment for books, sales reports, catalogues, computer print-out sheets and price lists, with protective coverings for irreplaceable documents, and with security measures to protect trade secrets.

GBC makes 11 different models of electric collators for gathering and sorting loose pages into books or sets, manual and electric punches and binders, including the Combo, which punches 20 holes in paper margins and then binds the sheets together with a tough plastic comb, and eight different types of web-fed laminators for sealing paper in transparent film.

Other GBC products include the Shredmaster range of paper shredders, custom-made plastic binders and covers, a variety of metal loose-

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Fiji's Native Land Trust Board uses the Brownbuilt Compactus filing system.

leaf binders, Cerlox plastic bindings and cover materials.

In the security area, GBC offers a portable, easy-to-use, tamper-proof low-cost identification system. It takes either colour or black and white pictures. There is a wide range of card sizes. The back of the picture takes embossing or printing.

Another GBC security product is the Identi-Logic access control system, which uses electronic keys to permit door access to authorised personnel. Installations vary from one to 40 doors, with each door having two million combinations. GBC photo identification cards are compatible with the Identi-Logic system.

General Binding Corporation is among the world's largest companies in paper handling and security equipment.

It has branches in all major countries, including an Australia-wide network of branches and agents.

Head office and the main manufacturing plant are situated at Northbrook, Illinois, USA.

NO DUST IN THIS FILING SYSTEM

One of the pioneers in the use of the Compactus filing systems in Fiji is the Native Land Trust Board, which has four units in its headquarters in Suva.

The board was established in 1940 to administer all lands belonging to the Fijian people.

In its expertly-designed four-storey office block on Suva's Victoria Parade, facing the harbour, the board administers 27,000 land leases. For each lease there is a file and a stupendous number of historical records and accounts.

To make the most effective use of its floor space the board called in Parker McLeod Ltd of Sydney, as consultants and advisers.

The outcome of their survey was the introduction of the Brownbuilt Compactus Mobile Storage System.

And the result—says Mr Savenaca Railoa, the board's public relations officer—has been an enormous saving of space and vastly greater efficiency.

The archives alone, where documents used to be stacked on open shelves among which staff had scarcely enough room to move, are today accessibly compressed into less than half their former area.

Staff are comfortably accommodated at well-spaced desks. And the lease-drafting section, which used to occupy a separate building, has moved in with them because the Compactus has left so much room to spare.

Before the coming of the Compactus the old shelves and files used to collect dust. The dust harboured germs. Minor illnesses, and absences from work because of them, were numerous.

Today, the dust is gone. The staff are healthier. The files are more secure.

The Compactus in the combined archives and drafting room is the biggest used by the NLTB. But the other three, more than adequate for present needs, can be extended whenever necessary.

The system is manufactured by Lysaght Brownbuilt Industries (Fiji) Limited, Suva.

Computer coup imminent

With a possible initial computer coup in the New Hebrides imminent, the world's largest computer company, IBM, is most evident in New Caledonia and Tahiti within the Islands area.

IBM has been, so far, unsuccessful at marketing its computers in Fiji and Papua New Guinea but its Paris subsidiary, Compagnie IBM France, is actively operating out of a Noumea base.

The first data processing equipment in New Caledonia was installed by IBM France in 1963 at a time when the branch office for the region was in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It was a small unit record equipment for a family and retirement fund.

Since then, IBM's business has developed steadily in New Caledonia and French Polynesia, two territories where the economy has grown very quickly in the past years, owing to the nickel boom in the first one, and the activities of the Nuclear Experiment Centre in the second.

At the start of the war in Cambodia, the branch office was moved to Noumea which was becoming the

main centre of activity of IBM France in the area.

Computers in New Caledonia and Tahiti now include several main-frame 370 series and System 3s, ranging from the smaller System 3 model 6 to a 256 K 370 model 145 installed at Société Le Nickel for business applications and technical computing.

Other main users are government, banks and other financial institutions, power plants and commercial companies.

All DP equipment can be marketed and maintained in New Caledonia and Polynesia. Systems and customer engineers are sent from France under a limited term contract.

They are selected according to their knowledge of the systems installed or to be installed, thus providing customers with the same quality of assistance that can be expected everywhere else in the world.

Office products in New Caledonia and Tahiti include all types of typewriters, magnetic tape typewriters, composers and dictating equipment.

Six compospheres (memory composers) will be installed in Tahiti in the near future. Maintenance is provided by local staff, trained either in France or locally, with the help of IBM Australia.

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The Australian Trade Commissioner will be pleased to give you details of suppliers. You can contact him at: 7th Floor, Dominion House, Thomson Street, Suva, FIJI. (Post Office Box 1252). Telephone: 312844, or: Post Office Box 9129, Hohola, Port Moresby, P.N.G. Telephone: 25 9333.



Australian Department
of Overseas Trade

Produce Prices

Unless otherwise shown, stated quotations are in Australian currency. Australian dollar (March 10) equals: New Zealand, \$1.2175 (buying), \$1.2131 (selling); Fiji, \$1.1040 (buying), \$1.0800 (selling); Western Samoa, tala 3.9790 (buying), 0.9654 (selling); Tonga, pa'anga 0.8826 (buying), 0.8650 (selling); US, \$1.2511 (buying), \$1.2461 (selling); UK, £0.6463 (buying), £0.6409 (selling); French Pacific, CFP, 103.71 (buying), 102.12 (selling).

EXCHANGE RATES

FIJI.—Mar 11: Through Bank of NSW, ANZ Bank, Bank of NZ, Bank of Baroda, First National City Bank, Aust \$ on Fiji buying FI = \$A.89.

COOK IS., NIUE.—New Zealand currency is used.

NEW HEBRIDES.—Mar 11: Through Banque Internationale de Paris (Sydney), Indosuez Bank, NZ Bank, Bank of NSW, National Bank of Aust, Commercial Banking Co of Sydney, Commercial Bank of Aust, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp, Barclays Bank International, A1 = NHF 91.46 (buying), 90.21 (selling)—(email transfer rate).

WESTERN SAMOA.—Through Bank of Western Samoa, controlled from NZ, \$WS. Tala 1 = A.97 (buying).

TONGA.—Tongan dollar (pa'anga) = \$A.89 (buying).

NORFOLK IS, SOLOMON IS, GEIC, NAURU.—Australian currency used; no exchange payable in transactions with Australia.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA.—PNG kina and toea used; no exchange payable, at present, 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 Mar 10 quoted: \$A1 = 102.89 CFP (buying), 101.49 CFP (selling). Paris—London: £1 = 8.6825 francs (buying), 8.6725 francs selling. Pacific franc—London: £1 = 58.8181 CFP (buying), 158.3636 (selling), CFP = 1 metropolitan franc 18.43 (buying), 17.94 (selling).

Banks should be approached for daily rates.

COPRA

Copra Industries are controlled through copra boards in PNG, the Solomons, the Gilberts, the Samoas, Fiji, Tonga, the Cooks and the S. 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.

Latest prices are: Per tonne, delivered in ports, hot-air dried, K131; FMS, K128; smoke-dried, K126.

FIJI:—The board fixes prices on Philippines copra, taking into account freight, taxes, selling costs, shrinkage, etc. The price is subsidised. Latest prices were: Fiji 1, \$190; Fiji 2, \$171; AS, \$70.

NEW HEBRIDES:—Copra sold direct by planters to France and Japan. Burns Philp buying on wharf, Vila or Santo, Feb 25, 3,500 HF, Mar 5 89.25 met francs 100 kg cifarseilles.

US TRUST TERRITORY:—1st grade, \$90, 2nd grade, \$80, 3rd grade, \$70. Outer Islands, \$5, \$55 and \$45 ton for the three grades, serviced by government ships and \$55, \$5 and \$35 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, \$WS109.50, 2nd grade \$WS96.50.

TONGA.—All copra sold to EEC. 1st grade, grade, \$T70; 2nd grade, \$T58.

OTHER PRODUCE

COCOA.—Islands rates are based on Ghana prices. Ghana price on Mar 11 was spot £stg790 ton, cif, UK Continent.

Mar 11, in store, Rabaul, export quality, K950 per tonne; delivered ex wharf Sydney \$1,190 per tonne.

Solomons.—Delivered to Agriculture Dept. offices in Honiara and Aukl. Recent price was 25c per lb dried beans first grade, 20c second grade.

Western Samoa.—Ungraded beans, \$23.50 (100 lb).

COFFEE.—PNG, Mar 11. Good quality, A Grade 187½c per kg; B Grade, 183c; C Grade, 178c, Y Grade, 178c (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.

BROOMCORN.—Fiji, 1st grade, 16½c lb, 2nd grade, 14½c 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, Mar 9, 42.25c 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.

• Villagers from Nailauwaki on the small island of Waya, in the Yasawas, Fiji, have developed a new industry—rearing goats for sale at Lautoka. The scheme was started with 35 goats, pooled by villagers who bred them individually.

A new soap factory for Lae

A new K1 million soap factory at Lae, when in full production, will employ at least 50 men, and will work two shifts daily. The enterprise, operated by Melanesian Soaps will make half a dozen different products, including toilet, liquid, laundry and powdered soap. Melanesian Soaps is the only soap manufacturer in Papua New Guinea.

The company hopes its prices will be cheaper than those for imported soaps.



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Pacific Transport

TONGAN SHIPPING WALLOWING IN A HEAVY SEA OF DEBT

From a Suva correspondent

Proposals for the establishment of a regional shipping line are still being developed here in Suva by the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) in spite of the critical state of Tonga's Pacific Navigation Company. It is not long since Pacific Navigation was being hailed as the South Pacific's shipping success story. Any questioning of the necessity for a regional line was countered with claims about the success of Pacific Navigation.

However, the financial state of Tonga's line is now so serious that it is reportedly attempting to borrow \$200,000 to pay creditors who might, otherwise, take legal action against it. Principal creditors are understood to be Burns Philp in Fiji and Karlander in Australia.

In late 1975 Pacific Navigation's assets were understood to have been valued at a mere \$140,000, while its liabilities were nearly \$750,000. Losses over the past three years are said to have totalled more than \$1.3 million.

A principal recipient of the blame for this state of affairs was alleged to be Pacific Navigation's ex-general manager Captain Chris Hill-Willis.

Captain Hill-Willis, the ebullient, colourful and, by turns, charming or somewhat ill-mannered general manager of Pacific Navigation, left Tonga rather unexpectedly in the middle of 1975.

While not doubting the sincerity of his concern for Tonga's advancement in the maritime field, many people in Tonga felt that his enthusiasm for shipping did not sufficiently compensate for the company's weaknesses in other areas of management.

For example, had the company's annual accounts been more up to date, the extent of the company's losses might have been realised earlier.

Captain Hill-Willis first went to work in Tonga from Brisbane as master of the Tonga Copra Board's MV Aoni. He later became Harbour

Master at Nukualofa, before moving as manager to Pacific Navigation's predecessor, the Tonga Shipping Agency. There he replaced Mr Peter Corbett who, after a period as a United Nations shipping expert, is now manager of Burns Philp's shipping division in Suva.

Since Captain Hill-Willis' departure, Pacific Navigation has been managed by Mr Sione Faletau, brother of Tonga's High Commissioner in London. Mr Faletau was originally ship's engineer before going ashore to run the company's engineering workshop.

Unfortunately, it seems unlikely that he can bring to the job the skills needed to solve Pacific Navigation's current problems.

A FOURTH JET TO SERVE AIR NAURU'S NEW PACIFIC AND ASIAN ROUTES?

Air Nauru is expanding rapidly its services in the central and southern Pacific regions and to parts of Asia. A number of new services, planned up to 12 months ago, were launched recently. These make acquisition of another aircraft almost inevitable. Air Nauru's present jet fleet consists of a Boeing 737 and two F28s.

Two big moves recently were conclusion of an agreement with UTA to serve Wallis Island, Noumea and Vila, and fly a new route to Hong Kong, via Manila. Rights were granted recently at Manila and also at Ponape and Guam.

The agreement with UTA is, in effect, a charter. It is for two years, with an option for renewal. The flights are programmed to connect with international services to Noumea. There is one Wallis Island return flight from Vila sandwiched between three or four ferry services connecting Noumea and Vila. The New Hebrides can expect a big influx of tourists with these new services from Noumea.

The recent loss through sinking in the Haapai Group of Pacific Navigation's landing craft the Kao, and the company's reported inability to afford a replacement, seem a far cry from mid-1975 when the talk was of buying a 65,000 tonne bulk carrier with a loan from the Government of Bahrain.

In that connection, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, together with acting Finance Minister Sione Tapa, Secretary to Government Taniela Tufui and Pacific Navigation's general manager Chris Hill-Willis, made a fruitless visit to Bahrain.

Critics in Tonga are now asking whether the government would not have been better spending its time on problems a little nearer home.

When the question of Pacific Navi-

Granting of rights at Manila was celebrated with a special flight from Nauru, carrying a number of VIPs. On the next flight through Manila, with earlier stops at Palau and Manus Island, Air Nauru inaugurated its second weekly Nauru-Hong Kong Service.

The stops at Manus Island and Palau on the Hong Kong, via Manila, service are for refuelling. Air Nauru's other Hong Kong flight is via Guam and Taipei.

In the Pacific Islands, Air Nauru now calls, outside Nauru, at Tarawa, Majuro, Wallis Island, Western Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Palau, Manus Island, Guam, Ponape and the Philippines. In Asia it calls at Okinawa, Taipei, Hong Kong and Kagoshima in Japan. There is also the service to Australia, via Noumea. This service terminates at Melbourne. Occasionally, if there is a full aircraft, it will land at Brisbane to refuel, but no passengers are landed there or picked up.

gation's losses was discussed in Tonga's Legislative Assembly in July, 1975, the Haapai People's Representative 'Uliti Uata summed up the general feeling when he said that the losses would be bearable if the company provided a useful service to the country, but this was not the case.

According to Dr Tapa, acting Minister of Finance, all losses are the responsibility of the two principal shareholders, Government and the Commodities Board.

Meanwhile, in Fiji, SPEC, is continuing with its planning of the proposed regional line and is relying heavily on the skills of Mr De Vlaming, a UN shipping expert of Dutch nationality. A constitution and financial structure for the proposed line are to be considered at a Regional Shipping Advisory Board and Council meeting in April when it is understood a working capital of \$0.5 million will be proposed.

New Zealand is understood to be considering advancing this sum as a low interest long-term loan. It is perhaps interesting to note that Mr Mahe Tupouniua, SPEC's director since 1972 and a supporter of the proposed regional shipping line was, when he was Minister of Finance in Tonga, a strong supporter of the establishment of the Pacific Navigation Company.

If Tonga's experience is any indication, then the members of the proposed line would be well-advised to place the sharing of operating losses fairly high on their agenda at the forthcoming meeting.

AIR NIUGINI SHEDS DC3 SERVICES

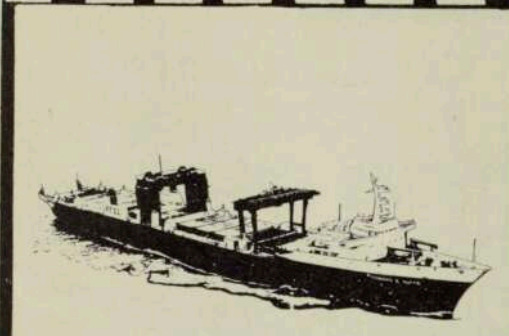
Papua New Guinea's Minister for Transport Bruce Jephcott did not take long to implement a promise to change the pattern of air services in Papua New Guinea. Soon after he took over his portfolio early this year he said services would be rationalised and costs would be cut.

Early in March he announced that third level airlines would take over some of Air Niugini's domestic services, particularly the scheduled, but unprofitable, DC3 routes. In return, the third level operators would get feeder services connecting Air Niugini Fokker Friendship services at the most convenient airports.

DC3s were taken off services from Port Moresby to Kokoda, Bulolo, Talasea, Garaina and Vivigani. Palair and Douglas Airways (formerly Aerial Tours) took over and, through a re-arrangement of schedules, maintained services to these centres.

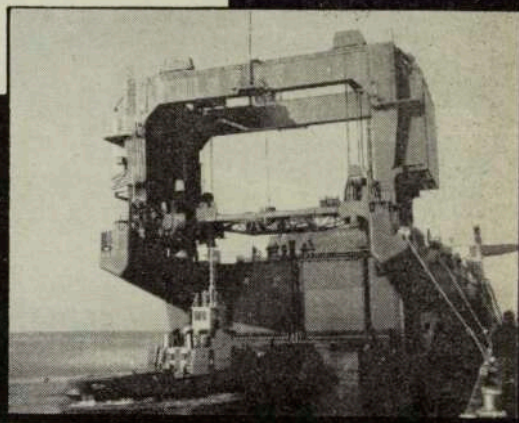
Mr Brian Grey, general manager

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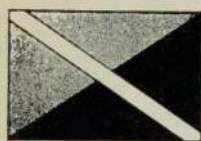
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MANAGING AGENTS: Wilh. Wilhelmsen Agency P/L., 13-15 Bridge Street, Sydney 2000—Phone 20517—60 Market Street, Melbourne, 3000—Phone 613031—344 Queen Street, Brisbane, 4000—Phone 2213316. MANAGING AGENTS N.Z.: Dalgaty N.Z. Ltd., 119 Featherston Street, Wellington—Phone 738347—41/45 Albert Street, Auckland—Phone 71859. ISLAND AGENTS: Robert Laurie (NG) P/L, P.O. Box 1032, Lae, PNG — Phone 423811. Burns Philp (NG) Ltd., P.O. Box 87, Rabaul, PNG. — Phone 922666.

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY—APRIL, 1976



THE BANK LINE



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Papua New Guinea to: North America, United Kingdom and Continent.

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United Kingdom and Continent.

For particulars apply:

THE BANK LINE (AUSTRALASIA) PTY. LTD.,

**18TH FLOOR, 1 YORK STREET,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.**

of Air Niugini, considered the rationalisation would improve air services to the public and reduce Air Niugini's costs.

Third level operators, at the same time, sought an increase in fares for scheduled services. Talair asked for a 15 per cent hike. Douglas Airways wanted a "substantial" rise. Mr Dennis Buchanan, managing director of Talair, said the third level airlines were operating at a very economical level—in fact, below an economical level.

GILBERTS ARRANGE AIR SERVICE TO CHRISTMAS

Mercer Airlines, of California, USA, will operate an air service between Tarawa and Christmas Island, 1,750 miles to the east. The Gilbert Islands' Chief Minister, Mr Naboua Ratieta, has signed an agreement with the airline providing for the training of Gilbertese as air hostesses and for help in civil aviation training. There was no indication initially of when the service would start, how often it would operate, or of the type of aircraft which would be used. Air Pacific runs other internal services in the Gilberts.

KEEPING MOROBE BOATS UP TO SCRATCH

Boat owners had to watch for mechanical and other problems associated with keeping their boats up to required standards, the Morobe Harbour Master, Captain Foulkes, told a recent meeting of the Morobe Coastal Shipping Association. They had to have adequate emergency equipment, and needed to know how to keep a boat in good condition.

Mr Nigel Porteous, president of the Papua New Guinea Shipping Association, said that all commercial boats over 10 metres long had to undergo an annual survey to ensure they were in good condition. The harbour master and the engineering surveyor carried out the surveys. At present boats of less than 10 metres were not required to undergo annual survey.

The association intends to provide facilities at Voco Point, Morobe, for coastal boat operators. These include cargo sheds, toilets and better wharf facilities.

● Rabi Holdings Ltd, of Fiji, a Banaban organisation, is in the market for a ship to replace its "troublesome" Komaiwai, 400 tons, which it sold to Williams Shipping, of Australia, for \$70,000.

Mr Tekote Rotan, managing director of Rabi Holdings, said he was looking for a ship with better passenger accommodation than that in the Komaiwai and with a good operational engine.

Cruising Yachts

● **MINERVA**, 45 ft steel-hulled cutter, arrived at Rarotonga on February 11 from Sydney, via NZ. On board were owner-captain, Commander John Lee of the Royal Canadian Navy, his wife, Daphne, and Geoffrey Payne and Billy Rennard, both from Sydney. They experienced gales all the way—the Cook Strait passage was "hairy", but the self-steering vane acted very well, said Mrs Lee. The yacht was built in Australia. The Lees did the interior work themselves. They hoped to call at Christmas Island and Hawaii on their voyage home to Victoria, B.C., where **Minerva** is registered.

● **APHRODITE**, 50 Cheoy Lee ketch, registered in the Virgin Islands, has been at Vila since the end of 1975 waiting for the end of the hurricane season. On board are owner Joan Eccleshare and daughter Kim, and Bob Meeburg (skipper). They arrived from Fiji, where they spent about a year cruising through the islands.

● **MANU OTE MITI**, 47 ft ferro cement cutter, registered in Vancouver, expects to resume cruising soon with the hurricane season at an end. It has been at Vila for some months, after a year in New Zealand. Owner Heinz Bienciala and wife Muriel, after a New Hebrides cruise, will visit islands in the Molomons.

● **GALADRIEL**, 40 ft ferro cement ketch, has been at Vila since the end of 1975, after arriving from New Zealand, Fiji and New Caledonia. On board are owners Colin and Patricia Hall.

● **SNOOPY**, 30 ft catamaran from Hull, UK, arrived at Rarotonga from Speete on February 20 with owner-captain Charles Dennis and Susan Dennis. Their next port of call was to be Auckland.

● **KIALOA**, 79 ft racing ketch, was a February arrival in Suva, on the way from Seattle via Western Samoa and Honolulu. She had taken part in the 1975 Sydney-Hobart race in which she took 4 hrs 45 min off the previous best time for the distance between the two cities. Earlier she had won the Admirals Cup in Britain and in the trans-Atlantic race as first to finish, but was placed second on corrected time. She then sailed through the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal for Australia. On board at Suva were the skipper, Bruce Kendall and a crew of eight including his wife, Patty. The owner is Mr Jim Kilroy, of Los Angeles.

● **FOREIGN AFFAIR**, 40 ft Valiant 40 cutter-rigged yacht, arrived at Rarotonga on February 21 from Bora Bora with owner-captain William Black, his wife, Mary, and their son, Will. The yacht was built in Seattle, Washington, and the Blacks' cruise took them to San Francisco, the Marquesas and the Society Group. They plan to visit New Zealand.

● **WILD WAVE**, yacht, carrying Jacques and Robin Sapir, and their children Ronni 4 and Michel 2, is at Vila. They left Australia in April, 1975, for New Zealand, carrying two crew. They visited Norfolk Island and New Caledonia on the way.

● **SEA FOAM**, 36 ft Sea Witch angleman ketch with a 13½ ft beam, left home

in Newport Beach in March 1973, carrying the Payson family of Herb, Nancy and son Craig, now 13. They sailed down the Mexican coast to Central America and over to the Galapagos for one month, before resuming their trip to the Marquesas, Tuamotus and Tahiti. After spending 11 months in French Polynesia in 1974 they left for Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand, where they worked and stayed for one year. Then in September, 1975 they left New Zealand and cruised to the Australs, visiting Tubuai and Raivavae, and returned to Tahiti in December. They plan to stay in French Polynesia until April and sail to Hawaii and California. Sailing with them from New Zealand were Ed and Laurie McKeon of Los Angeles.



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Agency Enquiries Welcome

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 - AUCKLAND - NORFOLK IS - NEW CALEDONIA

Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operates four-weekly cargo service Sydney-Lord Howe Island-Norfolk Island-Auckland-Norfolk Island-Noumea.

Details: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

SYDNEY - NEW CALEDONIA

Somacal operates 21-day service from Sydney to Noumea.

Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-6301).

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 Booking Centre, World Travel Headquarters Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh Street, Sydney (231-6655).

SYDNEY - NZ - FIJI - TONGA - VILA - NOUMEA - SAMOAS - TAHITI

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, Hobart and Cairns 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, Lautoka, Honiara, Santo, Pago Pago, Auckland, Vila, Noumea, Honolulu, Nukualofa and Vavau, Savusavu, regularly on cruises from Australia.

Details from P & O Booking Centre, World Travel Headquarters Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh Street, Sydney (231-6655).

AUSTRALIA - NEW CALEDONIA - NEW HEBRIDES

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).

Sofrana-Unilines ships serve Noumea every three weeks from the main ports along the east Australian coast and Port Vila monthly from Melbourne and Sydney.

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 maintain a two-week cargo service from Sydney to Noumea, Vila and Santo.

Details from Omni Traders & Brokers Pty Limited, 261 George Street, Sydney (241-2872/6).

AUSTRALIA - FIJI

Sofrana-Unilines (Fiji Express Line) operates to Suva every three weeks from the main ports on the east coast of Australia, and monthly to Lautoka from Melbourne and Sydney.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 37 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2031); Burns Philp and Co Ltd, 340 Collins Street, Melbourne (67-8941).

AUSTRALIA - FIJI - W. SAMOA

Nauru Pacific Line operates monthly conventional/container service from Sydney and Brisbane to Fiji and Western Samoa.

Details from Nauru Pacific Line, 227 Collins Street, Melbourne (654-4977); InterOcean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (20-522); Dalgety Shipping, 79 Eagle 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 maintain a six weekly service from Sydney to Papeete, Mexico and US.

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 and Brisbane with Samos to Port Moresby and Lae and three-weekly cargo service from Sydney (direct) to Lae and Port Moresby with Nimos.

Details from Burns Philp & Co Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (241-3816).

Farrell Lines operates a service every 18 days from Tasmania, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Lae and Rabaul.

Details from Wilh. Wilhelmsen Agency Pty Ltd, 13 Bridge Street, Sydney (20-517), 60 Market Street, Melbourne (61-3031), Burns Philp (NG) Ltd, Rabaul, 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 873, Royal Exchange PO, Sydney (241-3991) and 70 Eagle St, Brisbane (221-9333). Westralian Farmers Transport Pty Ltd, 459 Little Collins St, Melbourne (67-8291). Breckwoldt's Shipping Agencies in Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Niugini 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 - SOLOMONS

New Guinea Australia Line's vessels operate from Sydney and Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kavieng, Wewak, Honiara, Kieta, Gizo, Madang and Samarai.

Details from InterOcean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (20-522).

AUSTRALIA - NG - MICRONESIA - GUAM

Nauru Pacific Line operates monthly conventional/container service Melbourne/Sydney to New Guinea, Koror, Guam and Micronesia.

Details from Nauru Pacific Line, 227 Collins Street, Melbourne (654-4977); InterOcean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (20-522).

US - PNG

Farrell Lines operates regular services from all US west coast ports to Lae and Rabaul.

Details from Wilh. Wilhelmsen Agency Pty Ltd, 13 Bridge Street, Sydney (20-517), One Embarcadero Centre, Suite 701, San Francisco, Burns Philp (NG) Ltd, Rabaul and Kieta, Robert Laurie-Carpenter (PNG) Pty Ltd, Lae.

PNG - US - CANADA

Farrell Lines operates regular services from Lae and Rabaul to US west coast ports and Vancouver.

Details from Burns Philp (NG) Ltd, Rabaul, Robert Laurie-Carpenter (PNG) Pty Ltd, Lae, PFEL, One Embarcadero Centre, Suite 701, San Francisco and Wilh. Wilhelmsen Agency Pty Ltd, 13 Bridge Street, Sydney (20-517).

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, Kaohsiung, Keelung, Hong Kong.

Details from InterOcean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (20-522).

Royal InterOcean Lines operates monthly cargo service with three ships from Surabaya, Bangkok, Port Kelang and Singapore to Suva and NZ ports.

Details from InterOcean Australia Services, 261 George Street, Sydney (2-0573), Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva and Lautoka.

Ben Shipping Co (Pte) Ltd, sailing monthly from Singapore, Hong Kong, Keelung, Kaohsiung, Suva and main NZ ports.

Details from Seatrans (Fiji) Ltd, GPO Box 152, Suva, Fiji.

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FAR EAST - PNG - BSI - NEW HEBRIDES - NOUMEA - TAHITI - SAMOA

China Navigation Co's vessels operate a regular cargo service from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore to Rabaul, Wewak, Madang, Lae, Port Moresby, Honiara, New Hebrides, Noumea, Papeete and Samoa.
Details from InterOcean 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, 4-6 Bligh Street, Sydney (221-2522).

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 - NORFOLK IS - AUSTRALIA

Pacific Navigation Co Ltd operates a monthly cargo service between Nukualofa, Apia, Suva, Lautoka and Norfolk Is 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 NZ operates a fully containerised service-Auckland-Suva-Pago Pago-Apia-Nukualofa every 14/16 days.

A 28-day service by conventional ship is operated from Auckland to Suva, Papeete, Apia and Nukualofa.

Details from Union Steam Ship Co of NZ Ltd, PO Box 12, Auckland, or from branch offices/agents in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Tahiti.

NZ - NORFOLK IS

Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operate four-weekly cargo service from Auckland to Norfolk Island.

Details from Maritime Services Ltd, 14-18 Customs Street E, Auckland (75-509).

NZ - N CALEDONIA - N HEBRIDES - NG - BSI

Sofrana/Unilines with two 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 - N CALEDONIA

Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operates four-weekly cargo service from Auckland to Noumea.

Details from Maritime Services Ltd, 14-18 Customs Street E, Auckland (75-509).

NZ - PNG

Farrell Lines operates regular service every 18 days from Auckland to Lae and Rabaul.

Details from Dalgety NZ Ltd, 41/45 Albert Street, Auckland (71-859); Burns Philp (NG) Ltd, Rabaul, 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 (739-029); Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva.

NZ - FIJI

Reef operates a regular 18 day service from Auckland to Suva and Lautoka.

Details from Reef Shipping Agencies Ltd, P.O. Box 3382, Auckland, NZ (71-221-3).

NZ - TONGA - SAMOA

Pacific Navigation Co Ltd operates two ships Auckland-Lyttelton-Nukualofa-Vavau-Apia



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Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta

To : Australia, Papua New Guinea

South Korea, Japan

To : Guam, Saipan, Papua New Guinea, Other Pacific Islands

AGENTS

Taiwan: Royal Steamship Corp., Ltd., Taipei

S. Korea: Dong Sue Shipping Co., Ltd., Seoul

Hong Kong: Dahzun Enterprises Ltd.

Singapore: Ocean Shipping & Enterprises Pte., Ltd.

Mariana Is.: Island Navigation Co., Ltd., Guam

B.S.I.P.: British Solomon Trading Co., Ltd., Honiara

Tahiti: J. A. Cowan & Fils, Papeete

Tonga: E. M. Jones Ltd., Nukualofa

New Hebrides: Agence Maritime Raymond Velicite, Port Vila

A. Samoa: Toko Shimasaki Agencies Ltd., Pago Pago

W. Samoa: Morris Hedstrom Ltd., Apia

Fiji: Carpenter Shipping, Suva & Lautoka

PNG: Carpenter Shipping Agencies, Port Moresby, Rabaul

New Caledonia: Agence Maritime Du Rond Point Du Pacific, Noumea

Indonesia: P. T. Porodisa Raya Shipping Lines, Jakarta

Australia: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty. Ltd., Sydney, N.S.W.

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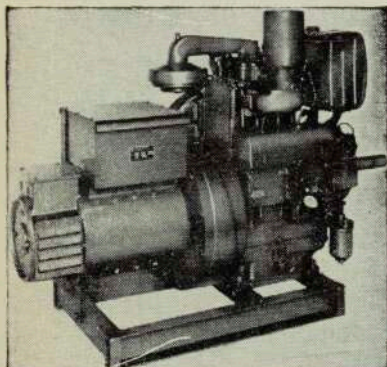
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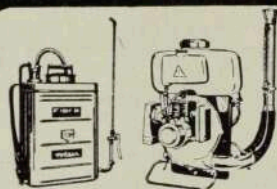
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