

TAHITI

FRUIT

SHAW-WALKER
* 62029 Third Cut

TAHITI REPORT

By Austin Peterson

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1872 Navajo Road, Palm Springs
California, U.S.A.

SHOPPING IN PAPEETE

One of the pleasant surprises of Papeete is the number of shops where a tourist can pick up curios, fabrics, art objects, carvings, French perfumes, and jewelry, all at bargain prices. Most stores open at 8 A.M., close for siesta at 11, reopen at 2 P.M. and close at 5 P.M. Saturdays: 8 A.M. to 11 A.M.

Some of the Chinese stores remain open all day and on into the night. The Chinese are the merchants of the town. They make the cabinets, mattresses, bakery goods, ice cream. They run the groceries, the tailor shops, the hardware stores, the barbershops, the dress stores. You name it. If they don't have what you want in stock they'll get it from a relative in five minutes. (They hold you in conversation while a small boy on a fast bicycle goes for the item from cousin Louie.)

The side streets are lined with shabby, rundown general stores packed ceiling-high with bolts of fabrics, ready-to-wear dresses, sportshirts, skirts, while crammed against the wall are rows of Chinese girls seated at sewing machines turning out even more items to hangup over the aisles.

They don't seem to work on a supply and demand basis - they just keep grinding them out - sales or no sales. Many shops actually look like junk yards but there are, however, a few real nice modern shipping spots. Face-lifting of downtown stores has already started and if you don't hurry down you may see branches of Bull-ock's or May Company towering over Quinn's.

TAHITI ARTS: P.O. Box 421. Phone 400. Around the corner from the Tourist Bureau. Beautiful wown-design hand-blocked fabrics. Men's shirts \$12. Short sleeve sport shirts \$8. Women's French poplin blouses \$10. (very chic) Skirts \$17.50. For Tahiti these prices are very high but the designs are original and smart.

ROSE MARIE: 4 Rue Jeanne d'Arc. Tel. 587. Next door to Tahiti Arts. Real good selection of Tahitian hand-blocked fabrics by the Danish designer, Adam of Papeete. \$1.15 a meter (3.28 ft.) Marie also carries an excellent selection of French lingerie, dress dresses, skirts, fabrics, perfumes, bathing suits, and silverware. Reasonable prices.

CHIC: 24 Rue du General de Gaulle. Across the street from the bank. One of the best spots I found to buy perfumes, fabrics, and purses. Just look at the French perfume prices: 1 ounce Joy \$25. In the U.S. \$50. Miss Dior 1 oz. \$9.50 in Papeete. In U.S. \$23.50. These prices are just about 5% over Paris prices. Management is very reliable. No watered-down perfume here. French crystal statues \$30. French pearl bags \$17 to \$40. Chic also has a fine line of French fabrics, Daum and Lalique crystal ware and Alisere linen at great savings - some up to 50%.

MARIE AH YOU: The dress shop with the romantic name. On the waterfront near the Sincere store. Very smart shop. Modern and clean. Beautiful fabrics, dresses and sport shirts and blouses. Real good buys in the better Paris imports. Custom or ready-made clothes. More expensive than most but Marie Ah You features distinctive styling. She got her training in some of Paris' leading dress houses.

ETABLISSEMENTS OCEANIA: Freddy Ching can show you some exquisite pearls from Takarua, Hikueru, Murutea, Takapotoo, or sell you a can of bean. Etablissements Oceania is located at 81 Rue du General de Gaulle, opposite the bank. P.O.Box 573. Tel. 34/

HELOISE: Across from the bank. One of Papeete's favorite dress-makers.

GALERIES TAHITIENNES: Rue Bonnard, near the waterfront. Perfumes, shellwork, Parisian and Tahitian fabrics, ready made and custom made sports shirts, skirts and dresses, dancing costumes, and phonograph records.

ARIANA: Gifts, curios. Rue Paul Gauguin, corner of Rue du March.

MAGASIN LUCKY: 21 Rue du General de Gaulle. Phone 483. Records, postcards, pe fumes, photographic equipment, dressmakers, general merchandise.

ALINE'S: A department-type store on the Quai du Commerce and Rue du Marche. Tel. 710. Pareus, tapa, curios, dresses, shirts, perfumes, French imports. Fresh vegetables, canned goods, frozen and fresh meat. Deliveries to yachts.

CHRISTINE: 16 Rue Colette. Good selection of Tahitian print materials.

CHEZ FELIX: 132 Rue Mar3chal Foch near Rue Bonnard. Couturiere, tailleur. Hand-painted and other materials in Tahitian designs. Dresses, skirts, shirts and slacks.

TICO TIKO CURIOS: Around the corner from the Vaima Cafe on Rue Brea. Good selection of shell necklaces and bracelets. Necklaces \$1.15. Bracelets 60¢. Baskets 35¢ - \$1.75. Small outrigger models (8 inches long) \$2.85. Wooden drums \$2.50 - \$9.

MAREVA CURIOS: Next to Stuart Hotel on waterfront. Good selection of mother-of-pearl jewelry.

WING SANG LUNG: Corner Rue de 22 September and Quai Bir Hackeim. A good grocery store. Feel lonesome for some American fruit? Come here after a Matson boat has tied up and you'll see an excellent assortment of California fruit and vegetables looking as fresh as when they were shipped from Los Angeles 10 days ago. Apricots 40¢ lb. Peaches 40¢ lb. Nectarines 65¢.

THE PEOPLE

Tahiti has been called the gayest, happiest island on earth - its people a contrast of Paris sophistication and Tahitian abandon. I don't know about the sophistication but there is no doubt about the abandon. Love takes priority over working and if one interferes with the other, it's not Dan Cupid who's going to get sluffed.

The Polynesians are a fast loving, easy living people. The islander relaxes 24 hours a day. A Milton sales man couldn't make enough in commissions to buy himself a Milton. Up until the jet-age in Tahiti a native would work only as long as he felt in the mood. The minute he had enough francs to bring home a loaf of French bread, a tin of corned beef and a case of pia (beer), he was out of the mood.

Today, the Tahitian doesn't feel a bit more in the mood for working, but he has been introduced to the wonders of shiny new Vespa scooters which he has found save wear and tear on his callouses. He has discovered he likes the latest type tooth pastes, gargles, fancy foods in tins, radios, and king-size beer bottles. All this, unfortunately, takes francs and the only way to get francs, it seems, is to work for them. You could rob a bank but where would you go with the loot? So - you will see Tahitian tanes driving trucks and taxis, and the vahines, even more unwillingly, accepting jobs as maids, waitresses and store clerks. They're working but their hearts aren't in it.

Away from Papeete, though, the Polynesian still lives "the happy life" with few worries. Above him are the waving coconut palms bearing the copra that gives him a living no matter what. In his garden growing wild are bananas, breadfruit, mangoes, papayas, grapefruit, and even frangipani and hibiscus for the hair. In the lagoons and along the reef are clams, and fish of all kinds. All the Tahitian has to do is fire up his Coleman lantern (only the squares still use torches), climb into his outrigger and bring back all the brain food he needs. "Life is simple. Life is good. Why louse it up? Live it up!" seems to be his motto. If he feels like oranges he can hike up in the hills and pick wild ones that are a gourmet's delight. If he craves fresh-water shrimp (oura pape), a delicacy of Tahiti, a bicycle ride will take him to streams where a basketfull can be speared in a few hours. If the Tahitian has a problem, he can't think what it is. Live and love. Love and live. That's all that matters.

The Tahitian vahine (girl) has been publicized throughout the world as a most beautiful creation. Any man who can look at one of these brown-skinned girls with long black hair cascading down over her bare shoulders, dressed in a gaily colored tight-fitting dress, and with a tiare-tahiti tucked provocatively over one ear, and not be moved -- is dead. Even a woman tourist envies her femininity and seeming lack of sophistication.

Some of the tanes (males), with their golden-brown skin, handsome physiques and native shyness, would send American teen-age girls squealing with delight - and their mothers, too. The Tahitian tane does most of the ceremonial dancing on the island. However, their real love seems to be American swing. They're pretty good at it, too.

You might think the native because of his easy going philosophy of living is lazy and sloppy at home. Such is not necessarily the case. The Polynesian is scrupulously clean, bathes several times a day. Take a drive around the island. You will see happy bathers in every stream that crosses the highway.

Note to you bachelors whose eyes are beginning to light up like a juke-box: If you think you are going to pass hundreds of lovely, gay vahines splashing bra-less under a waterfall -- forget it! When it comes to modesty these Tahitian vahines make Ma Perkins look like a strip-tease artist.

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This super cleanliness is sometimes carried to extremes. The other day, a couple of American tourist friends invited some Tahitian vahines over to their deluxe hotel for a swim in the pool. The girls were delighted. They brought along soap and proceeded to lather and bathe themselves at the shallow end while the hotel manager glared at the tourists from behind his desk. To the Americans and the manager it was a swimming pool but to the vahines it was only a bathing pool with no rocks on the bottom.

In some sections of the island the yards around the native's huts are as neat as a park. Every fallen leaf is carefully picked up and burned. The grass along the highway is kept mowed and even the bermuda grass between the coco palms is a well kept carpet of green.

His house may be a broken down thatch hut but the Tahitian native lives on a million dollar lot.

TIPPING IN TAHITI

THERE IS NO TIPPING IN TAHITI, BORA BORA, MOOREA or even NEW CALEDONIA!
The government prints it right on your entry card. "Tipping is contrary to the Tahitian tradition of hospitality. Please respect this custom." In plain American words - "Don't louse it up." And to this we add a hearty "Amen." May it last.

Exception: Porters on the wharf charge 50 francs for heavy packing cases over 100 pounds, 30 francs for steamer trunks and packing cases under 100 pounds, and 10 francs for hatboxes, valises, small trunks and cases. Porter's services at the airport are free.

OTHER NO'S ON TAHITI

No beggars. No TV. No snakes of any kind. No malaria. No poisonous reptiles. No trains. No poison oak. No poison ivy. No crocodiles. Only one neon sign. No billboards. (Only small signs having French translations are permitted here.)

PAUL GAUGUIN, PAINTER PAUL EMILE GAUGUIN, TOWN CHARACTER

Paul Gauguin did many of his best paintings in Tahiti, although his final years were spent in Atuona, in the Marquesas. The site of his home on Tahiti, where he lived with his vahine Pahura, is at km 12 west. Gauguin's 64 year old son, Emile, still lives in Papeete. He sits on the sidewalk under a tree near Tahiti Arts store and makes bamboo fish traps which he autographs and sells to tourists. He will also pose for pictures - for a price. Emile's crude fish traps certainly don't carry his father's "touch" but on the other hand, where can you buy a genuine Gauguin for two bucks?

Don't figure on paying for your trip by digging up some long lost paintings. They were burned as trash years ago. Rupert Brooke, the English poet, came here in 1914 looking for "forgotten Gauguins". He didn't uncover any but he did find inspiration for some wonderful poems - "Tiare Tahiti," "Retrospect" and "The Great Lover." His passion for the island started to wane when he contracted a bad case of coral poisoning. He left Tahiti only to die of amoebic dysentery on board a hospital ship in the Bay of Skyro, Greece, in 1915.

Somerset Maugham arrived in 1916 to gather background material for his novel on Gauguin (Moon and Sixpence). He was one of the very few tourists who ever actually found a Gauguin original. He paid 20 francs for it. Today it is priceless.

Robert Louis Stevenson was one of the first figures to publicize the fact that the South Seas are a wonderful tonic for those searching vainly for health. He arrived in Papeete on board the schooner Casco in 1888. Suffering from catarrhal consumption, the writer settled at Tautira where he found health in a most poetic way. Wracked with fever and unable to eat, Stevenson was brought back to the living by Princess Moe, an ex-Tahitian queen, who kept coaxing the author with personally prepared native dishes ranging from baked breadfruit to raw fish. Stevenson recovered in one week and was so grateful he wrote a poem about it - "To An Island Princess." He also threw a gala farewell tamarua for the villagers. The natives may not have understood the poem but they enjoyed the roast pig.

FIRST SAMPLERS OF TAHITI'S CHARMS

Although it is possible other explorers had passed near Tahiti, the first recorded discoverer was Captain Samuel Wallis, A British navigator who sailed into Matavai Bay on June 24, 1767. He named the island George IIIrd. Previously, Wallis had explored the Tuamotu archipelago naming each atoll after a member of the Royal Family. (Officers were bucking for promotion even then.)

Tahiti in 1767 was a true Garden of Eden - with no snake. Wallis reported a complete lack of disease, no vermin. The only insects encountered were red ants. He was surprised to find a number of white-skinned natives with red and blonde hair, gray eyes, and aquiline noses. The majority, however, were brown-skinned with black hair and flat noses.

Each Tahitian carried his own personal built-in colored slide show - profusely tattooed thighs and loins.

The Polynesians today are regarded as some of the friendliest people on earth, but they weren't always that hospitable. At first, only the vahines put out the welcome mat. Wallis' men were beaten off with stones several times before Wallis could negotiate for the purchase of much needed hogs and chickens. In one fight between the sailors and natives, 50 huge canoes were destroyed. The canoes were ammunition ships loaded with the weapons of the islands - sticks and stones.

Unfortunately, the payment most prized by the Tahitians for their pigs and chickens, were nails from the ship. When Wallis' men discovered that nails would buy not only a cackling hen but the favors of an amorous vahine as well, the sound of nails being pulled echoed over Matavai Bay like battle drums. Captain Wallis had to put Tahiti off-limits, except to small trading parties, to prevent his ship from falling to pieces.

The sailors really lived it up on Tahiti. Their lurid descriptions of the difference in moral standards helped make Tahiti the number one rendezvous for Pacific navigators. After months of warching shimmering waves the boys' thoughts lightly turned to shimmying grass skirts.

Before they left the islands, the explorers added to the already lush vegetation by planting garden seed, limes, lemons, oranges, peaches, cherries and plums.

Eight months later, Louis Antoine de Bougainville, a French navigator, disembarked at Hitiaa (at km 34 east),. Unaware of Wallis' previous visit, he renamed the island Nouvell Cythere. He wrote: "I thought I was walking in the Garden of Eden." I felt the same way the first day I drove through Tahiti's beautiful Punaauia district 10 miles west of Papeete.

Bougainville was the first navigator to take along qualified scientists. His crew included botanists and astronomers. Bougainville's reports of the easy life on Tahiti fired up the imagination of all Europe and added to Tahiti's reputation as an island Paradise.

The island's hospitality was at its highest when Bougainville's ship put into the bay. "The canoes were filled with women, whose pleasing faces need concede nothing to the majority of Europeans and for beauty of body, could rival any," he wrote. His report went on to describe the vahines' attire which was apparently about half the size of a French bikini. Some girls thought this costume was a little too confining and slipped into something even more comfortable.

Captain Cook in the Endeavor was the next European explorer to hit Tahiti. He came in 1769. His comment: "Scarcely a spot in the universe affords a more luxurious prospect." Whether he was looking at the island or a Tahitian vahine at the time is not recorded.

After observing the transit of the planet Venus across the sun at km 10 east, Cook sailed on to chart the islands of Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa, calling the entire group the Society Islands for his sponsors, The British Royal Society. We all know Cook could probably have viewed Venus just as easily from London but after all, Tahiti on an expense account is not to be sneezed at.

Captain Cook had two problems on Tahiti. One: the natives stole him blind, "borrowing" everything from muskets, lifted from dozing sentries, to Cook's own stockings, snatched right from under his pillow while he was asleep! The lighthearted (and fingered) natives also stole a valuable quadrant which Cook recovered by taking a hostage and letting him sweat it out until the priceless object was returned. All this juvenile delinquency and no TV to blame it on.

Problem two: beatnick flies so hungry they chewed the paint off the artist's brush before he could put it on the canvas.

Cook's sailors also had a problem: The Tahitian tanes had no objections to the seamen making love to their vahines. They even lent them their grass shacks as "love nests." However, they did feel with all that generosity the least the sailors could do for them was to let them sit around and watch. Whether they sold tickets or not is not recorded.

Cook took a fancy to a young Huahine native named Omai and brought him back to England. To say that Omai was a "smash" is the understatement of the week. Omai was a brilliant student. He learned English on the way over and became expert in the manners of civilization. He became the toast of London, the idol of the women of the court, whose intentions at times, they say, were not entirely platonic. Dr. Johnson wrote of Omai, Sir Joshua Reynolds painted him, and a playwright used the situation for a very successful musical comedy. After two years of "living it up" in jolly old London, Omai returned to Huahine. Cook set him up with a European type house, a pair of horses, some cattle and goats but overlooked human nature. Omai's neighbors considered him a bore and Omai never regained his place in Polynesian society. His fling into civilization ruined him for the primitive life and he died four years later pining to go back to those big banquets and those gorgeous ladies of the court who thought Omai such a nice change of pace from men in clanking armor and sharp spears.

Unfortunately for Captain James Cook, on his third trip into the Pacific, he went on to Hawaii where he was welcomed by a reception committee not recommended by the Hawaiian Tourist Bureau. Cook had been the "man who came to dinner" to the Kona chiefs. Cook and his men had frankly outstayed their welcome, eating up all the natives' food. The explorers left on friendly enough terms but a storm at sea forced the ship back to Kona for repairs. The Hawaiian

natives by now were pretty sick of the whole expedition. They clobbered Cook's skull with a club. The fact the Hawaiian chiefs saved Cook's bones and worshipped them along with their own gods was of very little consolation to the late Captain.

In 1772 the Spanish colonist Captain Boenechea arrived from Peru and established a short-lived colony at Tautira down on the peninsula. The project was abandoned upon the death of Boenechea in 1775. The Polynesians cared for his grave and house for years.

In 1788 Captain Bligh in the H.M.S. *Bounty* sailed innocently into port for the scientifically commendable purpose of collecting breadfruit tree seedlings to take back to the Antilles. His crew, however, had been to sea too long and they found much more interesting things to cultivate than breadfruit. The resulting mutiny was a pain in the neck to Captain Bligh but not to writers Nordhoff and Hall.

In March, 1791, the British frigate "Pandora" arrived and took into custody fourteen of the mutineers. The prisoners were shackled and put into a tiny round house on deck. The only entrance to this "Pandora's Box" was a tiny 20 inch scuttle in the top. The prisoners were kept in this torture box under the sizzling sun for three and a half months! The ship finally struck a submerged reef in the Great Barrier Reef and thirty of the ship's crew and four of the *Bounty* prisoners were drowned. Brought back to England, three of the *Bounty* crew were hanged, four acquitted, and three others condemned to death but later pardoned. (I hope I didn't spoil the picture for you.)

In 1797 the first London Missionary Group arrived in French Oceania. In the Marquesas north of Tahiti, they were considerably shaken up by native girls, naked except for a few leaves tied around their middles, who swam out, boarded the ship and held tar buckets for sailors repairing the rigging. To further complicate things, the ship's goats ate the leaves off! It is understandable why more tar was dropped on the deck than on the rigging.

This South Seas strip-tease was upsetting enough to one young man named Harris, but it was nothing to the experience he was about to go through. This young missionary was assigned the Marquesas as his post and was rowed ashore with his trunk. The friendly native chief had gone to another island for a few days but had generously left his wife in Harris' care. Wife-lending in those days was an accepted form of politeness in the South Seas but the British-born Harris was horrified. He repulsed the wife's advances. This upset the puzzled girl completely and she began to wonder about Harris. Late one night she and two girl friends crept into Harris' room to see for themselves whether Harris had all the standard equipment. "They satisfied themselves concerning that point," the ship's log reported, "but not in such a peaceable way that they avoided waking him." The shocked Harris packed his trunk and left the island. He had had it.

In the early days of exploration in the South Seas, the Marquesan people thought from the way the European sailors reacted to their vahines that Europe was a land of "men only" - that these were the first women these strange ones had ever seen. At times the Polynesian still thinks this may be true from the wild look in some of the visitors' eyes as they step off the plane.

In 1837 a Catholic mission was established in Tahiti. The first Catholic mission in the South Seas was in the Gambier Islands.

Admiral du petit-Thouars formally took possession of Tahiti in the name of France in 1842. In 1880, King Pomare V abdicated and island was ceded outright to France.

BOMBS OVER BALI HAI.

Papeete was bombarded during World War I by the German cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*. Both ships were later sunk by the British. Until it was torn down a few years ago, the famous Papeete Yacht Club proudly displayed a hole in its wall caused by German shellfire.

The Papeete Yacht Club had but one membership qualification. No resident member could own a boat.

In World War II, Tahiti in a plebiscite taken August, 1940, voted in favor of "Free France." During the war, French Oceania prospered as demands for copra sent prices sky high.

TAHITI FACT SHEET

The American tourist is a constant source of bewilderment to employees of the Papeete Tourist Bureau. "Americans are statistics happy," I heard one complain. "The European wants to know the cost of everything and how the food is. The American wants to know the height of the waterfall or the number of teeth in a Moray eel." I laughingly agreed with her as I crossed out two of the questions I was about to submit to her. Anyway, for you fact-loving MARITES (Americans) here are some of the statistics on Tahiti. (I wonder how many teeth a moray eel does have?)

Tahiti, a tiny island, is in the Pacific Ocean, the biggest, deepest ocean in the world; an ocean that covers more than a third of the earth's surface, an area greater than all the land of the world above sea level!

Tahiti is 17 degrees latitude South, 151 longitude West, 2746 miles SE of Honolulu, 10,000 miles from Paris, 6,000 miles from Asia, 3300 miles from Australia, 3700 miles from the United States. Length is 37 miles, width 25 miles. Area 260,540 acres. Island's circumference is 119 miles. By road, 74 miles. There are 110 miles of roads on Tahiti and over 3600 vehicles (automobiles, taxis, buses, motorbikes and scooters).

Tahiti is a volcanic island in the Society Group, a part of French Oceania (French Polynesia). Sister islands in the Society Islands include Moorea, Raiatea, Tahaa, Maiao, Mehetia, Huahine, and Bora Bora. Tahiti is shaped like a figure eight and is a "high" island, its peaks rising to heights of four to seven thousand feet. Mt. Orohena is 7,337 feet. Mt. Aorai is 6,786 ft. The island is fringed with coral reefs which protect the shores from the rough seas outside. Just how rough you'll only appreciate as you roll and toss on a launch trip to Moorea, nine miles across the channel. It doesn't bother the native pilot, however. He nonchalantly steers the little launch with his bare foot!

It was from the Society Islands that outriggers manned by Polynesians, migrated to Hawaii and New Zealand in ancient times, B.O. (before outboards).

Tahiti, with over 40,000 population, is 386 square miles in area and has a paved road completely around it. Population in 1767 was estimated by navigators, Wallis and Cook, as over 200,000! Venereal diseases, small pox, TB, and measles brought in by early explorers, wiped out thousands. As recently as 1918, 4000 Tahitians died in one year from influenza alone.

Papeete is the capital and principal harbor of the Society Islands. Population today is around 18,000. In 1956 when the population of Papeete was 17,247, it was divided as follows: 12,515 Tahitians, 3,076 Chinese, 1503 French, 153 other Europeans. Papeete's harbor is the center of trade. Its exports: copra, mother-of-pearl, phosphates, vanilla beans and a local beer called Hinano.

Annual production figures: 22,000 tons of copra, 500 to 600 tons of mother-of-pearl, 177 tons of vanilla beans, 340,000 tons of phosphates (biggest customer, Japan). 5,000,000 bottles of beer are manufactured yearly - most of it is consumed locally. Perfume is manufactured in limited amounts. It makes a good souvenir.

Papeete is colorful, with all the gaiety and vitality of Paris with a little of the Orient thrown in for good measure, but it is not all there is to Tahiti. This is a mistake too many tourists make. There is gorgeous back country studded with magnificent black beaches, tumbling mountain streams, and picturesque native villages. Here you can stretch out on a beautiful beach and drink in sunshine and contentment, far from the mad pace of the outside world. You relax in your little thatch cottage sampling bananas, oranges, clams, sugary yams, barbecued suckling pig, fresh water shrimp, and Hinano beer and reflect how right Rupert Brooke was when he penned these words describing Tahiti - "There the eternal are and there the good, the lovely and the true."

MONEY...THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL..AND FUN

Current rate of exchange is 88 French Pacific francs to one American dollar (currency). You will get an even better rate of exchange with Travelers Checks or letters of credit. Upon arriving in Tahiti, air passengers may obtain Pacific francs at FAAA airport. However, when you leave you must go to the Banque de l'Indochine main office in the city of Papeete to reconvert your currency. All passengers leaving Papeete are now entitled to convert in any foreign currency an amount of no more than 5,000 francs (around \$55.66).

CURRENCY INFORMATION:

100 centimes = 1 CFP franc

COINS: 1/2 franc = 1/2¢ U.S.A.

1 franc = 1¢ U.S.A.

2 francs = 2¢ U.S.A.

5 francs = 5 1/2¢ U.S.A.

NOTES: 50 francs = 56¢ U.S.A.

100 francs = \$1.13 U.S.A.

EQUIVALENT VALUES IN U.S. CURRENCY:

22 CFP francs = 25¢
44 CFP francs = 50¢
88 CFP francs = \$1.00
440 CFP francs = \$5
880 CFP francs = \$10

Amount you may take in Tahiti: No limit.

Amount you may take out of Tahiti: No limit when a declaration of the local currency is made at the time of entry. Export of that currency cannot exceed the amount declared.

Exchange rates fluctuate. Carry most of your traveling money in Travelers checks. Single U.S. dollar bills will also prove convenient when you wish to convert only a small amount into foreign currency rather than change a Travelers check. Dollar bills are accepted most places of business in Papeete but your exchange rate may be lower than 88 to 1.

To show you how progress has taken over, one of the most colorful (and annoying) customs was the cashing of travelers checks at this bank. Formerly, you had to find the change girl, tucked away over in a dark corner. She would take your checks without a word and hand you back a numbered disc. No receipt...just a little round disc. Right then you started to get nervous. You waited in a crowd of natives, Chinese and other tourists until your number was called in French by the teller in the cage. The teller was nicknamed "Mumbles" for obvious reasons. As you couldn't understand the numbers he called, you could only wait patiently until he called a number three times. If no one came up to the cage, you'd dash madly up, throw down your disc, get a dirty look and your money.

All this is now changed. Today you merely go to the change desk where a girl will take your checks and write you up a receipt. You step to your right and another clerk will give you the money. When it's not busy, one clerk may do the whole transaction. Next week - Blue Chip stamps?

Travelers checks can be cashed at the Vaima Cafe, Quinn's and many of Papeete's shops but the rate of exchange will be lower.

TOURISM IN TAHITI

In 1955 - 705 tourists visited Tahiti. In 1959 - 12,000. 10,000 of these came on cruise ships. In 1960, 6,000 tourists arrived by air and 10,000 by cruise ships. In 1961, almost 10,000 came by air, 10,000 by cruise ship. In 1962, 16,000 touched here on cruises, 12,000 others came for longer stays. 70% were Americans, 19% Australians, 10% Europeans, and 1% misc. In 1965. There should be 45,000 tourists a year. At the present moment there are no plans underway to construct a freeway around the island but scooter traffic is getting a bit thick.

GOVERNMENT IN FRENCH OCEANIA

French Polynesia is under the authority of a governor of Overseas France, who shares the administration with a Territorial Assembly, elected by all French citizens 21 years of age. Polynesian natives are French citizens.

MR. D.A. IN A PAREU (LEGAL SYSTEM)

Most of the inhabitants of French Oceania are under the French legal code. If a native is pleading against a European or a French citizen of Maori origin, he is entitled to be judged by French law.

INCOME TAX IN TAHITI

A true Paradise. No personal income tax. Revenue is derived from import and export taxes.

THE VESPA SCOOTER SET IN TAHITI

There is no country club set in Tahiti because there are no country clubs. However, there are the following:

- 1: Chamber of Commerce. Believe it or not, but Papeete has had a Chamber of Commerce for 83 years! The Chamber can furnish you with information on importing and exporting, if you are interested.

- 2: **Club Sous Marin of Tahiti (The Tahiti Underwater Club)**. You will find some of the finest skin diving in the world around Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora.
- 3: **Moua Tahiti. (The Tahiti Mountain Climbing Club)**. Yiu who may be more familiar with atolls or "low" islands (Florida Keys, etc.) may be surprised to learn that Tahiti boasts a mountain peak that wasn't conquered by man until 1954. (Mt. Aorai, 6,773 ft.)
- 4: **Association Hippique (Turf Club)**. Any resemblance to Santa Anita is strictly accidental. Active around Fete time (July).
- 5: **Federation General Des Societe Sportives (Sports Club)**. The general athletic club of Tahiti. They march in their gymn' outfits in the Bastille Day parade. Sort of the Muscle Beach of the coconut palm world.
- 6: **Automobile Club of Tahiti**. You don't have to worry about taking a wrong road down here. There's only one aroad around the island anyway.
- 7: **International Game Fish Association**. Ask Dave Cave at Hertz-U-Drive about this new club. Its members are eager to help with advice on fishing in these waters.
- 8: **Tahiti Yacht Club**. Seems to be active mostly during Trans-Pacific yacht race time. President is Martial Iorss.
- 9: **Lion's Club**. Meets infrequently. Ask at Tourist Bureau.
- 10: **Rotary Club**. As active as any in the States. Usually meets at the Tahiti Hotel.
- 11: **Etude Polynesien**. A group dedicated to the study of Polynesian history and customs.
- 12: **Free French Society. (Association des Fran caise Libres)**
- 13: **Boy Scouts**.

FOR THOSE WHO JUST HAVE TO HAVE A NEWSPAPER

First off, you'd better be able to read French because the only available daily newspaper is Les Nouvelles, circulation, 1,000. It is very unlikely you will read what your local garden club did last week-in Pasadena. Have another rum punch. What do you care whether they planted another dozen rose bushes or not?

CHURCHES

The French Protestant Church has four churches in Papeete. Three are conducted in Polynesian, one in French. There is a church and meeting house in each district. The Roman Catholic church has two churches in Papeete and a church and meeting house in every district. Other churches include the 7th Day Adventists and the Mormon Church. The Mormon Temple in Papeete is one of the show places of the islands. Real modern.

There are 38,000 Protestants, 20,000 Roman Catholics, 2,600 Mormons, 500 7th Day Adventists, and 2400 Latter Day Saints in the islands.

A SIGH FOR THE OLD QUIET LAGOON

YOUR ARRIVAL IN TAHITI: The new 12,000 foot jet air strip will surprise you. It runs right through the heart of one of the most breath-taking lagoons you've ever seen. It ends directly in front of Les Tropiques Hotel, two miles from Papeete.

Working 18 hours a day, the contractors, Dragnes et Travaux Publics (same group built the Hong Kong strip), had the runway finished right on schedule. The first DC8 jet (Donald Douglas' own plane), landed in March, 1961. Regular T.A.I. jet service was inaugurated May 4, 1961. The earth-moving machinery was brought in from Hong Kong, along with half a hundred skilled Chinese drag-line operators and forty trucks. The supposedly unmechanical minded Polynesians caught on with amazing speed and they were soon operating the complicated equipment with all the know-how of their instructors. The extra income was welcomed by the tane as it meant more Hinano, canned beef, and even more fascinating, a down payment on the shiny new Vespa scooter displayed so tantalizingly in the Chinese dealer's window in Papeete. A tane with a scooter is a very lucky fellow in Tahiti. And very desirable. Next to love, a vahine longs most for a scooter. The tane puts a scooter third, after love and beer.

It is amazing that here in "the world's last Paradise" there is a two mile air strip only five minutes from downtown Papeete. Within a half hour a tourist can get off his plane, go through customs and be sipping his first beer at Vaima's sidewalk cafe on Papeete's waterfront.

Four airlines are now using the airport at FAAA. These are T.A.I., South Pacific Air Lines and TEAL. The R.A.I. flying boats land in the lagoon alongside.

Transfers on arrival and departure: (by deluxe motor coaches - English speaking driver) Les Tropiques Hotel, Hotel Tahiti, Hotel Tiki Tapu, Hotel Matavai, and Grand Hotel - about \$2.00. Bel Air Hotel, Lotus Village, laorana Villa Hotel - about \$2.50. Tahiti Village Hotel - \$3.00. Royal Tahitian Hotel or Taone - around \$2.50.

By private car: From airport to Les Tropiques, Hotel Tahiti, Tiki Tapu, Matavai or Grand - one person about \$8.00. 4 persons in car - \$2.25 each. To Bel Air, Lotus Village, laorana Villa - one person \$9.00. 4 persons in car about \$2.50 each. Royal Tahitian, Taone - one person about \$9.50. 4 persons in car - \$2.50 each.

All transportation can be arranged in advance by the travel agent in your home town.

UNDER THE SPREADING CORRUGATED IRON ROOF

After the traditional frangipani lei has been draped around your neck, you will be ushered into the formalities booths (public health and immigration). Baggage inspection has been speeded up and today you will go through Tahitian customs as quickly (if not quicker) than in the United States.

According to regulations, you are entitled to bring in one camera and ten rolls of film. However, if you register the camera, customs will usually let you bring in two cameras, but only ten rolls of film...period. You can, of course, bring all the film you can carry but you will have to pay duty on everything over the first ten rolls. Better make your ten allowable rolls Kodachrome as it costs about \$16 for a roll of 16 mm Kodachrome here. It's made in France. Black and white film from Kodak France runs about the same as in the States. Verichrome 120 costs a little over 35¢ a roll. 120 Ektachrome costs about \$1.50.

PROFESSIONAL FILM MAKERS: Get permission from the Governor's office before you come. (See your local French consul.) When you get to Tahiti you must post a bond guaranteeing you will take out all equipment and film brought in. The only tax is on EXPOSED film. This tax is one franc per meter for 35 mm and 50 centimes for 16 mm.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- To get to Tahiti you need:
- 1: An up-to-date passport.
 - 2: A tourist visa from your nearest French consul in the United States. Normally issued for a period of 3 months, it may be renewed in Papeete for a period not to exceed 6 months in all. No photo requirements.
 - 3: A round trip ticket or guarantee of return passage by a person residing in French Polynesia. Otherwise, a deposit is required to cover expenses of shipping you back. If you are going down in your own boat you must deposit \$280 with the Banque de l'Indochine in Papeete. This can be done through your local bank.
 - 4: Certificate of small pox vaccination.

EXIT HEAD TAX: Be sure to save a 100 franc note for the exit head tax collected upon departure from Tahiti. This tax covers porter service at the airport so it's not too bad.

ADDRESSES OF FRENCH CONSULS IN THE U.S.A.

Los Angeles - 1919 Outpost Drive
San Francisco - 740 Taylor St.
New York - 934 5th Avenue
Chicago - 919 Michigan Ave.

IF YOU ARE SKIPPING YOUR OWN BOAT DOWN YOU MUST HAVE:

- 1: Money.
- 2: Five copies of crew list (last names first), nationality, age and position on board. (Unless you are a stowaway, of course)
- 3: Four copies of stores list (food, supplies, vegetables, and liquors).
- 4: Four copies of firearms and ammunition list (if any).
- 5: Secure "Fiche de Control" cards from your local French consul, if possible, and have every member of the crew fill in before arrival. You can get the forms here, of course, but it will take more time....and those vahines are waiting.
- 6: Upon arrival in Papeete make out two copies of the Inward Manifesto.
- 7: If you intend to touch at the Marquesas on the way down your port of entry will be Taiohae on Nuku Hiva. If you want to touch at other islands on the way from the Marquesas to Papeete the local administrator will wire the Governor in Tahiti for permission. Only other port of entry in French Polynesia is Uturoa, Raiatea.

YOU THINK MAYBE YOU 'LL PUT YOUR BOAT OUT FOR CHARTER WHILE IN PAPEETE?

Forget it! Although it would be a nice way to pick up expense money it is illegal without permission from the Governor.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONSAll luggage must be submitted to customs inspection.

- A: Admitted duty free: provisions being used en route, one bottle of liquor, 400 cigarettes per person (or 50 cigars or 400 grammes of tobacco), clothing or effects belonging to the tourist's wardrobe.
- B: Admitted temporarily duty free, without transit documents: personal jewelry, not exceeding 500 grammes (a little over a pound), cameras with twelve dark slides or ten rolls of film, and not more than one camera per person. (see C) Field glasses (one pair), one portable typewriter, small objects used for camping, laundry irons, toilet articles, electrical appliances, medicine, etc., children's prams. All must show signs of usage and accompany the tourist.
- C: Admitted temporarily duty free, with a transit document: objects other than those mentioned in A and B but ordinarily in the tourist's possession.

A bond guaranteeing the payment of duty in the event the objects are not taken out of the islands within six months must be deposited at the Customs office. These rules apply to film cameras and ten rolls of film (whatever the number of cameras), portable radio sets, bikes (with or without motors), motor cars, canoes, rowboats, motor boats, portable musical instruments, guitars, accordions, ukes, magnetic recorders, phonographs, sporting guns (guns can only be brought in with the special authorization of the Chief of the Territory).

YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE POSTAL SERVICE SO YOU CAN WRITE HOME FOR MONEY?and you just got here, too.

An airmail postcard to the U.S.A. will cost you 13 francs. Airmail letters - 16 francs up. By all means, use airmail. Surface mail is s---|-----o-----w!

Airmail packages will cost you 27 francs for the first 25 grams and 7 francs for each additional 25 grams until 250 grams. A one kilo package will run you 360 francs to the States.

The cable office is located in the postoffice.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON TAHITI IN THE U.S.A.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICES: These offices located in San Francisco, Beverly Hills, New York, Chicago, Miami and Montreal, will be glad to answer any questions you may have on French Polynesia. They have a new 32 page booklet on the islands which is free for the asking. San Francisco office: 323 Geary Street. Mr. George Tremel is the manager. Beverly Hills: Mr. J. Delobel, manager. 9418 Wilshire Blvd. New York: 610 5th Avenue. Chicago: 18 S. Michigan Blvd. Miami: 1st National Bank Bldg. Montreal: 1170 Rue Drummond.

AIR FRANCE OFFICES: T.A.I. has many informative folders on Tahiti and the islands beyond, and an excellent little Tahitian dictionary. You can obtain them free from your travel agent or any Air France office in the United States or Canada. New York: 683 5th Ave. Los Angeles: 518 W. 6th St. Beverly Hills: 9369 Wilshire Blvd. Chicago: 22 S. Michigan Ave. San Francisco: 260 St. Jackson St. Air France has several good 16 mm color films on Tahiti available on free loan to travel agents, groups, etc. Their new one called "Manureva" is beautiful.

SOUTH PACIFIC AIR LINES: SPAL has several excellent folders on Tahiti and points beyond. Ask your travel agent or write to South Pacific Air Lines, 311 California St., San Francisco 4. SPAL's Los Angeles office is at 1741 N. Ivar St., Hollywood. New York office: 871 7th Ave. Honolulu office: 2370 Kalakaua Ave. Papeete: Stuart Hotel.

PACIFIC AREA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION: Folders on almost any spot in the Pacific are available from PATA, 153 Kearny St., San Francisco. For \$1 they will send you an eye-appealing kit of information on exotic places in the Pacific. The kit even includes a National Geographic Society map of the South Pacific.

MATSON LINES: Many colorful folders on the South Seas may be obtained from your travel agent or by writing Matson Lines, 205 Market St., San Francisco. In Los Angeles, 533 W. 6th St., and in New York, 630 5th Ave. Excellent color films are available on free loan to travel agents and groups.

TEAL: TEAL has several folders on islands in the South Seas. Ask your travel agent or any BOAC office in the United States.

PAN AMERICAN: Excellent 16 mm color film on the South Seas available to travel agents and groups.

TAHITIAN CLUBS IN THE UNITED STATES: There are Tahitian clubs in New York and Los Angeles and one is forming in San Francisco. One in Los Angeles is called Te Mauhoa No Tahiti (The Friends of Tahiti). Write to Reri Jobe, 1067 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach for application blanks. Club meets usually the third Tuesday of each month. Club publishes an informative bulletin each month called "Coconut Radio." Publication office: 3308 E. Broadway, Long Beach 3, California.

HINANO BEER IN THE UNITED STATES: Want to get a "preview" of "the national drink of Tahiti? Importer is James E. Walsh, 3308 E. Broadway, Long Beach 3, Calif.

VEGETATION

In all your life you've never seen such flamboyant flowers and lush tropical vegetation. Tiare Tahiti, frangipani, gardenia, ylang ylang, night blooming cereus, anthurium, orchids, begonias, gladioli, torch ginger, hibiscus, bougainvillea, croton, cannas, poinsettias, all shout at you with their vivid colors. Tahiti is a tropical Garden of Eden - a botanist's Paradise. There is only one nursery on the island. Who needs it? You break a slip off a neighbor's plant, stick it in the ground, and a week later it's growing like it was always there. Even the fence posts take root and grow! (You'll see some along the road as you drive into Point Venue.) There is a church in Tahiti with flowers growing out of its steeple! Everywhere you look - Gauguin reds, yellows and greens.

Here are some of the plants and trees found on Tahiti:

PURAU: Covered with beautiful yellow flowers that drop in the afternoon.

PANDANUS: Its long Yucca-like leaves are used to make the woven pandanus thatch roofs so popular in the new hotels. The fruit of a certain type of Pandanus grown on other islands is edible, is sometimes dried and made into flour. The fruit of the Tahitian pandanus is not edible but because of its startling orange and yellow color and its exotic fragrance, it is used in making

leis. Cordage is made from the fibers of the aerial roots.

BREADFRUIT: Its shiny, green leaves make this the handsomest of tropical trees. Breadfruit is one of the staple foods of the islands and is used as a part of every tamaaraa (native feast). An acre of these trees would feed a dozen persons for a year, they say. Ugh!

VANILLA: Vanilla is the third largest export item. A visit to a vanilla plantation on Moorea is a "tourist must."

LIME TREES: Small Mexican type limes. Rather expensive.

ORANGE TREES: Grow wild on the high mountain slopes. Difficult to pick so prices are high. \$1.50 to \$1.60 a dozen in Papeete. About \$1.15 along the road. The natives display the fruit in front of their houses. They are tied in mesh bags made from rope. The Tahitian orange is like our Valencias, only sweeter. At one time there were hundreds of acres of citrus but disease wiped out all but the hardiest trees. No new ones have been planted.

STAR APPLE: A startlingly different tropical fruit. Sometimes available in the Public Market.

GRAPEFRUIT: Grapefruit are the size of icebox watermelons. Taste like a Coachella Valley grapefruit that's been dipped in lime juice. Rather tart. Very good for that morning after Quinn's" hangover.

PAPAYAS: Found all over the islands. Delicious and cheap.

GUAVAS, AVACODO, MANGO, PINEAPPLE, PASSION FRUIT: Available in season. Good. Mangoes especially tasty.

COFFEE: Good quality. Arabica is the best known. 500 tons per year. 200 tons is exported to France. Rest is used locally. Sells here for 50¢ per kilo.

WATERMELONS: Excellent. Both red and orange-meated varieties.

BANANAS: Cultivated extensively on all the islands. Abundant and cheap. I bought a dozen oranges from a farmer along the road and he insisted upon giving me three dozen bananas as a gift! The musa fehi, mountain cooking banana, is a favorite food of the natives.

TARO: Raised in many of the islands in flat, square portions of land surrounded by ditches filled with water. Taro requires much moisture. Poe (poi in Hawaii) is not made from taro root here as in Hawaii. Manioc starch is used, instead, and the poe is flavored with pineapple, papaya or banana. It tastes more like a fruit pudding. For the purist, the plain library-paste type of poi is available, too.

In the atolls, taro is raised in artificial pits dug in the sand.

COCOPALMS: The "money tree" of the South Seas. Groves of them around the islands of Tahiti, Moorea, etc. You will notice each tree trunk is banded with a strip of metal. This is to keep the rats out of the trees and protect the maturing nuts. The government furnishes the band, the native farmer puts it on. (When he gets around to it.)

Some of the items that come from the coconut palm: pickles, and a beverage from the pitch, brooms, mats, slippers, bags, fans, braid, mats, from the leaves. Cups, charcoal, wood

preservatives, buttons, buckles, trays, utensils, from the shell. Plaster board, insulation, wall board, from the coir dust. Yarns, brushes, rugs, rope, fiber mats, and tile from the husk. Medicine, dye, beverages, soap, oil, from the meat. Beverage and vinegar from coco water. Helmets, caps and clogs from the fiber. Coconut meat is scraped out and eaten fresh. Copra is made from dried coconut meat which is pressed to make coconut oil. About 4,000 nuts are needed to make a ton of copra. The soft green coconut meat is given babies and is sometime their first solid food. Hearts of palm are sometimes used in what is called "millionaire's salad." After the heart is removed, though, the tree dies. Not a popular dish here. Like killing your pet dog.

Coconuts are the only guaranteed source of good water on many of the atolls. Well water may cause serious skin infections and when rain is scarce the natives fall back on the good old reliable coconut. For drinking purposes, the nut is picked green as unripe coconuts contain the carbonated liquid referred to as "coconut water." The meat of the green coconut is a layer of delicious white jelly that can be scooped out with a spoon. In a mature nut the water is the color of milk and the meat is hard. Coconut cream (used in desserts, ice cream and coffee) is pressed from the meat of the fully ripe nut. A well kept coconut plantation, they say, will produce a ton per hectare. The tree starts producing at nine years and continues until fifty or sixty years of age.

Many people love the tangy flavor of coconut water, others make a face. Just remember, though, that if you're shipwrecked on an atoll that's lined with coconut trees you aren't going to die of thirst. However, as you are leaving the sinking ship you'd better grab a spear gun or fishing rod as you are going to get awfully sick of a diet of just coconut meat.

Other guys can get washed up on atolls and meet sun-tanned Jayne Mansfields. It would be just my luck to get shipwrecked on Reao Island. This little atoll in the Tuamotus won't be on a "tourist must" list for years. The natives here have an unappetizing habit, they say, of wearing leis of foul-smelling sun-dried paha (tridacna) clams which they munch between meals. Na Navigators say you can guide yourself to the island by its fumes. It is reported the birth rate has declined on Reao. For heaven's sake - no wonder!

EMPLOYMENT IN TAHITI

Wish you hadn't brought that up. It's a popular question and the answer is discouraging. It is very difficult for foreigners to get work permits even if they could find themselves a job. A foreigner must have his employment contract approved by the Governor of French Polynesia prior to departure. For full information I suggest you get in touch with the French Government Tourist Office in New York, Beverly Hills, San Francis.

SERVANTS IN TAHITI

Servants are readily available -- if you aren't too critical. They will cost you \$33 to \$45 a month. Maybe a little less on Moorea. Same wage whether the vahine lives in or goes home at night. For \$45 your vahine should cook, do the laundry and housework. Not so long ago some would also throw in the gardening. I wouldn't count on it now.

It will cost you \$33 to \$55 extra a month for food if the girl lives in. They love to eat, and they have so many friends who love to eat, too. For example: I took a vahine to lunch at Atchoun Restaurant and this is what she ate: one order of fresh water shrimp, one filet mignon steak, one hamburger, one order of fried chicken legs, a dish of ice cream, and two bottles of orange pop. I had a coke and an Alka-Seltzer.

THE GOOD EARTH... IS IT FOR SALE OR NOT?

You want to build a hotel in Tahiti? You should have been here in 1960 when restrictions on foreigners owning property here were relaxed for a short period. There was such a rush of carpet-baggers hitting Papeete with brief cases of money....or promises,...that the rules were quickly tightened again. A foreigner, in certain cases, and with the special authorization of the Governor can still lease or buy land in Tahiti. Most hotel investments of Americans have French partners.

Do not make a move until you have written Governor Grimald's office in Papeete for full details on the laws and regulations involved. If you are in Papeete you might make an appointment with the Governor if you have a definite project in mind. You can contact him through Francis Sanford.

Paulo Martin in a recent issue of the Coconut Radio gave some sage advice to would-be investors. "Be sincere with your plans and put everything on the table. The Governor will appreciate your sincerity and will do everything to help and give you advice. Deals made in bars may go sour on you and no one in Tahiti but you, yourself are to blame. Do not come back to the States and blame the French government for your own mistakes. If you are an adult - please act like one." This is sage advice. Too many Americans have gone off half-cocked. No plan is "set" until it is approved by the authorities.

For full information on investments in Tahiti I would first write to the Office du Tourisme de la Polynesie Francaise in Papeete care of Mons. Godefroy de Noaillet, P.O. Box 65.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS IN PAPEETE: Andre M. Leontief's Papeete Office. Andre has an office across the street from the government buildings near the Post Office. Telephone 37. He lists houses, plantations, investment property for lease and sale. Also has a list of house rentals. Other real estate men in Papeete include: H. P. Damiansky, P.O. Box 566, Tel. 134, Henri Guiard, P.O. Box 79.

BUILDING A HOUSE

Here are a few contractors you might talk to before getting too involved:

Ernest Pubiget on Avenue Prince Hinoi, near Rue du Ramparts.

Meunier on Quai Gallieni. Tel. 599. Builders of the new Postoffice, College Paul Gauguin, etc.

Drollet, an architect-builder who lives in Auae. Tel. 208.

Typical construction costs: Simple Tahitian-style bungalow \$2500 to \$3500. Duplex bungalow \$4500 up.

The government doesn't encourage the building of multi-storied hotels. Tallest building is the Grand Hotel - four floors.

SAMPLE PROPERTY COSTS: In 1960, before inflation, property 5 km from Papeete could be bought for prices ranging from 1200 to 3000 francs per square meter. 10 km from Papeete - 1200 to 2000 per meter. 20 km from Papeete - 100 to 600 francs per meter. Mountain property was offered at prices ranging from 25 to 60 francs per square meter. Beach property ran up to 35,000 francs per square meter.

Sometimes property can be leased but the price is a bit rich if you want it on the lagoon (and everyone does.) Some hotels, rumor says, are paying over a million francs for their property. You thought you could buy Papeete for a string of beads? Forget it!

WAGES: An unskilled worker gets a minimum of 225 francs a day (about \$2.53). A skilled worker draws down 500 francs per day (about \$5.61). Waiters get \$56.10 per month. Typists and stenographers receive 6000 to 10,000 francs per month (\$67.38 to \$112). Usual work period is 48 hours per week in hotels, 40 hours in other trades and professions. All workers are entitled to one day off per week plus one and a half days vacation per month of employment.

YOU LIKE IT HERE? YOU WANT TO STAY AWHILE? HERE'S HOW YOU RENT A HOUSE.

Rentals of houses in Tahiti vary by the season and demand. Now that MGM has moved out more houses have come on the market. In 1960 I was offered four different houses in Tahiti and one in Moorea for prices ranging from 500 to 600 francs per day. The 600 franc house was brand new with a thatch roof, bamboo trim, vinyl floors, modern kitchen, modern bathroom with hot and cold running water, a lanai-type living room, etc. The house was completely screened and tastefully furnished. I'd hate to tell you what this house rented for while MGM was here. Another house, even bigger, was up for lease a mile closer to town. It sat high on a hill overlooking the lagoon and Moorea and sported a built-in bar, two bedrooms, a patio, hot water, modern bathroom, and a closed garage. At night you could sit on the patio sipping a rum punch and watch the sun go down over Moorea across the channel. Cost 500 francs per day!

Today you can rent a house for \$60 to \$1,000 a month. The cheap ones are pretty rough. Some don't have inside plumbing, screens or hot water. There are no real rental bargains here. Best chance for a decent price is in the off-season. Around July everything shoots sky high. Many new houses have been built and most are available for rent....for a price. Very few houses for rent in Moorea or Bora Bora.

BEST SOURCES OF RENTAL PROPERTIES IN TAHITI:

Tourist Bureau (Syndicat d'Initiative et du Tourisme de Tahiti) Box 326.

Librairie Tillet Ave. Bruat et Quai de l'Urance. (on the waterfront)

Andre Leontief's Papeete Office Tel. 237.

Tahiti Voyages Travel Agency 3 Notre Dame Place, across from the Cathedral.

Tahiti Tours Quai Bir-Hackeim. Tel. 368.

Tahiti Nui Travel Agency Rue Paul Gauguin. Tel. 491.

Gregory Rent A Car 99 Rue du General de Gaulle, corner Rue Brea. Tel. 735.

Robert Rue du General de Gaulle near Rue Brea.

Ping Pong Hotel 6 Rue du Commandant Destremeau.

Rental houses vary in size from small Tahitian-style bungalows to large deluxe houses. All have living rooms, bedrooms, modern kitchens and bathrooms. Most have electric refrigerators, hot water and gas or electric stoves. Linen and cutlery are furnished by the owners.

Maid service is usually included in the price and for a small additional sum, personal laundry and other facilities are available.

Prices are based on how close the house is to the lagoon, how far from Papeete and size. Rates vary from \$6 to \$20 per day.....and up.

Good rental tip: Dr. Pincemin, who lives at about 17 1/2 km west, has six beautiful bungalows for lease. All have modern bathrooms and every kitchen has an electric refrigerator. Rates run from \$150 to \$600 per month. Although the doctor's six houses are usually rented he may know of others available in the vicinity.

DO-IT-YOURSELF SHAVES

Most barber shops (ta'ata pa'oti rouru) are hole-in-the-walls, with the family living in the back of thin partitions. Concrete floors, plain plank walls and ceiling. Only decorations are Chinese calendar art (not a Jayne Mansfield in the lot). One washbasin. The water runs in it all the time. Same hot towel (room temperature, which is pretty hot - come to think of it) is used on all customers. The Chinese barber throws it back in the basin after every use. Old-fashioned barber chairs and rattly electric hair trimmers, vintage of 1930. The Chinese barber cuts hair one way ----- off!

PRICES: Haircut 40 francs. Children's hair cuts 30 francs. Barber shave 25 francs. Do-it-yourself shave 15 francs. The barber shop furnishes the soap, brush, safety razor, blade and mirror. You shave yo urself. I don't know whether there's an extra charge for use of the community "hot towel" or not. Actually you can get a good haircut in at least one barber shop. Try Achille's at 310 Rue Paul Gauguin. Tel. 514. He's from Paris. Recommended.

CINEMA

Ever wonder what happens to old movie features when they've had their re-runs on TV? They wind up down here. There are three movie houses in Papeete, several scattered around the island. Cine Bambou is located on Rue Colette and is a barn-like place trimmed in bamboo. Very orderly except when a western is showing and then all hell breaks loose. The Tahitians love an action-packed horse opy and there's standing room only when one is shown.

A Hollywood producer of westerns once brought down a feature-length of film made up of nothing but gun fight scenes snipped out of his many westerns. No semblance of story. This was the biggest hit ever to play Papeete. Ran for months until it was worn out. The audience screamed with delight from beginning to end. They still talk about it. The Polynesian native may be a picture of peaceful contentment under a coco palm but in a movie theatre he's a tiger! I shudder to think of the day TV hits Papeete. You won't be able to get a native out of his shack when that parade of westerns starts pouring out of the glass monster.

Admission prices to Bambou Theatre - 60¢ for main floor seats and 45¢ for gallery seats... wooden benches.

During the intermission, American and French phonograph records are played over the PA system. They also run one minute film commercials....in English! Last night there was one for Papermate pens. As there were only two Americans in the place I don't think Mr. Papermate got a very deep penetration.

Other cinemas in Papeete are the Rex and the Moderne. French, Italian and American films are shown. This week - "My Man Godfrey" with William Powell. It really shakes you to see Bill emoting in French. No English titles.

Marlon Brando didn't make the splash you'd expect in Papeete because, after all, his first picture probably hasn't played here yet.

If you want to see the wildest audience reaction in the world, put on a catcher's mask and shin-guards and go to a movie on an outer island. When they run an action picture in one of these "cinema palaces" there's more action in the audience than on the screen. If the paying customers don't like the picture, or the way the hero parts his hair, the theatre owner finds out the hard way. His place is a shambles. As the place is a shambles to start with, it isn't as bad as it sounds.

Cine Bambou and Theatre Moderne now boast Cinemascope and Vistavision.

PHONOGRAPH RECORD

Many excellent discs recorded in Papeete. There is recording equipment here that equals any in the United States. Best source for Tahitian-recorded records: Sincere Store, Sylvains, Librairie du Sagittaire, Photo-Tahiti, Mareva Records (P.O. Box 160, Papeete), or Maison Au Aurore, P.O. Box 189, Papeete.

MUSEUM

Open from 1:30 to 5:30 daily except Sunday and Monday. A most interesting collection of Marquesan relics and handicrafts, stone tikis, etc.

WHAT TO WEAR IN TAHITI

MEN: Sportshirts and shorts or slacks in the daytime. Slacks and sportshirt at night. On cool evenings in the winter (our summer) you may need a light sweater although during July and August I wore a sweater only once. Sandals are a favorite footwear. Bring along, or buy here, a pair of bathing or tennis shoes. The coral is jagged and a coral cut doesn't heal easily.

Sunglasses are a must down here. Also suntan lotion. Even the natives put it on. They can't for the life of them understand why tourists stretch out in the sun trying to darken up while they seek out the shade trying to bleach out.

A light plastic raincoat will prove useful in the rainy season. You can buy one here. As a matter of fact, you can buy almost anything you'll ever want in Papeete. Swim trunks, sport shirts, slacks, underwear, socks, etc. A hand-blocked Tahitian design sport short will cost you \$2.24 to \$4.50. A custom made sport shirt will run you around \$4.50 to \$5.75.

Shoes, thongs and sandals are sold in the Bata store next to the Vaima Cafe.

GALS: Strictly informal. Cotton or light washable clothes are worn the year round. A sweater or light jacket is all that will be needed even on the chilliest evenings. An informal cocktail dress will prove useful. Unless you attend a civic function, you will never need an evening dress. After all, who are you going to impress at Quinn's?

Sandals or flat shoes for daytime wear. High-heeled slippers for dress up. If you feel like skipping over the coral in the lagoon be sure to wear tennis or bathing shoes. Stone fish are quite stupid. They'll sting a good looking girl as quickly as an ugly man.

Many stores where you can buy ready made or custom dresses, blouses, skirts, etc.

YOU DRIPPED SUCKLING PIG ALL OVER YOUR SPORT SHIRT? YOU WANT TO KNOW A GOOD LAUNDRY IN PAPEETE?

Sorry, no speak English. Unless you have a Tahitian maid, your laundry will be done in a Chinese laundry. They are especially rough on zippers and buttons. Fast service - if it doesn't rain. Clothes are dried in the sun, and if it rains, you wait...and wait...and wait. Ask for starch and your shirt comes back looking like a surf board.

Jacques Chapelle has a new dry-cleaning plant that's first-rate.

RENTAL CARS IN TAHITI

It may surprise you, but you can rent brand new cars in Tahiti for about the same price as in the United States. Biggest car rental agency is Hertz-Rent-a-Car operated by an American, Dave Cave, resident of Papeete for over 16 years. Dave will keep your car in perfect shape. Highly recommended. Hertz-System, Inc., licensee. Rue des Remparts near Ave. Prince Hinoi. Tel. 471. P.O. Box 582. Cable HERTZCARS, Papeete.

Hertz cars are also available on the island of Raiatea. Dave rents Dauphines, Versailles, DeSotos, Fords, Peugeot sedans and station wagons. He has provided cars and trucks for motion picture companies on location here including Cinerama, MGM, Allied Artists, 20th Century Fox, J. Arthur Rank, Mirisch Productions, and the National Geographic Society.

AVIS RENT A CAR SYSTEM: Rue Paul Gauguin corner Rue du Marche. Tel. 491. Cable address; AVIS, Papeete. Owned by Paulette Vienot who also runs her own travel agency. Paulette rents Citroens, Dauphines, Simcas, and Floride Convertibles. Manager is Max Provost.

GREGORY RENT A CAR: Rue du General de Gaulle, corner Rue Brea. Tel. 735. Gregory specializes in new Fiats, scooters and bikes. He can also rent you a bungalow complete with kitchen and bathroom in Punaauia, 9 miles from Papeete. Businessmen in Papeete, you will find, are very versatile.

ROBERT RENT A CAR: Rue du General de Gaulle and Rue Dr. Cassiau. Tel. 720. P.O. Box 232. Robert Tching, the proprietor rents Fiat and Vespas. He also has a good list of rental houses.

NATIONAL CAR RENTALS: On Rue Perotte. P.O. Box 344. Tel. 649. The manager-owner C. Provost can rent you a Dauphine Renault, a Floride convertible, a Simca Arondes or a Arcares.

CAR RENTAL RATES

Summer season (Summer season here runs from Sept. 1st to June 15th)

<u>Latest model Renault Dauphines</u>	1 day \$9.20	Weekly \$6.90	Monthly \$6.32 plus 8¢ per km.
<u>Citroen 2CV</u>	1 day \$8.05	Weekly \$5.75	Monthly \$5.17 plus 6¢ per km.
<u>Simca Ariane</u>	1 day \$10.35	Weekly \$8.05	Monthly \$7.47 plus 10¢ per km.

Floride convertible 1 day \$11.50 Weekly \$9.19 Monthly \$8.62 Plus 10¢ per km.

The above rates include gas, oil, maintenance, proper insurance, and maps. On monthly rentals mileage rates are reduced 50% but gas and oil are not included.

Winter Rates (June 15 - August 15th) are slightly higher than summer rates. Example: Dauphine weekly rate is \$7.47 per day instead of \$6.90.

GASOLINE IN TAHITI: Standard Oil Chevron. Costs over 12¢ a litre. One gallon = 4.54 litres. Station Venus on Rue Venus stays open until midnight. One other station remains open all night or on Sunday. They take turns.

HINTS ON DRIVING IN TAHITI

Drive on the right side.

Don't park your car under a coconut tree. A falling nut can put a big dent in your car -- or your head.

Be careful of wearing dark glasses while driving. Shadows here are jet black and children, pigs, chickens and sleeping dogs along the road are hard to see in the shadows.

It is now illegal to toot your horn except in an emergency but I would still sneak a beep on bad curves. A weaving, overloaded le truck packed solid with natives, furniture, coconuts, bananas, fish, bedding, canoes and dogs and pigs may be charging down on you around that bend and unless the bus driver hears that horn, you may wind up with a pig draped around your neckor the bus driver.

I was raised on the freeways of Southern California, but I've never had the hair-raising experience I got the first day I rented a Dauphine from Dave and turned the wrong way into a one-way street at 11 A.M. just as the entire population of Papeete was heading home for the daily three hour siesta. It was like stirring up a nest of angry ants. It was a nightmare of popping, tooting, angry scooters, motorbikes, buses, taxis and pain bicycles. Safely up on the sidewalk my little Dauphine and I watched the mad parade speed by. Five minutes later you could shoot an Atlas missile down the main street and the only thing you'd hit would be another tourist... or a scooter pilot with a flat tire.

When they say siesta in Tahiti, they mean siesta. But to the Chinese merchants who remain open it only means one more chance to rake in a few more francs while the opposition snoozes. When the Chinese sleep I have no idea. The only thing I can figure is they sleep standing up.

PRICE LIST--VESPA SCOOTER

The only vehicle that sends more riders to emergency hospitals for leg-setting than the ski slopes at Sun Valley are the scooters in Tahiti. The doctors of Papeete, I am convinced, introduced scooters to the island. Why not? It keeps their waiting room filled the year round.

Scooters are the favorite means of transportation for French sailors and their vahine friends. A Vespa scooter to a vahine is like a Chinchilla coat to an American girl....and a lot more practical in this climate.

GREGORY YET SING: Rue Bonnard near the market. Phone 632. New model scooters \$4.52 per day. One week \$20.24. Two weeks \$36.16. Monthly \$62.

BIKES, MOTORBIKES AND SCOOTERS

Atelier Robert: Rue du General de Gaulle and Rue Dr. Cassiau. P.O. Box 232.

Solex motorbikes \$2.25 per day. 1 week \$7.90. (A Solex motorbike is a bicycle with a small motor on its front wheel. Scooters rent for \$17 weekly or \$4.52 per day. \$6.80 for 2 days. Plain bikes \$2.52 per week.

Make sure any bike you rent is a new one or in good working condition. The old bikes have a nasty habit of continually throwing their chains, especially when you are at the other end of the island and it's raining. The sidewalks of Papeete are jammed with bicycles. You have to walk out in the street to get around them. As a matter of fact, like Los Angeles, parking is getting to be the big problem in downtown Papeete.

PUTT-PUTTS IN THE CORAL GARDENS

Outboard motors have made their appearance here. Used on outriggers as well as speedboats. Very often you will see an outboard-powered outrigger towing five or six other pirogues around the lagoon. Not very picturesque, but a lot easier on the arm muscles say the tanes.

TAXIS

Taxis display white cards on their windshields indicating the tariff. There are no cruising cabs. Rates run about 27¢ per mile or about \$4.75 per hour. These fares double from midnight to 6 a.m. Your hotel desk will call a cab for you. If you get a good English speaking driver get his card and latch on to him.....he's valuable. Be sure to check all prices of destinations beyond Papeete before departure or proceed at your own peril. Sample taxi fares: FAAA airport to Papeete - \$2.50. To Taaone Hotel - \$1.25. To Taravao, at the other end of the island, about \$17. Tour of the island - approximately \$19 to \$20. Papeete to Pointe Venus - \$4.50. Approximately same fare from Papeete to Fare Rau Ape and Pamatai scenic view points. Note: Taxis operated by native drivers are not insured.

LE TRUCKS..THE SPORTING WAY TO TRAVEL

Le trucks (buses) go clear round the island for approximately \$1.50. Bus drivers also act as shoppers and delivery boys. They will shop for you in town and bring back anything from a box of aspirin to a block of ice. Be sure you aren't at the end of the line for the ice. It's a long hot trip and that hunk of ice is mighty tempting to the thirsty riders. You may wind up with a small ice cube.

CHARTER LAUNCHES

Two fast launches (6 to 8 passengers each) are available for trips to Moorea. They cut crossing time to 1 1/2 hours. Cost: \$50 - \$60 per trip.

PERSONAL DRIVERS

There are several excellent drivers in Papeete. Example: Dave Cave has a Reliable number-one English-speaking chauffeur named Georges Spitz. Georges is a one-man tourist bureau, a good driver-guide, a caterer, a companion. His calling card tells the story" SEE GEORGES

AND LET GEORGES DO IT. BEST DRIVER-GUIDE IN THE ISLANDS. ENGLISH SPOKEN. SPECIALIST FOR PRIVATE TOURS, FURNISHED BUNGALOWS, HOTEL RESERVATIONS, U-DRIVE CARS, COMPANION-GUIDE, GEORGES WILL TAKE YOU ON NIGHT CLUB TOUR, ARRANGE FISHING TRIPS AND EVEN FEASTS. I'LL DO MY BEST. IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE." And with Georges, that's possible.

TAHITI DANCE LESSONS

If you have to learn the Arthur Murray way with a paid instructor, try Madeleine Terorutua at 558 or Henri Lent at 922.

KIDDIES IN WONDERLAND

Many tourists bring their children to Papeete. I wouldn't hesitate to bring mine. With reasonable precautions, your child should be as healthy as at home. Water is pure and safe on Tahiti. Food is good. Doctors are available. Parents should be most cautious, however, about taking children to the more primitive islands. Dpn't press your luck. An attack of appendicitis on a remote atoll is not to be taken lightly.

There is plenty for children to do in the way of outdoor sports. There's fishing, swimming, skin-diving, hiking, horseback riding, tennis, water skiing, etc. Biggest complaint: there aren't enough other American children to play with. Plenty of Tahitian kids but some of their games may be a little advanced for our children.

FRENCH MEASUREMENTS

1 kilometer = .621 miles or 5/8ths of a mile. 3280 feet.
5 kilometers = 3.107 miles.
1 mile = 1.609 km.

1 litre = 1.76 pints or 0.88 qt.
1 quart = 1.136 litres
1 gallon = 4.54 litres

1 gr. = .035 ounces
1 cm. = .39 inches.

1 kilogram = 2.20 lbs.
1 meter = 3.28 ft. or 1.09 yds
(39.37 in.)

1 square meter = 10.6 ft. (approx.)
1 hectare = 2.46 acres or 10,000 square meters.

TALK TALK

French and Tahitian are the two languages spoken here. Some shopkeepers speak English but a pocket-size French dictionary will come in handy. There is a good dictionary compiled by Leonard Clairmont, a Hollywood cameraman who has spent much time here. It is published by Edward Dew, 3855 Rhodes Ave., North Hollywood, California. It is illustrated with some of Clairmont's excellent photographs and sells for \$1.00. Newest Tahitian grammar is Martial Iorss' "La Tahitien a la Portee de Tous." Iorss lives on Rue Commandant Destremau, in Papeete. T.A.I. has a wonderful little dictionary called "Learn to Speak Tahitian Like a Native." It's free for the asking. Ask at any Air France office. Sample: I love you. Here vau ia oe (heh-reh vow ee-ah oh-ch) Maybe you just better kiss her instead. That's just plain "apa." There's one word in the TAI dictionary I don't understand at all. Under "public life in town and port" is listed the word "pereo'o auahi" which means "train." This world is awfully hard to work into a conversation here as the nearest train is in Fiji.

Note: If you're from Omaha, better say you're from Lincoln. "omaha" in Tahitian means "urinate."

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Radio telephone service to the United States will cost you about \$12 for three minutes. There is also direct radio telephone service to Canada, France, England, Mexico, etc.

There is a local phone service on Tahiti and Moorea but I found I could sometimes get a little faster service by hopping a motorbike and riding over and answering myself. Phone books are guarded like black pearls. If you are going to stay here any length of time you will probably want a phone installed. The charge is around \$22.

RADIOGRAMS

40 francs per word from Tahiti to San Francisco. Very fast service. Ask at the postoffice.

MARINE RADIO

Papeete maintains radio watch for small craft on 2182 kc/s during designated hours. Weather reports are given on 7125 kc/s at 0510 and 2315 GMT.

TIME ZONE

GMT 10. Same as Honolulu. Two hours earlier than Pacific Standard Time. 5 hours earlier than Eastern Standard Time.

RADIO PROGRAMS

Only radio station is "Radio-Tahiti" - a short wave station (6135 k/c). It is on the air only 4 hours daily. 11.45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Radio Tahiti is located at 410 Rue Dumont d'Urville. Program-wise it is not a very lively station.

CLIMATE AND HEALTH

Climate in Tahiti is for the most part delightfully subtropical. It is air-conditioned with refreshing breezes from the sea by day and cool breezes from the mountains by night. The humidity is rather high - averaging 78%. The cool dry season is March through November when temperatures vary between 64 and 76 degrees. It seldom goes over 93 even in January, the hottest month. July is supposed to be the driest month of all, and yet last year it rained four days straight. It was explained away as "California weather." I had no answer for that one. Rain falls mostly at night and when it rains - it falls in sheets. Average rainfall in Papeete is 72 inches. Much higher at the other end of the island. Sunshine at least 250 days per year.

There are very few hot nights in the winter season. You will find yourself reaching for a blanket instead of a fan.

There is no typhoid, cholera, malaria, yellow fever, amoebiasis, typhus. I can't even walk across the border of some countries without getting a touch of dysentery, but down here I've never had a trace of the malady that ruins so many vacations elsewhere. The drinking water is crystal clear spring water and is piped completely around the island. What's more - it's free! No excuse to drink beer down here instead of water for "health reasons."

No dangerous or venomous land creatures. No snakes of any kind. In the lagoon and reefs there are moray eels who won't bother you if you don't bother them. They hide in the coral and

are very happy to keep away from you. Sharks are very seldom seen inside the lagoon.

Wear bathing shoes or sneakers to avoid the coral cuts. Only other real danger is the hohu, or "stone fish." It is a bottom fish about one foot in size with dorsal spines two inches high. The stone fish hides on the bottom in shallow water and like a chameleon, changes its colors to match the background. Wear sneakers and you won't have any trouble from these rarely seen pests. If you should get a wound, immediately apply turpentine or a good antiseptic and get to a doctor in a hurry.

These cautionary paragraphs sound much more frightening to read than they really are. Imagine how a Tahitian would react in California if you were telling him to be careful about opening the garage door because there were spiders in there that could kill him? After all, a black widow spider would sound horrifying to a native who keeps giant spiders as pets to kill other insects.

Good insect repellent is "612" which can be purchased at any drug store.

STETHOSCOPES WITH A HULA BEAT

There are nine or ten doctors in private practice in Papeete. One hospital. Most of the medics were trained in Paris. Office visit costs about \$4.50. There is an excellent doctor in an office above the Manava Snack Bar - Dr. Georges C. Thooris. Tel. 425. Dr. Thooris is a graduate of the University of Paris and for five years was an associate professor at UCLA in Los Angeles.

Other doctors: Andre Tourneux. Tel. 187.

Dr. Charles Huck. Tel. 314

Dr. Alain Bouvier. Tel. 394.

Dr. Charles Wurfel. Tel. 156.

The hospital is located across the street from the Grand Hotel. It has a surgical ward, a TB ward, general hospital wards and a new ears, eyes and throat ward. The hospital staff consists of eight doctors and eighty five nurses. A new modern hospital will be built outside of Papeete in the near future. It will be the tallest building in French Polynesia, they say. (5 floors)

Head surgeon of the hospital (hopital) is the well known and respected Dr. Jacques l'Hoiry. Dr. G. Maurin is head of the Government Health Service. There are government hospitals at Taravao and Uturoa and infirmaries on many of the outer islands.

Filariasis (elephantiasis) is very rare these days. Of little worry to the tourist. Long-time residents have a semi-annual checkup and if any bacteria are found in the system, a return to a temperate climate and a mild treatment will usually kill the filariasis. The disease is carried by day-flying mosquitoes who breed in the holes of rats and land crabs. A concentrated spray program has reduced the mosquito count tremendously. The Institute of Research for Tropical Diseases founded in 1949 for the purpose of eliminating filaria has waged such a successful campaign it has almost worked itself out of a job. Today, the institute is engaged in research in endemic diseases and rural public health. Representatives from the University of California are on the consulting staff of the Institute.

PENICILLIN IN PARADISE

Everything from anacin to the latest wonder drugs can be purchased at any of Papeete's three modern drug stores. Unlike American drug stores, these pharmacies are strictly just that. No automobile tires, Japanese radios, beach balls, outboard motors. Not even a lunch counter. And don't wait for Blue Chip stamps either. One drug store remains open Sundays. They take turns.

Pharmacie Centrale (owner, H. Jacquier.) Rue Paul Gauguin. Phone 69.
Pharmacie Moderne (owner, A. Juvin) Rue du Marche. Tel. 224.
Pharmacie Faugerat-Lynch (owner, Mme. Lynch) Rue Colette. Tel. 277.

BRIDGE WORK OVER THE LAGOON

Dentists are available in Papeete but to play it safe, have your teeth checked before you leave home. Your tricky Beverly Hills bridgework might confuse a local dentist. Two dentists I have heard recommended are Dr. L. Lavigne, Tel. 263 and H. Simonet, Ave. Rue Brea.

THE PUBLIC MARKET (Farmer's Market with balloons)

One of the really colorful sights in Papeete is the Public Market on Sunday morning. Located near the waterfront between Rue Bonnard and Rue du Septembre, this huge building is the scene of Papeete's biggest mob scene each morning beginning at 4 a.m. Natives come from all over the island to buy their vegetables, fish, meat, poultry, fruit and cut flowers. (You'll hear the shoppers whizzing by your hotel on motorbikes at the crack of dawn.) By 7 a.m. nearly everything is gone. Get there about daylight for the real action. It's a pageant of milling Tahitians, motor bikes, scooters, trucks and buses. Some natives go directly to the market from Tahiti's late night spot, Lafayette. They're still wearing their courounnes (head leis) and are carrying gorgeous hangovers. The trucks come and go in the narrow streets alongside the market. The buses are piled high with coconuts, baskets of a fruit, live pigs and chickens, strings of fish, vegetables, bunches of bananas, taro roots, and people. Men and women are packed into the wooden benches like sardines.

Sometimes a bus is so loaded the driver can't even get it started. Then some of the passengers climb off and help push it through the street for a running start. No push -- no ride.

Inside the market there are acres of stalls displaying papayas, grapefruit, oranges, taro root, yams, spinach, tomatoes, breadfruit, cut flowers, passion-fruit (don't know what they need that for), and yellow and red-meated watermelons. At the entrance to the market a vendor displays his sliced watermelon in a glass case. Every once in awhile he reaches inside and helps himself to a slice. He's like a thirsty bartender - his own best customer.

At about 10 a.m. the market is hosed out and made ready for tomorrow's stampede. Believe it or not, this open-sided market is kept cleaner than most of our wholesale produce centers in the States.

OKAY! SO YOU BROUGHT 10 ROLLS OF KODACHROME AND YOU WANT TO BURN IT UPRIGHT UP?

First tip: Don't forget to take off your lens cap.

Color tip: You are going to encounter two real trouble makers in color photography in the South Seas. One is the uncontrollable contrasts between brilliant sunshine and deep black shade. Two: The blue cast which occurs when you take color pictures in the shade, when the only light source is the blue sky. Around noon the blue cast is at its worst. However, don't be afraid to risk color shots in the shade but do try to have some dominant warm color like yellow, red and orange in the foreground. Use a skylight filter to help cut down the excess blue. Don't hesitate to shoot color during a rainstorm. If you have some warm colors in the frame you may turn up with some of the most striking shots of the trip.

BEST PHOTO STORES:

SYLVAN'S: Next door to the Vaima Cafe. Sylvan is one of Tahiti's best photographers. He has a wonderful collection of Kodachrome slides of Tahitian lovelies that will make your home audience sit up with a start. There'll be no sleeping at your slide show. 30 slides \$5.50.

Sylvan also has an excellent assortment of black and white and color postcards. Black and white cards - 10¢. Color cards - 12 to 15¢. Tahitian-recorded LP's sell for around \$5.50 per album.

Black and white and Ektachrome processing is very good. No Kodachrome processing in French Polynesia. Black and white film made in France is sold here.

MACKENZIE'S PHOTO STORES: A portrait studio at Avenue Prince Hinoi and a photo shop at 310 Rue du Commerce. Tel. 618. Outstanding collection of black and white and color postcards and slides. Good black and white and Ektachrome processing. Mackenzie's was founded by a former Hollywood cameraman. He died a couple of years ago in Papeete.

SOU NAM Rue Edouard Ahne, next to the brewery. Films, photographic supplies, postcards, black and white and color processing.

PHOTO-TAHITI 14 Rue Jeanne D'Arc. Tel: 734. Agents for Leica, Canon, Minolta, etc. Postcards, black and white and color processing.

SEX REARS ITS PRETTY HEAD IN PAPEETE

The Tahitian vahine has been variously described as beautiful, mystic, colorful, with a child-like innocence, an unabashed approach to sex, a fondness for a good time, no matter what the cost, a lover of night life, a perfect mother, a pillar of cleanliness, a girl who can snatch a husband from his paleface wife with the raise of an eyebrow, a sex-wagon, a modest, shy maiden. There are a lot of contrasts contained in that last sentence, but the vahine of Papeete is a complex girl. She may share a man's bed tonight but refuse to pose for pictures the next morning because, to model, even fully clothed is considered by many as being undignified. And to pose in the nude? You would be surprised how difficult it is for a professional photographer with a fat pocketbook to get a Tahitian vahine to pose coyly in a mountain stream sans bra. Officials of the Tahiti Beauty Contest have a hard time persuading enough girls to enter the pageant to make it interesting. There were so few girls entered one year, a 28 year old vahine won the event "hands down" and 28 in Papeete is considered "over the hill."

In spite of all you've read, not all Tahitian "town girls" are beautiful. She may have a pretty face until she smiles and reveals a mouth full of missing teeth. She may have long shiny black hair down to her waist but sport a pair of legs better suited to a Baby Grand. Her skin may be golden brown, flawless down to her bare feet - size twelve - with callouses. (Disillusioned playboys report it is rather unromantic to watch the girls trim off the callouses with their razor blades.)

Because Tahiti has been described as a Garden of Eden doesn't mean there aren't a few sour apples around. Venereal disease was brought in by the early explorers and although every effort has been made to stamp it out, it's still around.....especially gonorrhea.

Strangely enough, the "town girl" or "Quinn girl" isn't hired by the saloon as a "B" girl. She works no percentage, doesn't try to hustle a man into champagne at \$5 a bottle instead of beer at 35¢. As a matter of fact, if she happens to take a liking to you, she will protect you from being overcharged for leis, drinks, souvenirs, etc. Perhaps she wants to save every nickel for herself because she has no hesitancy in going through a man's pockets to see how much he has on him before she coos in his ear: "Baby, could you let me have a couple of hundred francs for a pair of shoes or taxi fare or whatever. She will call all her friends to your table and where you started out the evening as a cozy little twosome, you may wind up four hours later at the Lafayette with sixteen people and they are all your guests. You go dizzy trying to keep up with the parade of friends, "cousins", and "nieces," but you do meet some interesting characters. There are girls in blue jeans, capri pants, pareus, print dresses, slacks. Some are fat, some thin, some light colored, some very dark, some breathtakingly beautiful, some downright homely, some soft and gentle, some as hard as nails who would as soon pull the hair out of the girl sitting next to her as file her nails. Whatever her size, weight, looks, the Tahitian vahine has that mysterious "something" that's entranced men for centuries. These "town girls" are hard to figure out. They are not exactly prostitutes and yet they seem very available...if they feel in the mood. A man may wine and dine a girl at the Vaima, Bar Lea, Quinn's, and on out to Lafayette only to have the vahine say "goodnight" and mean it. Or a man may go with a girl one place, feel he's getting nowhere, only to have her suddenly say "I go home with you now" (or the same thought expressed in four letter words that make even the hardest playboy wince.)

If a vahine feels like going to a movie tonight instead of Quinn's, that's where she is going -- with or without you.

Yes, the "town girl" is hard to figure out. Most men don't try. The Tahitian vahine craves affection like a child. Sometimes she gives it back - sometimes not. A man may think he's number one in her heart but while he's kissing her she's making eyes at the man at the next table. She may cry a tearful farewell at the airport and drive back to town with her next date five minutes later. The town girl has one motto - "Live it up -- and live it up good!"

Some girls have worked up a clever routine of "accepting" presents. One vahine always manages to steer her current boyfriend past a certain shop window displaying a gold bracelet. She looks longingly. He melts. She is "eternally grateful." The day the playboy leaves the island - plop goes the bracelet back in the window, and the vahine walks out with her fist full of francs, her amateur standing still intact. This particular bracelet has been in and out of that window so many times the gold plate is wearing thin.

Another girl works on only one "gift." - a down payment on a Vespa scooter. In the past six months she has "accepted" enough down payments to start a motorcycle club.

In World War II GI's found chocolate bars did wonders in making friends with the German girls. Down here achocolate bars will only get your pockets sticky. The gift that really puts a Romeo in solid is to present his vahine with a new dental bridge. Smart men-of-the-world leave their Hershey bars at home and cultivate a good cut-rate dentist in Papeete. (And don't be mean and take the bridge away when you leave.)

I have always believed the story that a flower over a Tahitian girl's ear means she's "available" or "taken" -- I could never remember which was which. This, I am sorry to relate, seems to be the figment of a travel writer's imagination. A girl can have a flower over each ear, and between her teeth and still be available. It has no significance.

The town girl has her tender side, too. Some college students sailed into Papeete harbor on a small schooner. They met three Quinn girls, lived it up gaily for two weeks. Suddenly, their money ran out. The boys were stone broke. This is usually the spot where the "party girl" walks out on her boy friend for a man better heeled. But not these vahines. They took over the house-keeping, cooking and procurement of food for all six. They begged and borrowed provisions from friends at Quinn's and Bar Lea and watched over the welfare of the youths like mothers. They expected no reward. They were willing to help spend it while it was available, but when it wasn't, they pitched in and helped just as enthusiastically.

The most fun-loving girl on the waterfront has a soft spot for children. Probably has two or three of her own. A married couple tied up along the Quai in their little schooner a few months ago. They brought along their young son. Two Quinn girls adopted the child, baby-sat spoiled the boy beyond redemption, and acted more like two average doting mothers than dance hall girls out of the most famous saloon in the South Seas.

Odd part is that in ancient times, children were killed without remorse when food supplies were short. Old people were disposed of by the simple means of tossing them into open pits to starve.

Tales of the gifts given Papeete vahines by their boy friends have spread all over the archipelago and with more and more tourist money pouring into Papeete each week, more and more Polynesian mothers have permitted their daughters to go to Papeete and help share in the wealth. Some may have even helped push them up the gangways.

GREAT PLACE FOR MEN

BUT IS THERE ANYTHING FOR WOMEN TO DO IN TAHITI?

Plenty! It's not as one--sided an arrangement as it might sound. After you have chained your husband or boyfriend to a coconut tree, you will find plenty to do on your own. The shops at first glance look drab, quaint and uninspiring, but inside you will find many excellent buys in French perfumes, tissues (dress materials), French purses, jewelry, curios, straw hats, bags, dresses, skirts, crystal statues, blouses, tikis, totems, and paintings. Still griped because your husband glanced too long at that vahine in the tight fitting white capri pants? You can take it out on his pocketbook by ordering yourself a custommade Tahitian print dress at Tahiti Arts or a quart bottle of Joy perfume at Chic's.

You can hire a native guide through a travel agent and learn to skin dive, paddle an outrigger, fish, spear fresh water shrimp, or hike. Crave a little action? There's water skiing in the lagoon and a good looking ski instructor to show you the ropes...the ski ropes, that is. In looks some of these Polynesian tanes can make a Hawaiian beach-boy run for cover. Sports down here haven't been organized like at Waikiki, though. It's all a brand new thing to Papeete.

If you are a camera fan, you'll go out of your mind taking color pictures. Feel lazy? Slip on a bikini and head for the lagoon and paddle around in the warm, tropical water. If you want to just sit around and relax, how about an acacia-shaded table on the sidewalk in front of the Vaima Cafe on the waterfront? Here you can order yourself a cocktail or a bottle of Hianano beer and watch the Polynesian world go by. Vaima is the meeting place, the date-making headquarters of Papeete. Maybe you feel nautical. You can wander across the street and along the waterfront, past the schooners and yachts tied up, and maybe you'll be invited aboard for a drink or at least to look the boat over.

It used to be that at the native dances, the vahines would drag up the husbands, and while wives burned, do the fast Tahitian hula with the beaming males. That's all been changed. Now when the vahine dancers go out in the audience to bring up the male tourists, the male dancers go out, too, and bring up the unprotesting wives. Good deal, girls. You are more apt to see a Tahitian male who resembles Marlon Brando than a vahine who looks like Jayne Mansfield. As a matter of fact, if you had been here during 1960 and the first six months of 1961, you would have seen a tane who not only looked like Marlon Brando - it was. He was here making "Mutiny on the Bounty" for MGM. Tahiti in the past two years has looked more like Hollywood and Vine than Hollywood and Vine does.

Since 1960 there have been 2 Italian film companies, one English and several American TV companies. It's been a parade of cameras and technicians, with one eye on the action on the set, the other coked open for tonight's playmate.

Two girl tourists, or a group of girls, with a native guide can really live it up on a tour of the night clubs. It's a kick if you only watch. If a man asks a girl to dance she can turn him down with no hard feelings, or if she feels in the mood, she can be kept hopping all night. Blondes should wear an electric barbed wire fence around themselves. Bondes in Papeete are catnip. Even the local vahines are beginning to touch up their jet black hair. Some have even gone the whole peroxide bit. A Tahitian cab driver would give his cab for a date with a blonde... but girls, what would you do with a Tahitian taxi cab in Sioux City?

There are several beauty shops in town. Recommended: Veronique and the Achille. Sample price: \$2.25 for a hairset.

PAPEETE NIGHT LIFE IN FIVE UNEASY STEPS

A night on the town in Papeete isn't quite as simple as in the USA. It's more like a progressive party. You start out early at Vaima, wander on down the street to Quinn's, then on to Bar Lea or Au Col Bleu, and finally along about midnight, you drive seven kilometers out in the country to the closing spot - Lafayette. So--if you took your siesta this afternoon like you should have - let's go!

VAIMA CAFE: A little touch of Parea in Papeete. Favorite gathering place of the island. Vaima is open all day and until 11 at night. The Vaima has two bars. The one in front serves the 20 or 30 tables in the main section and the 10 or 12 tables on the sidewalk. This latter bit of the Vaima is reminiscent, in a rough way, of the sidewalk cafes of Paris.

Here, at Vaima, under gaily colored umbrellas and at brilliant hued tables, you will see Quinn girls, government officials, town merchants, tourists, schoolgirls, "banana tourists", yachtsmen, French sailors, taxi drivers, store clerks, -- a cross-section of all Tahiti.

You may spot the girl who actually looks like you thought all the vahines would look - Nita Wanamaker, the Peruvian-Tahitian beauty who modeled for so many Matson ads. The bald-headed, bearded young man at the next table is Bengt Daniellson, the anthropologist of Kon-Tiki fame. He now lives in the Paea district east of Papeete.

Sitting outside under the lacy acacia trees you can watch the activity along the waterfront across the street, the boat to Moorea taking off (overloaded, as usual), a schooner arriving from the

States, the taxicabs lined up along the Quai, the endless parade of bikes, motorbikes, and scooters, and always in the distance, Moorea. Over to your right, is the wharf where the big ships tie up. Sometimes there are three or four huge liners crowding into the little pier like elephants under a small umbrella. The Vaima will be your favorite hangout during your stay. It's like watching an 18-hour newsreel in technicolor. Most people have dinner at Chez Chapiteau (best restaurant in town), and then go on to Quinn's about 9 P.M., Au Col Bleu or Bar Lea about 10 or 10:30 and then on out to Lafayette when it opens at midnight.

QUINN'S TAHITIAN HUT: Most famous of all Papeete night spots, Quinn's is a huge barn-like structure decorated with bamboo and pandanus thatch. Even the name Quinn's over the door is made of split bamboo. There are two sets of swinging doors, one on each side of the bar. All night long, vahines come in and out of these well-oiled swinging doors with equally well-oiled sailors. In back of the "U" shaped bar, on a raised platform, is the orchestra stand. They built it that way, it is said, to keep the musicians out of harm's way. The patron is not so lucky.

Along both walls are rows of booths each with its own battered wooden table and hard benches. The dance floor is surrounded by tables and chairs.

Some of the girls have long black hair down to their waist, others wear pigtailed or hair piled high on top of the head. There are vahines in bright colored pareus, dresses, capri pants (very big down here this year), blue jeans, skirts and blouses. You name it. You'll see it. Some girls are fat, some thin, some tall, some short. All come to Quinn's for just one thing - "Live it up!"

The girls, many of them wearing leis, all with flowers tucked over an ear, sit at tables around the dance floor waiting for a tane to make up his mind, raise an eyebrow or nod. Then, like a flash, the girl is on the dance floor cuddling up for a slow fox-trot or swinging wildly to rock and roll. If no prospect appears, two girls will get up and dance together. They aren't going to waste that good dance music. Strangely enough, I have seen two sailors get up and dance together, but usually Mother Nature works it all out and 99 out of a hundred times, it is a boy and girl who push out through those swinging doors into the night.

Quinn's orchestra, incidentally, is good. Our over-orchestrated dance bands could take lessons. The Tahitian's favorite dance are American swing and the twist. They also love rhumbas, slow fox-trots and even Polkas. (And Lawrence Welk hasn't even played here.) At the Governor's Ball, I couldn't believe my eyes. They were doing the Mexican Hat Dance!

Phonograph records are played during intermission. Quaint old native tunes like "Mack the Knife" and "Home on the Range." The latter is a sentimental love song down here. Sung with Tahitian words.

Over in the corner two of the "tougher" town girls start fighting over a French sailor. One vahine grabs the other by her long black hair and beats her head against the table like a basketball. While all this is going on, the French sailor goes out the front door with another girl. Ten minutes later the two battling girls were dancing together as though nothing had happened.

A sailor whispers into a vahine's ear, she laughs and they break away from the dance floor and push out through those ever-swinging front doors, hop aboard a Vespa scooter, and disappear into the pitch black darkness of a narrow side street. Other couples cross Bir Hakim and stroll along the waterfront exchanging greetings with members of the crews of the many schooners tied up along the Quai.

A Quinn girl (vintage of 1950), eases through the doors. Her dress isn't as neatly laundered as the other girls, her hair needs combing, no French sailors rush up to buss her on the cheek. Her only friends are the younger Quinn girls. They greet her warmly, (Maybe it's mother) and buy her a bottle of booze. Never have I seen a girl get tipsy so fast. In minutes she was wild-eyed and mean. She set her straw hat at a dangerous angle, her eyes were glazed and bleary. Choice Tahitian curses were drowned in the beats of the drums. She put her feet up on the bar and waved the now half-empty bottle recklessly. No one paid the slightest bit of attention to her except to move out of range. Two Quinn girls finally came up and carted the reeling vahine outside. 26 years old and washed-up.

We complain about a full ashtray on the table so the barmaid obligingly picks it up and dumps the contents on the floor.

Every once in awhile, the drums start a wicked beat and on a raised platform at the far end of the saloon, the curtains part and a nervous vahine does a fast Tahitian hula and disappears. You blink your eye - you've missed it.

A strange character sits down at the table next to us. He - or she - is dressed in a screaming colored dress, is heavily roughed, wears eight or ten shell necklaces, a huge bracelet on each arm,

and carries a big straw basket full of perfumes and an atomizer. He giggles with the vahines as he playfully sprays perfume on two embarrassed New Zealand sailors at the table. These MAHUS, as they are called here, are treated with good humor by the natives who seem to get a big kick out of them. It is said a 'Mahu' danced as a girl in a dance contest at last year's Fete... Loud giggles and laughter could be heard all over the stands. (The Tahitian sense of humor, incidentally, is on the coarse side. The "joke subtle" draws a blank reaction here.)

Although Quinn's is lively, boisterous and noisy, it is a pretty safe place to visit. It is well policed and I don't believe they've lost a tourist yet. I wouldn't hesitate to take my old aunt there, but I'm afraid she'd be so fascinated she'd want to stay all night.

A pregnant native girl walks slowly by the swinging doors, glances in enviously at her sisters living it up inside, sighs and walks on. Well--that's life--in Papeete.

BAR LEA!

Bar Lea is the Black Hole of Calcutta when you first walk in but it's really one of the fun spots of Papeete. It's on an unlighted side street near Au Col Bleu. Very good five piece band with a great beat. Uninhibited dancing to put it mildly. Noisy! Boisterous! Outside there are carts and stands selling the tasty salt water cured peanuts packaged in old coke bottles. You can also buy drinking coconuts and candied sweets.

Every few minutes a jeep-load of gendarmes drive by, ever on the alert to "jump out swinging" if the festivities get a little out of hand.

Bar Lea is colorful, intimate, a real fun spot. Don't miss it. The vahines don't try to hustle you into a bottle of champagne and if you feel like nursing a bottle of beer all night the management couldn't care less.

It's amazing how many of the vahines don't drink hard liquor. Then there are others-----!

Cocktails are 60 francs, Whiskey is the same. Hinano is 30 francs, lemonade 10 francs, imported beer 50 francs. Featured drink is a bull shot. 50 francs.

AU COL BLEU:

On the Quai du Commerce, a couple of blocks below Quinn's and across the street from the wharves. Usually open only Saturday night or boat days. Closes at midnight. This huge barn looks like it should be on the Fox back lot. The big patio outside is

jammed with bikes, Solex motorbikes, Vespa scooters, and people --a tangle that isn't unraveled until midnight, when everyone rushes out at once, claims his or her vehicle, and mysteriously the whole mess dissolves in a bedlam of popping motors, screams of laughter, and tooting horns.

The non-payers are listening to the music piped to them over a PA system in the patio. There's no more room for anyone inside anyway. Packed like a subway train on a rainy afternoon. A New York fire inspector would drop dead at the first look.

Like at Quinn's the orchestra is on a raised platform back of the bar. The name of each musician and the instrument he plays is hand blocked on his sportshirt.

Very tall bar. Very short bartenders.

Au Col Bleu is made of rough boards. The tables are real heavy wood. Probably made that way to discourage playboys from throwing them at each other. There are cartoon murals painted on the walls. Remarkably innocent. Available vahines around the room. Not so innocent.

Over by the bar a drunk slowly slides to the floor. Patrons laughingly pour beer over his face. He mumbles and rolls over on his stomach. His pals carry him out feet first and deposit him under a nearby tree.

The dark streets outside are filled with vahines and French sailors walking arm in arm, shuttling between Col Bleu, Bar Lea and Quinn's.

Beer is 45¢. Cocktails 67¢. About 11:45 P.M. everyone gets ready for that mad dash to Lafayette for that "one for the road" that lasts three hours. The buses start up their wheezy motors and there's a sudden rush to the patio. Best for you to leave a little earlier. Drive leisurely up to Lafayette, sit by the door and watch the dramatic arrival. In all your life you've never seen anything like it.

LAST STOP----LAFAYETTE!

You are sitting in this open-sided, bamboo-decorated night club sipping another beer which you need like a hole in the head. It is midnight and there aren't more than four or five other customers in the place. It looks lonesome and forlorn. Then suddenly, a little after twelve, you hear motors in the distance, and through the front gate comes a procession of motor scooters, motorbikes, Dauphines, and sailors. Lafayette comes to life! The orchestra appears from nowhere and swings into action. The food stands on the front steps are crowded with hungry customers. The coke bottles filled with salted peanuts are dispensed at the bar. The

tables quickly fill up with the survivors of the Quinn's, Bar Lea and Au Col Bleu campaigns. Lafayette starts rocking. The drums beat, the dancing gets wilder and wilder. So do the patrons. Only the strong have weathered the evening this far. The weak have fallen by the wayside. They are still falling. Two of them just slipped to the floor. This slap-happy palace of swing gets noisier and noisier until it seems the bamboo must split down the middle. The fast Tahitian hula is even more uninhibited than at Bar Lea - if that is possible.

Herman Melville, author of "Typee" said of Tahitian dancing: "These girls dance all over, as it were, not only do their feet dance, but their arms, hands, fingers, eye, their very eyes often seem to dance in their heads. In good smooth, they so sway their floating forms, arch their necks, toss aloft their naked arms and glide and swim and whirl."

And at that time, Lafayette hadn't opened yet!

You may go home around 1:30 A.M. but these gay sailors and golden brown vahines are going to be here until they are swept out along about 3:30 A.M. You've had it. Go home to bed. Or, if you're the sturdy type, you can join the night owls who stay until the bitter end, then dash out for a swim in the lagoon before going down to the Public Market to do their morning shopping.

Incidentally, if you should go to the washroom at the Lafayette, you are in for a liberal education. It's outside, under the stars, a wall of running water and four little Chic Sales alongside. You pass one to get to the other. It's all coeducational. No one could care less.

With a touch of sadness I have to report that the Lafayette had its first dance marathon last year. Lasted three hours. At the end of the three hours, the dancers were still going strong but the judges had worn out. They just don't make judges like they used to.

NATIONAL FETE OF 14th of JULY

This wild celebration (a kind of sexy Disneyland), lasts anywhere from one to two weeks and starts on July 13th, the day before Bastille Day. Fete takes place in a five block area between the waterfront and the governor's residence. This section is called Les Baraques (the Barracks), and consists of hundreds of booths, concessions and dance halls made of bamboo and thatch put up solely for the carnival and torn down the day after. Saloons like Quinn's and Bar Lea close their regular places of business and open up in Les Barques.

The tempo of life in Papeete increases daily the week before Fete.

Buses arrive from the country loaded with fruit, mats, coconuts, pigs, dogs, chickens, out-rigger canoes, mattresses, bedclothing, and people. The natives are restless, the population of the island is on the move. The country cousins descend on their city cousins. The schools are thrown open and used as living quarters for the dance teams, canoe racers, and spear throwers. The school yards are full of clothes drying in the sun. Stores are crowded with natives buying new dresses and shirts. Pop is even getting fitted for a new pair of shoes. Ought to last him a long time. He'll only wear them Sundays and during Fete. Kiddie shops do a land-office business as Tahitian kids stay dressed up in their Sunday best for the entire event. They look as cute as China dolls.

Outrigger racers train in the harbor but their practice sessions don't last too long. The racing course is directly in front of Quinn's and there's a lot of drinking to do. The women racers are big and husky. A couple of cases of Metracal could be used very nicely by two of the contestants, a very beefy duo. The racing canoes, some 40 feet long, are stored in school yards near the Quai. After racing two miles at top speed, the poor athletes have to shoulder the heavy canoes and trudge six blocks through the blazing sun to the storage spots.

The night is filled with the beating of drums as the dancers and choral groups practice under the stars. It's exciting - like the night before the Big Game.

The beer factory is working overtime. Beer trucks keep unloading thousands of cases in front of Quinn's and Bar Lea. Fete takes over Papeete like the Mardi Gras paralyzes New Orleans. The bank and all government buildings close July 13th and don't reopen until the 18th. A few Chinese stores and one drug store remain open.

The first day of Fete everyone is gay and happy. The concessionaires are full of energy, their voices firm and strong. Hawkers selling chances on the wheels of chance drape themselves with some of the prizes (Tahitian prints and blankets) and dance continuously to the music of Tahitian hulas played over a PA system. Every once in awhile the hawker will hold up a pig by its hind legs to display to the crowd. This is the jackpot prize of them all - a live suckling pig for the tammaraa. Children are wide-eyed and cheerful. Mothers and gendarmes are beaming. Dancing in the saloons along the waterfront is wild and uninhibited.

Three days later, the streets are littered with watermelon rinds, head leis (couronne), gum wrappers, broken balloons, and spilled beer bottles. Decorations are faded and drooping, kids are cranky, mothers impatient. The gendarmes have acquired that "wish you'd all go home" look. The tanes are nursing colossal hangovers, the vahines are tired, bedraggled and unsmiling. All the natives

have spent their money. Orchestras are listless, dancers barely moving on the floor. It looks like the end of a dance marathon. And still the Fete goes on! Somehow by Saturday night the natives acquire a second wind and the place starts jumping again.

The Fete is the one event of the year a Tahitian really lives for. On July 12th last year, I stood on a sidewalk as a funeral procession passed. A native standing next to me was sobbing audibly, tears ran down his grief-struck face.

"You knew him? I asked.

"No," he replied, "I don't even know his name."

"Then why are you weeping?"

New tears welled up in his eyes as he replied, "Because tomorrow Fete starts and he'll miss it."

SAMPLE OF THE PROGRAM OF EVENTS OF THE NATIONAL FETE
OF 14th JULY

July 12th: A cannon broadside opens Fete officially at 6 P.M.
"Baraques" open until 3 A.M.

July 13th: Parade through the streets of dancers, choral groups, and athletes. All assemble later in front of the governor's residence where they perform. I waited 2 1/2 hours for this "parade" which consisted of one dance group, a few natives carrying bunches of bananas, all apparently suffering from hangovers and embarrassment. At 7 P.M. there was a torchlight parade through the streets of Papeete to the Town Hall. Very colorful. At 8:30 P.M. the dancing and singing contests began in an open air pavilion across from the postoffice. Spectators sat on bleachers on each side of the dance area. Multi-colored lights strung over-head gave the event a carnival air. Really wonderful exhibitions of exotic native dancing. The torch dances are spectacular. (The girls really have to keep their eyes open and step gingerly to keep the flames from their swaying grass skirts.) These skirts are made from the parua tree and are decorated with colorful shells and fibrous tassels. Each district or island features its own costume design. Prizes are awarded for costumes as well as dances. The costumes are put on sale after Fete for prices ranging from \$7 to \$35.

Musical instruments you will see at the Fete:

All kinds of drums (pahu peiei, pahu me'ae, pahu putuu, pahu olde, and pahu tapete)

Trumpets made of mio wood or shells.

Flutes played with the mouth and more rarely with the nose. Not many tanes can play the nose flute anymore. Sinus trouble, probably. (Too much smog from the scooters?)

Whistles are made of bamboo. There is even a bamboo Jew's Harp.

String instruments: Only native one is the utete; like the nose flutitis, almost extinct. Natives favor the guitar now.

In ancient times the contestants came from the outer islands in canoes and sailing outriggers. Now they come by steamer or plane. One year there was some squabble about expense money and the dance teams from Bora Bora didn't compete. (Do you suppose they have agents down here, too?)

July 14th: 7 A.M. Parade down Avenue Bruat of French troops, gendarmes, boy scouts, and sports clubs. At noon there was a 21 gun salute from the French cruiser in the harbor. The cruiser is very conveniently berthed about 50 feet from Quinn's.

At 9:30 P.M. the big social event of the year - the Governor's Ball. 500 francs for a table seating four. Drinks extra. Many brought their own bottles and hid them under the table which was a pretty good trick as the tables had no tablecloth. Music was furnished by Quinn's Tahitian Hut orchestra. Dance exhibitions were held between dances. A wild and wonderful evening under the stars. Party breaks up around 6 A.M.

A white dinner jacket is recommended but not necessary, for men. A short evening gown or cocktail dress with wrap, for vahines.

July 15th: Spear throwing contest. Natives throw spears at a tiny round target suspended on a pole 75 feet in the air. You may have seen this even in Cinerama. The judges whooped it up a little too much the night before and didn't show up. The athletes got sore arms without benefit of prizes. They weren't happy. Had to do it all over again Monday. Many refused to wear the traditional pareus and competed in T shirts and GI pants.

At 4 p.m. there was a band concert and at 8 p.m. the second night of dancing and singing for prizes began. No individual prizes. Dances are performed by groups only. Prizes are awarded for himene, otea, pao'a, aparima, hiviaau, ute and vivo. You might be interested in the amount of the prizes:

Winner of the men's pirogues race	- 6,000 fr. (3 man crews)
" " " women's " "	- 9,000 fr. (crew of 6 etc.)
" " " big pirogues race	- 32,000 fr. (16 woman crew)
" " " " "	- 48,000 fr. (16 man crew)

Horse racing: 40,000 francs to the winner of the big race.

JULY 16th: 9 a.m. Dugout canoe races, both men and gals. Spectators all watch the start of the race and then dash back into Quinn's and Bar Lea to sip beer until the canoes come up to the finish line. Some of the real bar flies don't even make the finish. Start of the outrigger race was delayed because several of the contestants refused to take off their "T" shirts and GI pants and race in their native pareus. They finally relented, and embarrassed and griping in choice Tahitian curses, they peeled off civilization's contribution to the South Seas and the race went on. Let the sunburn fall where it may!

JULY 17th: Camera fans delight. Leading dancing and singing groups perform for the sole benefit of photographers at 8 a.m. No picture taking is permitted during the dance contests at night. Price of admission this camera show depends upon the kind of camera you carry. For instance, a 16 mm movie camera is taxed 1000 francs! (about \$11.60) An 8 mm camera costs about \$5.50 and an ordinary still camera is taxed around \$2.26.

The owner of a Bolex 16 mm movie camera tried to convince the collector his camera was an 8 mm model. (The Bolex 16 and 8 are identical in appearance except for the size of the lenses.) The official, however, worked in a camera store and asked to see the tourist's roll of film. Shamefacedly, the tourist handed over a 1000 franc note. The show is expensive but worth it. Dancing lasts two hours and almost all of the routines are repeated so everyone in the stands gets a good shot no matter where he may be located. Money is for a good cause. It is divided up among the contestants. At 8 p.m. prizes are distributed to the dancing and singing groups and the athletes.

JULY 18th: Demonstration of firewalking. Bars and sideshows remain open until July 25th. Attractions at the Fete include ferris wheels, merry-go-rounds, old time movie theatres, wheels of chance, shooting galleries, hit-the-bottle games, etc. There are countless tiny restaurants where raw fish, fresh water shrimp, and other delicacies are dished out...with beer. The Fete is crazy, wild and exciting. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Bring along a portable tape recorder. You may be able to pick up some really exquisite Tahitian rhythms. Get permission first, though ask at tourist bureau.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS IN TAHITI

NOV. 1: All Saint's Day. (Toussaint)

NOV. 2: All Souls Day - (Tahiti style) At dusk, natives gather at certain cemeteries and light candles at the graves, which have been painted white and decorated with shells and fresh flowers.

DEC. 24th: Xmas Eve and midnight masses in the Roman Catholic churches.

DEC. 31: Protestant Church in Papeete features a memorable singing events from 8 p.m. to midnight. The rest of the night is filled with gay, wild parties all over the island. (Not much different than any night, come to think of it.)

SPECIAL EXHIBITS:

Sometimes exhibits of local and foreign artists work are held at such places as Hotel Matavai (Arago had a showing here in 1962), the hall of the new TAI building (where Michoutochkine from Noumea, exhibited colorful originals from the island of Futuna), and in the auditorium of Lycee Paul Gauguin where a collection of abstracts was on display.

At the "Ancient Tahiti" ball put on by the Tourist Bureau, prizes are awarded for the most original costumes and informal entertainment. Villages compete, too, during the Fete, for the cleanest village and the loveliest gardens. Visitors are sometimes invited to help with the judging. The flowers of Tahiti are lovely just growing wild. Can you imagine how beautiful home gardens can be when an owner really tries?

TOURIST INFORMATION IN PAPEETE

The French government has established an Office du Tourisme de la Polynesie Francaise in Papeete, charged with the study and planning of tourist development. This is the place to write for information on investments, tourist development and technical problems. The director is Monsieur Godefroy de Noaillat with offices in the Chamber of Commerce (Immeuble de la Chambre de Commerce). PO Box 65, Papeete, Tahiti.

The local administration operates a Tourist Bureau (Syndicat d'initiative) on the Quai Bir-Hackeim, Papeete, near the Vaima Cafe on the waterfront. Phone 380.

The executive secretary, Suzanne Toomaru Lopez, or a member of her staff, will be glad to assist you. MME. Jeanne Jacquemin, who headed the tourist bureau for eight years is now SPAL representative in Papeete.

TRAVEL AGENTS IN PAPEETE

TAHITI TOURS: III Quai Bir Hackeim. PO Box 427. Tel. 386.
Cable: TAHITI TOURS.

Largest travel agency in Tahiti. Tahiti Tours is owned by the

fabulous Mme. Jeanne Winkelstroeter, owner of the Hotel Aimeo in Morea and the Faratea Hotel-Restaurant in Taravao. Tahiti Tours features tours varying in length from half a day to fifteen days or longer. Tours to Bora Bora and the outer islands can also be arranged.

Feature Tour: Twenty-four, forty-eight, and seventy-two hour tours to Moorea. On the seventy-two hour tour, you get a tour to Oponohu Bay, a full circle--the island tour, and a canoe ride in the Lagoon.

Day tour of Papeete and surroundings: A good orientation tour for your first day in Tahiti. This tour includes a drive up to Pamatai, where in ancient times, warriors kept watch over the entrance of the reef and blue channel between Tahiti and Moorea. After you've "oh'd" and "ah'd" a bit, you will visit Queen Marau's burial place in the quaint Tahitian cemetery, and colonial buildings along Avenue Bruat, the Governor's mansion, the garden of the Tahitian Queens and Papeete's colourful waterfront, where yachts and schooners from all over the world tie up along the main street. You will see the very modern Mormon Temp and be taken to the famous black beach of PIRAE for a refreshing swim. After lunch you can sample the shopping in Papeete before returning to your hotel. Cost depends upon how many are in your party. It varies between \$8 to \$13 per person.

From Point Venus to Marae Arahurahu: A good tour for those on a short two or three day stop-over. It includes the day tour of Papeete and surroundings, and visits to the historical spots: Pomare V's burial grounds, Tahaaraa Heights, Pointe Venus, and the Marae (temple) Arahurahu. You can swim and have lunch at the Iaorana Villa Hotel. Cost: from \$10 to \$19 per person depending again upon how many are in the party.

Full day circle-the-island tour: (A "must" even if you are only going to be in Tahiti two days!) You will see Pomare's burial grounds, the heights of Tahaaraa, Pointe Venus and Mataval Bay, where Captain Cook landed, the Blowhole of Arahoho, to Taravao, where you will lunch at the beautiful new Restaurant Faratea with a view of Little Tahiti (Tahiti-iti), and palm-fringed beaches. After lunch you drive back to Papeete via the lovely (and I mean lovely) residential districts of Paea and Punaauia. Cost: from \$13 to \$20.

Circle-the-island Tour and Tautira Village: Same tour as above with the addition of a visit to Tautira Village, where you will have lunch at Chez Pepe's delightful little native inn. Some people complain Tahiti is getting too modernized but I haven't yet heard of a Univac machine being installed in Tautira. You will return to town after lunch via Paea and Punaauia. Cost: \$20 to \$23. A two day tour will run around \$38.

The Pari Canoe Trip: Looking for something a little bit different? Then add this to your trip around the island. This outrigger canoe excursion to the islet of Fenua Ino is the highlight of the Tautira tour. The canoe glides in the calm waters of the lagoon, along sharp ribbed, green clad mountains inaccessible by road. There are coral gardens to be explored, unbelievable with their fabulous shapes, vivid colors, myriads of fish. Swimming on the surface, and watching through your goggles, you enter another world. While you play in the water, the native boys catch fish, broil it on hot stones, while the vahines weave mats for the table. You return to the village by canoe.

Cost: Around \$6.

One Day Special Excursion to Moorea: Not operated on regular basis. Only when cruise ships call at Papeete. Depart from Papeete in the morning. Lunch, Tammaraa and dances at night at hotel Almeo. In the afternoon sightseeing by bus. Return to Papeete 10:30 P.M.

TAHITI NUI TRAVEL AGENCY: Phone 491.

A progressive new travel agency operated by Paulette Vienot who also runs the Avis Car Rental Agency in Papeete. Paulette, a striking blonde, features the following tours, all starting from the agency office at Rue Paul Gauguin.

Tahiti Nui's Guided Night Tour of Papeete: Dinner at the Canton Restaurant followed by a visit to Quinn's, Bar Leap, Au Col Bleu and Lafayette. Cost: about \$12 each, if there are four in the car. 1 person \$32.50. 2 persons \$20.80 each. 3 persons \$15.50 each.

Sightseeing Tours of Tahiti by Deluxe Motor Coach:

Tour No. 1 Half-day circle-the island Tour: All points of historical interest including the Tomb of Pomare V, One Tree Hill, Pointe Venus, the Blowhole of Arah Arahoho, the cascade of Mataiea, the Marae of Arahua, the residential districts of Paea and Punaauia. Depart: 1:30 P.M. Return: 5:30 P.M. Cost: \$5.50 per person.

Tour No. 2 Half-Day Tour to Pointe Venus: A drive to the districts of Arue and Mahina with stops at the Tomb of King Pomare V, One Tree Hill, and Pointe Venus, followed by swimming and sunbathing on the black sand beach of Pirae. Lunch at the new Hotel Taaone. Depart: 9:30 A.M. Return 2:30 P.M. Cost: \$6.50 per person.

Tour No. 3 Half-Day Tour to Paea: Through the beautiful districts of Punaauia and Paea, past the site of Paul Gauguin's home, to the Marae of Arahurahu. Swimming and sunbathing on the white

sand beach at Punaauia. Lunch at the Tahiti Village Hotel.
Depart: 9 A.M. Return: 11:30 A.M. Cost \$9.

Tour No. 4 Photographic Tour: Organized especially for camera bugs. A trip to Pointe Venus where you can photograph natives climbing a coconut tree, grating coconuts, weaving palm baskets making leis, throwing fish nets, and the ever-loving dancing girls. All staged with the cameraman in mind. Depart: 9 A.M. Return: 11:30 A.M. Cost \$9.50 per person.

Tour No. 5 Night Tour of Papeete by Bus: Dinner on the new terrace of Les Tropiques hotel, followed by a visit to the night-clubs of Papeete; Quinn's, Bar Lea, Lafayette. Depart: 7:30 P.M. Stagger home time: 1:30 P.M. Cost: \$9.50 per person.

Tour No. 6 One-Day Circle-the-Island-Tour: Your bus will be accompanied by native musicians. Stop at the tomb of King Pomare V, One Tree Hill, Pointe Venus, the Blowhole, and on through the districts of Papenoo, Hitiaa and Faaone.

Lunch will be served at Taravao. Return via the Cascade of Mataiea, the Marae of Arahurahu, the districts of Paea and Punaauia, and the site of Paul Gauguin's home. Depart: 9:30 P.M. Return: 4 P.M. Every Thursday. Cost: \$10.50 per person.

Tour No. 7 Arearea Tour: There is no literal translation of the word "Arearea" exactly what you'll have on this tour. Serenaded by native musicians you will stop at One Tree Hill, Pointe Venus, the Blowhole of Arahoho and Tautira. Champagne in all its bubbling glory will be served you all along the way. At Tautira, you will embark on outrigger canoes for an islet off the gorgeous coast. Here dancers (they're behind every rock down here) will entertain you while you watch the native fishermen catch your lunch. A real wonderful excursion. Depart: 8:30 A.M. (champagne at 8:30? Why not? Stay up all night and it will seem like a nightcap.) Return: 5:30 P.M. Rate: \$26 per person.

Tahiti Nui Excursions by Private Car:

Day Tour of Papeete: 1 person \$27. \$13 each if there are 4 persons in the car.

Tour of the Island: \$16 each (4 persons in car).

Tour of Island with Extension to Tautira: \$38 each (4 persons in car).

Tour of Lagoon in Glass Bottom Boat: \$3 per person. Minimum 10 persons.

Sport Fishing in "Keke," \$41 maximum 6 persons. "Fiesta" \$58. Maximum 12 persons.

Overnight at new Bali Hai Hotel, Moorea: Includes round trip boat fare and excursion to beauty spots of Moorea. Single \$32. Double \$23 each. American plan. Two nights: \$63.50 single. Double: \$45 each.

Sunday one-day excursion to Moorea. Leave 3:30 A.M. return 10 P.M. \$18.00. Includes Tamaaraa, Buffet lunch, swimming, canoeing, Tamae danced by torchlight, and round-trip on the steamer Rotui.

Overnight at new Bora Bora Hotel: Includes round trip to Bora Bora via RAI flying boat, lunch at Hotel Bora Bora, a jet boat trip around the island or an outrigger sailing canoe trip in the lagoon, dinner, and overnight accommodations at the Bora Bora. Next morning: breakfast, swimming, snorkeling or sunbathing on the white sand beach. Rates: Single \$78. Double \$68 each. Two nights: \$108 single. \$82 double each.

TAHITI VOYAGES TRAVEL AGENCY

3 Place Notre Dame, Papeete. Across the street from the Cathedral. Cable: LAGUESSE, PAPEETE. TEL. 363.

Very active travel agency owned by Mademoiselle Janine Laguesse, attractive tour operator. Janine has worked out many different tours of Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora, etc. Some are for three days, others for six and twelve. She also books half-day Papeete tours, around-the-island tours and trips to the outer islands. She is also owner of HOPUATARA, site of the Great Tahitian Feast of Tahiti.

Great Tahitian Feast at Hopuatara: This Tamaaraa is one of the real "musts" of a trip to Tahiti. Here at Hopuatara, 20 km west of Papeete, you will take part in a typical native feast in a beautiful exotic tropical garden, where you will see the opening of the earth oven, and taste the entire gamut of Tahitian dishes. There's roast pork, Tahitian style poi (POE), yams, bananas, coconut milk, raw fish marinated in lime juice and coconut cream, and wine in bamboo mugs, and Tahitian-style spinach, and coffee, raised and roasted in Tahiti. The food is served in short lengths of bamboo split down the middle. You eat with your fingers in true native style. (So you aren't neat!)

After lunch you will view the traditional Tahitian dances by one of the loveliest and liveliest groups on the island. Six very attractive and active vahines, their cream colored straw skirts swinging low on their hips, and eight male dancers, and a half dozen drummers will start your blood churning. You'll even be asked to dance with the vahines or the tanes. Go ahead. It'll

help shake down the feast. Pretend it's an office party. If you care to, or are able, you may swim or sunbathe on the beach after lunch.

Cost: 10 persons or more, about \$22 each, including transportation from Papeete to Paea and return.

Note: Be careful where you step as you run down to the beach. I ran right across the top of the sand-covered HIMAA (earth-oven) and the native chef almost had a stroke. (So the bananas were a little flat. After the rum punches, who'd know the difference?)

AGENCIE-TAHITI-POROI (101, Quai Bir-Hackeim) Tel. 70. P. O. Box 83, Papeete)

This travel agency is owned by Alfred T. Poroi, mayor of Papeete, who also runs an import of export business handling everything from canned goods to tractors. He is the exclusive agent for Fiat cars, Lucky Lager and Budweiser beers, Johnny Walker whiskies, etc.

Poroi, in 1962, was elected a Senator to France from Polynesia.

TAHITI IAORA TOURS (Etablissements Baldwin) 1 Rue du General de Gaulle and 306 Rue du Commerce. Tel 79.

Trips to historical and beauty spots in modern, up-to-date buses. This agency also has a list of rental bungalows.

NOTE: Your own travel agent in the United States can book you for any of the tours mentioned here. Prices vary according to the number in your party, guides, etc. The prices quoted here are approximate.

THE TANGA ROA CRUISES TO BORA BORA

Seven days aboard a luxurious sailing vessel (60 feet long) is one of the "different" tour offerings out of Papeete. The Tanga Roa has 3 double cabins and 4 single. The boat is equipped with toilets, showers, kitchen (pardon me, galleys), saloon, bar, etc. Complete radio equipment. (Some of the boats down here don't even carry a crystal set.) The Tanga Roa will take you on the trip of your life to Moorea where you will be given a ride completely around the island in one of the native "le trucks." You can swim or skin dive in the lagoons or just relax on the beach. Your next stop is Huahine where you will see the lake dwellings of Haapu and Maeva. Fishing by torchlight under the Polynesian sky will really put the problems of the office behind you.

From the island of Huahine you proceed to Raiatea, the sacred