



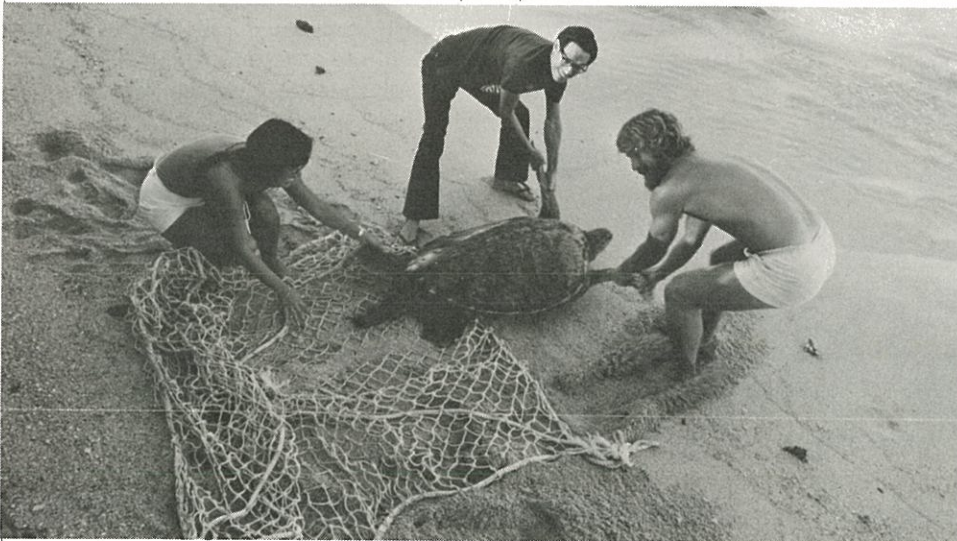
WAIKIKI AQUARIUM

Kilo i'a*

a publication of the Friends
of the Waikiki Aquarium

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Turtle Ungirt



Chris Yamashita, Greg Enos, and Dave Clugston bid aloha to former tenant.

(photo by George Balazs)

The scene on the beach in front of the Aquarium early one morning recently reminded one spectator of an old George Raft movie: "You know, the one where he's wearing a new but ill-fitting suit and the prison warden gives him \$20 and shakes his hand." To me, it was more reminiscent of "Born Free" or at least "Lassie Come Home". The scene? The return of two green sea turtles

from captivity back to their native ocean.

The onlooker's analogy about the old prison movie was far from correct although to some people the captivity of any wild animal is tantamount to imprisonment. Institutions that display living organisms have a serious and dual responsibility: the first obligation is to the animal, to assure that the environment, food, and be-

havioral setting are as suitable as possible. The second obligation is to the viewing public, to insure that the animals are displayed in a setting that encourages people to learn about the natural history of the animal as a unique species (and certainly not as a human caricature).

Really, in the final analysis, the only justification for placing animals in captivity is to assure the well-being of wild populations through increased human knowledge and understanding. Like it or not, we humans hold the survival of all life-forms in our collective grip. If we are ignorant or insensitive to our fellow species, we may inadvertently or impulsively commit irreparable damage. But with increased understanding through first-hand contact, we can guard against such damage. As an example, I think the widespread concern about the fate of the world's great whales has roots in the display of the smaller toothed whales in oceanariums.

Because our green sea turtles, hawksbills, and loggerheads had to share space with three large seals to the disadvantage of all the animals we felt that we were unable to meet the dual responsibility of exhibit standards and therefore had to consider several alternatives. One obvious solution was to improve the

* Kilo i'a means "watcher of sea life". For more information on Kilo i'a, see next page.

present facility and provide a new sea turtle pool with a nesting and basking beach. The 1976 State Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for this purpose and Acting Governor Ariyoshi (then campaigning for Governor) participated in a ground breaking ceremony for the pool. Alas, the funds were never released and the pool is still a dream.

The remaining alternatives were simpler (and cheaper): find homes at other institutions, or, release the animals. For two species, release was ill-advised. The hawksbill is an endangered species and its unlikely we would be able to obtain specimens again; the Atlantic loggerheads could probably not survive in the strange waters of the Pacific. These animals are now on display as guests at our colleague-institution, Sea Life Park.

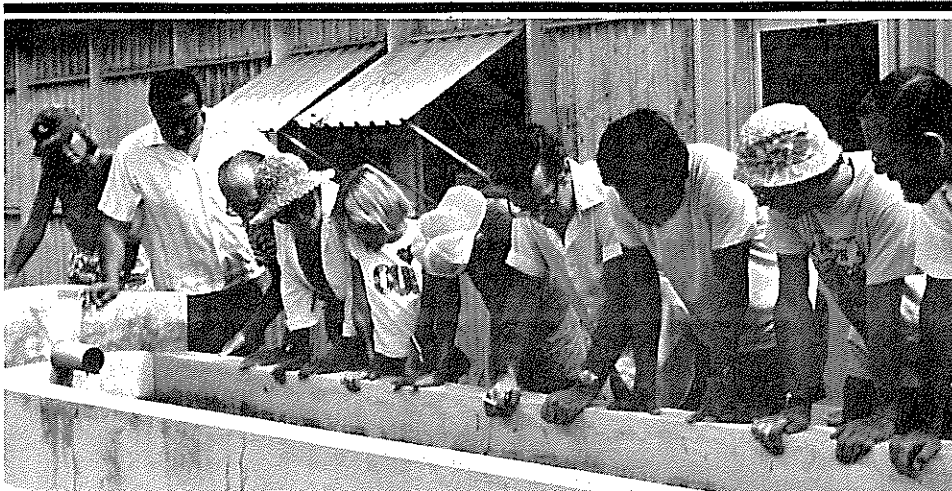
With the cooperation of Hawaii's

distinguished turtle researcher George Balazs of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, eight adult green sea turtles have been released to the wild. The animals have all been tagged and several have been observed more than six months later at areas far distant from release points. One adult female was seen by George Balazs one year and two months after release at East Island, French Frigate Shoals. This is the major nesting ground for Hawaiian green sea turtles. It is notable that the former female resident of the Waikiki Aquarium was observed to nest and produce live hatchlings.

So as we bid aloha to two more turtles recently we had confidence that (barring human interference) they have a good chance of resuming a natural life in their native ocean.

Leighton Taylor

Nautilus III



Micronesian Mariculture Center Director, Dr. William Hamner (far right) led a tour of the lab for Palau visitors including (l to r) Linda Taylor (WA), Ed Dols (NY Aquarium), Nixon Griffis, Carrie Denney (NYA), Maria & Rob Taylor (WA), Bill Flynn (NYA), and Mike deGruy, Bruce Carlson (WA).

From Jan 12 to February 8, Leighton Taylor, Mike deGruy, and Bruce Carlson participated in an expedition to the Palau Archipelago to collect live chambered Nautilus. The trip was sponsored by the New York Zoological Society with the support of Trustee Nixon Griffis, in order to obtain specimens for display at the New York Aquarium. Also participating in the collecting activities were Mr. William Flynn, Associate Director of the N. Y. Aquarium, and his assistant Mr. Ed

Dols.

Seventy-four Nautilus were collected, including several rarely taken juveniles. Most of the adult Nautilus were tagged and released because facilities were not available for keeping so many animals. A special catch were three specimens that had been tagged and released in May and July, 1977. These were measured for growth changes and again released.

One Nautilus was also tagged with an ultrasonic transmitter provi-

ded by Dr. Don Nelson and James McKibben of California State University at Long Beach; its movements were monitored from the surface using a unidirectional hydrophone. During the early part of the evening the animal stayed at depths between 300' - 500', but near midnight it moved deeper (below 600') before the signal was finally lost.

Once again we had 100% survival on all Nautilus brought back to Hawaii. Four of these will remain with us (in addition to three animals remaining from last summer's trip to Palau); twelve more Nautilus are already on their way to the New York Aquarium. Other animals collected on this trip include colorful and bizarre fishes, corals, giant clams and other invertebrates.

A very special animal from Palau soon to be on display is a juvenile salt water crocodile obtained and donated by Mike deGruy. The baby croc is presently at the reptile house of the Honolulu Zoo and will join us soon.

Special thanks for the success of this trip are due to the Micronesian Mariculture Demonstration Center, Air Micronesia, and the University of Guam Marine Lab.

Bruce Carlson

About Kilo i'a

Issue Number 3	March 1978
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Kilo i'a is produced bimonthly by the Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium and is dedicated to increasing the community's knowledge of the Waikiki Aquarium and Hawaii's marine life.

Kilo i'a means "watcher of sea life", or "watcher for fish" and refers not only to the ancient Hawaiian fishing specialists who aided others in finding fish but, herein, to all who find sustenance and pleasure in merely "watching sea life".

The editors welcome your comments, suggestions, and contributions for future issues.

Turtle Homecoming

Regular readers of this newsletter may recall the handsome gentleman green sea turtle which graced the cover of issue no. 3 in March '78. This fellow was one of two adult green sea turtles released in Oct. '77 due to the lack of a proper display facility. Both individuals were measured and tagged with small metal clips by George Balazs, noted turtle researcher.

We are pleased to tell you that George has reported renewing this turtle's acquaintance on June 10 and 11, while doing a turtle survey at East Island, French Frigate Shoals, some 600 miles northwest of Waikiki. This area is the major nesting ground for the Hawaiian green sea turtle, and it is probably the birthplace of the turtles which we released. We are certainly pleased that our former tenant had an apparently safe return swim to his native grounds. We should also add that George reported that the turtle was seen in the company of female turtles, and seemed to have a happy and contented smile on his face.

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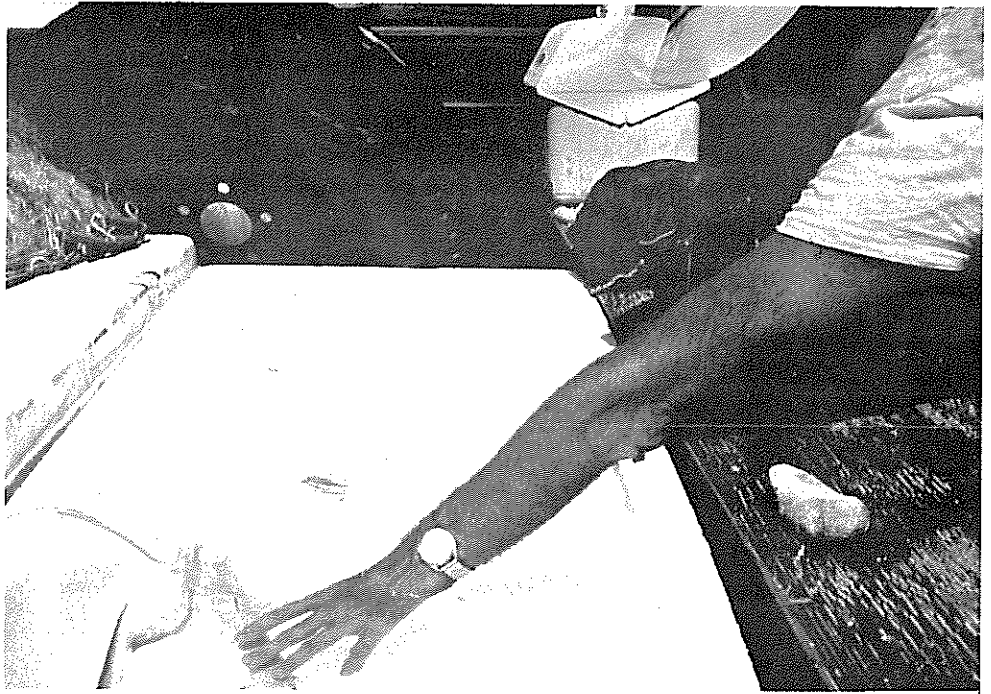
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Marine Biology: Cantonese Style



Art Reed reassures a nervous blacktip shark collected at Canton Island

The Phoenix Science Center may sound like a good place to study cactus and rattlesnakes, but in fact it is a new marine lab located on Canton Island in the South Pacific. Canton is the largest of 8 atolls, which collectively are known as the Phoenix Islands. They are located about 600 miles north of Samoa and only 2 degrees south of the equator. Canton Island has no indigenous people, but there is a resident population of about 40 Americans, Tongans and Samoans who maintain the island's facilities under a contract with the U.S. Air Force. (Many of these "Cantonese" are members of FOWA.) It is an ideal site for a marine lab as it is surrounded by nearly virgin reefs where coral growth and fish life are luxuriant and relatively undisturbed. It is one of the few places in the Pacific where large groupers and jacks still abound in shallow water, unlike many other places where islanders and tourists have fished out the reefs.

A recent trip by staff from the Waikiki Aquarium and the University of Hawaii indicates that there are many exciting surprises on the reefs at Canton. From June 14-21, Dr. Leighton Taylor led a group consist-

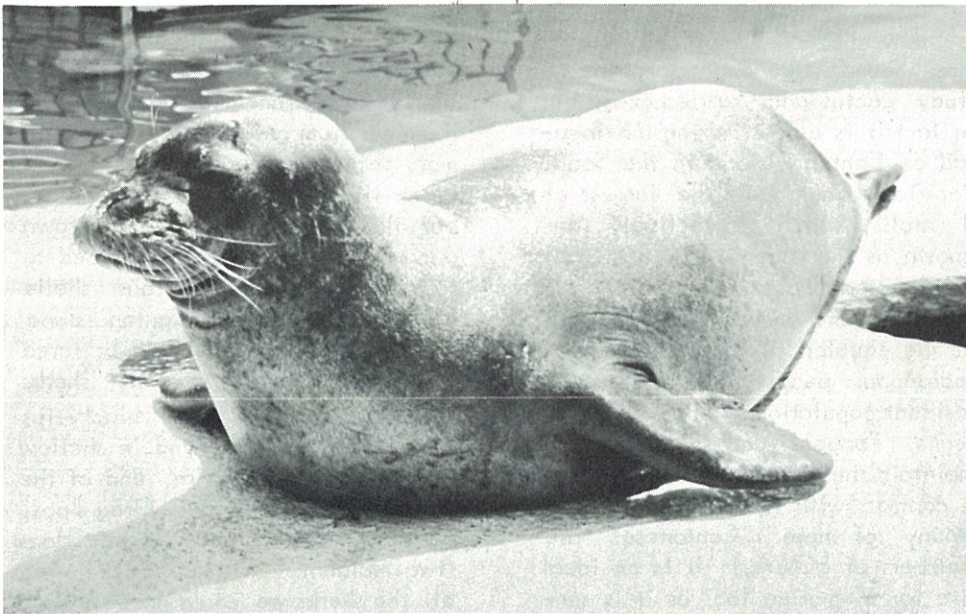
ing of his wife Linda, Dr. Arthur Reed from the University of Hawaii Zoology Department, Greg Enos from the Aquarium and myself. Our primary objectives were to collect baby black-tip and lemon sharks to replace our old sharks which have outgrown our facilities. We also hoped to trap Nautilus, as numerous shells have been found on Canton Island in recent months (albeit in battered condition). Collecting the sharks was child's play; baby black-tips and lemon sharks abound in shallow waters at the southern end of the lagoon. In 15 minutes Greg Enos, Charley Apuna, and Joyce Haas (two resident Cantonese) had netted all the sharks we could possibly use. However, our Nautilus traps were less productive. Two traps were set both on the leeward side of the atoll, one at 600' the other at 1200' but neither of them contained any Nautilus when brought to the surface two days later. The traps did hold some surprises however. As we hauled the 1200' trap to the surface we began to see the outlines of a gigantic animal inside. First guesses ranged from a large shark to a porpoise but neither was correct. The beast turned out to be the legendary



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Friends of Fishes Fete



Charter Member of Friends Enjoys Festivities

Photo by Les Matsuura

Amid good cheer and intriguing exhibits and activities, the Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium ushered in the second year of the organization's existence on July 14, with a Friday evening fete at the Aquarium.

The first year was one all the Friends can be extremely proud of as it signaled a positive step towards

greater improvement and expansion of the Waikiki Aquarium and its marine education programs. Evidences of the successful inaugural year can be seen throughout the Aquarium in improved display tanks, new organisms collected on recent expeditions, the continued growth of the Natural Selection Shop, and the

overall physical uplifting of the facility. After such a promising start, year number two can only lead to better things, and the evening's festivities assured the Friends of a start on the right foot.

No-host cocktails and beverages were provided by SAGA Food Service of the University of Hawaii, and a debt of gratitude is owed to Paul Nelson of SAGA for doing an outstanding job in setting up the catering for the evening. Hors d'oeuvres were provided by the Aquarium's Docents who always seem to be there whenever help is needed. Thanks go to Phoebe Ellet for handling the food arrangements.

No festive evening in Hawaii is complete without entertainment, and the Friends were extremely fortunate to have the Hawaiian Airlines Music Troupe provide the perfect touch to the evening. Movies on Micronesia and its breathtaking beauty were shown in the classroom and the response to the films was tremendous. Looks like next year's Micronesian Expedition will include many Friends. Tours through the galleries, provided by the Docents, gave everyone a chance to see how much improvement has taken place in the displays largely through the aid provided by the Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium.

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