

Pacific Islands Monthly

THE CRUEL SEA, p. 4



Registered at G.P.O. Sydney, for transmission by post as a newspaper.

JANUARY, 1969

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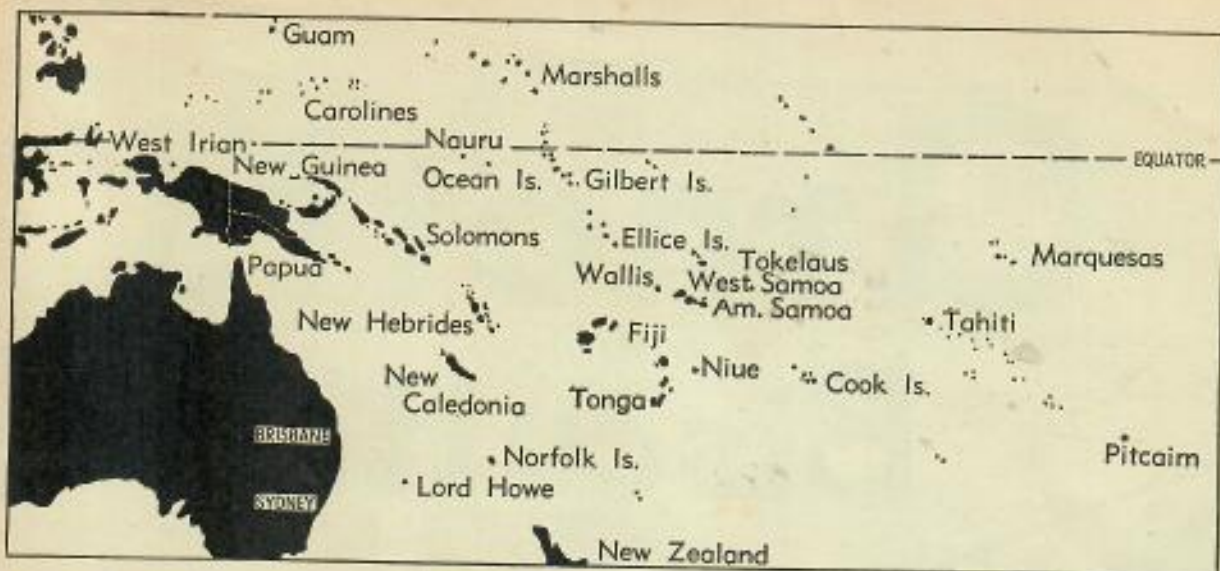
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Vol. 40. No. 1, January, 1969

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29 ALBERTA ST., SYDNEY, N.S.W., 2000

Postal Address: G.P.O. BOX 3408, SYDNEY,
N.S.W., 2001.

Telegraphic Address: PACPUB, Sydney.
TELEPHONES: 61-9197, 61-7101, 61-4369.

Chief Executives:

Managing Director: R. W. Robson.

Executive Director/Publisher: Judy Tudor.

Executive Director/Business Manager:
Selwyn Hughes.

Executive Director/Chief Editor: Stuart Inder.

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

Editors: Stuart Inder.

BRANCH OFFICES

Melbourne: Newspaper House, 247 Collins St.
Victoria, 3000. Tel.: 63-7053.

Fiji: Pacific Publications (Fiji) Ltd., Fiji Times
Building, 20 Gordon Street, Suva. Tel.: 25601.
Fiji Times Office, Vidilo Street, LAUTOKA.
Tel.: 60-422.

Papua-New Guinea: Pacific Publications (N.G.)
Pty. Ltd. Representatives: PORT MORESBY, P.O.
Box 16; LAE, P.O. Box 227; KABAUL, Mr.
Steve Simpson, P.O. Box 154 (Tel.: 2547).

REPRESENTATIVES

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45 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane. Tel.: 2-3188.

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Box 2229, Queen Street, Auckland. Tel.: 76056.
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Auckland. Tel.: 31569.

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St., Berkeley, California, 94707. Tel.: 5273500.

United Kingdom: S. R. Werman, Park House,
22 Park Street, Croydon, CR9 3NP. Tel.:
01-6884177.

H. A. Mackenzie, 4A Bloomsbury Square,
London, W.C.1. Tel.: Holborn 3779.

AGENTS

All main trading firms and stores
in the Pacific Islands.

Pacific Publications Pty. Ltd. is the Australian
agent for THE FIJI TIMES.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

"Pacific Islands Monthly" is air-freighted to
all subscribers and agents in the South Pacific;
copies to other areas go by surface mail.

Australia (incl. Lord Howe Is., and Thursday
Is.): \$4.50 Aust.; Papua-New Guinea, Norfolk
Is., Nauru, B.S.I., G. & E. Group, Tonga and
New Hebrides: \$4.00 Aust.; New Zealand:
\$5.25 NZ; Cook Is., Niue and Western Samoa:
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currency); American Samoa and U.S. Pacific
Territories: \$8.00 (local currency); French
Pacific Territories—New Caledonia, Tahiti, etc.:
650 French Pacific francs; United States of
America: \$9.00 U.S.; United Kingdom and
elsewhere: £2/15/- 5/6.

Airmail postage to USA, UK and elsewhere is
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Up Front with the Editor

I've got a hopeful feeling that 1969 will be a much more
rewarding year for Fiji politically than 1968 was.

Fiji doesn't want another year like
1968, when the Government and
Opposition weren't playing speaks,
when Ratu Mara and A. D. Patel
were involved in a personal hate
session, when naked racism whipped
up during bitter elections brought the
300 islands in the sun almost to the
brink of anarchy.

That may now seem like an
exaggerated review of the situation,
but I can assure you that at the time
a lot of people in high places were
biting their nails with apprehension.

And yet the year had started well
enough.

True, Mr. Patel's Opposition was
boycotting the Legislative Council,
demanding a new constitution and
one-man-one-vote. But about March
it looked as if things would settle;
that the way would be paved for the
Opposition's return to the Legislative
Council without either side losing
face.

Fijian anger

But the paving didn't get done and
there were recriminations on both
sides about the circumstances, result-
ing in the rancour between the Chief
Minister and the Leader of the
Opposition. This, in turn, led to a
lot of the bitterness of the elections.

There were two main results from
the Federation's electoral win: (a)
Ratu Mara and the Alliance were
staggered at the support for the
Opposition, Ratu Mara's pride being
deeply hurt; (b) the Fijian anger
which suddenly erupted at the
Federation's electoral abuse of Fijian
leaders and Fijian institutions and
at the party's claim that its landslide
support from Indian voters gave it a
mandate to seek independence,
staggered the Federation leaders.
They saw with a shock that if you
play with fire you may get burnt.

But for 1969, as I said, I have a
hopeful feeling. Obviously the
Alliance and the Opposition have to

get together if there is to be sane
political development, and if you
read between the lines our report on
p. 32 you will see the first steps
were taken behind scenes at the
December budget session of Legco.
Both sides suddenly are older and
wiser.

I think that the Government and
Opposition will manage to work out,
jointly, Fiji's submissions to be put
to a new constitutional conference,
to be held probably towards the end
of this year.

I do believe that Mr. Patel is not
now so insistent on pushing the
common roll camel through the
needle's eye, realising there are other
methods of working towards his aim.
An extensive use of the cross-voting
system for instance.

And Ratu Mara, I believe, may
have got to the point in his own
progress where he suspects that too
many European cooks in the Alliance
can be more handicap than help.

Thus 1969 may be the year that
a successful Fiji-Indian partnership
develops.

Official visit?

This is the year, too, when Ratu
Mara may make his first official visit
to Australia. There appears to be
something on the slate already.

Australia has wanted to get the
Chief Minister here for some time,
and there is an interesting back-
ground to his previous reluctance to
say when. Some years ago, before
he became Chief Minister, he landed
at Sydney by air, en route to London,
and asked to have his bags trans-
ferred to the London plane unopened,
as a transit passenger. But an
official Customs officer not only
inspected them but literally turned
them inside out.

Fiji's present Chief Minister has
never forgotten the rude way he was
treated. Wars have started over less.

(Over)

PRESIDENT Hammer DeRoburt, of Nauru, is no stranger to Melbourne. He lived not far away, at Geelong, for two years before World War II, and he spent more time in Melbourne than on Nauru in 1966-67, when he was fighting for a better phosphate deal and for independence.

He has in recent months spent most of his time in Melbourne on business, or using it as a staging camp between trips to Noumea and Scotland (calling on Djakarta and President Soeharto en route).

In Melbourne President DeRoburt lives quietly. He occupies, with his wife, one of two flats in suburban Middle Park, which the Nauru Local Government Council bought before independence to save the continual expense of hotels. The two flats, in one block, are normally occupied by visiting, or convalescing Nauruans.

DeRoburt gets to Nauru's Melbourne office in the city usually by about 9.30 a.m., mostly prefers a sandwich lunch, and gets home about 5.30. Sometimes he will stay in the flat all day, working at his portable typewriter.

He doesn't keep a personal car in Melbourne, and usually uses taxis. At night he likes to relax with other Nauruans in the flat (getting together is an old Nauruan custom) and perhaps have a look at the telly. He may watch a show until the finish of transmission, for like many Nauruans he doesn't think about bed until after midnight.

Saturday and Sunday are rest days. On Saturday he may sleep in until 10 a.m. or 11 a.m., and then work about the flat. On Sundays he goes to church—usually the Middle Park Methodist, but perhaps the Collins Street Independent.

OUR COVER

The cruel sea makes another claim. In an expanse of loneliness, where vast ocean meets vast sky, the broken and lifeless trimaran "Waka Toru" drifts hulls up, as the "Moanarool's" crash boat moves towards it shortly after sighting her. The trimaran, with eight aboard, had been missing for three months when she was discovered by the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony vessel north of Lord Howe Island. This photograph was taken from the bridge by "Moanarool's" master, Captain Peter King, whose comments on the finding are to be found in our report on p. 28. Trimarans are popular sailing craft in the Islands, but a criticism of them is that they can overturn—and stay that way.

In Melbourne, or when travelling, the President has no entourage—merely his ADC—Inspector John Olsson, of the Nauruan Police Force. He doesn't become involved in the Melbourne diplomatic round, and is left to get on with Nauru's affairs the way he wants.

As of old, he works hard—and makes it even harder by insisting on informing himself on everything and in making many of the decisions himself. Twelve months after independence there is a growing body of opinion on Nauru which thinks that President DeRoburt ought to delegate more authority. On his absences from Nauru too many decisions get held over until he can be consulted, and there is growing exasperation.

This is a vital year for Nauru. Important phosphate market decisions have to be made soon. Already the delay in establishing the Nauru Phosphate Commission has lost Nauru much of the goodwill of the present BPC staff.

This should be a year of decision, legislation and planning, and no one man can do it all. The President ought to sit down and take stock.

NOW that the Duke and Duchess of Kent have been named as the VIP's who will officially open the Third South Pacific Games in Port Moresby in August, I hope that the territory organisers will have been given incentive enough to do some stocktaking of their own.

There was a busy burst of organising and fund-raising activity at the beginning of 1968, but a number of people I have been talking to lately fear that the territory is running out of steam. There is still a large sum of money to be raised and many loose ends to be tied up.

Early last year the Games organisers conceived the excellent plan of publishing a regular newsletter in English and French, for overseas distribution from Port Moresby, as a way of getting publicity and of informing other Islands territories of progress. The first one was first-rate, but only two more have followed, erratically—the last one filled with advertisements. All have been poorly distributed. For heavens sake, someone, start off 1969 by getting this newsletter to do the job planned for it.

On the VIP side, the Duke and Duchess are a happy choice. They are young and attractive and not in any way stuffy. She (who was once a schoolteacher, by the way) is a charmer who took all hearts during their visit to Tonga, the



Cooks, Samoa and Fiji in 1967. They represented the Queen at King Taufa'ahau's coronation. At a reception on that occasion which I attended, the Duke and Duchess made their way around a large circle of guests from opposite directions, chatting as they went. So engrossed were they in their various conversations that they were genuinely surprised when they finally found themselves confronting each other.

Said the Duke: "We've met before?" And they went off laughing, arm-in-arm.

ALTHOUGH South Pacific communications have speeded up considerably in recent years, odd items still come our way months after the events. As for instance the story that Alan Williams, of Lord Howe Island, tells about some of the 11 Chinese castaways who survived 700 mile drifts lasting up to three months when their vessel, the *Hsienchin*, foundered near Fiji last June. We reported the drifts in September.

In August, Alan happened to be in the Santa Cruz group aboard his vessel the *Alena*, when three of the Chinese were washed ashore on a raft of drums after 45 days at sea. One man had died, the survivors were in a pitiful state.

Continues Alan, who immediately afterwards went on a world tour: "The Chinese could not keep the native food down and couldn't get anything else. They had US dollars with them, but the native storekeeper had not seen US money before, so no business was done.

"One of our crew changed some of the US money for Australian dollars, and the Chinese were then able to buy rice and tinned fish. We gave them some canned food."

Moral: Next time you are adrift in Melanesia, see you have the local currency.

—Stuart Inder

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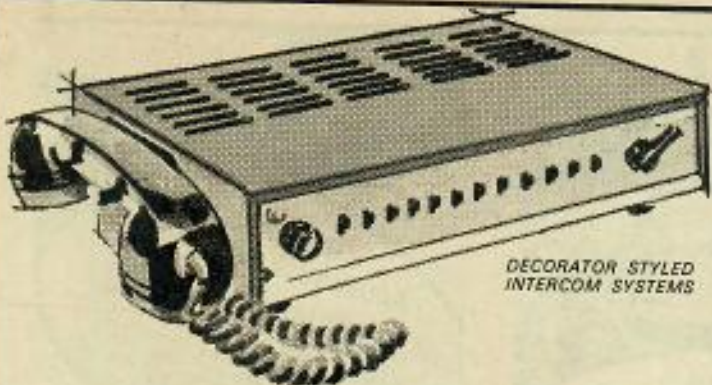
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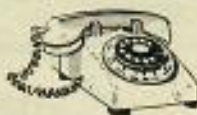
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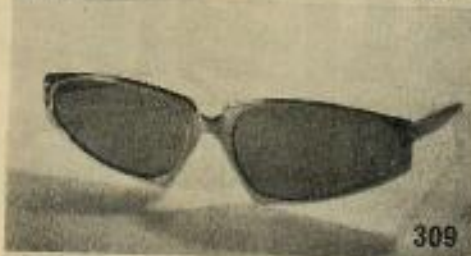


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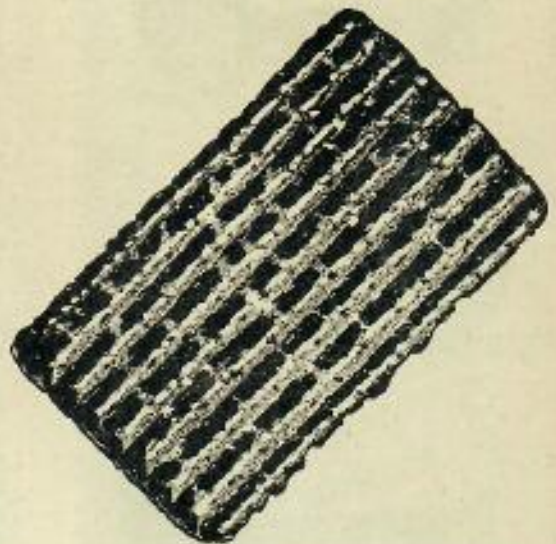


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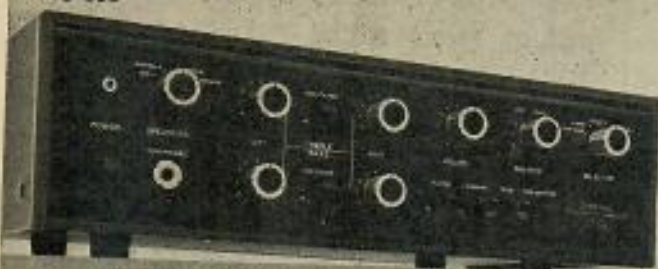


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Letters

FAMILY HISTORY

Sir,—There is Milne Bay in the southeast tip of Papua—made famous during the war.

A Niugini (using Chatterton's nomenclature) candidate in this year's P-NG elections bore the name Milne. Ken McGregor in his August article on George Murdoch mentions a Mrs. Ellen Milne, of Brewster Road, Suva. And I have somewhere read—could it have been Lambert's *Doctor in Paradise?*—of a part-European family of Milne in either the GEIC or the Solomons.

Can anyone tell me why Milne Bay was so named; and throw any light on the origin of the Milnes in the Pacific?

Incidentally, articles of the type written by Mr. McGregor about George Murdoch are most interesting. As well as knowing the origin of the Murdochs in the GEIC area, I now know also the origin of the Hoefflichs in Apia, where I lived for three years.

How about articles tracing such names as the McDonalds, Nelsons, Bethams and Annandales in Samoa, and the Guises, Dihms and Tabuas in Papua?

Do you know that there is an old part-Gilbertese, part-Irish lady living at the Moa Moa Catholic Mission in Apia who remembers Robert Louis Stevenson? Crippled with filariasis for a number of years, Mrs. Mary Palu is still quite mentally alert. She may be one of the few still living who remembers RLS, who died in Apia in 1894. In 1965 I wrote a letter to the then *Samoana*, relating the memories that Mrs. Palu had of RLS and his family. She was about 10-years-old in Stevenson's time.

JOHN MILNE,

"Bangkok Post",
Bangkok, Thailand.

• *Milne Bay was discovered by Captain John Moresby, RN, in the "Basilisk" in April, 1873, and he named it after the then Senior Naval Lord of the Admiralty.*

Sir,—My full name is Richard Rutledge Kane, and I am the eldest son of the late Capt. R. R. Kane, MC and Bar. He was Chief Commissioner of Fiji and Resident Commissioner of the British Solomon Islands.

Can you give me any details of his career in the Islands?

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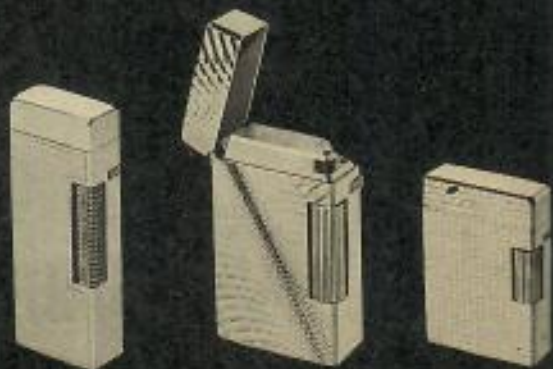
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Islands. My great-uncle, Sir John Thurston, was second Governor of Fiji. Father, my two brothers and I were born there.

We are distant family connections of old "Bully" Hayes, the buccancer, through relatives in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

Ryde, NSW.

R. R. KANE.

NIUGINIANS AND HAPPINESS

Sir,—As usual, my old friend Percy Chatterton (whom I have not seen in 30 years) is right "to the point" in his rebuttal of the suggestion attributed (I hope wrongly) to Dr. Gunther that Niuginians were unhappy without the gift of white man's education. [See Chatterton's "To the Point" column, *PIM*, Oct., p. 32].

Like a lot of others of those days, I was the first white man many Niuginians ever saw, and very early on I realised that the raw Niuginians and the indentured labourers in the early transition years were indeed happier as a race than were the intruding Europeans.

Sure they had non-controlled diseases, primitive housing, little clothing, no gadgets, non-balanced diets, but I never knew a hungry Niuginian (except on poorly planned European expeditions). They laughed more, sang more in the evening, they looked nice with well placed hibiscus or shell decorations, and were more content in heart.

I went among them, well-vested with university laurels and diplomas, but even before the language barriers were lowered, I learnt from them, and learnt, and learnt, and they could still teach me more the longer I tarried, and their lessons went beyond mere knowledge into the realms of ethics and behaviour. Erudition is far apart from culture, and wisdom, as I learnt again when I picked up a gem in a Tananarive bookshop, *Contes et Legends du Madagascar*, which bared to me the hearts of another primitive race.

Percy is also right in his choice of Niugini (the coconuts will still raise their crowns to the sun after we are all dead); and he is also right about the separatist feeling in Bougainville. This was impressed on me when I shared a Goroka hotel table for some days with a Bougainvillian several years ago. As does Percy, I felt then that a valuable heritage we declining expatriates should strive to leave would be a pan-Niuginian consciousness. This is still a long way off. But I do believe that in the long run all Niuginians would thank us for it.

Even more important is to leave



Peter Pan

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in them a faith in processes of justice, the belief and confidence that even though the courts may at times be mistaken, the integrity and fairness of police, public servants, magistrates, and judges can be taken for granted.

In this I think we will probably succeed, thanks to men like Hubert Murray, Dinkum Eve, "Kassa" Townsend, Ivan Champion, Ute Boroma, Keith McCarthy, and a very long list of others who rank with them.

Finally back to Percy. He is no longer a boy. But *PIM* must never pension him off. So long as his mind remains coherent, Percy's comments will be true to his label—to the point, and a gem in *PIM*'s casket.

A fuzzy haired lad once said to me of Percy, "*Tau namo herea is diba momo*". How right he was.

S. WARREN CAREY.

Geology Dept.,
University of Tasmania,
Hobart.

• Translated from the Motu, Professor Carey's tribute means, "A very good man—he knows a lot".

LIEUT. PILSBURY GOES HOME

Sir,—May I be permitted to clarify a matter raised in a letter by Harry B. Ogilvy (*PIM*, Sept., p. 51). Father O'Sullivan, an ex-Army chaplain and with over 30 years' missionary service in Bougainville, at no stage claimed to be the first to discover the American wartime plane in question.

But when he did he acted effectively. The wreck was only then officially examined, with the result that the remains of the pilot were discovered underneath.

The Buin office reports that there is no record of any official notification of the finding of the plane. Several people had removed souvenirs from it and passed on. Mr. Ogilvy admits to having removed a Bren gun and live ammunition many months before Father O'Sullivan's report to the RAAF at Canberra. As a Patrol Officer, Mr. Ogilvy could have been the first to make an official report.

(Rev.) W. P. FINGLETON, SM,
Tobago Mission,
Bougainville.

More letters on p. 56.



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PARTY WITHOUT A PLATFORM MAKES ITSELF FELT

From a Port Moresby correspondent

In the second week of the November meeting of P-NG's House of Assembly, legislation occupied only a small part of the sitting time and aroused little interest. It wasn't very interesting legislation. Nevertheless the House displayed its allergy towards hurried law-making by postponing consideration of a few bills to its next meeting, which will probably be held in February.

An exception to the general lack of interest was provided by the Coffee Marketing (Appointment of Inspectors) Bill. The subject of coffee can always be relied upon to open the flood-gates of oratory; and at the committee stage Chimbu Regional's Eric Pyne, who is in the coffee marketing business himself, came up with some amendments which won both approval and praise from the Government benches.

But the main interest centred on motions—Michael Somare's motion on West Irianese refugees, Jason Garrett's motion on education allowances and subsidies, and the motion to "take note of" the Five Year Plan for economic development.

Strong criticism

Michael Somare's motion was mild enough in itself: "That this House expresses its sympathy with the plight of the West Irianese refugees in the territory and urges the Administration to treat them with every consideration".

His speech, however, was far from mild. He strongly criticised the handling of the refugee problem by the Administration, and particularly the sudden evacuation to Manus Island of those West Irianese who had been granted permissive residence and had settled down in the Wewak area.

Percy Chatterton reminded the House that about 1,500 West Irianese had crossed the border since the Indonesian take-over. Of these a few hundred had been granted permissive residence, one had been deported under a deportation order, and the remaining thousand or so had, according to the official account, agreed to return voluntarily to West Irian after being interviewed at border posts.

He was sceptical about the adequacy of the interviewing and of the voluntary nature of their return to West Irian. He thought it reasonable that those granted permissive residence should be required to move away from the border, but deprecated any arrangement that remotely resembled a concentration camp.

Senior Official Member Frank Henderson opposed the motion with unexpected vehemence. He claimed that its wording implied that the Administration had not been treating the refugees with consideration and he denied that this was so.

The House seemed set for a lively debate, but at this point Ron Neville (Southern Highlands Regional) moved the closure, which was agreed to by 62 votes to 20. It looked as if Neville was co-operating with the Government to avoid a debate which might prove embarrassing to it; however, when the motion was put, he himself was among those who rose to support it. Nevertheless it was defeated by 56 votes to 24.

Percy Chatterton doesn't easily give up, and a couple of days later he asked at question time whether the West Irianese at Manus were free to leave for other parts of the territory (excluding the border areas) provided they had an assurance of jobs and accommodation. Mr. Henderson, not wanting any more cracks about concentration camps, replied with a firm "yes".

Jason Garrett's motion on education allowance and subsidies had as its background a recent decision of the Public Service Arbitrator which granted an increased subsidy to public servants whose children are at school in Australia. There had been no flow-on to parents working in the private sector, who continue



Michael Somare, whose Pangu Pati had temporary alliance with "the group".

to receive subsidy at the old and lower rate.

Mr. Garrett's motion requested that "an equal allowance and subsidy be provided to all people of the territory who are desirous of educating their children in Australia", and considered that "the equalisation of educational allowances and subsidies is a government responsibility".

The Government opposed the motion, but was defeated on a division by 49 votes to 36, its second major defeat at this meeting.

On the face of it, the terms of Mr. Garrett's motion would include New Guineans who wanted to have their children educated in Australia.

However, this is not a very live issue. Each year about 20 selected indigenous pupils are awarded scholarships covering the full cost of secondary schooling in Australia. Few other New Guinean parents would be likely to want to have their children educated in Australia, and still fewer would be sufficiently affluent to be able to bridge the gap between subsidy and actual cost.

The dullist

In the first week of the meeting, the longest debate, that on national unity, had also been the dullist. This pattern was repeated in the second week during the interminable debate on the Five Year Plan. Pangu Pati did its best to inject a little liveliness into it by opposing the plan on the ground that most of its benefits would accrue to expatriate commercial and industrial enterprises and few of them to New Guineans. But most of those who took part in

the debate had little to say and took a long time saying it.

The general trend was that if Australia was prepared to spend a lot of money on developing the territory's economy she should be encouraged to do so. On the motion to "take note of the paper", Pangu Pati managed to rally a few independents to its side for a "No" vote of 12; 68 voted "Aye".

A motion by Wally Lussick (Manus and New Ireland) pledging the support of the House in the implementation of the plan was carried on the voices, after an unsuccessful attempt by Percy Chatterton to insert a proviso to the effect that the pledge should not be regarded as committing the House in advance to approval of any specific piece of legislation.

Trustful mood

The House, in a trustful mood, felt that it would be ungracious to look a gift horse in the mouth. Time will show whether or not it was right.

Of the remainder of the House's business perhaps the most important and far-reaching was a request to the Administrator to appoint a commission of inquiry into P-NG's electoral system. This was passed without debate or opposition, in spite of the fact that it was sponsored by Pangu Pati.

The need for such an inquiry has since been underlined by the revelation that the long delay in making public the Chief Electoral Officer's report on the 1968 Elections has been due to the fact that it contained some forthright comments, particularly in relation to the voting age (21 as against 18 for local gov-



Eric Pyne . . . approval and praise from the Government benches.



Jason Garrett . . . an equal educational allowance for all.

ernment council elections), which the Administration has been reluctant to publicise.

Vis-a-vis the ineptitude of the tactics alike of the Government and of Pangu Pati, the so-called "independent group"—the party without a platform—did not have to try very hard in order to take the tricks.

Significantly, on the two major issues on which the Government suffered defeat, it was defeated by a temporary alliance between the "group" and Pangu.

Just how long will it be before the "independent group" finds a platform and becomes a party?

Question of time

Opinions differ, but most observers, and the leaders of the "group" themselves, seem to regard it as only a question of time. The "group" claims to number 57, but it is not likely that all of these will be prepared to subscribe to a party platform.

It looks as if we may end up with three parties—the new party, Pangu and the Government party (i.e. the official and ministerial members), any two of which will be able to combine to defeat the third, though with a sufficient floating vote of uncommitted members to ensure that the result will never be entirely predictable. An entertaining prospect!

Whether it will be conducive to good government or not is another matter. But at least it will be an improvement on the situation in the first House, in which the permutations and combinations of 53 elected members, all independents, produced division lists which were the despair of the trend hounds.

"I ASKED FOR BREAD, AND THEY GAVE ME STONES," HE SAYS

A crowd of more than 2,500 people was at Tahiti's international airport at Faavaa on Saturday, November 30, to welcome nationalist politician Pouvanaa a Oopa on his return to his homeland.

Pouvanaa reached Tahiti by the French airline UTA, via Los Angeles, after having served nine years of a 15-year term of exile in France, including three years in prison.

He was accompanied on his flight home by his sister and by Mr. Francis Sanford, French Polynesia's deputy in the French Parliament, who has battled hard in recent times for Pouvanaa's release.

Pouvanaa, a 73-year-old veteran of World War I, was convicted in 1958 of having attempted to set fire to the town of Papeete (see p. 62 for details) after campaigning for a Tahitian republic.

He was pardoned by President de Gaulle in November on the 50th anniversary of the World War I armistice.

Pouvanaa, who suffered a stroke in January, looked old and tired after his long flight from France, and was restrained in a speech he made at the airport.

However, in a Press interview in Paris 24 hours before beginning his flight, Pouvanaa showed that he was still as outspoken and vivid in his turn of phrase as of old.

Asked about President de Gaulle's decision to set him free, Pouvanaa said:

"I have still not obtained what I want. I want the case against me to be reopened, but I have only been pardoned.

"I asked for bread, and they gave me stones.

"My affair is still not finished..." Pouvanaa added that he still did not know whether he had been "rehabilitated" as nothing had appeared in the *Journal Officiel* on that subject.

Footnote: The "rehabilitation" of a convicted person is a rarely-used device of the French legal system whereby such a person can have his record "wiped clean" after paying what the authorities consider an appropriate debt to society. No stigma attaches to such a person after his "rehabilitation".

"Dramatic resurgence" tipped for W. Samoa's 1969 exports

From an Apia correspondent

Despite last February's near-crippling hurricane, Western Samoa now has a narrowing trade gap and a favourable balance of payments. The State has made such a good recovery from the hurricane (agricultural exports have been climbing steadily since February) that a "dramatic resurgence" in the country's exports is more than probable in 1969, according to the Minister for Finance, Mr. G. F. D. Betham, delivering his budget address on November 19.

Mr. Betham again budgeted for a 1969 deficit, but at \$33,050 it was well below the revised 1968 deficit of \$160,380.

Estimates for 1969 are for a total expenditure of \$5,494,515, made up of \$4,872,060 recurrent expenditure, \$219,375 capital appropriations, and development appropriations of \$403,080.

Over half of the development appropriations will go to the Department of Agriculture and will be spent on continuing projects of the Department's five-year programme, including coconut replanting and the beef cattle project. Other developmental projects were electricity extensions, west coast water supply, bridge and road building, and tourism.

Reserves healthy

Receipts for 1969 are estimated to be \$5,461,465, including a \$120,000 grant from New Zealand; \$40,000 from the Western Samoa Trust Estates Corporation; and \$40,000 from the Copra Board.

Western Samoa's reserves through its banking system were maintained at a satisfactory level and probably will show an increase by December 31, 1968. Overseas funds at December 31, 1967 stood at \$1,143,620. It is estimated that the figure could be up by almost \$400,000 by the end of 1968.

Western Samoa's invisible exports, in the way of tourist spending, transfer of funds, etc., have helped to maintain the reserves in reasonable shape. So too, no doubt, has the fact that Western Samoa did not devalue its currency at the end of 1967 and the Samoan tala is now worth approximately 25 per cent. more than the New Zealand dollar.

Western Samoan trade figures are

calculated on a calendar year but figures given by Mr. Betham showed that exports, up to the end of October, were valued at \$3,095,306—over \$555,096 more than at the same period last year. This was due largely to the high prices paid for copra and cocoa.

The state was still importing far more than it exported, however. For the period up to the end of October imports were valued at \$4,557,361, leaving a trade gap of \$1,462,055. It was hoped to keep imports at a reasonable level and finish the year in a far better position than in 1967 when the excess of imports over exports was \$2,395,560.

The principal departmental votes in 1969 are as follows: Public Works, \$1,192,740; Education, \$895,000; Health, \$654,825; Treasury, \$438,025; Customs, \$375,180; Agriculture, \$286,815; Prime Minister's Department, \$218,805; Police and Prisons, \$211,500.

Local reaction was that the education vote was a little disappointing, coming at a time when Western Samoa is suffering from a shortage of teachers.

Review of 1968

Reviewing the year, Mr. Betham said that the agricultural production recovery was highlighted in October by the largest exports of copra (2,128 tons) and cocoa (542 tons) for several years.

In 1967, he said, copra exports had been only 7,405 tons, worth \$27,996, but in 1968 they were likely to exceed 12,000 tons and be worth almost \$2 million. The figure could be 13,000 tons in 1969.

Exports of cocoa, he predicted, should exceed 2,500 tons by the end of the year and be worth \$1,300,000.



G. F. D. Betham . . . high hopes for exports.

Bananas had made a less dramatic recovery from the hurricane. Nevertheless the Minister looked forward to an export of 300,000 cases in 1969. Although West Samoa has at times produced twice this amount of bananas, it is a dramatic jump from recent years. (62,000 cases in 1966; 95,500 cases in 1967; and an estimated 96,000 cases in 1968).

Mr. Betham said that there was a strong possibility that in 1969 Western Samoa would receive a loan from the Asian Development Bank. A further project likely for implementation in 1969 was under negotiation between the government and the United Nations Special Fund. The project—for agricultural research, surveys and demonstrations over a period of three years—would be undertaken by the government and the UN in selected parts of the country. The government would contribute financially.

The Minister said that it had been hoped to introduce a pay-as-you-earn taxation system by January 1, 1969, but this had proved impossible. The proposed implementation is now January 1, 1970.

● Tonga's Maulupe Taufuou became the new South Seas light heavyweight boxing champion when he outpointed the defending champion Iliave Bose of Fiji in a bustling 15-round bout at the Tungi Arcade, Nukualofa, in mid-November. Taufuou never allowed the harder-hitting Fijian to settle down and the Tongan kept plugging away shorter and lighter jabs. He chalked up points while the Fijian waited for his big chance for a knock-out. Unfortunately for him, it didn't come.

BSIP's 1969 budget: "A new and challenging note of reality"

From a Honiara correspondent

The infant BSIP rice industry—which will be able to supply the whole of the Solomons with rice this year—has been protected by a duty on imported rice which makes the local product significantly cheaper than the overseas product. This was announced by Mr. T. Russell, Financial Secretary of the BSIP, when he brought down his budget for 1969, a budget which, he said, introduced a "new and challenging note of reality into public spending in the BSIP".

The budget provides for the appropriation of \$9,038,854 which is an increase of \$836,440 over the amount appropriated in 1968, but only \$336,764 more than the 1968 expenditure after the restoration of money cut on account of devaluation.

True recurrent expenditure ignoring contributions to capital account, will absorb \$5,786,914. Capital expenditure will be \$3,161,940.

Grant-in-aid to the recurrent budget is included at \$2,331,584 compared with the revised grant-in-aid of \$2,181,574 for 1968.

Mr. Russell said that the BSIP would meet 60.3 per cent. of recurrent expenditure from local revenue and the British Government would meet 58.9 per cent. of the total expenditure.

Tax increases

The budget includes a 25 per cent. company tax increase. However the present restrictions on dividends of resident shareholders will be abolished. This will mean that any differences between the levy of personal tax and company tax on locally distributed dividends will be refunded.

Mr. Russell also announced that there would be a maximum personal tax of 35 cents in the \$ for people with incomes above \$8,100, but that no one would be obliged to pay more than 25 per cent. gross income in tax.

Of these tax moves, Mr. Russell said: "I believe that the new tax structure, despite criticisms, strike a balance between the harsh realities of the country's expenditure needs, the ability of the individual tax payer to pay a reasonable impost, and the need to preserve a climate

which is still favourable to investment".

Mr. Russell said that there was to be no increase in the import duties on liquor and tobacco, but there was to be an increase on the import duties on flour and rice—1 cent a lb on flour and 2 cents a lb on rice. This would bring in approximately \$50,000.

The duty on rice will mean that 56 lb bags of local rice will sell for \$2 less than 56 lb bags of imported rice.

Speaking of the budget generally, Mr. Russell said: "Budgeting in a grant-aided territory is not simply a process of including what expenditure is desirable, totting up the revenue available and asking Great Britain to make up the balance:

"We must plan, and indeed may be required, to restrict increases in expenditure to increases in local revenue if the country is ever to stand upon its own feet financially.

"We have to restrict recurrent expenditure this year but have been given development funds in generous measure for capital development."

Notable achievements

Looking back over 1968, Mr. Russell said that the most notable achievements had been the dogged, hard-won development of the timber industry; the establishment of a shipping link with New Zealand; the overcoming of any remaining difficulties in growing, harvesting, drying and milling rice to meet the national level of consumption; and several smaller-scale ventures—such as the bus service in Honiara and the expansion of motel-type accommodation.

One of the government's major projects for the year had been the



T. Russell . . . striking a balance

remaking of Henderson airfield. This field should be open for service by the end of June and be completed to DC6 standard by August.

During the year an economic mission of the World Bank had visited the protectorate to decide whether it should lend money to the BSIP and if so for which sectors of the economy.

Mr. Russell said he was still waiting to hear what the World Bank had decided. If the bank did decide to lend money, the BSIP would like to spend it on the Lunga River hydro electric project which was the subject of a detailed feasibility study by William Halcrow in 1964.

On the agricultural front, Mr. Russell said that he expected copra production to be 20,500 tons in 1968 compared with 23,517 tons in 1967. The drop was in part caused by the 1966-1967 cyclones. The BSIP's copra-production target for 1969 was 26,000 tons.

Cocoa production for 1968 was expected to reach 110 tons, but the number of cocoa farmers in the BSIP had fallen from 1,344 in 1967 to 1,260 in 1968. It was clear, said Mr. Russell, that cocoa production would not reach significant levels until the research station at Dela isolates strains of cocoa more suited to conditions in the Solomons than those at present being used.

During 1968, 4,500 acres of rice were sown and 6,700 tons of paddy harvested. Soyabean had been abandoned for the present.

The cattle population of the Solomons was estimated at 10,000 and beasts were being slaughtered regularly.

Despite marketing difficulties, timber production in November was

(Continued on p. 184)

Nauru's new status means a lot to Pacific



By J. W. DAVIDSON, in Canberra

It was announced in London at the end of November that the Republic of Nauru had been admitted to "associate membership" of the Commonwealth of Nations.

This decision solves a problem that has worried a number of people in the Pacific area for some years. The consequences are of immediate importance to Nauru. They may prove important, too, to other small countries in the Pacific and elsewhere.

Broadly, Nauru will receive all the benefits enjoyed by full members of the Commonwealth, such as Australia and New Zealand, except membership of the Prime Ministers' Conference.

The Government of Nauru will receive the full range of confidential documents produced by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. Nauru will have the right to send representatives to the technical and functional meetings held by the members of the Commonwealth each year. These deal with subjects such as finance, education and health.

Realistic

Nauru will also qualify for membership of bodies such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, where eligibility depends on a country's link with the Commonwealth.

The Prime Ministers' Conference mainly concerns itself with major issues of world politics. Small countries like Nauru are realistic enough to recognise that their views on these issues would carry little weight. Exclusion from the conference is thus both sensible and unobjectionable.

Previously, when a country associated with the Commonwealth was

approaching independence, it faced a dilemma. It could retain its association in one of two ways.

If it decided that the Queen should be its Head of State, this decision preserved the link. If it decided to have a president (or king) of its own, it could seek membership of the Prime Ministers' Conference. If it took neither of these courses, it eventually ceased to be a Commonwealth country.

This problem was discussed in Western Samoa in 1960. Since the Samoans intended to have their own Head of State the question was: should Western Samoa ask for membership of the Prime Ministers' Conference?

A little earlier, some Commonwealth members had opposed an application by Cyprus on the ground that admission of so small a country would set a precedent and eventually make the conference so big that it would lose its special value.

The Samoans decided not to risk a rebuff. The Commonwealth has since treated Western Samoa as a country that is still considering its position. It is treated "as if" it were a member and receives a number of benefits.

I have, myself, always regarded the Western Samoan position as unsatisfactory, and when I was in London in 1967 with Nauru's Head Chief (now President) Hammer DeRoburt, I had talks with Mr. Arnold Smith, the secretary-general of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and his officers.

● Nauru is more than Nauruans. The population of 6,000 comprises only about 3,000 Nauruans, and the remainder are Gilbert and Ellice, Chinese and European. This group was photographed at the Independence Day celebrations 12 months ago this month.

We worked out together the solution that has now been adopted; and, after independence the Republic of Nauru submitted an application in these terms.

This solution was possible in 1968 because of the existence of the Commonwealth Secretariat. It was not possible before the secretariat had been formed.

Western Samoa would have been content with the form of membership now granted to Nauru. But she would have had to raise the proposal of "associate member" through an existing Commonwealth member. And some were opposed to the idea.

In British Government circles, in particular, the old form of Commonwealth structure has been used as a means of persuading small territories, such as those in the Caribbean, to settle for something short of full independence. By accepting this limitation they have been able to retain a Commonwealth association through their connections with Britain.

Now that a precedent has been established in respect of Nauru, I hope that other small countries will follow it. Associate membership of the Commonwealth would well serve the interests of Tonga and Western Samoa.

It would serve those of other small countries as they approach independence—both in the Pacific and in other parts of the world.

● Prof. Davidson to advise Micronesia. See p. 32.

What are the lessons from the "Waka Toru's" grim fate?

By KEN MCGREGOR

"Comfort! *Waka Toru* has all the comforts of home. It has a full-size gas stove, gas refrigerator and hot water for the shower . . ."

So said a Sydney newspaper in July last year, a couple of weeks before the \$12,000 home-made, 46 ft trimaran sailed out of Sydney on an indefinite leisurely cruise to most of the choice yachting stopovers throughout the world. Aboard were an excited English family of five and three attractive young Sydney girls.

Waka Toru left on a burst of publicity in Australian and New Zealand newspapers because its owner and builder, Mr. William Shute, 48, an economist, had advertised widely beforehand for "four non-smoking girls" to accompany himself, his wife, Mary, 45, and his children, Joanne, 16, Rosamund, 12, and Richard, seven, on the cruise.

Eager novices and experienced sailors from Australia and even NZ applied, and Mr. Shute had the happy job of picking his crew—women from over 40 girls. The "lucky ones" were Misses Valerie Quirk, 32, Dianne McNeill, 22, and Mrs. Sally Scales, 28. All were non-smokers, non-drinkers and knew nothing about sailing. All entered contracts to pay him \$1,000 for their passage to the West Indies.

What went wrong?

Waka Toru left Sydney on August 18. First call on the world tour was to be Lord Howe Island, and then Noumea, Fiji and New Zealand.

Waka Toru didn't even make its first landfall. No one will probably ever know exactly what went wrong, but it seems likely that somewhere off Lord Howe in late August *Waka Toru* was caught in a bad storm.

A fruitless air and sea search was made in September. General alerts were given to regional shipping and port authorities on the Australian

east coast and island ports in the South-West Pacific.

Relatives and friends for the next three months had no definite evidence whether the trimaran had foundered, drifted or, hopefully, been washed on some lonely shore. A big trimaran and eight people, including an entire family, had disappeared.

Until late November, when the GEIC's 800-ton trader *Moanaraoi* located the *Waka Toru* 320 miles north-north-east of Lord Howe (*PIM*, Dec., p. 30).

Moanaraoi's master, Captain Peter King, tells of the discovery:

"Second officer Paueli Stone sighted the capsized wreck at 2.48 p.m. on November 19 one mile away on the port beam," Captain King said. "*Moanaraoi* was brought around and manoeuvred into a position upwind of the wreck, and the crush boat was sent away under Mr. Joe Kum Kee, third officer, to pass a warping line across the wreck.

"The wreck answered the description of the missing trimaran *Waka Toru* and once she had been warped alongside, her stern was lifted clear of the water and the name read on her stern.

"A rope was found wrapped around her propeller, possibly washed there, and her starboard bow was broken off as far back as the leading



● Officers and crew of the GEIC Wholesale Society's "Moanaraoi" use axes to break into the upturned hulls of the trimaran, in a search for bodies. The trimaran has been warped alongside the vessel. This photograph and the one on p. 29 were taken by "Moanaraoi's" master, Captain Peter King. They are the first pictures published of the wreck.

edge of the sponson. This was the only apparent underwater damage.

"Sails and masts could be seen drifting about under the wreck. It was not possible to carry out an underwater search on account of sharks cruising around close by.

No life

"Attempts were made to right the craft, but these were all frustrated by the rope slings cutting through the hulls like a knife through cheese.

"It was therefore decided to cut open the bottom of the hulls, and a party under the chief officer, Edward Lysons, boarded the upturned sponson, and set about opening the bottoms with axes, saws and crow-bars.

"No trace of life was found, but items of equipment passed on board

Tried to sink her

included an inflatable liferaft, which showed signs of having been opened inside the yacht, and an emergency radio transceiver with no battery fitted.

"There were some children's toys which had a profoundly saddening effect.

"I made a final personal inspection of the yacht, and then gave orders for its destruction, that it might not constitute a danger to navigation.

"Attempts to fire it proved unsuccessful, and I therefore smashed the hulls by ramming. The trimaran was left in a shattered condition, and a search of the area was conducted until darkness.

"Marine growth on the submerged hull topsides and leading edge of the sponson indicated that the trimaran had been capsized for a considerable period."

Think twice

"I might add a cautionary note to those reckless people in the yachting fraternity who set off on ocean voyages without the necessary experience and skill. They might think twice if they had witnessed my crew operating under conditions that were at times extremely dangerous, working furiously in a vain cause, not knowing what the next axe cut might reveal."

Captain King said that before *Moanaraoi* left Sydney on her trip to Tarawa, he was visited in Sydney by a sister of one of the crew members of the *Waka Toru* (Aileen Quirk). "This young lady has never given up hope for the crew of the trimaran, and has visited the masters of many of the ships passing through the area", he said.

"Her perseverance impressed me, and I issued orders for an especially good lookout to be maintained while *Moanaraoi* passed through the search area. Whether this had any bearing on the eventual sighting is a matter of conjecture."

Shortly after the *Moanaraoi* left the crippled trimaran a US-bound freighter sighted the wreck, still drifting about 300 miles north of Lord Howe. The freighter reported the wreck to Sydney and continued her voyage.

The *Waka Toru* tragedy started controversies in Australian and NZ yachting circles and newspapers. It was pointed out that at least 20 lives had been lost with trimarans in the South Pacific in recent years.

The two big questions: Are trimarans safe for ocean cruising? Should any Tom, Dick, or Harry, who has built his own craft and who has no sailing experience, be allowed to put to sea, particularly with passengers?

Biggest argument against the trimarans was that if the craft capsized in heavy seas, it was impossible to right them again. Single-hulled yachts with keels can be righted, but the prospect of turning over three hulls in heavy seas by several hapless sailors is not good. Nor is there anything to hold on to on an upturned hull.

Trimaran sailors and enthusiasts hastened to defend their craft, pointing out that a badly-sailed ketch or sloop can just as easily be lost as a better-balanced tri'. Others called for a full-scale look into the adventures or misadventures of the tri's.

The fiercest controversy was on the second question. Many people these days are building yachts, on all coasts of the Pacific, and heading out to sea with little or no ocean experience behind them.

If they go alone, with their own money and boat, maybe it's their own business. However, when other people go along, the owner or skipper of the yacht is involving other lives.

Waka Toru was a tragic example.

The girl crew were all paying passage money to Mr. Shute.

There are no plans for a marine inquiry into the loss of the *Waka Toru*. No court is likely to get involved in the tragedy until relatives seek leave to declare any or all of those on board legally dead. They are merely listed as missing.

There is nothing at the moment to stop other craft going the same way as the *Waka Toru*, as there are no regulations to stop craft leaving Australia.

Anyone, with any sort of boat under 100 ft, can sail off from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane, with as many people as he likes. No forms, no qualifications, no rules.

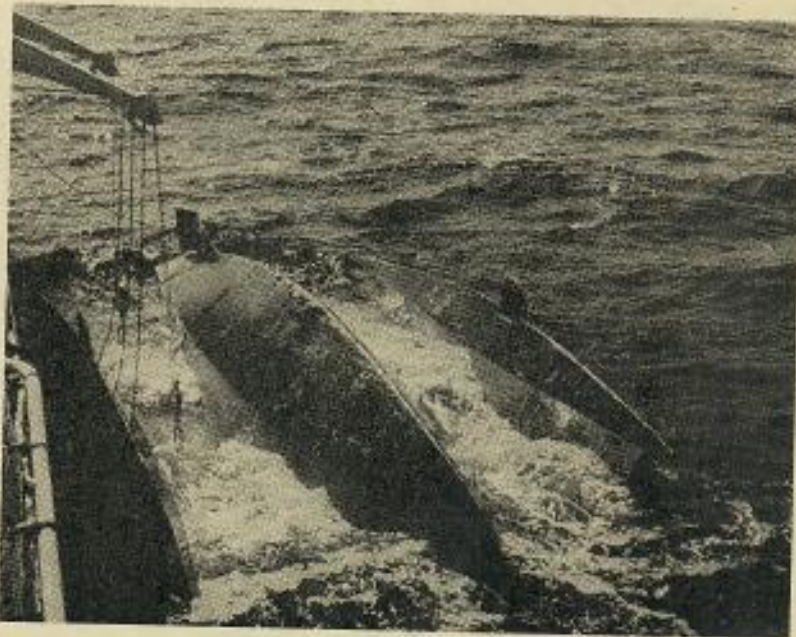
Little co-operation

One of the most caustic critics of the system, or non-system, has been Mrs. Mary Quirk, of Caringbah, Sydney, mother of one of the missing crew of the *Waka Toru*.

Mrs. Quirk said she received little co-operation from regional shipping authorities and police in NSW in efforts to have searches for the *Waka Toru* extended or continued.

"I continually hit a red tape or 'nothing can be done' attitude from the shipping or police people who were supposed to be looking for the trimaran," she told *PIM*.

"We had asked earlier for the air



The upturned hulls of the trimaran "Waka Toru" alongside the "Moanaraoi" in late November about 320 miles north of Lord Howe Island. Efforts to get the wreck righted failed when ropes cut through the hulls. Note bow broken off (right).

Move to introduce safety regulations

search to be more to the north of Lord Howe, and this is where the trimaran was found. If planes had found it earlier perhaps some traces of the people might have been there or we might have been able to see what really happened. Even now, I don't know exactly what was in the overturned trimaran when found, but I suspect that clothes and another inflatable raft were missing. Perhaps they all got off, and drifted somewhere, but if the officials have any facts which might solve this matter they haven't told me.

"Shortly before Captain King found the trimaran a New Hebrides boat reported a yacht sailing strongly northwards towards the New Hebrides.

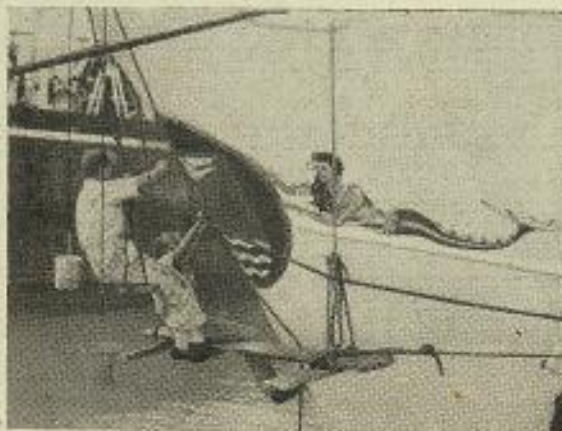
Still hoping

"It's still a mystery to me and I still keep the hope that they did survive and were washed up on some lonely coast."

Mrs. Quirk is one of a number of Sydney people who are asking their members of parliament to support a bill to introduce regulations that would-be cruising yachters must comply with before they put to sea from Australia, and regulations affecting the seaworthiness of their craft for ocean voyaging.

They hope the bill will be passed this year and in a large way prevent other *Waka Toros*. Something, obviously, needs to be done.

Shortly before the "Moanaraoi" left Sydney in November and discovered the "Waka Toru", "Moanaraoi's" master, Captain Peter King (foreground), and a fellow officer put finishing touches to the GEIC coat-of-arms which graces the bow of the ship. The mermaid at right is another example of Captain King's brushwork.



The "Tui Lau" in happier days.

Findings on the "Tui Lau"

The court of investigation into the stranding of the *Tui Lau* on October 25 has cancelled the Certificate of Competency of the Master, Captain Donald Wendt.

Giving the court's decision on December 20, the Senior Magistrate, Mr. Clifford H. Grant, said the court found that the stranding and loss of the ship was caused by the incompetency of Captain Wendt "failing to comply with elementary procedures of navigation and in plotting a course from Kabara dangerously close to the reef of Totoya Island; to the wrongful default of Captain Wendt in leaving an unsupervised, uncertified person as officer of the watch in Fiji coastal waters at night, and the wrongful default of Captain Wendt in not posting a lookout in Fiji coastal waters at night".

Mr. Grant said: "The court was informed that it was the custom ~~not~~ to post a lookout in Fiji coastal waters at night. If such a manifestly dangerous custom exists it is to be deplored".

"The court rejects the submission that a lower standard of seamanship should be accepted for Fiji than that which applies to more sophisticated territories. The value of human life is no less in Fiji than anywhere else. Had it not been for the timely intervention of HMS *Fife* the consequence of this stranding could have been very much more serious, and the ready and able assistance which was offered by *Fife* was commendable and praiseworthy."

"Erased marks"

The "uncertified, unsupervised person" referred to by the court was 18-year-old Cadet Officer Frederick Smith who alleged during the hearing that Captain Wendt had set a course of 260 degrees to Totoya from Kabara, not 265 degrees as Wendt had said. Smith alleged that Wendt had erased marks on the chart just before the ship had struck.

In its findings, the court said it was satisfied that Wendt had laid a compass course of 260 degrees and written it in pencil on the chart, and that Smith had followed this calculation.

"That this calculation was not a figment of the imagination of Frederick George Smith is borne out

(Continued on p. 133)

Fiji should have TV ('but not the commercial kind')

From a Suva correspondent

It took more than 12 months to come to light, but Mr. Humphrey Fisher's television feasibility survey and report on the future of Fiji radio was finally tabled on the second last day of the December Legislative Council session.

The progressive Mr. Fisher—he proved to be on the "with it" side during his term as BBC representative in Australia—spent a regrettably brief 11 days in Fiji during September, 1967.

But it was enough time for him to produce a 24-page report, in which he recommended that television, using English as the basic language, be introduced to Fiji; that plans to do so should not interfere with the immediate development of a first-class radio system; that the television service should not be a commercial concern; and that educational television should not be the prime reason for introducing the medium.

Save a vast sum, but . . .

He emphasised that a "decision to proceed" must be taken before any overseas experts were called in for further investigation. Once this decision was made, it would probably take three years before a TV service actually started.

Although commercial development of TV "would save the colony a vast sum, it would not be in the best interests of the colony," he said. He recommended that the Fiji Broadcasting Commission should be entrusted with the task.

He argued that a commercial television service would be mounted on a pinch-penny scale; that expansion to the less remunerative areas would be slower; equipment might not be of the highest and most expensive quality; that the prime consideration would be profit, not public service; and that the FBC would probably suffer damage in terms of ratings and revenue.

If, however, a commercial operation was decided upon, Mr. Fisher advised that terms of reference should be devised, specifying Fiji's requirements as to technical standards, advertising standards and limitations and, above all, the quality of programmes.

In the event of a commercial operation, a contract of the kind and severity used in Rhodesia should be drawn. The responsibility of overseeing the operation of such a contract—and therefore of supervising in general terms the commercial concern—should lie with the FBC.

It would cost between \$F500,000-\$600,000 to establish a TV station, he said, but added that an initial coverage of up to 75 per cent. of the population could be achieved with comparative ease.

"It seems inevitable to me that television will come to Fiji before too many years have elapsed—if not through popular demand, then through the inexorable processes of time," observed Mr. Fisher. "If this is so, it seems better to me that it should be introduced while the political life of the country is ordered and while this new medium could be established on a firm and sensible basis.

"For these reasons I tend to think that television should be introduced with reasonable celerity so far as finance permits."

In terms of priorities, Mr. Fisher stressed that the need for a first-class radio coverage was more immediate than the need for TV. He commented that the overall image of the FBC's output lacked "presence, vitality, force", due to lifeless programming and methods of presentation which "lacked the friendliness that radio should have".

(In fairness to the FBC, it should be noted that Mr. Fisher's observations were made 15 months ago and that determined efforts have been made to project "personality" into the air-waves since then.)

Mr. Fisher's recommendations relating to radio included:

- Reinforcing the FBC's independence by amending the Broadcasting Ordinance where it refers to the obligation to broadcast, or not broadcast, certain information at

Our reader survey

If you can use some pin money, fill in the reader-survey form opposite page 45 in the December issue and return it to us. If yours is one of the first three letters opened you will win \$20. And if you can't use some pin money, then still fill in the form. We need your help. All forms should be returned to PIM by February 3.

the order of the government. (An interesting suggestion, in view of the government's concern last July over the FBC's refusal to broadcast a series of government releases while the by-elections were on.)

- Commissioning a survey of audience potentials and characteristics and of the effectiveness of FBC output.

- Establishing two medium-wave networks.

- Making Network 1 a multi-racial "pop music" programme, running without interruption throughout the day; and making Network 2 a channel for broadcasts in the three main languages.

- Opening regional studios, starting at Lautoka.

- Providing additional spending capacity to enable the FBC to develop as it should—keeping in mind the limit to which the community could and would pay for its radio services.

Mr. Fisher envisaged Network 1—the network now devoted to English language programmes—as having "a staple and almost exclusive diet of popular music . . . heavily weighted towards Western 'pop' music but including the generally acceptable forms of Indian, Fijian and South Pacific popular music".

In the Legislative Council, the Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. H. Halstead, said that as a result of the report a committee of local people, probably under the chairmanship of an overseas expert, would be appointed in the near future to examine broadcasting.

One wonders how those who consider that the FBC already places too much emphasis on "pop" music will feel about Mr. Fisher's Network 1 suggestion.

In the July session of Legco, Mr. W. M. Barrett claimed that "eternal pop music is a tragic misuse of the opportunity radio provides in Fiji to build one people, one nation and democracy".

Progress, of course, means many things to many people. . .

New spirit of reasonableness among Fiji policymakers

From a Suva correspondent

"The tone of the debate has been higher than at any other time in this House in my experience. It has been of very high quality and I think it augurs well for the future."

This was the Fiji Legislative Council Speaker, Mr. R. G. Kermode's summing up of the council's December proceedings, which wound up after only 10 days of debate on the budget.

Everybody, particularly the Government, remarked on the "new spirit" which prevailed in the council chamber. There was an air of reasonableness and decorum over the majority of matters discussed, with only an occasional caustic comment and flash of belligerence.

With over 30 bills on the order paper, it looked as though the December session might extend into January, or even February—but an agreement between the Chief Minister, Ratu K. K. T. Mara, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. A. D. Patel, resulted in the Government withdrawing seven bills. They will be re-introduced during the next meeting of council, expected to be in January.

Not to be outdone, the Opposition withdrew its resolution calling for the nationalisation of the gold mining industry. Much more will be heard on this matter, but for the time being the Opposition was content to play along with the general atmosphere of goodwill and good intent.

As Mr. Kermode observed, the standard of debate during this crucial session (the first time the Opposition had been in attendance since its walkout in September, 1967) was high, with the Opposition quite clearly taking the initiative. Government members were obviously pleased to have an Opposition at all, particularly one which was ostensibly prepared to be agreeable.

There was much more at stake, naturally, than the superficial "image" of the recent Legco proceedings. With a constitutional conference pending in future months, there's an underlying need for both the Government and its Opposition to prove that common grounds of co-operation can be achieved.

Striking evidence of both parties' aim to please was Mr. Patel's proposal that in view of the historical importance of the chiefly island of Bau, Fiji should find ways and means of preserving it as a historical monument.

Ratu Mara hailed it as a sign of understanding between the races and said: "The Government bows to the Opposition".

Mr. Patel thanked Ratu Mara for his remarks on the proposal and commented: "I feel this motion has drawn the two sides of the House much closer together than they were before".

Amid cries of "Hear, hear", Mr. Patel added: "I hope and trust that this spirit will continue".

As to be expected—and desired—there were *points* of disagreement during the budget debate. And on one occasion the new member of the Opposition, Mr. U. Singh, showed personal rancour, when he expressed the opinion that the Minister for Social Services, Mr. Vijay Singh, might be referred to as the Horrible Minister. Rebuked by the Speaker, the Opposition member withdrew his remark about the Honourable Minister.

Mr. A. D. Patel claimed that the 1969 budget had been "emascula-



Mr. A. D. Patel.

ted" by the phasing-out of certain vital projects in the 1965-70 development scheme.

The most important schemes which had been phased out, he said, had been those which were most important to the economic development of the country. The budget put Fiji's economic development five years behind.

He criticised lack of development of the scheme for "middle" and technical schools, saying Fiji had a problem of untrained, unskilled and semi-educated people who had no liking for manual labour and no qualifications for anything else.

At the same time, Fiji had to look abroad for people with practical knowledge, experience and techniques—and this was done in the name of economic development.

Mr. Patel described cuts in certain aspects of education expenditure as "a crime against the children who would have benefited from middle schools and technical schools".

IS IT MICRONESIA'S TURN NEXT?

Professor J. W. Davidson, Professor of Pacific History at the Australian National University, Canberra, has been invited to become constitutional adviser to the Future Political Status Commission of the Congress of Micronesia. He expects to fly to Saipan in late January to take part in a series of meetings by the commission which will discuss (a) alternative forms of political status open to Micronesia on the termination of the UN trusteeship agreement; (b) the requirements needed by the UN to terminate the agreement; (c) changes that need to be made in the present Micronesian political system if the territory is to plan for internal self-government or independence.

Professor Davidson has in recent years acted as constitutional adviser to Western Samoa and Nauru, which are now independent, and to the Cook Islands which are now internally self-governing.

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF (PACIFIC) HAPPINESS

The people of the Pacific Islands are wiser, more tolerant, more considerate than peoples of other regions. They have not burned libraries, shouted obscenities, stoned officials of foreign lands or denied representation to any significant viewpoint. Therefore, the region gives promise of achieving and retaining greater political and social progress than that prevailing in any other.

This is the considered opinion of Mr. Carlton Skinner, Senior Commissioner for the United States on the South Pacific Commission.

Mr. Skinner was, between 1949 and 1953, Governor of Guam, and it was as guest speaker at the Charter Day ceremonies of the University of Guam that he delivered his long, prepared speech in which he took a look into the future governments of the Pacific Islands. Charter Day was December 17.

Although he did not see the march toward democratic independence altogether as roses, roses all the way, he did not see any insurmountable difficulties either.

Although he hinted that there were still Pacific problems to be overcome he did not expand on them—although some people outside his captive audience feel they are considerable.

"My thesis," he said, "is that democracy can live, grow and bring forth the fruit of public good and freedom, only in a soil of four elements. No one of these can be absent and permit democracy to live."

His four elements are: Universal franchise; the secret ballot; two or more political parties; and a judiciary independent of the executive and legislative branches of government.

He went on to outline how the various Pacific Island territories could embrace these principles and still bend them to local traditions. He believed that territories might follow the patterns of the nations under whose tutelage they had been for so long and emerge as an Australian type democracy, French type, British or United States.

He could foresee the day, too,

when the common interests of Guam, the US Trust Territory of Micronesia and American Samoa might constitute the proud and self-reliant 51st State of the United States.

Yet, he felt, with all these "differing forms of government for different political and cultural traditions, there is an underlying unity among the Pacific Islands people".

"It is not ethnic. The differences between Micronesian, Melanesian and Polynesian in cultural patterns, social organisation, land tenure, etc., are substantial. The presence in these islands of native-born permanent residents who are of Caucasian or Oriental ancestry adds another difference.

"The unity will not be of creed or colour. It will be a unity found among free men and women, governing themselves with freedom and justice and with the power to change their governments to adapt to changing problems—a freedom not universally found in any other definable geographic region of the world."

FIRST ASSEMBLY FOR NEW CHURCH

The United Church in Papua, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, established in January, 1968, held its first Assembly at Malmaluan, near Rabaul, in December, and took important steps towards getting itself organised.

The head of the new church will be styled Moderator, and the first occupant of this office is to be Rev. Jack Sharp, an Australian who has been in New Guinea for 8 years and who, before the union of churches took place, was chairman of the Methodist Church in the New Guinea Islands.

Under the Moderator there will be six bishops, one in each of the church's six regions, and one assistant bishop. They comprise two Papuans, one New Guinean, one Solomon Islander, two Australians and one New Zealander.

They are: Rev. Ravi Henao (Papua Mainland), Rev. Robert Budiara (Papuan Islands), Rev. Frank Butler (Urban), Rev. Graham Smith (Highlands), Rev. Saimon Gaius (New Guinea Islands), Rev. Leslie Bosito (Solomon Islands) and Rev. Brian Sides (Assistant Bishop for Bougainville).

DEATH, DESTRUCTION FROM CORAL SEA CYCLONE

Cyclone Becky hit the Solomons in the second week of December, killing one woman, critically injuring another and causing widespread damage to Malaita and other parts of the Central District.

Most of Malaita was affected, with Sinarango on the central north east coast the worst hit. San Cristobal suffered extensive damage.

Cyclone Becky started as a tropical depression between Malaita and Sikaiana, deepening into a cyclone as it gathered force, moving across Malaita towards Guadalcanal and south eastwards to San Cristobal.

At its height, winds of up to 80 miles an hour were reported in Auki, Malaita's capital, and communication with Honiara was cut off.

Honiara itself was unaffected, but air services to there were interrupted. Fiji Airways' normal flight was delayed overnight at Vila and Solair's services were curtailed as the cyclone moved from Malaita to San Cristobal. Preliminary warnings gave small ships time to take shelter and no shipping was damaged.

In Sinarango an estimated 180 leaf houses were destroyed and the damage was also bad at Atoifi in the north and Manawai in the south. At Kira Kira, the government store's roof was blown off and the market house destroyed.

Seven school buildings were destroyed at Alanguala School, Ugi Island, much general damage was reported from Pawa School, and half the church roof was blown off at Wainoni Mission.

The new Pue Pue bridge, opened a few months ago to provide the first vehicle bridge on San Cristobal, was badly damaged.

Flooding was an added hazard and in the Maka area, Malaita, one village had 200 people homeless, due to flood waters 12 ft high.

Becky left on December 13 towards the New Hebrides.

Two casualties in the New Hebrides were the sinking of the 60 ft Chinese trader *Hong Kong* and damage to the Burns Philp trader *Manutal* (formerly *John Williams VI*).

Manutal lost her deck cargo and shipped 400 tons of water before safely reaching port.

● The busy main street in Pago Pago, capital of American Samoa.



1968 A CONTROVERSIAL YEAR IN AMERICAN SAMOA

The year of 1968 was one when the political pot in the increasingly industrialised territory of American Samoa reached boiling point. The fire was lit in June when the American Samoan Democratic Party affiliated with the US mainland party, and it continued to burn as the year drew to an end with the general elections in November. Glen Wright, in a dispatch from Pago Pago, reports:

The village chiefs are alarmed at the deterioration of their traditional powers and privileges; charges and counter charges fly back and forth between conservatives and liberals; the Legislature is at odds with the US Administration; and the people, 85 per cent. of whom voted in favor of US citizenship 10 years ago, are wondering when the enabling act will be passed.

And all this amid a hustle and bustle of auto traffic and commercial activity in a debris-littered, architecturally ugly landscape that would have broken the hearts of Somerset Maugham and his contemporaries who once upon a time knew this isle as one of the loveliest in the Pacific.

"Don't force citizenship upon us", plead the Chiefs, and Governor Owen Aspinall replies (blithely ignoring the 1959 plebiscite): "Of course, not—an organic act would be passed by the US Congress only if the majority of the people wanted it". Big problem of an organic act, he says, is land.

If Samoa becomes part of the US, Americans would be free to buy island real estate, which is now exclusive to native Samoans except in rare instances. And, he points out, if the Samoan were to become an American citizen, he surely would be unfairly exploited, because he has no knowledge of land values.

The political hassle started in June when the Democratic Party of American Samoa affiliated with the US mainland party. In August it hosted a ball featuring Democratic congressman from Hawaii, Spark Matsunaga.

Guiding lights

Eight hundred people were invited—at \$10 per head. Two hundred attended. Trumpeted Pago Pago Democratic leader Ivi Pele to the banqueters: "Government should be guided by public opinion and public opinion should be guided by political parties".

A couple of weeks later the party conducted a debate over elective

governorship and US citizenship. Majority of the members favoured both.

While this was going on, Governor Aspinall vetoed bills providing for a constitutional amendment which would give the American Samoa Legislature power over money appropriations and job appointments.

Incensed, the Legislature protested to US Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, pointing out that the territory of Hawaii had been permitted to do this in 1910.

Under-Secretary of Interior Dan Black replied that the Governor had the right to veto the bill because the body should not have made its proposal in the form of a bill but rather as a "concurrent resolution for Constitutional Amendment", about which the Governor has no say.

Surplus plus

However, he said, this was necessary since the Legislature already has power to appropriate local revenues. But it must keep its hands off US taxpayer grants (Aspinall argues that the money question—there was a surplus of some \$1.1 million in the 1968 budget—is made up of US grants).

Disregarding the Legislature, the Governor went right ahead and spent \$624,000 of that \$1.1 million surplus and announced plans for disposal of the rest of it—and more.

Budget for 1970 was adopted in late September: \$14.1 million which is \$3.8 millions more than 1969.

Partisan politics were burgeoning apace throughout 1968. In August

(Continued on p. 158)



Tropicalities

Who'd have thought the latest Fiji travel film, called "Fiji . . . Fiji" and previewed in Suva on December 18, would cause Fiji MLC Mr. Wes Barrett so much concern? And who'd have thought that Mr. Barrett's concern would have resulted in the Legislative Council having the film cut? Not many people—and certainly not Fiji Visitors Bureau's manager Rory Scott but that's what appears to have happened after a screening of the film for the Legco on December 19.

"Fiji . . . Fiji" is a good film, a very good film. So it should be—it cost the Fiji Visitors Bureau over \$20,000 to commission from Cinesound. It breaks away from the ordinary travelogue image, has no dialogue, no commentary, no free plugs, and no stiffly posed models. It's interesting in fact, and should do much to stimulate an ordinary viewing public's interest in visiting Fiji.

But, according to an affronted Mr. Barrett, who is also on the board of the Fiji Visitors Bureau, the 30-minute film has an "offensive" section.

He was adamant about the fact and he told the Minister for Tourism, Mr. Stinson, what he thought. At the same time Bureau manager, Mr. Rory Scott was equally adamant about the fact that he didn't intend to allow "one single frame to be cut".

Mr. Barrett's "offensive" section is one which sends up the Europeans in a highly satirical, though not particularly cruel, manner.

We see long-time tourism identity Barry Philp, reclining in boozy splendour in a chaise-longue, while his Indian house-boy pours him another stiff whisky. A local European businessman scurries down the street, comical in shorts and long socks, umbrella and briefcase.

But Mr. Barrett was most offended by a scene which showed District Officer Don Malcolm riding on horseback, looking frightfully disdainful, and followed by a Fijian, also on horseback but juggling an enormous suitcase. In another, Mr. Malcolm is being punted down the river while a Fijian boy shields him from the sun with a large black umbrella.

And to add to the mad dogs and Englishmen atmosphere is a specially-composed background theme to this segment, going something like "We're

Satirical travel film treads on Fiji toes

naall guardians of the Empah!"

This part would obviously need some doctoring, Mr. Barrett said. It showed local people acting as lackeys to Europeans and there was no point in introducing politics into tourism . . . it was offensive to local people.

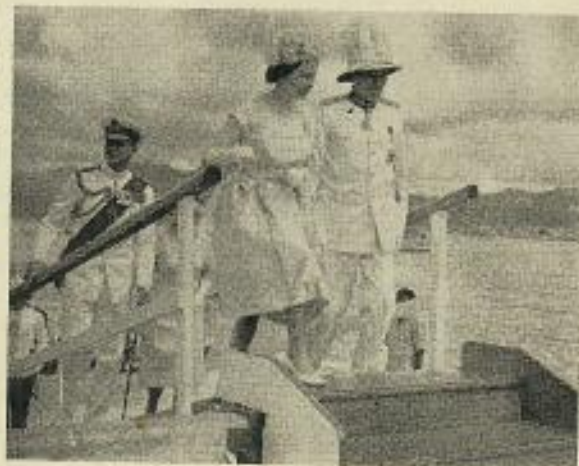
All members of the Legislative Council saw "Fiji . . . Fiji" and they felt that the offending sequence was out of place since Fiji is no longer the sort of colony it depicts.

Someone pointed out that the world outside Fiji was used to being sent up and satire was usually far more biting than that in "Fiji . . . Fiji".

"It looks like we're old hat here," said Mr. David Ragg, chairman of the FVB—with some justification.



Fiji is no longer THAT sort of colony, say members of the colony's Legco condemning a Fiji travel film which depicts a frightfully pukka sort of place. Our picture shows the then Governor, Sir Kenneth Maddocks, in colonial, plumed hat, greeting the Queen on her 1963 tour of Fiji. They still wear those hats.



Not what he bargained for

A lot of conscience money is spent at Nadi airport's duty free shop. Mostly by businessmen who have promised their wives riches (i.e., a muumuu or two) and have persuaded themselves, as shopping time runs out, "Well, there's always the duty free shop at Nadi."

But usually they are in such a hurry at the airport that they don't get the bargains they bargained for. Far from it.

Take the case of a friend of ours. He'd bought some dress material, a sulu and a conch shell in Suva, but had failed to buy the straw basket he'd promised his wife. So he decided to make amends at Nadi before he climbed aboard the Qantas jet.

He queued at the duty free shop—for 20 minutes.

It apparently takes a long time to get served at the duty free shop at 4 a.m.—because there are only two girls serving at that time and they have to handwrite an invoice for every item sold.

When our friend's turn came to be served, he pointed to a basket on the wall and asked how much.

Three dollars Australian, sir.

He'd take it.

His wife was very pleased with the material and the sulu when she saw them some four hours later, and she nodded at the basket. It was a very small basket and the nicest thing you could do to it was nod, but our friend was pretty hurt about that nod. After all, he'd queued 20 minutes for the thing.

He demanded to know what was wrong with the bag.

Well, nothing really, his wife assured him. And then she told him.

It was small and full of cobwebs

and you couldn't fit anything into it and it had cost \$3 and anybody in his right mind would have left it well alone.

She showed him a straw basket that she'd bought while he was away in Fiji (why she had bought a basket while she had one on order in Fiji, our friend doesn't know; perhaps his wife is shrewder than he dare admit).

It was a large basket, a useful basket, a basket into which you could fit a joint, several nappies, a purse, a loaf of bread, cat food and other domestic necessities. A real basket, in fact.

And it cost 39 cents at Woolies.

There are bargains galore in Fiji and at the duty free shop, too. But not always for the last minute spender.

New vistas from Opportunity Village

For 22 years, former Marist Brother, Guy Davis, dreamed of establishing a unique opportunity centre for boys in Fiji. Last year he asked to be released from his vows in order to get his five-year, \$40,000 project underway—and in January his Opportunity Village will open.

Mr. Davis aimed to create a community in which young men from 10 villages in the Tunuloa district on Vanua Levu could be given opportunities for further education and the learning of trades and skills. He set up a charitable trust for the purpose.

School friends and former pupils in Suva helped him raise enough money to buy a second-hand lorry—for carrying copra from Tunuloa to Savusavu and for collecting guavas to be sold to a Suva exporter. Proceeds will go to the trust fund.

More than 2,000 acres of land belonging to the Mataqali Valelevu was set aside for the venture and local villagers set-to to help build bures, a pigsty and a pond for fish-breeding.

Mr. Davis has selected two boys from each of the 10 surrounding villages to be his first pupils at Opportunity Village. The purpose of it all, he explains, is to keep village boys from drifting into the towns—a problem prevalent in all developing countries.

As in many other comparatively isolated districts in Fiji, there's a strong need for supervised education in the Tunuloa area. According to Mr. Davis, there are 364 children of school age not attending schools—and some have never seen a teacher in action.



Memorial stone at Boera, near Port Moresby, which commemorates the building of Boera's first church in 1876. See story at right.

Now, for the 20 initiates, Opportunity Village will provide new possibilities and incentive. It's well named.

Non-citizens get their passports

The first batch of passports designed for use by the native Melanesians of the New Hebrides when travelling abroad arrived in Vila at the beginning of December. This was exactly two years after the New Hebrides Advisory Council was first told that such passports had been devised (*PIM*, Jan., 1967, p. 7).

The new passports are unlike any other passports in use elsewhere in the world because:

- The covers bear the coats of arms of two nations—Great Britain and France—which administer the New Hebrides jointly.

- All details are in both English and French.

- The passports will enable their holders to claim the assistance and protection of either British or French officials abroad or both at the same time.

Until now, New Hebrideans travelling abroad have carried only identity cards. These have sometimes landed them in bother with officials outside the Anglo-French world who have never heard of the Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides.

The major difficulty hitherto in providing the New Hebrideans with

passports has been that, under the Protocol governing their country they cannot become citizens of either Britain or France, and therefore they could not use the ordinary passports of those countries.

The New Hebrideans are, in fact, stateless persons and non-citizens everywhere; although their new passports can be regarded as establishing the status for them of "Anglo-French protected persons"—at least while they are abroad.

Cook Is. pastors remembered

A recent ceremony at the village of Boera, near Port Moresby, recalled the earliest missionary contact with the southern coast of what is now the Territory of Papua.

In November, 1872, 12 years before the declaration of the Protectorate of British New Guinea, a group of six Cook Islands pastors with their wives were landed at Manumalu, on the shores of Galley Reach, 40 miles north-west of Port Moresby. The people were friendly and co-operative, but the location proved to be an unhealthy one, and within a few months three of the party, one man and two women, were dead and the rest were suffering badly from malaria. In May, 1873, the survivors were withdrawn to Cape York, then the base for the projected LMS mission to New Guinea.

In the meantime, Captain John Moresby had discovered the harbour which now bears his name, and with it the village of Hanuabada which stands on its shores, and in November, 1873, four of the surviving pastors, Kuatoka, Rau, Anedere and Eneri, were resettled at Hanuabada. A year later they were joined by Rev. W. G. Lawes, and not long after this Pastor Piri, the fifth survivor of the Manumalu episode, settled at Boera, a beach village 15 miles from Hanuabada.

These pastors had actually been in contact with the Hanuabada people before the discovery of that village by Moresby, as a party of Hanuabadans had visited Manumalu while the Cook Islanders were there. The latter had also been visited while at Manumalu by a party from Boera, and this no doubt accounts for that village being chosen as the first, after Hanuabada, for the location of a pastor.

Piri lost no time in getting a church built, and at the ceremony held at Boera on October 12 a memorial stone commemorating the

building of Boera's first church in 1876 was dedicated. Of the three officiating ministers one was a Papuan, one a Samoan, and the third a New Zealander.

... and a chapel to remember them all

Meanwhile, a new octagonal chapel for the Pacific Theological College in Suva was dedicated by Dr. John Havea of Tonga on December 9.

About half the £6,200 cost of the chapel has been provided by local congregations of Pacific Islands churches. The new chapel is known as the Islander Missionaries Memorial Chapel, in recognition of Pacific Islanders who in the past 100 years or more have gone out as missionaries to other territories in the Pacific.

Two years ago, at the first Assembly of the Conference of Pacific Churches at Lifou, New Caledonia, members were reminded that we know the story of all the European missionaries in the Pacific last century but that the names of the many Islander missionaries were in danger of being lost.

Churches were asked to search their records. When lists were compiled, thanksgiving services in all congregations, of every denomination, were held and at these there was an offering for a chapel for The Pacific Theological College. In this way the Islands churches raised more than half the sum required.

During the same week that the chapel was opened the college held its first graduation ceremony with six students emerging with a Bachelor of Divinity Degree and a further nine receiving Diplomas in Theology. This is the first time students have ever reached degree level in any field of study in a Pacific institution.

A private eye on the public

There was some initial amusement at the November board meeting of the Fiji Visitors Bureau, when it was heard that Fiji's only private detective, Mr. Nanka Singh, had offered his services to the bureau.

The offer gave interesting food for thought. Was Mr. Singh proposing to track down erring tourists? Was he out to ensure that they kept to the straight and narrow while visiting those fair shores? Was Fiji's tourist industry wicked enough to warrant the services of a private eye?



The Pacific Theological College, Suva, and on the right the newly-opened octagonal chapel.

His intentions proved to be less spectacular—he was proposing to act for the bureau on a year's trial basis, investigating complaints against taxi drivers, curio vendors, hotel staff and others.

The general feeling was that the volume of complaints had not reached the stage where Mr. Singh's services were required. They could be handled by the bureau or by chambers of commerce.

Mr. Wes Barrett said that the general standard of trading practices in Fiji was good. "I don't think we need to hire a snooper to investigate letters of complaint," he remarked. The board merely recorded appreciation of Mr. Singh's offer.

In P-NG, they're fencing themselves in

If the P-NG Administration is really serious about import replacement, one of the industries most worth encouraging is surely the manufacture of chain-wire fencing.

It all started with the Army fencing itself in behind a 6 ft chain-wire fence. The sporting clubs followed suit. Then the Sir Hubert Murray Reserve (currently reserved for the South Pacific Games) was fenced in.

And now the Department of the Administrator at Konedobu has thrown a chain-wire fence round itself. The top officials need more privacy, they say. Fair enough, but a bit inconsistent perhaps with Mr. Hay's declaration, when he took office as Administrator, of an "open-door" policy of easier access by the public to the public servants.

How long will it be before the private citizenry starts to fence itself in? Shall we finish up with a town in which the man in the street moves from place to place between towering fences of chain-mesh wire?

Does the ghost of Sir Hubert Murray still amble round the town on a ghostly horse on moonlit nights? And if so, what does he think of the fences, too high to put even a ghost horse at?

Now Fiji's got the oil bug

The reefs and beaches around Fiji are becoming a mite crowded just now with amateur geologists and conchologists. The former are looking for oil seepages—following the advice of Mr. J. C. Grover and the example of Tonga—and the latter are hopefully seeking golden cowries.

Mr. Grover, Fiji's Director of Geological Surveys, appealed to the locals last month to keep their eyes peeled for mysterious bubbles appearing on the surface.

He said that the Tongan seepage didn't necessarily mean there was an economic accumulation of oil nearby. The oil could have travelled for many miles by passing through the pores of the bedrock or by following a crack in the earth's crust. So it wasn't impossible that Fiji might have its own supply of subterranean black gold.

The shell-searchers are inspired by the extraordinary luck in October of a Sydney couple, Mr. and Mrs. Greenwell, of Avalon, who found a 3.8 in. golden cowrie (actually a deep orange-red in colour) lying in an inch of water near The Fijian Hotel at Yanuca.

They were hunting for shells in the early morning at Vosallagi Point when they discovered the cowrie lying on a high, flat piece of coral. It must have been washed there, said the locals, by the recent rough seas in the Yanuca area.

One of the hotel guests immediately offered Mr. Greenwell £50 for

the shell—but the guest was out of luck. Perfect golden cowries can fetch a higher price than that.

From the Cooks to the Carolines

The Cook Islands said good-by to another long-time resident in mid-December when Mr. Ronald Powell left Rarotonga to become Fisheries Officer with the United States Peace Corps in Truk, Caroline Islands.

He was one of the best known "fish men" in the South Pacific although after he arrived in the Cooks in 1939 he was, at various times, boat-builder, island curios manufacturer and photographer.

He began life as a shipwright and from there developed a lasting interest in all aspects of the sea. He became Fisheries Officer for the Cook Islands in 1956 and did a lot of valuable work in transplanting pearl trochus shell. On numerous occasions he was seconded as fisheries officer to South Pacific Commission projects in other Pacific Territories.

It was Mr. Powell who shared a tree with the Frisbie family during the famous hurricane of 1942 which almost blew Suvarrow atoll out to sea.

He was temporarily marooned on Suvarrow with the Frisbies when the hurricane struck and sent the sea lashing right across the islet where they were camped. They were saved by lashing themselves to the tops of the highest *tamanu* trees. When the storm abated, the trees were the only things left standing. The late Robert Dean Frisbie wrote about the incident in one of his books, *Island of Desire*.

A matter of currying favour

In a country like Fiji where Indians predominate it is odd there is not a lot more Indian food available. Most hotels offer a curry or two—and that's about it.

We asked one Fiji hotel executive—a self-confessed curry man—why there were so few Indian dishes on Fiji hotel menus. He told us that most of the people who visit Fiji wouldn't know a good curry if it burnt them. So why bother?

The fact that the people who visit Fiji don't care for curry isn't important. What has to be established is whether they would buy curry, and that fact can't be established, presumably, until curry is plugged.

We're pretty sure that people



Ronald Powell. See story at left.

—Photo: Marie's Photography.

would buy it. After all, the people in the darkest corners of London's East End are not the sort of people you'd expect to see wolfing curry. And they weren't until they were presented with the stuff. Now Indian restaurants flourish in the East End of London—and all over London—just as Chinese restaurants flourish in Australia.

Curry, of course, is not the be-all and end-all of existence—not even of a curry man's existence—but it would do Fiji's tourist image no harm if the colony became known as the only place outside India or, say, London's East End, where you could get a good plate of Madras Beef.

Hotel training scheme for Fiji—soon

Fiji may get its hotel and catering training school before Papua-New Guinea does after all. In December we said that while Papua-New Guinea had decided to establish a school, Fiji was still discussing the need for one.

It seems that the Fiji decision was already made. First news of it was at the December Legislative Council session, when it came out in a written reply to a question from Mr. W. Barrett (Eastern and Central).

Mr. E. J. Beckley is to arrive on February 4, when he will help to establish and head, a School of Hotel and Catering Services, attached to the Derrick Technical Institute. A possible site for the school has been earmarked in the Samabula area and building is expected to begin in 1970.

The Fiji Government appears to have anticipated the recommendations of the United Nations International Labour Office expert, who studied the situation in Fiji last year. His report

has not yet been received—but it was expected to recommend that the government go ahead and establish the training school.

Eric Beckley certainly sounds qualified for the job, both from a practical and teaching viewpoint. His most recent posting has been as catering and training officer for the Cunard Steamship Company in England, involving on-the-job training throughout the fleet. He was also commissioned to set up catering administration for the new *Queen Elizabeth II* liner.

He is a member of the Hotel and Catering Institute of London; the Cooking and Food Association; the Guild of Sommeliers; the Catering Teachers' Association and the Association of Hotel and Catering Training Executives. At one stage he was also assistant manager of the Whitehall Court Hotel, London, and he served in 1961 as senior lecturer in hotel subjects at East London Technical College.

Mr. Beckley will be accompanied to Fiji by his wife, Helen, who has qualifications as a hotel bookkeeper and receptionist. They have a 2-month-old daughter.

What shall we do with the seasick sailor?

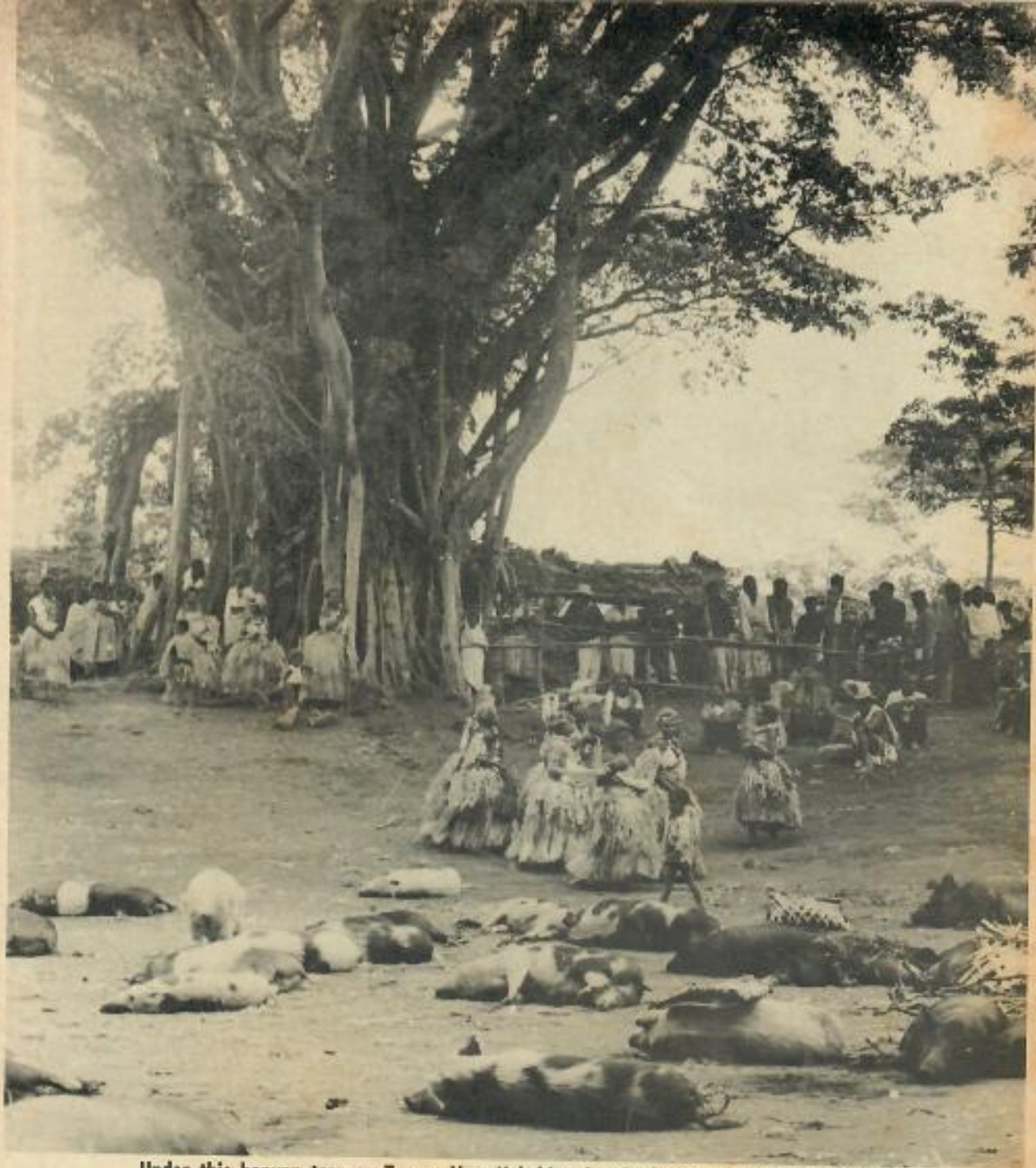
What can the amateur sea traveler do when he's in a small inter-island vessel caught in heavy seas? Take pills? Strap himself to his bunk and hope for the best? Well some people may opt for these remedies, but as the Gilbert Islands' District Commissioner R. E. N. Smith, "Ren," who is known to friends, has his own solution—whisky.

On a recent blow off South Taveuni in the 71-ton *Temaui*, "Ren" was the only one, bar a couple of the ship's 50-odd passengers and crew, to survive the four-hour haul without being sick.

Temaui, which rides high out of the water, pitched, tossed and heaved. Few were present for dinner that night as most were praying from the bunks or the deck.

"Ren" dined almost alone and produced his hardy bottle of whisky. A couple of glasses did the trick. Out came his inevitable *Playboy* magazines and "Ren" read on through hell and high water, unflapped and insisting that the seas were "nothing."

The morning after (the blow-off seas calm—"Ren" protested that in his six-odd years in the New Hebrides he had weathered storms far more severe and in poorer boats. And he swears that whisky is the sure remedy for seasickness.



Under this banyan tree on Tanna, New Hebrides, hundreds of pigs were slaughtered for the last "toka" celebrations. "Toka"—a time of feasting, singing and dancing and a time when traditional Tannese roles are reversed (the women order and the men obey)—is a Tannese version of oneupmanship in which one important chief tries to outdo all other local chiefs in the lavishness of his entertainment. Tanna's "toka" is a tourist attraction, with Air Melanesia running charter flights. But Tanna is only part of the New Hebrides; a different aspect is shown on the next two pages.

Photo: Coral Tours



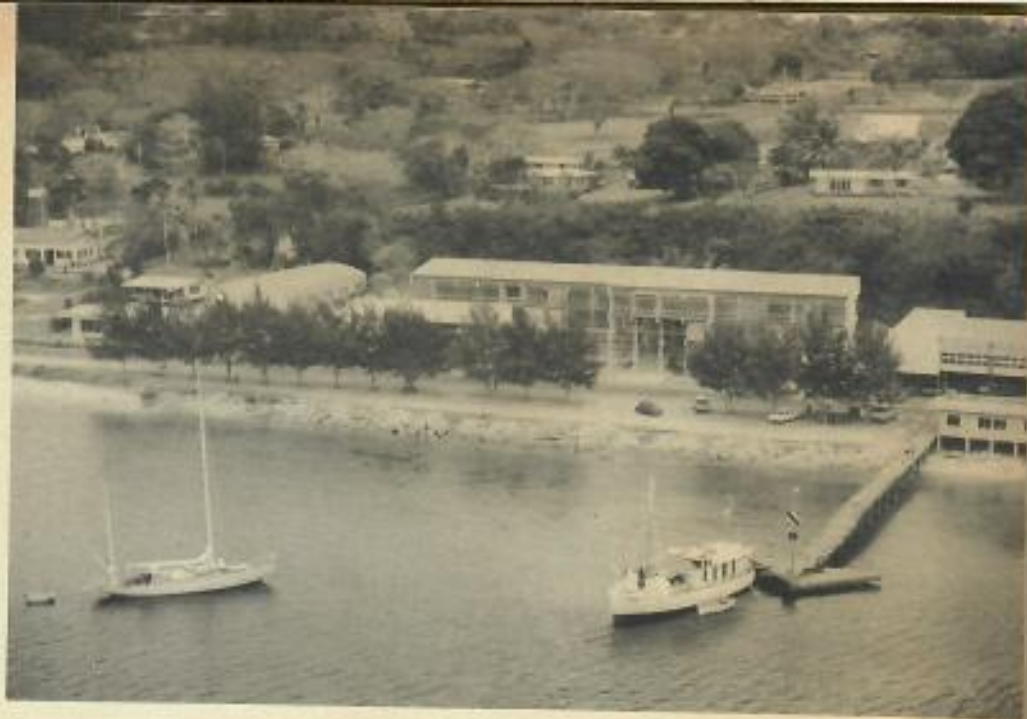
MODERN VILA

Vila, once one of the ugliest towns in the South Pacific, has been given a facelift recently, as these pictures of some fine new buildings show. In Vila French, British, New Hebridean and Vietnamese live happily together and as a result Vila is one of the unique places of the South Pacific. Though the closure of the manganese mine by Ferrari is now being felt in Vila, especially by the stores and taxi operators, it has not stopped the spate of building.

Above, a block of flats and shops that cost \$56,000. Right, the new Condominium offices (in the foreground) and BP store have revolutionised that end of Vila which formerly was given over to unsightly weeds and old tin sheds.



Left, the new French school, on a hill overlooking Vila, which was completed in 1968 and which offers full secondary education to French-speaking students. Not to be outdone, the British are now building up three of their secondary establishments.



Above, the new Condominium offices, completed at a cost of \$260,000, were opened towards the end of last year in true Condominium fashion—the two High Commissioners for the Pacific, French and British, cut a ribbon simultaneously. At the right of the Condominium office is part of the new store of Burns Philp (S.S.) Co. Ltd. The old store and office, which has occupied a quonset type building since the end of the war, is being pulled down. Left, the substantial-looking Vila Club, centre for local social activities.

Right, a bakery-tearoom which was completed in 1967 at a cost of \$36,000.





A fascinating and little visited, part of Papua is Tufi, on the coast of the Northern District. It's famed for its natural fiords like the one above. The guest house is on a point overlooking a fiord (at right). See story opposite page.



WHERE YOU CAN GAZE AT P-NG'S NATURAL BEAUTY—WITHOUT SUFFERING

Visitors to Papua-New Guinea no longer have to confine themselves to the old beaten path—that quick look at Port Moresby and then off to the Highlands. Enterprising Territorians with a new slant on tourism are making it possible to see unspoiled beauty spots without either roughing it or having to force yourself on some long-suffering resident.

Tufi, for instance. It's on the most scenic of the fiords in the Cape Nelson area of north-eastern Papua, just over 100 miles from Port Moresby by air and 60 miles from Popondetta, the inland headquarters town of Northern District.

Tufi has its own airstrip and now has Mirigina Lodge, run by Mr. and Mrs. Milne who went to the station in a government job, fell in love with the place and decided to stay permanently.

The lodge has accommodation for 10, in small thatched bungalows in a garden setting, and each with modern bathroom. Dining and lounge facilities are in the main house which was converted from an old government residency (Tufi is still a sub-district HQ). In November, a swimming pool was being built and the Milne couple expected to get a liquor licence.

The lodge is called after the Mirigina waterfall nearby, and the waterfall is named for the early Papuan government vessel *Merrie England* which, Papuanised, comes out as Mirigina. Tariff at the lodge is only \$10 a day, covering accommodation, meals, tours and use of dinghys.

He shot first

Tufi, in addition to providing relaxation, spectacular scenery, hiking, boating, swimming from white sand beaches, skin diving, snorkling and exploring, has some interesting history.

There has been a government station in Cape Nelson area since the early 1900's when it was established by the late C. A. W. Monckton, who has left behind several books of reminiscences about patrolling in Papua. Monckton today, of course, is remembered as a guy inclined to shoot first and ask questions afterwards. It was one way of bringing government to primitive

people but even in 1907 it didn't find favour with Port Moresby authorities and his career in Papua was brief.

The present Tufi station is built on a cliff and looks down the fiord. Goodenough Island can be seen in the distance and, in the background, are the old volcanoes of Mt. Victory (6,300 ft), Mt. Trafalga and Mt. Hall.

There are many villages within easy walking distance and the people still are unspoiled and unsophisticated.

Mr. Eric Blount, of Port Moresby, who supplied the photographs opposite after a recent visit to Tufi's Mirigina Lodge, described something

of the simple charm of the place:

"If the visitor happens to be at Tufi on a Sunday and doesn't mind a three-mile hike or sitting on a split-log bench, he can hear a church service delivered in three languages and watch a heap of fruit and vegetables grow as the church members file in quietly and deposit their vegetarian offerings on the earth floor. His own few silver coins will look incongruous and inadequate among these better-understood products of the soil.

"After the service, on reaching the doorway, he will be greeted by a double line-up of worshippers in various states of dress or undress, all anxiously waiting to shake his hand. The line-up finally ends under a shady tree where pineapples have been sliced in readiness for his refreshment.

"To sit here awhile and partake of this simple hospitality can give the stranger an insight into native behaviour that can be easily overlooked in the busier, commercialised towns of the territory."

Meanwhile, back at Wewak

Right at the other end of the territory, at Wewak, two other young generation Territorians, Len and Cathy Peterson, opened the Windjammer Motel last August. It's at Mission Point, about a mile from the main town on Wewak headland.

The motel is on a 500 ft frontage to the beach, which is one of the few in the territory suitable for surfing. Twelve of the 26 self-contained units face the beach and the rest inland. None is more than a few yards from the water's edge.

The Windjammer offers accommodation on a bed-and-breakfast basis at \$7 per night. Other meals can be taken in the Melanesian Room restaurant. The motel is licensed.

Although a great deal of tourist attention has been focused on the Highlands, Wewak has a great deal to offer those who want to see a different sort of New Guinea.

The town is a pleasant spot in its own right; but it is also a good base for expeditions further afield

into the 14,000 square miles of East and West Sepik Districts.

The Sepik River runs for 700 miles through the districts, and for those who are prepared to rough it, trawlers sail regularly from Wewak along the coast and 300 miles up-river. Those who are determined to see the rest of it can do so by canoe, powered or unpowered, and probably shoot a few crocodiles on the way.

Those not so tough can make sorties out of Wewak by air to Vanimo, HQ town of West Sepik and only a few miles from the West Irian border; to Ambunti or Angoram on the river; or to Maprik or adjacent Mayfield which was named over 20 years ago, after the present Administrator of Papua-



THINGS HAVE CHANGED...

Take our aircraft, for instance — now we're flying great, gleaming DC-8 jets. From Los Angeles, right through the South Pacific as far as Singapore. They're bigger, better, carry you more comfortably than the grand old flying boats we took from lagoon to lagoon all over the South Pacific. They serve you better now — go to more places. Today our circuit reads like a Traveller's Guide to the romantic South Pacific — Honolulu, Papeete, Pago Pago, Fiji, Noumea, Norfolk Island, Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane... plus the Pacific gateways — Los Angeles, Hong Kong and Singapore. But some things haven't changed. Come aboard. It's the same, the all-the-way service you've known for years, informal, friendly. You like it that way, you tell us. So we'll keep it that way.


Jet AIR NEW ZEALAND DC-8

THE JETLINE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC with BOAC & QANTAS

ANZP

New Guinea, Mr. David Hay, at a time when he was a young Army lieutenant pursuing Japanese across the Sepik's grass plains.

It was the Sepik that put New Guinea primitive art on the world map. Tons of carvings and other artifacts have been shipped out to the United States and elsewhere and small fortunes have been made from the trade. Although some carvings are now manufactured with tourists in mind, it is still possible to get pieces that reek of antiquity and authenticity.

The Sepik is the home of "spirit houses". The Haus Tambarans near Maprik and at Angoram are in different styles but are undoubtedly the most photographed buildings in all Papua-New Guinea.

Although Wewak is a hustling and bustling town, a great deal of its growth is generated by government enterprises — the fact that a battalion of the Pacific Islands Regiment is stationed at nearby Moem Barracks has something to do with it. There have, to date, been few basic private enterprise industries to keep the districts moving. For this reason, tourism could be a Godsend to this large and fascinating area.

NEW HOTEL APPROVED FOR WESTERN SAMOA

The Western Samoan Government has approved the construction of a 40-room hotel on the south coast of Upolu, at Mulivali in Safata, at a cost of about \$WS147,000. The prime movers in the enterprise—H. and J. Retzlaff Ltd., Mr. Trevor Kyle, of Australia, and the Retzlaff Tour and Travel Office—say that they will invite local and overseas interests to invest in the hotel.

The hotel's backers hope to have completed 20 bungalows and a central block within the year, and a further 20 units within five years.

Under Western Samoa's Enterprises Incentives Act, the hotel's backers will be allowed to import free of duty such major installations as lighting plants, refrigerators, stoves, fans and a truck.

The hotel will give employment to people in what is at present a depressed area. There will be indirect employment for local people who will be able to supply vegetables and meat to the hotel, as well as direct employment (as hotel staff) for 21. After five years the hotel will employ a staff of up to 47 local people.



Suva's magnificent new Travelodge with, background, the Government Buildings.—
Photo: A. G. Sheerer.

FIJI'S GOT IT MADE DESPITE POCKETS OF PESSIMISM

By STUART REID, after a visit to Fiji.

Fiji, most people who have been there chorus, has it made as far as tourism is concerned. After all, with those mountains, those bays, those lagoons, those beaches, and those ever-smiling people (not to mention duty-free shopping) how can she lose? It seems she cannot. Yet one senses that some people in the Fiji travel business are not exactly bouncing with confidence. A feeling of pessimism is evident when they go into group therapy—as, for instance, at the eighth annual tourist convention in Suva last October.

And to an extent their pessimism is understandable, R. S. Odell's report (stating that there are too many hotel rooms in Suva and recommending that the government curb hotel development in the city until 1971) wasn't exactly a glad tidings—even though PATA's Marvin Plake, who knows his tourists at least as well as Odell, said "hoovey" to the report and pointed out that capacity must always stand ahead of demand.

But, despite the pessimism, there is some pretty impressive development and optimistic talk of development in the colony. First, hotel development.

The plush, air-conditioned, musak-permeated Travelodge was opened in October amid good cheer and cold beer. The place is quite as smart as

the latest Australian hotels, the food is good and the most demanding tourist will get what he wants in terms of creature comfort (and you can turn the musak off in your room!).

A few miles from Suva there is the Tradewinds Hotel. With its fantastic view of the Bay of Islands and fine food, this hotel is now the centre of Suva's night life.

Then there's the Fijian Resort Hotel, now a little over a year old and doing well, where people smoke kingsize cigarettes, flash toothpaste smiles and drink long cocktails. One expects at any moment the musak system to break into martial musak and to hear a mid-Atlantic accent vow: "All over the world people are

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The development talkers

smoking P. . . S. . .").

The Fijian is the last word in James Bond sophistication—even though a lady has been known to wear curlers to (snack) lunch—and in two years it will have a nine hole golf course.

The Fijian, like the older—and cheaper—Korolevu Hotel, lies on the Coral Coast. Both hotels have magnificent beaches and offer swimming (pool and sea) and fishing . . . and a time to relax.

And then, of course, there is a rash of hotels around Nadi. Latest hotel in the area is the aptly-named Gateway. It is three minutes from the airport and it is large and clean and air-conditioned.

There are quite a few others in the area—and not all of them reek with confidence. Some look as though they were put up by people who were not quite convinced of the tourist potential of Fiji, with the result that these hotels have a makeshift look.

"Another Travelodge"

Then there's the Man Friday development plan. Man Friday, a magnificently-sited holiday spot on the Coral Coast, has taken the first step in its \$A100,000 extension programme with the completion of the new 2½ mile (access) road from Queen's Road to the resort.

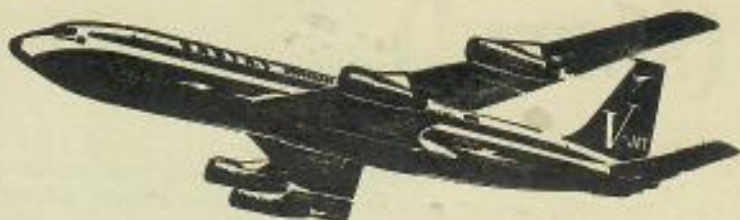
All those are among the latest developments. What about the talk? Perhaps the most impressive development talk at the moment comes from the Hooker Corporation (*PIM*, Dec., p. 127).

A top executive with Hooker told me in December that he had been to Fiji three times in 1968 sounding out real estate and tourist possibilities. He said that he knew that Odell had recommended that the government curb hotel development in Suva until 1971. His conclusion: "I think it likely that Suva will need another Travelodge by the end of 1969."

He also told me that he was keen for Hooker's to set up a resort hotel along the Coral Coast (with other organisations if necessary)—and a resort hotel is something that the Hooker organisation has never built anywhere.

That the Hooker organisation is interested in developing tourist attractions in Fiji is an encouraging sign for the Fiji tourist people and one that should lessen the pessimism caused by Carpenter's decision not to go ahead with hotel ventures in the colony.

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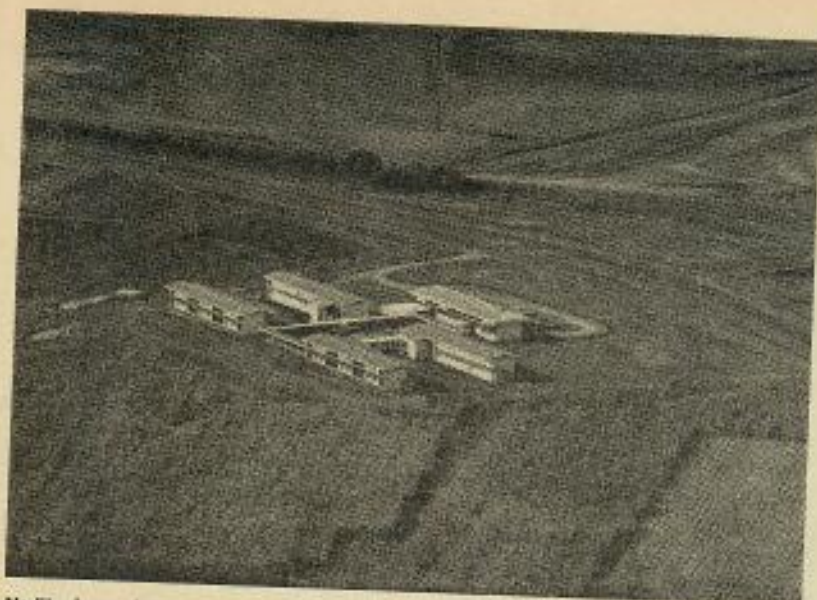


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Nadi's latest hotel, the Gateway, a few minutes from the airport.—Photo: A. G. Shearer.

Fiji, then, as far as tourism is concerned, is a place of first-class hotels, of good hotels and of hotels that haven't quite made it, and Fiji is a place of unlimited potential and talk of potential. Soon, no doubt, development will get into full swing and the people who live in Fiji will take confidence in themselves, and tourism will replace sugar as the colony's main money earner.

In other words, the place may soon become another Hawaii—that is, a place that offers tourists what they want for a price, a place where a good standard of living is enjoyed by the whole population and where there is no racialism because the people need to work together to keep the tourist business afloat.

Hawaii-phobia

Not everyone, of course, jumps for joy at the prospect—although it would be hard to find an ordinary Fijian or Indian who would not like the idea. Many Europeans regard the prospect of Fiji becoming another Hawaii with the same horror that members of the Melbourne Club regard a poker machine.

The people with the Hawaii-phobia have it because they fear that an Hawaiianised Fiji would, one, lose its "authentic Islands atmosphere" and, two, become inundated by that monster, the American tourist (a creature, it is unfairly alleged, in a screaming shirt, bedecked with cameras, who is ignorant of every point of mildly good manners, who is rude to waiters and bears an un-

speakable name—like Elmer).

First Point. Fiji has already lost its "authentic Islands atmosphere"—or at any rate very nearly.

What's authentic about a group of Fijian villagers, floodlit, in gear that looks as though it has come straight from a wardrobe department, singing the Isa Lei next to a swimming pool?

What's authentic about the village chief's hut where pictures of every English monarch since Edward VII stare accusingly at you from every wall.

And what's authentic about garlanding jetsetters with leis at Nadi airport?

The answer: Nothing. But the singing and the garlanding and the chief's open hut are pleasant and harmless and the tourists enjoy them.

Point two. Even if the ugly American does exist (and if he does he is certainly—from my experience in the hotel business—no more ugly than the Englishman or Australian; just richer and, often, more generous) why should that worry the Fijian?

No man should object to serving a bald pate and a fat cigar if in return he gets a fistful of dollars?

If Fiji becomes another Hawaii, good for Fiji—in particular, good for the Fijians.

The danger, however, is not that Fiji will become another Hawaii but that it will become another Queensland Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is a mixture of everything that is abominable in American and English architecture. If anything like Main Street, Surfers Paradise, went up in Fiji, it would be a tragedy.

FROM 16th CENTURY PUB TO NADI'S LATEST HOTEL

About two years ago George and Edna Cathcart were running a 16th century pub at Henly in Arden in England's Midlands. The pub had bags of atmosphere and, of course, a ghost.

Today George and Edna are running the latest Nadi area hotel, The Gateway (a stone's throw from the airport). It also has bags of atmosphere—injected by the ebullient George and Edna—though, not, as yet, a ghost.

George Cathcart became manager of The Gateway when it opened in August. However, he and his wife are not newcomers to Fiji.

From 1957 to 1964, the Cathcarts were managing Fiji hotels for the Northern Hotels and Cathay chains. Then, four years ago, they made a sentimental journey to England.

During their stay they leased three pubs (the 16th century one was called Ye Olde Red Lion). They had to move about a bit to keep warm. As George puts it: "We'd hear that it was warmer in another part of the country, so we'd move. And it was warmer. Two degrees warmer."

Taxes too much

Their sentimental journey backfired, though. The Cathcarts found that they couldn't get sentimental about high taxes and rain, and it wasn't long before they started getting sentimental about Fiji. So, early last year, they returned.

George says that although The Gateway (58 air-conditioned twin rooms, at £5 for double occupancy) is basically a transit pub, he is confident that he can manage to get people to stay longer than the usual one or two nights of the transit guest.

After all—as George points out—there's a lot to see around Nadi, and the Beachcomber cruise from nearby Lautoka is excellent value.

Though Fiji is now home to George and Edna, they still have a bit of England in them—or, more accurately, in their flat. The place is chock-a-block with pikes, duelling pieces and antique chairs. Taking pride of place on an ancient side-



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board is a decanter container with a prudent Victorian lock ("To stop the servants getting at the port," says Edna.)

There will always be an England, but George and Edna took theirs to Fiji.

NEW PLANS FOR SOLAIR

Solair, the BSIP's internal airline, may go international—an application has been made by the company to operate a weekly air service to Kieta, Bougainville.

The airline is proposing a Friday service from Honiara to Kieta, calling at Munda, and has also asked for permission to call at Gizo when the airfield there becomes operational.

Under the proposals, passengers would leave Honiara at 8 a.m. and be in Kieta by 10 a.m. The return times would be 11.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Capt. J. Seaton, of Solair, said that it was planned to link up with the existing internal services in P-NG operating to and from Rabaul.

The licence application is subject to objections and representations. If it is approved, it will be subject to further consideration by British and Australian authorities, since the proposed service is on an international route.

FIJI AIRWAYS FLIGHT PLANS FOR 1969

Fiji Airways' flight schedules for 1969 include a once-a-week flight to Tarawa, twice-a-week flights to Honiara, and a weekly flight to Port Moresby, via Honiara, which is due to start on April 1.

From February 1, Fiji Airways' revised schedules will be:

- Three flights a week to Tonga, departing Nadi on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

- Once a week to Apia, departing Nadi on Wednesdays.

- Twice a week to Honiara, departing from Nadi on Thursdays and Saturdays and returning on Fridays and Sundays. After April 1, the Saturday service from Fiji will be returning on Mondays.

- Once a week to Tarawa, departing on Sundays and returning on Mondays. Every second Sunday, the service will extend to take in Nauru.

The proposed Port Moresby flight is expected to depart Nadi on Saturdays, stop over at Honiara that night, arrive in Port Moresby on Sundays. The return flight will leave Port Moresby on the same Sunday, spend the night at Honiara and return to Fiji on Monday.



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HAS THE CONCEPT OF ATTRACTING OVERSEAS SKILLS TO P-NG GOT OUT OF HAND?

Niugini as a national name did not win acceptance by the P-NG House of Assembly at its November meeting. There was a variety of reasons for this, and its non-adoption should not be interpreted as a rejection. Anyway, until someone comes up with a better idea or until a new national name wins official acceptance, I propose for the purpose of this column to use "Niugini" as a convenient shorthand for "Papua and New Guinea" and "Niuginian" for Papuan and/or New Guinean.

During the last few years I have been roped in with increasing frequency to speak at a variety of functions — school prize givings, annual meetings and so on. I have even figured as an after-dinner speaker. People seem to have decided that I can be relied on to be reasonably brief and not too dull.

The occasions which have taken me furthest off my "beat", but which I have nevertheless found to be among the most interesting and stimulating, have been those on which I have been invited to talk to groups of people involved in the training of Niuginians for advancement in the fields of commerce, industry and public utilities.

My assignment has been to talk about the cultural backgrounds from which the trainees come, and the implications of those backgrounds for training programmes. Not only have I enjoyed these assignments, but I have been most impressed with the keenness of the people engaged in this kind of work.

This represents a major revolution in thinking. For decades private



To the Point with Percy Chatterton

enterprise in Papua, and the Administration too for that matter, was bogged down in what might be called the "tea-boy" era. The function of the Papuan in an office was to go round to the Post Office to collect the mail, and then to make cups of tea or coffee and carry them round to the Europeans at their desks. (In earlier days it was always tea; with the advent of "instant" coffee, habits have changed).

At other times he might be called on to bring a needed file from the filing cabinet to the desk at which

it was needed and later to return it to its place. That, and the running of sundry messages, was about as far as he went.

If he worked in a retail store his principal task was to reach for items from shelves and hand them to the European salesman or saleswoman to tie up parcels, and perhaps to carry them out to the customer's car.

In the bulk store he man-handled the bulkier and heavier items. In the workshop he handed the right, or perhaps more often the wrong, tool to the European mechanic.

Nothing wrong in all this. Many English and Australian school-leavers have started their careers in such jobs. But these Papuan lads were liable to find themselves doing them for the rest of their working lives with little chance of advancement.

Menial tasks

It is fair to say that this situation was in part due to the very rudimentary education which most Papuans received in those days. But in part it was due to a menial attitude which regarded it as unfitting that Papuans should be allotted anything but menial tasks. As a result even the small advances towards knowledge and responsibility which they might have made were not made.

In the last few paragraphs I have written "Papuan" because my own experience has been of Papua. But from my contact with ex-New



Second year survey students at the Institute of Higher Education. Lee, Andrew Tagamesuu, left (from Wewak), and Gairo Wai (Marshall Lagoon) using theodolites. Will there be good jobs, at the right pay, for young men like these?

Guinea types during the war years I should think that what I have written would be at least as applicable to New Guinea as it was to Papua.

I still remember, almost with incredulity, the tight-lipped gentleman who would not allow Papuans to speak to him in English. It was impertinent, he said. If they couldn't talk pidgin they must speak to him through an interpreter.

"Impressive"

How things have changed! Even if localisation of the Public Service has not gone ahead as quickly as some would have liked, the figure of 600 Niuginians in the second division, given at a recent graduation ceremony at the Administrative College, is quite impressive. The figure of 13,000 Niuginians in the third division, given on the same occasion, is perhaps a bit misleading. Nearly half of these are former administration servants who had already been working for the government for years and who, when they were transferred to the Public Service, just went on doing the same jobs under a new umbrella.

In private enterprise there is an alertness, at least as great as that in the public sector, to the need for providing training which will enable Niuginians to advance themselves to positions of expertise and responsibility.

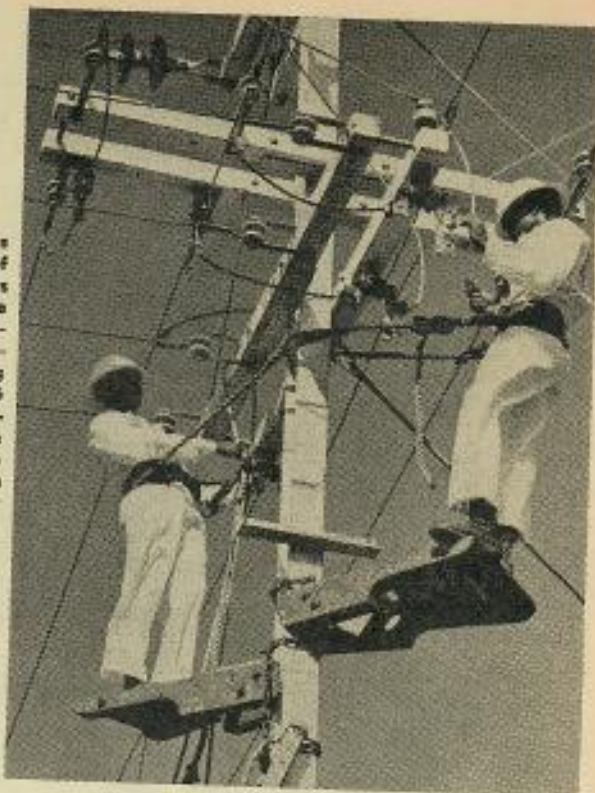
Recently I expressed the view that firms which are doing this sort of thing should get more than just a pat on the back. They should receive a recognition of current effort, and an encouragement to further effort in the form of a tax rebate based on the percentage of their total payroll paid to indigenous staff. The bigger the percentage, the more generous the rebate should be.

As far as I know, no one has taken the slightest notice of this suggestion, which I still think to be a good one.

Putting ideas across

Perhaps this is partly my own fault, because at the same time that I made it I also put forward another suggestion which had better news value. I pointed out that while there were many areas of economic development in which overseas know-how and capital were essential, there were already a few areas (and would presently be more) in which Niuginians could go it alone, and in those areas it might be desirable to give them some measure of protection from unfair competition by

Once New Guineans were hewers of wood and drawers of water but these days they are learning other skills — such a these being taught at the P-NG Electricity Commission's training centre in Port Moresby. So problems arise, which are discussed by Percy Chatterton in this month's column.



expatriate entrepreneurs.

To this idea I incautiously applied the tag "Black New Guinea Policy", which of course hit the headlines and brought down all sorts of recriminations on my head. I was accused of being a stirrer-up of racial hatred and goodness knows what.

It is difficult to see why the phrase "Black New Guinea Policy" should be more provocative of racial hatred than the phrase "White Australia Policy".

It is also difficult to see in what essential way my proposal, which suggested as a modest beginning giving indigenes preference over expatriates in obtaining licences to operate village trade stores, differs from the established policy of giving preference to indigenous applicants for positions in the Public Service if their qualifications are as good as those of expatriate applicants. Yet, so far as I am aware, no one has accused Public Service Commissioner Somers of being a stirrer-up of racial hatred.

My only regret at having made this suggestion is that it distracted attention from the less news-worthy but perhaps more consideration-worthy one of granting tax concessions to companies which are

pulling their weight by involving indigenes in their operations at all levels.


But let us look a little more closely at this matter of racial "hatred". I know very few Papuans (I can't speak for New Guineans (I hope that what I am saying is true for them too) who hate white men for being white.

Problems of race

I know rather more Europeans who hate, or at any rate despise, brown men for being brown—but still not large numbers of them. Those who do so are mainly men of low level skills who realise that they will be among the first to become redundant as Niuginians take over the jobs. The less the real superiority, the more strident the efforts to assert it.

Basically the problem of race relations is one of economics, not of skin colour. The real tension is not between white and brown but between have and have-not. Unfortunately the present situation in Niugini is that nearly all the have's have white skins and nearly all the have-not's have brown ones.

Nearly all, not quite. A few of



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Basically, race relations are economic

the best paid Papuans are better paid than the lowest paid Europeans, and I am told that there are some quite wealthy New Guinean agriculturists. But not many. The resultant differences in living standards form an ever-present irritant.

As I see it, the way to avoid these tensions hardening into real racial "hatred" is not to waffle about our being all brothers under the skin or about a partnership of white and brown in developing the territory, but to increase as rapidly as possible the area of overlap in which whites and browns are receiving roughly the same sort of remuneration and enjoying roughly the same standard of living.

This can be tackled from both ends: first, by increasing the number of Niuginians who are worth, and receive, higher pay levels; second by increasing the number of Europeans willing to accept lower pay levels, in other words—volunteers.

I am not starry-eyed about volunteers. I recognise their limitations. But most, if not all, of those limitations are shared by short-term overseas employees at any pay level. And I feel quite sure that the value, during the next few critical years, of having substantial numbers of Europeans in the "overlap" group could be very great indeed.

I wonder whether the time has not come to take a hard look at some of the demands made by some expatriates as the price of their participation in the development of the territory.

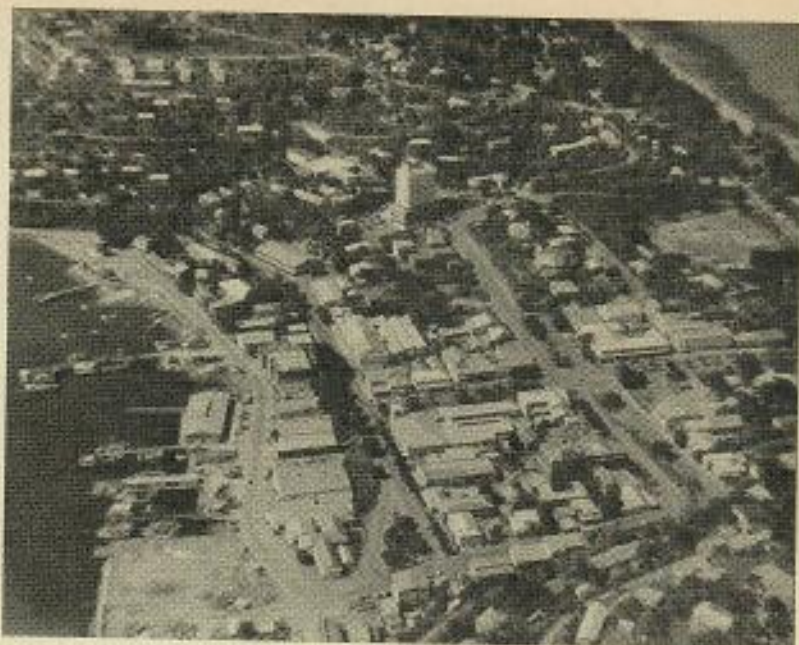
Since the period of post-war reconstruction and development began, we have constantly been told

Fiji divorce figures on the wane

DIVORCE petitions were on the wane in Fiji in 1967, and so were offences connected with morality, liquor and public health. But criminal cases dealt with in Fiji magistrate's courts went up 37 per cent, and civil cases rose by 25 per cent.

The number of juveniles charged with criminal offences rose from 189 to 210.

There was an enormous increase in the number of applications to enforce maintenance orders—from 462 to 1,110.



In big towns like Port Moresby, New Guineans and Europeans work side by side, often at the same jobs with different levels of pay. The resultant differences in living standards form an ever-present irritant, says Percy Chatterton, who lives in Port Moresby. This aerial picture shows the main commercial centre, with the 12-storey ANG building dominating the hill in the centre background.

that to attract from overseas the skills we need to develop the territory we must offer inducements in the form of generous salaries and liberal working conditions. At the start this seemed fair enough, and was accepted by most Niuginians as a price which must be paid for the development of their country.

Has the concept got out of hand? Has it become a racket, even a species of blackmail?

Demands for more pay and more perks come in a steady stream; and with them what sound rather like threats. "If you don't give us what we're asking for we'll pack up and go". "You must make it worth our while to stay". "We can do as well for ourselves, if not better, in Australia".

I wonder how true that last one is. It probably is true of those with the top level skills. But is it true of those a bit further down the scale of skills? If so, why are some of them so touchy about the possibility of having their present jobs taken over by Niuginians? Why are they clamouring for a golden handshake as the price of their departure?

(I am not against a golden handshake for those who have served the territory faithfully and well. I am merely concerned with pointing out

the discrepancy between two lines of argument.)

At the same time that these claims are being made and acceded to, Niuginians are being told that their pay and perks must be kept at a level which, blessed phrase, "the economy of the country can afford".

Patient people

Niuginians are among the most patient and tolerant of people. I never cease to be glad that I have spent my life among them. But don't let us strain their patience and their tolerance too far. Above all, let us be sure that the arguments we use, especially the arguments we use to maintain a favourable situation for ourselves, are arguments which will stand up to critical examination.

No, I am not trying to stir up racial hatred.

I am simply pointing out that economic tensions could develop into racial hatred, and suggesting how this may be averted. Perhaps my suggestions are not very good ones. Perhaps someone else can come up with better ones.

If so, let us hear them. But don't let us just adjust our blinkers and hope for the best.

The Editor's Mailbag

AIRCRAFT RESTORATION

Sir,—After reading letters to *PIM* over the past few issues dealing with the recovery and restoration of wartime aircraft in Papua-New Guinea, as well as the north British Solomons, I feel I should clarify some of the misconceptions about aircraft finding their way to Port Moresby, apparently to the annoyance of persons in other parts of this territory.

As chairman of the Air Museum of Papua and New Guinea, I want to point out—from bitter experience—that the lifetime of discovered aircraft is directly in proportion to the number of persons who gain access to them, to strip them for souvenirs or because of pure vandalism. Our air museum, though based in Port Moresby, is devoted to the recovery and full restoration of as many of these valuable relics as possible, no matter where they may be.

Two years ago we obtained salvage rights to the Kavieng Zero mentioned by Mr. Victor Chapman (*PIM*, Dec., p. 11) and considered that its condition at Kavieng was such that within a short time the aircraft would be little more than scrap. However, in Melbourne, a young man with an almost superhuman ability to restore aircraft, had offered to exchange a rare CAC "Wirraway" (A20-13) for this machine. Now, whereas we have a number of Zeros left, a valuable wartime relic has been obtained for the territory (NOT Port Moresby, Mr. Chapman) and will take its place alongside other historic aircraft, such as the P47D Thunderbolt and the Lockheed Lightning. By 1970 the air museum will have a Ford Trimotor, a P39 Airacobra, a Zero, a Tiger Moth, as well as civilian aircraft such as the DH Dragon, and a replica of the Curtis "Seagull"—the first aircraft to fly in the territory.

The Canadian, Mr. Robert Diemert, whom we have materially assisted in the recovery of a "Val" divebomber and three Zeros, obtained these machines because he has proved himself capable of turning a pile of wreckage into a flying relic. If he had been only interested in the planes for monetary gain, he would not have received our co-operation.

The Air Museum of Papua and New Guinea has at no time received one cent from the Administration to help in recovery, restoration and exhibition costs. We are not a profit-

making organisation and have borne every cost for our past work, and will probably continue to pay for all our future efforts.

The reason the group operates in Port Moresby is primarily because the people capable of such an immense undertaking live in Port Moresby. If we lived elsewhere we would do the same thing there. We have tried to avoid friction with other centres as much as possible by first determining if any other organisation could attempt a similar scheme in its own locality. Where it is obvious that no restoration can be undertaken on the spot, every effort is made to bring the planes to Moresby, where we can guarantee them a home. This sometimes means we exchange duplicate aircraft for unprocurable relics elsewhere.

We are NOT a "bureaucracy", as was suggested by my namesake in his letter, but a collection of dedicated individuals who are determined to keep those aircraft in the territory, and find a "happy home" for those we cannot restore and display.

We have land, we own our own building and equipment, we have rapidly acquired skills and a tremendous fund of knowledge of restoration, and we have worked hard over two years with no thanks or personal reward. If anyone wants to know just how hard we've worked they may like to send for our newsletter, which devotes a lot of space to recovery and restoration projects. We pay for the postage and printing costs!

I feel that it is much easier to complain about the motivations of others in this world than it is to roll up the sleeves and get stuck into the job of remedying the complaint.

Our little air museum in Port Moresby could be duplicated elsewhere in Papua and New Guinea, if only the talkers could get off their posteriors, race into the hills, islands and swamps, and start working. Then we may sympathise with their complaints.

Until then we will continue to work, quietly preserving our aviation heritage.

BILL CHAPMAN.

Chairman, Air Museum of Papua and New Guinea.

Box 844,
Port Moresby.

KAVIENG'S ZERO

Sir,—I refer to your photograph of a Japanese Zero aircraft at Kavieng (*PIM*, Oct., p. 36) and to a letter (*PIM*, Dec., p. 11) from Mr. Victor Chapman. Mr. Chapman and other readers may be interested in the following information regarding this or another Zero aeroplane from Kavieng.

In June, 1968, I was a passenger aboard Bank Lines MV *Crestbank*. We arrived at Kavieng to load copra on June 11, and while loading proceeded, members of the crew and myself had a good look around the area.

One thing that attracted our attention was a damaged, but still in reasonably good condition, Zero aeroplane stored behind some sheds belonging to the CWD.

On June 18 this very same plane arrived wharfside and was loaded onto No. 3 hatch of the *Crestbank*.

Unfortunately I left the ship on the afternoon of the 18th but I believe the plane was destined for Melbourne for restoration.

The above information conflicts somewhat with Mr. Chapman's account of the movements of this plane from Kavieng, but some other reader may be able to clarify the subsequent movements of this plane after off-loading from the *Crestbank*.

JOHN O'BRIEN.

Pennant Hills,
NSW.

DEPORTATION OF KANAKAS

Sir,—Readers of *PIM* may have read an "eyewitness" account in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, November 2, of the deportation of "shackled" Kanakas from Cairns in 1907, and also the subsequent letters in the *Herald* denying the accuracy of this account. As another eyewitness, I would like to add my voice to those who have denied that the Kanakas left Australia in shackles.

As a supercargo with Burns Philp from 1902 to 1915 I accompanied many a shipload of Kanakas from Queensland, and I can fairly say that I never saw a happier lot of people. On one trip on the *Titus* we had on board a full Salvation Army band. We landed them at Mai, in the New Hebrides.

The writer of the *Herald* article mentioned bearing a siren blow as the steamer with the Kanakas on board went down the bay and headed for open sea, yet none of the BP vessels (which handled the repatriation of Kanakas) had sirens.

The writer also goes on to state

that as the Kanakas boarded the vessels in irons one bystander referred to them as "black bastards". The only bastard I ever saw in irons was not black but white. He was a pirate named Joseph Mortelmans who murdered the captain and the mate of the schooner *Nuevo Tigre* in 1907 (*PIM*, August, p. 81).

I have made investigations to back up my sure recollection that the Kanakas deported from Queensland were not in irons. I recently wrote to Mr. David Burns, chairman of Burns Philp and Company Ltd., to see if he could provide me with further information on this matter from his Cairns branch. Mr. Burns wrote to the manager of his Cairns office, Mr. Taylor, who sent him a report which bears out what I have said.

Mr. Taylor's report is based on an examination of Cairns newspaper files for early 1907. He writes: "No less than four articles appeared during the period January 21 and mid-February, 1907, specifically referring to the deportation of Kanaka labour and referring in particular to the party of 256 which travelled by *Malaita*, leaving Cairns on January 25.

"None of the articles gives any indication that the movements of the Kanakas was in any way restricted. In fact it is to be construed from one of the articles . . . that they were permitted to walk about at will awaiting deportation."

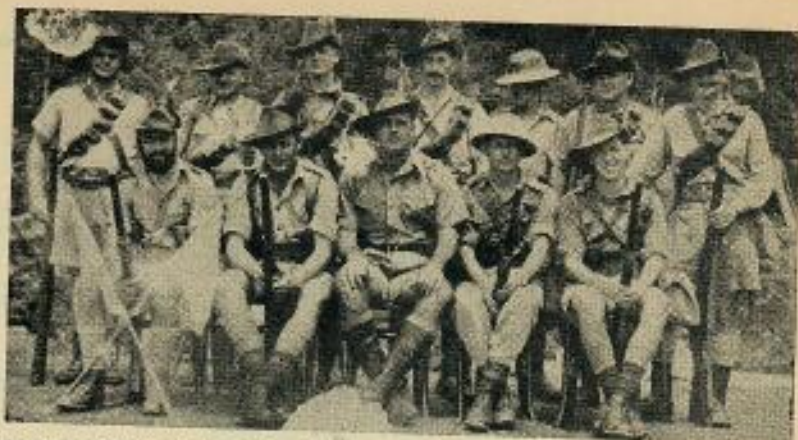
The article to which Mr. Taylor refers (from the *Morning Post*, now the *Cairns Post*, of January 25, 1907) described the attempted assault on a nursing sister, and concluded with the following:

"There are a large number of Kanakas camping in the vicinity of Parramatta and the Soap Works awaiting deportation and while they are there a special patrol should be in the vicinity at night".

Thus the *Morning Post* implied that the Kanakas were so free to walk about that one of them could have been responsible for the assault. The newspaper could hardly have made such an implication had the Kanakas been in irons!

Incidentally, the *Morning Post* of February 1, 1907 reported:

"No apprehension is felt by the officers of the Department of External Affairs (says Tuesday's *Argus*) that the deportation of Kanakas from Queensland will be attended by bloodshed when the returned "boys" meet the stay-at-home natives of the Pacific Islands. It is pointed out that on some islands



there is always more or less fighting but the Kanakas who are being deported will adopt the usual means well known to them of testing the probable nature of their reception before they land at any of the islands. In some cases it is true that there are long-standing scores to be adjusted against the men who are being returned and that the inhabitants of the islands who have long memories on these matters will take steps to avenge old wrongs. As to these and other possibilities the officials say that the natives have so far lodged no complaints and they have not in the past shown any disposition to accept their grievances 'lying down'."

NEVILLE CHATFIELD.

Killara,
Sydney.

• Many thanks to Mr. Chatfield, who in earlier days wrote for *PIM* under the name of "Supercargo". He is now 84.

NGVR NAMES

Sir,—With reference to the picture (above) taken from *PIM* (Nov., p. 38), and in response to your request of names please? I submit the following names.

This picture was checked over by several ex-NGVR chaps here and we agree with most of the names with just a couple of exceptions.

Probably this will be one of many letters on this subject but I trust that it will help to fill the gaps.

A. E. LEE,
Bulolo,
New Guinea.

• Although the matter isn't quite cleared up—it's a question of one double identity and one triple identity—as far as we can make out, with the help of the names (marked

with asterisks) supplied by Mr. Lee, the members of the NGVR pictured are: Front row (left to right), Doug Clark or Bob Jenkins*, Les Hardacre, Reg Plumb, Tom Zoffman and Alan Dinwoodie, Back row (left to right), Albert Pawley, Fred Halford, Les Kissick, Fred Still, Ray Walker*, Erik Gaude*, Col Hodgson*, or Fred Blakey or Dick Ashwell.

If anybody can help, it's the NGVR-ANGAU Association of Sydney that is inquiring.

MISERABLE ISLANDERS

Sir,—I enclose a clipping from our local newspaper which quotes a mission report from New Guinea that a mission ship from the Jones Missionary College calls at isolated villages along New Britain's coast to give medical aid "to hundreds who are terribly ridden with disease," and that malnutrition, pneumonia, skin complaints, etc., "ravage the people" there. The report also says that a fleet of 12 mission ships now ply the South Seas, bringing medical help to people "about whom the world thinks in romantic terms, but who in actuality lead a miserable existence." The headline reads, "Miserable existence in the South Seas."

Having visited New Guinea and the Solomons in 1966, and again in June, 1968, I doubt that conditions are as outlined. I happened to see a lot of happy, healthy people on my last trip in June, at which I travelled from Vanimo to Rabaul and then down the islands to Fiji, and I find it hard to credit the quoted statements in their entirety. I feel you may be interested to know about the local newspaper report.

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FIJI DANCES TO A FRANTIC NEW TEMPO

From a Suva correspondent

With leggy enthusiasm, a youthful chorus-line high-steps to the strains of that old Maurice Chevalier favourite "Thank Heavens for Little Girls" . . . In the glare of the spotlight, a Fijian boy—not long from the village—belts out numbers with all the verve of a young Ray Charles . . . An Indian girl, self-assured and exotic, exercises allure with a graceful Eastern folk-dance, then switches to grass skirt and lei for a hip-swinging tamure . . .



The entertainment scene in Fiji these days offers amazing, and sometimes amusing, diversity. There are groups of Tongans and Gilbertese to present songs and dances from every part of the South Pacific; frenetic bands with names like The Insex, Maroc 5, Blue Beats, The Ducks, The Falcons to sate the ear-splitting demands of the young; delicate-skinned Chinese girls to softly step out the Dance of the Lotus; muscular young men in mini-sarongs to perform, with an air of high drama, the heart-stopping Samoan knife and fire dances.

There are pretty girls, dozens of them, to do the "dance of love"—whether Tahitian, Hawaiian or Samoan—at the drop of a Fijian sulu sulu.

An incongruous crew

In addition, during the past few months, there have been a number of overseas acts. They include—somewhat incongruously—an Australian singer adept at Johnny Ray tear-jerkers and an assortment of Country and Western numbers; a father-and-son's acrobatic act; a "fabulous . . . fantastic . . . fascinating" hypnotist, reputedly of international fame and, of all people, Irish tenor Patrick O'Hagan.

In December, there was Negro soul and blues singer Junior Wells, a slight 33-year-old who belted out numbers like a man possessed. Songs like "Shout It Out! I'm Black and

I'm Proud", had his audience clapping and stamping in frenzied rapport. The Chicago singer and his band were presented in Fiji by the American Consulate, in co-operation with the Fiji Arts Council.

The boom in entertainment is a by-product of Fiji's tourist and hotel



But there are some traditionalists, like little Angline Kamali, who at seven is an expert at the Tamure and hula.

—Photo: Stinsons.

• Energetic Manoa Rasigatale, winner of a recent Fiji talent quest, represents the changing face of entertainment in the Islands. Teamed with long hair, psychedelic shirt and gold-rimmed sunglasses, even his traditional lei manages to look like a hippie-style adornment. Manoa, known, as Nicky, won a trip to Noumea, where he made several stage and cabaret appearances with an Australian pop group.

—Photo: Nitin Lal.

development. Dozens of new young singers, dancers and musicians have emerged, hopeful of cashing in on the demand for fresh faces. Most are unschooled but many of them show promise.

Fijian mekes and a handful of bands playing a mixture of Islands music and Western-style "pop" gleaned from borrowed recordings are no longer both backbone and body of Fiji show-biz.

Seemingly overnight, the number of places offering comprehensive entertainment has trebled. With new outlets, the number of aspiring young stars has trebled, too. It's not exactly an industry yet—and it certainly has its growing pains—but entertainment in Fiji is going places.

Local entrepreneurs have their problems though. Visitors must be offered a show they'll consider reasonably "indigenous"—but it mustn't seem makeshift. American tourists in particular demand rather more than Fiji has been capable of offering

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FIJI — SAMOA — TONGA



Tevita Cinavi, Sevinia Koroi and Rupeni Davul are three local musicians who prefer the frenetic beat of overseas "pop" to the more restrained tempo of Island music.

PEOPLE ARE LIVING LONGER IN FIJI

From a Suva correspondent

Although the Fijian and Indian birth rates for 1967 were slightly less than the average for the previous 10 years (28.35 per thousand compared with 32.6) the Government Medical Department reports that life expectation for people in Fiji has increased by 4½ years since 1956.

In a review of the Department's work, the Minister for Social Services, Mr. Vijay R. Singh, said that Fiji had one of the lowest infant mortality rates and one of the world's lowest death rates.

He pointed out that with nearly £1½ million being spent this year on health services, Fiji was spending more in this field per head of population than most other developing countries. This expenditure represented nearly 10 per cent. of the government's total annual budget.

Emphasising the government's vigorous drive to provide more and improved hospital services, the Minister said Fiji could expect to have six new hospitals during the next two or three years.

A feature of all the new hospitals will be specialised maternity accommodation, in keeping with the government's increased concentration on improved pre-natal and post-natal services.

Mr. Singh said that comprehensive immunisation services against various diseases, provided free for children, had considerably reduced and, in some cases, eradicated the incidence of poliomyelitis, diphtheria, typhoid, tetanus, whooping cough and tuberculosis.

He emphasised the necessity for a reduction in Fiji's birthrate.

"In this good health of the population—the improvement of maternity and child welfare services, the elimination or reduction of childhood diseases, the control of once widespread diseases, the low death rate and the prolongation of life—lies a danger. It is the danger of overpopulation," he said.

"To make sure that the number of mouths to feed does not outstrip the food supplies available, voluntary family limitation is essential."

in the past. A Fijian meke is a spectacular sight and well worth seeing—but in a nightclub atmosphere, visitors demand sophistication, even if it's a bit on the homespun side.

Lack of discipline, and what might be considered "artistic inspiration", is another problem. Since Fiji's musicians have been used to relying on natural talent—they play by ear and their singing, unschooled though it is, can be pure delight—there's a certain apathy regarding hard work and competition.

Having always considered music-making a matter of mutual enjoyment, between audience and artist, it's an entirely new concept now to regard it as a competitive, demanding field which can yield big money.

And the need for rehearsal and new technique is a strange—and not entirely welcome—innovation.

Just not ethical

It's difficult, too, for nightclub operators to impress on local artists that if they're paid to appear in one spot, it's not ethical to pop into a rival haunt and perform for free—just because they enjoy it.

One or two attempts have been made to stabilise the situation by starting up performers' associations, but they met with only half-hearted interest. Why pay an agent's percentage—even a small one—asked local entertainers, when jobs are on the increase? If one is dropped from a show without warning or promised payment, so what? There's always another day and another job.

Some day soon, these talented

locals will realise that £6 a week can become £60. But they need organisation in the ranks and the realisation that Fiji's entertainers—with self-discipline, perseverance and know-how—can make an infinitely better impression on visitors than a second-rate act from overseas. They need unity and identity.

New local disc

Speaking of the Fiji musical world, Dr. Rusiate Nayacakalau, a prominent Fijian who has been lecturing in Anthropology at the University of Sydney since 1965, goes back to Fiji in January—at the same time that he releases a long playing record of traditional Fijian music. For relaxation Rusiate plays the steel guitar and he has privately produced this record of 14 songs composed by Eremasi Tamanisau, and played by the Way Siliva group. There are among other things love songs, farewells, a meke, a song written for the South Pacific Games—all-in-all a fascinating mixture of Fijian music. The record sells for £2/5/- in Fiji, and in Sydney buyers should inquire through the Fiji Visitors Bureau office. Dr. Nayacakalau is to become manager of the Native Lands Trust Board; but he won't give away his guitar.

● In 10 years to the end of 1967 the number of vehicles registered in Fiji more than doubled—from 7,100 to 14,700. And for most of 1968 new vehicles were being registered at an average rate of 150 a month.

TAHITI'S DAVID MAY YET SWAY STRUGGLE WITH GOLIATH

By ROBERT LANGDON

Although he is now 73 and has been partially paralysed since suffering a stroke in January, Pouvanaa a Oopa, the Tahitian nationalist leader, may yet exert considerable influence on the movement towards internal self-government in French Polynesia.

Pouvanaa, who has been described as a "Tahitian David fighting the Goliath of French rule", was pardoned by President de Gaulle in November after serving more than nine years of a 15-year term of exile in France. He had spent three of his nine years of banishment in prison (*PIM*, Dec., p. 37).

In French Polynesia, to which territory he has now returned (see front pages, this issue), Pouvanaa is known among the islanders as Te Metua (parent, or father) and is looked upon by many as an oracle.

He is a persuasive orator of fiercely radical views, and has been a thorn in the side of the French Administration in Tahiti for more than 20 years.

Pouvanaa's long period of exile began in October, 1959, when he was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment and 15 years' banishment from Tahiti for having attempted to burn down the town of Papeete.

Arrested

He had been arrested a year earlier following a lively referendum on whether Tahiti and its dependencies should remain part of the French Union or become independent.

Pouvanaa had campaigned—almost successfully—on a platform of "Tahiti for the Tahitians, and the French into the sea". At that time, he had been French Polynesia's representative in the French Chamber of Deputies for nearly 10 years.

Many Tahitians believe that Pouvanaa was not guilty of the charge of arson that was brought against him that he was the victim of a plot organised by his enemies to remove him from the Tahiti political scene.

Over the last couple of years, Tahiti's current political leaders made numerous efforts to secure his return to his homeland; and they were increasingly outspoken in expressing the view that he was not a criminal, but merely a political prisoner.

In recent months, the French Government was warned several times that serious repercussions might follow in Tahiti if Pouvanaa should die in exile.

Pouvanaa has served three terms of imprisonment and exile for his political activities, the last one being by far the longest.

His nationalist ideas for Tahiti seem to have developed after he served in the French Army in World War I. However, it was not until 1942 that he fell foul of the authorities.

Accounts differ as to the cause of the trouble on that occasion. But the upshot was that he was exiled to a reef islet of his native Huahine.

Eventually he contrived to escape in a canoe to Bora Bora, then a major American base. There Pouvanaa seems to have expected the Americans to be sympathetic to his cause; but the Americans promptly handed him back to the French authorities in Tahiti, who saw to it that he did not get loose again until the war was over.

Pouvanaa, who then spoke only Tahitian (liberally sprinkled with Biblical allusions) was soon preaching his nationalist ideas again.

Opposed landing

In February, 1947, he and a band of followers formed a Comité Pouvanaa, which soon began publishing a regular journal, *Te Ara'ata*. In this, the committee proclaimed that its aim was "to conduct Tahiti and its archipelagoes towards more political, economic, administrative and cultural freedom".

In June, 1947, the Pouvanaa committee led a huge crowd of demonstrators to the Papeete waterfront to oppose the landing of three new French officials who had arrived from France in the liner *Ville d'Amiens*.

After succeeding in their objective

(Continued on p. 85)

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Held in custody

for several days, Pouvanna and his followers were outmanoeuvred by the Administration and arrested.

They were held in custody for five months before being brought to trial on charges involving a challenge to governmental authority. The trial took place in November, 1947, and ended after a week with Pouvanna and his men being found innocent by the jury and acquitted.

By this time, Pouvanna, in the eyes of many Tahitians, had become a martyred hero; and when elections were held in 1949 to choose a deputy to represent the territory in the French Parliament, Pouvanna stood and had an easy victory. He was re-elected with impressive margins at two subsequent elections in 1951 and 1956.

Meanwhile, the Comite Pouvanna had developed into a fully-fledged political party called Rassemblement Democratique des Populations Tahitiennes (RDPT), meaning Tahitian People's Democratic Assembly.

The RDPT sponsored candidates in elections for the local Territorial Assembly in 1953 and 1957 and won a majority of seats each time. One of the successful candidates in 1957 was Pouvanna himself, who thus entered the Assembly for the first time.

New constitution

A few months earlier, French Polynesia had been given a new constitution which provided for a cabinet form of government in which local people were given ministerial posts.

Pouvanna became Leader of Government Business in this new cabinet, which promptly introduced an income tax bill and announced plans to secede from France.

The conservative members of the Assembly, who were only slightly outnumbered by Pouvanna's adherents, protested vigorously against the income tax plan and organised a shopkeepers' demonstration against it.

Having mustered a mob which bombarded the Assembly building with stones, the conservatives were able to force the RDPT to back down on the tax bill; but the secession proposal was still unresolved when the French Government collapsed and General de Gaulle came out of retirement to take over the Presidency.

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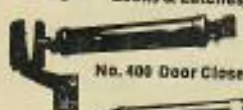
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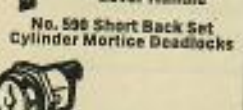
No. 409 Door Closer



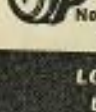
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They didn't back him

acts was to announce referendums for the French territories throughout the world to see if those territories wished to remain French or become independent.

Pouvanaa, as Tahiti's leading nationalist, campaigned fervently for independence. However, even some of his closest associates—who would have been happy with internal self-government—did not back him in this, and Pouvanaa persuaded only 36 per cent. of the people to vote his way.

The referendum took place on September 27, 1958. Fourteen days later, Pouvanaa and a number of his followers were arrested on a variety of charges, including having thrown "Molotov cocktails" in the streets of Papeete, and of having attempted to burn the town down. Pouvanaa's house, the government claimed, was found to be defended like a blockhouse and to contain a large stock of "Molotov cocktails" and other weapons.

Pouvanaa was held in gaol for just over a year before being brought to trial. After proceedings lasting three days, he received his sentence of eight years' imprisonment and 15 years' banishment from Tahiti. A short time later, Pouvanaa was spirited out of gaol in the dead of night, placed aboard a small French warship, and secretly transferred from there to a passenger liner bound for France.

"Ogre" lived on

However, the French had by no means killed the ogre of Pouvanaa. When elections were held in June, 1960, to elect a replacement for him in the Chamber of Deputies, the RDPT sponsored his son Marcel as its candidate—and Tahitians who felt convinced that Pouvanaa had been "framed", voted his son in with a comfortable majority.

After Marcel Pouvanaa died in Paris just over a year later following an operation, Tahiti's torch in the French Parliament was taken over by John Teariki, a chief of Moorea, who proved almost as outspokenly pro-Tahitian as Pouvanaa.

It was while Teariki was in office that Pouvanaa, then an ailing man, was released from prison after having served only three years of his eight-year term.

However, the French Government still feared the power of his political influence, for it immediately issued a proclamation forbidding him from



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The mosquito is also a carrier of such serious diseases as yellow fever, dengue, encephalitis and filariasis. There is no need, however, for you or your family to run formidable risks. Tremendous scientific advances made by A.N.I. Chemical Research now place the powerful effects of high-potency Pea-Beu aerosol insecticide at your disposal, an ideal means for eliminating the mosquito menace and for rapidly killing all insect pests on a pattern similar to fumigation.

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Unity among radicals

landing in any French territory in the Pacific—in addition to French Polynesia.

Although Pouvanaa's RDPT had lost a lot of its fire by this time and was split into two factions, all the members of it were united in urging that Pouvanaa should be allowed to return home.

This unity continued among the territory's radical politicians even after President de Gaulle outlawed the RDPT in 1963 for protesting against the invasion of Tahiti by French troops to prepare the way for the nuclear tests in the Tuamotus.

One of the most vehement pleas ever made on Pouvanaa's behalf was that submitted by John Teariki to de Gaulle in September, 1966, when the President visited Tahiti.

"The fate of our former deputy, Pouvanaa a Oopa, . . . still weighs heavily and bitterly in the hearts of Tahitians," Teariki said. "Since his conviction, the events which have followed here—and elsewhere—have underlined the political character of the 'affair' which placed him in prison and exile.

"Pouvanaa a Oopa was no more an arsonist than Maurice Lenormand, deputy of New Caledonia [who was convicted of a charge involving sabotage] was a saboteur. Defenders of democratic freedom and territorial rights, both fell in the same way and in the same cause . . ."

Lack of courtesy

Teariki's outspokenness no doubt made it impossible for the French Government to do anything about pardoning Pouvanaa for the time being, even if it had wished to do so.

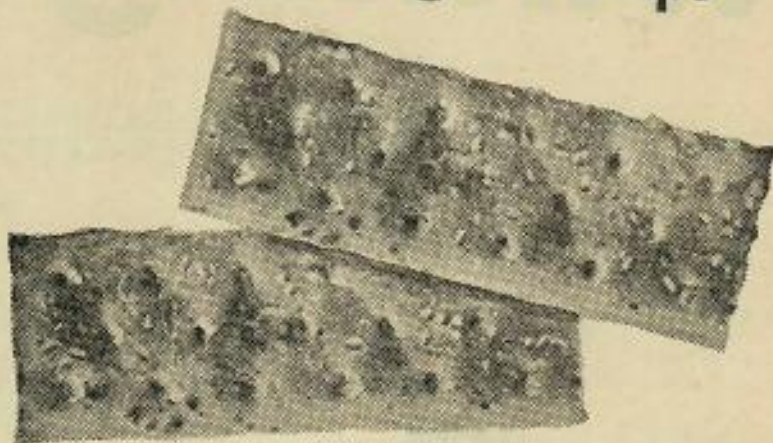
However, early this year, when Mr. Francis Sanford (Teariki's successor in the Chamber of Deputies) made yet another plea on Pouvanaa's behalf, the French Government showed an astonishing lack of courtesy, understanding and humanitarianism in dealing with this matter.

In a letter to Prime Minister Pompidou, Mr. Sanford drew attention to the fact that Pouvanaa had just suffered a stroke and politely asked that he should be allowed to return to Tahiti.

This letter produced no reply; nor did a second letter from one of Sanford's political allies in the French Parliament.

In these circumstances, French Polynesia's Territorial Assembly decided to send a four-man mission to

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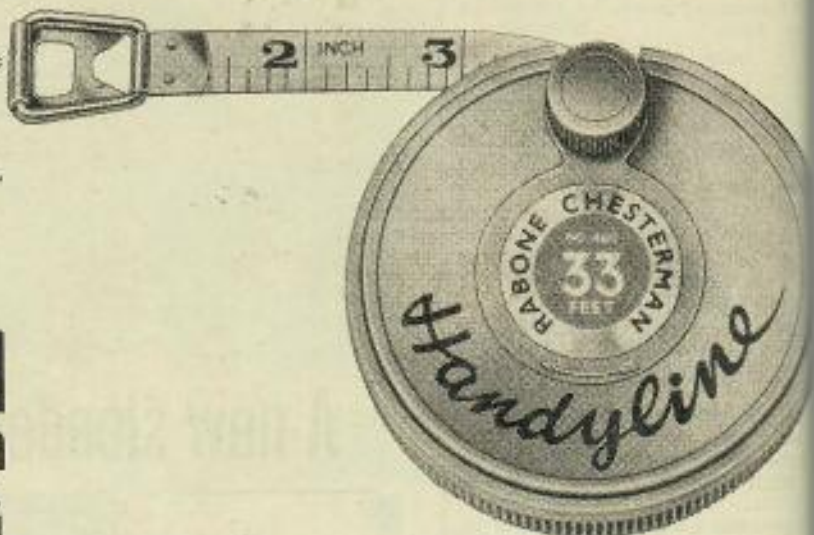


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| 8.00 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. | 15.18 " | 19.76 " |
| 2.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. | 15.24 " | 19.69 " |
| 6.45 p.m. to 9.15 p.m. | 9.56 " | 31.38 " |
| 6.45 p.m. to 9.15 p.m. | 11.71 " | 25.62 " |
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Kept up pressure

Paris (a) to discuss internal self-government with the Government, and (b) to seek Pouvanaa's return home.

The mission, however, was treated with utter contempt—the then French Minister for Overseas Territories, General Billotte, refusing even to receive it.

Despite this rebuff, Tahiti's politicians kept up the pressure for Pouvanaa's release, and it seems likely that de Gaulle's decision to allow him to return to Tahiti was influenced by a report from Mr. Michel Inchauspe, the present Minister for Overseas Territories, who visited Tahiti in September and could not have helped but notice the strong current of feeling there on the Pouvanaa case.

In the nine years since he last saw his homeland, even the most radical of Tahiti's political leaders have abandoned the idea of breaking completely from France and forming a Tahitian republic. Nowadays, they feel that their territory is too small and economically poor to become independent, and that the most they should aim for is internal self-government of the Cook Islands variety.

It is in their struggle for this that Pouvanaa, despite his age and state of health, may yet play a significant role as a living symbol of martyrdom.

THE Rt. Rev. John Tristram Holland, Bishop of Waikato in New Zealand, has accepted the office of Bishop in Polynesia, succeeding Bishop John Charles Vockler, who resigned to enter a religious order. Bishop Holland expects to arrive in Fiji, where he will be enthroned in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Suva, some time before Easter. He will be accompanied by his wife.

Born at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, in 1912, he attended University College, Oxford, where he gained his BA and MA. He went to Westcott House, Cambridge, to study theology and was ordained deacon in 1935 and priest in 1936. After a curacy in Huddersfield, he became commissary to the Bishop of Wellington and during World War II served as a chaplain with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

He was Vicar of St. Peter's, Upper Riccarton and Vicar of St. Mary's, New Plymouth, before being consecrated Bishop of Waikato in St. Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton, on May 1, 1951.

Like wraiths in the night

They came like wraiths in the night to honour their dead, Japanese dead. They came to Betio on Tarawa where, in 1943, the Americans won a victory that cheered the spirits of the Allies and which was later made famous by John Wayne and other tough guys.

They came to Betio where 4,690 Japanese died, and they stuck a post in the ground and wrote on it and left.

Nobody on Tarawa knew what the Japanese symbols meant. But with the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Tarawa coming up someone thought it would be a good idea to find out about the post and perhaps honour it in some way.

So they took the post and stuck it in the old Japanese gun turret which lies in the triangle by the Club at Betio, they copied the Japanese symbols and sent them to the BBC's Japanese Service, which is in London.

From London came this translation: "Memorial for the Spirits of the Japanese who died in the fighting on the Islands and Atolls. Erected by the Association of Relatives of the Dead, July 22, 1967."

DOCTOR DROPS A BRICK ON SUVA'S WATER PROBLEM

From a Suva correspondent

With their average annual rainfall of 120 in., Suva residents frequently feel depressingly damp—but they weren't damp in December.

While weather forecasters searched anxiously for rain clouds, water was being consumed at a voracious rate of more than four million gallons a day—considerably more than the daily amount received in the water treatment plant from the catchment area at Suva.

Suggested solutions ranged from shutting off Suva's water supply for a number of hours each day to Dr. W. L. Verrier's "brick in the cistern" proposal.

The latter brought more amusement than approval, despite the fact that the Duke of Edinburgh was once reported to have made a similar suggestion when England was experiencing water problems.

As Dr. Verrier pointed out, after failing in his attempt to have the matter discussed at the Legislative Council session, toilet cisterns use a great deal of water.

He estimated that the Suva water supply served about 8,500 "water closets". If each was flushed 10 times daily, he said, that was about 210,000 gallons down the drain.

A brick or a bag of small stones in the cistern, amounting to about one third of a gallon, would effect a water saving of up to 30,000 gallons a day!

He urged the Minister for Communications, Works and Tourism, Mr. C. A. Stinson, to begin a "Put a Brick in the Cistern" campaign.

A more lasting solution was the government's announcement that Suva would have a new \$240,000 pumping station operating by December, 1969, capable of pumping six million gallons of water a day from the Waimanu River.

This will be in addition to the water available from the high-level areas of the existing catchment at Savura.

The pumping station, for which pumps and engines will be delivered from the UK next July, is being built on the banks of the Waimanu River, about 1½ miles upstream from the Adi Cakobau School.

In addition to the cost of building and the purchase of pumps and engines, new pumping mains will cost \$180,000.

During Suva's last bad drought—in December, 1965—water consumption was at the rate of 3½ million gallons a day.

It was estimated that if the water had been available during last month's hot dry spell, householders would have happily used about five million gallons a day.

To prevent this, water pressure was reduced at certain times and residents urged to be as parsimonious as possible with the precious fluid. Even visiting liners were requested to take on as little water as possible.

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