

Because of the limited contact with American service forces on the outlying atolls, native culture and tradition is practically unchanged basically though there is a marked acceptance of everything American. Surprisingly there is little drinking and much less smoking than would ordinarily be expected. However, those who do smoke consume large quantities of cigarets and usually buy four to six cartons at a time. It is believed that with the increased tempo of the educational program that more progress will be shown in several years under American administration than was shown by former administrators (German and Japanese) regardless of the length of time they were in the area. Regardless of stories to the contrary the Marshallese are not lazy and when supervised will deliver work excellently. They are quick to comprehend but take their time in showing that they understand. Adults have taken a marked interest in education and it is believed that the experiment to let adults with special abilities like carpentering or canoe building take part in a native industrial arts program will prove beneficial. Already there are natives in the area, working for USCC, who have demonstrated that they are capable of carrying on trade and commerce among the atolls even on American standards of business. They are allowed free reign in this activity and have proved time and again that they are thoroughly capable. It is believed that the natives are capable of assuming responsibilities and that the best way to get them to assume these responsibilities is to let them actually do the things they are intended to do without interference other than an advisory capacity. It has been found that we have much to learn from the natives and that they are not helpless by any means. Rehabilitation has been accomplished and there is no reason why the natives cannot carry on with a minimum of supervision.

1 March 1947

Majuro Dist.

The move from Laura Village to Uliga Island slowed down the education program somewhat but most of the problems in relocating and getting started again have been solved. The field trips made during February were a big help to the education program for all the atolls and made it possible to do a more thorough job of long range planning. The greatest needs at the present are reading materials based upon the Basic English word groupings and Geography texts, the latter of which are enroute to Majuro. The establishment of the elementary school on Uliga provides a place for practice teaching experience and already an improvement in the English and teaching methods of this class are noted. The ability of the Marshallese to conduct their own affairs is showing steady progress, and every day brings more evidence of the development of the required initiative and acceptance of responsibility so necessary for the success of this project.

Continuing progress is being made on plans previously reported. No small part of this was due to the efforts of the assistant education officer. Mimeographed survey and report forms are now ready for the field officers to use on their coming trips for developing a picture of the school needs and requirements in the Marshalls area. It is intended to use the information procured for improving the course of study now being given prospective teachers. The part time assignment of an enlisted man to the educational program next month will help in the teaching load.

1 July 1947

Majuro Dist.

A more eager people could not be found who are tremendously interested in improving their station in the world, in reaching out with the fingers of their minds into new horizons and new fields of knowledge. We are tapping a source of pent up desire to share in a larger life. Currently the rate of acculturation has not attained an uncontrollable momentum, however there exists the future possibility. Education now so eagerly sought after will contribute much in this direction in bringing new ideas and developing new avenues of thought. It is important that we maintain a balanced development in the cultural changes taking place. The potential personalities at hand are excellent material for development--the people are of a high level of intelligence, diligent in their application, and sincere in their eagerness to advance. While continuing to further the objectives of Military Government in aiding the development of the Marshallese people, we are obligated to proceed wisely and cautiously.

Summary - A well balanced Marshallese educational program largely developed locally, placing proper stress on achievable objectives rather than an overlaying of American culture, is essential for the welfare of the people of this area. There exists at once a great opportunity and a great danger in the development of an educational program. If fully realized, education tends to the development of a broader and better life; if improperly advanced it tends toward an unbalance in the local culture, breeding disorder and dissatisfaction.

The people are eager to learn, yet lack a sound basis for an intelligent choice of subject matter. It becomes our responsibility to channel these interests in the proper direction.

The past year has seen considerable improvement and development in the area, in the economic field, educational field, public health field, and political field. Perhaps the greatest advance however has been in the spirit of the people themselves. Where formerly they appeared to be standing by waiting for the next thing to come along, they are now eagerly entering into new activities and new fields. When new problems arise they attack them with interest. They exhibit externally a pride in things Marshallese - their dancing, their canoes, their church, and their culture. An air of self reliance is now becoming visible. Today more so than a year ago they are alive to their responsibilities and proud of being able to cope with them.

The schools and Teachers Association appear to be on the verge of great progress which will lend itself, if successful in projecting present activities as planned, to a development along lines adapted to Marshallese needs and desires to a greater extent than has often been considered possible in an area as devoid of resources as this one is. The future development of the Marshalls must of necessity include a sound educational program. For thru education the adjustments arising from acculturation will be more intelligently and capably handled. The strong citizen of tomorrow is being trained today.

The Marshallese are learning that they will assume more and more responsibility in educational, medical and other fields. They are very glad to know that they are paying a substantial part of their school expenses through licenses, fines, ITC profits, etc., and that the difference between the price of copra here and in the U.S. is not lost to them but is being returned. This is being widely publicized by the schools and answers many questions previously asked. The problem of securing adequate teacher personnel is again with us until the shift from hiring through Civil Service to that of hiring from Trust Territory Funds becomes crystallized. A home economics teacher is critically needed to teach home economics subjects to the students in the District School and to manage the school restaurant. Many students enrolled in this term of school have no other means of support than the \$15.00 scholarship offered either by the Trust Territory or by the Marshallese Teachers Association. Since the students are operating on a precarious financial footing, someone experienced in food economy is needed to operate the school restaurant at the lowest possible cost that will provide a balanced diet.

Future educational prospects in the Marshalls are so much brighter now that the decision has been reached to consolidate Civil Administration, Kwajalein, and Civil Administration, Majuro, at Majuro rather than on Ebeye, that current problems loom very small. They loom very small as we have been spared so many greater ones. Everyone is elated that building another helter-skelter, makeshift, temporary school plant, which the Marshallese have done three times, will not be necessary and that progress this year will be uphill rather than downhill. However, the question of a permanent school plant for the Marshallese District School is being weighed at present along with other permanent installations which will be constructed due to consolidation. The present school plant is adequate, in most respects, for the present school term. It is a temporary plant consisting basically of six quonsets which are deteriorating.

Consideration of a permanent district school plant for the Marshall Islands will possibly lead to the abandonment of the present school site in favor of a more suitable location.

Some soil, of inferior quality, is available, in scattered spots, nearby the present school site. On Rita Island, less than one mile from the present school site and connected to Uliga Island by causeway, there is an adequate area for school buildings and campus for pigs, chickens and considerable gardening. The soil, comparatively speaking, is fertile. It is within the realm of possibility that a District School, located in this area, could produce substantial quantities of fresh vegetables and eggs for the school and for sale to American personnel. A large athletic field is adjacent to the proposed site. An adequate water supply is available. One large Japanese building, adequate for four large classrooms, and smaller buildings which would be utilized, are on the proposed site. Given building materials and some Naval supervision, a new permanent school can be built with volunteer Marshallese.

The Educational Administrator's proposal for education installations on Darrit Island is not in keeping with all past efforts to centralize facilities onto the one island of Uliga, nor can it be considered if the proposed peacetime permanent installation of CivAd facilities are ever shifted to Dalap Island where the airstrip now stands, as originally planned. However, further discussions into this matter will be held after the consolidation of CAU's Kwajalein and Majuro is consummated.

No funds were allocated for school construction from the current appropriation to install permanent facilities to accommodate the merger of Civil Administration, Kwajalein with Civil Administration, Majuro. If any funds are to be allocated for school construction the Educational Administrator would like to propose that:

(1) Allocated funds be used only for building materials so that maximum school-plant-for-money allocated can be attained by utilizing volunteer Marshallese labor.

(2) That the present school site be shifted to Rita Island, for the following reasons:

(a) If any future funds are earmarked for the Marshallese District School they would be best utilized for permanent construction on a site that would give the most return in a school plant that will look like a school-plant and serve the function a school plant should serve in the Marshall Islands; a school that would compare favorably in appearance and function with partially self-supporting agricultural schools in the United States.

(b) The District School can assume more of its own operating costs on Rita than its present locale.

(c) Further expansion, for increased future enrollments, is impracticable at the present school site which is telescoped between the local labor camp and dependents housing.

(d) The sale of fresh produce to American personnel on the base would be most welcome to them, and a source of income for the students of the District - income that may be sorely needed in the future.

1 Jan 1949

Majuro
(Majuro)

The question of education in the mission schools in the Marshall Islands and its relation to education in government sponsored schools has been projected into the spotlight with the rapid growth of the Catholic Mission school on Likiep and mission sponsored vocational projects.

With the energetic support of the Governor's office and the ceaseless efforts of Fathers Feeney and Donahue, a Catholic Mission School is well underway that will be able to accommodate more students more efficiently than the Intermediate school in its present location. The Intermediate school is handicapped by inadequate space and personnel and cannot accommodate the natural desire of the Marshallese for academic and vocational training beyond the level they are able to obtain in the village schools. On Likiep for example, there were approximately twenty four children of Catholic faith and sixty five Protestants among the school age group last year. Now there the figures are practically reversed. Students are being sent from Majuro to Likiep after their verbal request to enter the Intermediate school was turned down because of the lack of classroom space and teaching personnel.