

HIGHLIGHTS

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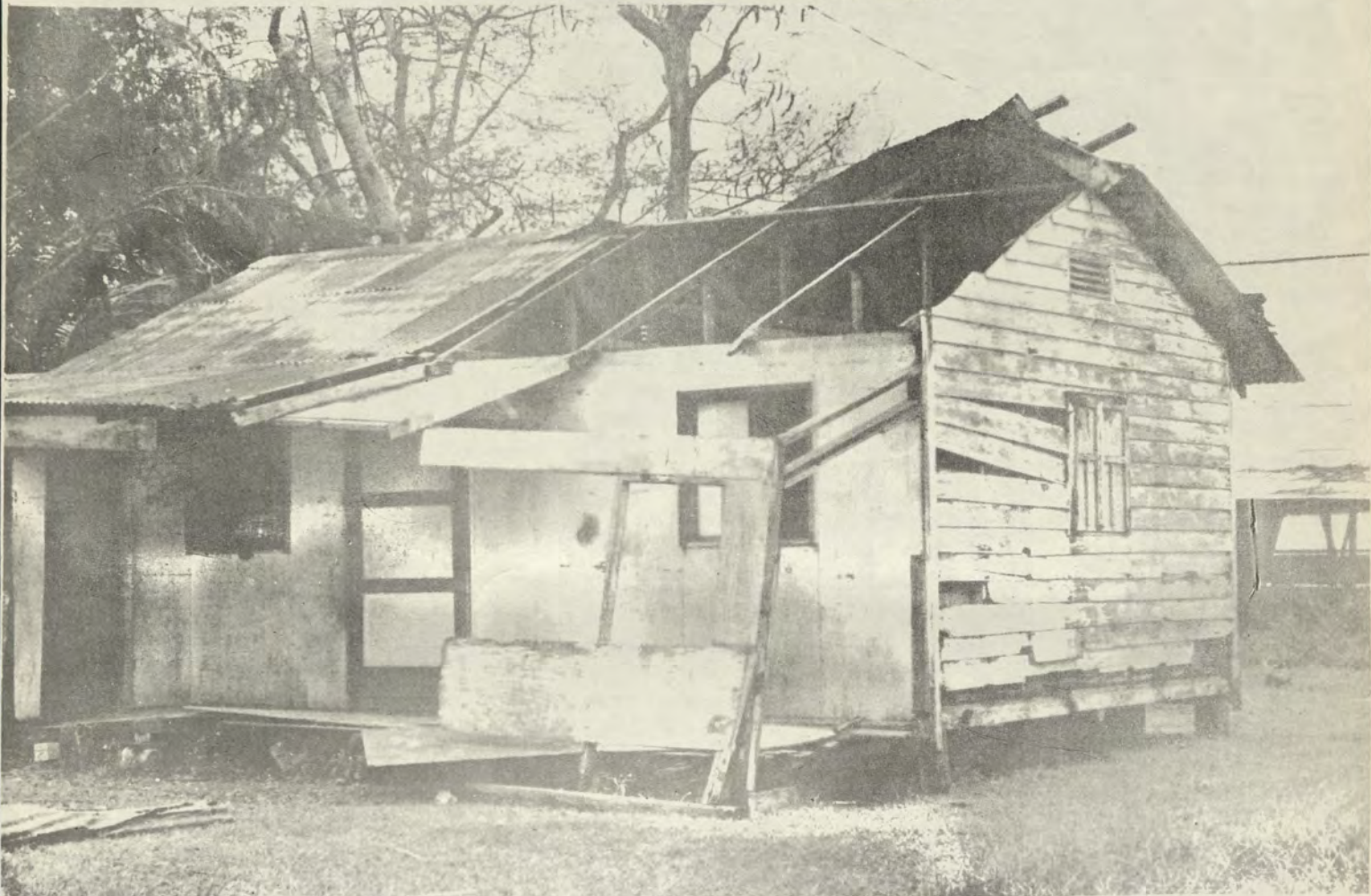


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NEWS OF MICRONESIA

Office of the High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

NOVEMBER 20, 1967



House in Tanapag Village was one of the few structures to be seriously damaged by Typhoon Gilda in Saipan.

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TYPHOON GILDA HITS MARIANAS

The Mariana Islands were the victims of Micronesia's most recent typhoon.

Typhoon Gilda passed just south of Rota Island Monday morning, November 13, causing extensive property damage. Winds from the typhoon also harassed and caused some damage in Saipan, Tinian and Guam.

Gilda arrived in the Marianas just 12 days after Typhoon Emma passed between Yap and Palau, causing considerable damage to Yap's roads and agriculture.

In spite of winds reported at over 100 miles per hour passing over Rota, only eight minor injuries there were attributed to the storm. However, at least 80 percent of the buildings in Rota were estimated to have been destroyed or severely damaged, according to first reports from the stricken island.

High Commissioner William R. Norwood

AIR MICRONESIA WINS TT CONTRACT

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced last week that after extended negotiations with all interested airlines and careful evaluation of the proposals the Interior Department has selected Continental Airlines as the carrier to provide service to and within the Trust Territory for the next five years.

The Secretary said that "the jet age has come to Micronesia. Continental has agreed to inaugurate its service with the Boeing 727-100QC. This will permit the carriage of both passengers and cargo at speeds that will encourage tourism and promote economic development in the area."

Continental will undertake a vigorous program of travel promotion to the Trust Territory designed to improve the economy of the islands. As part of this promotion it will construct a hotel in each of the

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six principal population centers of the Territory, on a schedule of two starts in each of the first three years.

Continental is committed to substantial expenditures each year throughout the term of the contract for tourist promotion. Moreover, Continental will provide passenger and cargo rates and promotional arrangements which will further encourage the development of a tourist industry.

Continental will conduct operations through an organization known as Air Micronesia. Initially, Air Micronesia will be owned 31 percent by Continental, 20 percent by Aloha Airlines, and 49 percent by the United Micronesian Development Association.

The United Micronesian Development Association is a Trust Territory corporation representing business interests throughout all districts of the Territory. After five years it will be afforded an opportunity to acquire an additional 2 percent of the stock and effective control of the corporation.

Continental will engage in a vigorous training program for Micronesians and will staff its entire operation with Micronesians as rapidly as possible.

Direct service between Honolulu and the Trust Territory is contingent upon action by the Civil Aeronautics Board. The Secretary said that the Interior Department would urge action to permit service to Honolulu, because, as he stated, "The Honolulu gateway is crucial to all phases of Trust Territory development."

Guam Pan American manager Willis H. Snyder told Guam newspapers that Pan American has made an offer to the Interior Department to extend its contract until an orderly transition of air service can be arranged with Air Micronesia.

MILNER ARRIVES FOR STATUS TALKS

Assistant Director of the Office of Territories George Milner arrived in Saipan Wednesday to meet with members of the Congress of Micronesia's Future Political Status Commission.

Milner said his trip to Saipan was in answer to the specific request of the Congress of Micronesia that the Department of Interior be represented during the Commission's opening deliberations.

Rep. Lazarus Sali'i announced that the commission's opening meeting, originally scheduled for November 15, has been postponed until November 20, due to disruption of air service by Typhoon Gilda. Sali'i has been designated as temporary chairman of the commission.

Milner, who plans to remain in Saipan one week, said he will hold discussions with the various members of the commission as they arrive in Saipan from the districts.

In addition to Sali'i, members of the commission are Sen. Francis Nuuan, Rep.

Petrus Mailo, Sen. Bailey Olter, Sen. Amata Kabua and Sen. Francisco Palacios.

The commission was established by the Congress of Micronesia during its 1967 session to study the possible future political alternatives open to the Trust Territory and to help educate the people of Micronesia about the forthcoming decision.

MATSUNAGA INTRODUCES FREE ENTRY BILL

Hawaiian Rep. Spark Matsunaga is the latest member of the United States Congress to introduce legislation which would grant the right of free entry into the United States to citizens of the Trust Territory.

Under present law, Micronesian citizens may enter the U.S. only if a visa is first obtained. Such procedure would be revised under the proposed Act so as to require only an identification certificate from persons seeking entry.

Speaking in support of his bill, the Hawaii Democrat emphasized America's responsibilities under the United Nations trusteeship to the people of the Trust Territory. He stated that the territorial citizens have the utmost esteem for the U.S., and many of the young men, although compelled in no way whatsoever, have volunteered for service in our Armed Forces. Moreover, according to Matsunaga, the Territory's leaders are generally those who have received their education at American colleges and universities.

Said Matsunaga: "The Trust Territory citizens would receive well-deserved recognition from the country to which they look for protection, and to which they have constantly demonstrated loyalty, by this legislation which would grant them free entry and the resulting advantages for acquiring naturalized citizenship."

Matsunaga's bill is the fourth "free immigration" measure to be introduced in the Congress this year. The others are sponsored by Sen. Quentin Burdick, (D. - N.D.); Rep. Rogers C. B. Morton, (R. - Md.) and Rep. Hugh L. Carey, (D. - N.Y.); and by Rep. Richard C. White, (D. - Tex.) and Rep. Roy A. Taylor, (D. - N.C.).

REGULAR AIR SCHEDULE RESUMED

Due to Typhoon Gilda, Trust Territory Air Service schedules were disrupted for several days. According to Assistant Commissioner for Resources and Development Paul L. Winsor, the regular schedule would resume Friday, November 17.

Flights 400/401 to Majuro and back to Guam on the 13th and 14th of November were cancelled as were Flights 200/201 to Koror and back to Saipan on the 15th and 16th.

The Guam Saipan flight resumed service Tuesday, November 15, after a one day cancellation on November 14, the day Typhoon Gilda struck.

TYPHOON GILDA ...

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and Acting Marianas District Administrator Francisco Ada led a damage assessment party to Rota as soon as the storm had cleared. At Highlights press time, only scattered radio reports on the damage had reached Saipan.

According to those reports, all water and power was out in Rota immediately after the storm and a serious food shortage was expected. Early messages also indicated a need for clothing and for tetanus, cholera, typhoid and paratyphoid vaccines and for water purification tablets.

Plans were underway to supply the needs of the island. Wednesday, word was received that the Andersen Air Force Base chaplain, Father Clancy, had arranged to send a plane or helicopter to Rota with food, clothing, some building materials and a medical team.

The Trust Territory DC-4 carrying the damage survey team also carried some medical supplies, a generator and a radio.

Acting Distad Ada announced that entry to Rota was to be restricted and only authorized government officials, relief agency representatives and members of the press would be allowed to enter Rota until further notice.

Ada said the restriction was effected in an effort to assist the victims of Typhoon Gilda in an orderly manner without the additional confusion of travelers visiting Rota.

In addition to Ada and Norwood, the survey party included Assistant Marianas District Administrator Dan Akimoto, Dr. Francisco Palacios, nurse Grace Johnson, sanitarian Nascha Siren, district public works director Ray Mathews, Saburo Fujii of the power section, Greg Demapan of the water section, Roland Gella from communications, E. E. Blankenfeld from headquarters public works, chief engineer Adrian Knyff, Vicente Santos representing the Marianas District Legislature, Dirk Ballengorf of the Peace Corps staff and Norman Shapiro from the public information office.

Word of Typhoon Gilda's approach was first received in the Marianas Friday, and by Sunday all islands in the district as well as Guam were in Typhoon Condition One. Originally it was expected that the storm would pass one hundred miles south of Guam, but later it moved northward, missing Guam completely and hitting Rota.

In Saipan, during the height of the storm, sustained winds of 30 knots were experienced with gusts to 50 knots. Damage in Saipan was mostly to trees and food crops, although a few houses lost their roofs.

Early warning and sufficient shelters in Saipan, Tinian and especially Rota undoubtedly were responsible for the low incidence of injuries.

At press time, no estimate of the total dollar value of damage in Rota was available.



Children play on fallen tree in Chalan Kanoa, behind the elementary school. Although most damage in Saipan was confined to fallen debris on roadways, a few houses, like the one below in San Vicente Village, suffered considerable damage.



Banana and papaya trees were, as expected, frequent victims of the wind's power. Photos above and below were taken in Chalan Kanoa the morning after the storm.



TWO CANOES MISSING

Efforts to begin searching for two canoes lost in the area between Truk and Yap were complicated this week by a shortage of aircraft. Because of evacuation of planes from Guam due to Typhoon Gilda, neither Trust Territory Air Service nor the Joint Sea Air Rescue Squadron in Guam were able to respond immediately to requests from Truk and Yap district administrators for help in searching for the canoes.

The first canoe, with five men and a boy aboard, left Puluwat Island in the Truk District November 7, bound for Satawal in the Yap District. It has not reached its destination yet. Another canoe with three men aboard left Puluwat November 10, bound for Pulusuk Island, also in the Truk District, and it, too, is missing.

Requests were made by the district administrators to headquarters and to the military Joint Air Sea Rescue to begin searches for the crafts. The Trust Territory SA16's were not available to make the search. The Joint Air Sea Rescue group replied that it would try to make arrangements for a search later in the week, as soon as aircraft were available.

EXPANSION OF YAP LEGISLATURE DISCUSSED

Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs Neiman Craley visited Yap last week to attend the 18th session of the Yap Islands Legislature.

Principal purpose of Craley's visit was a discussion of the possibility of expanding the Yap Legislature to include representation of outer islands in the Yap District.

At present, Yap is the only district without a district-wide legislative body, although work has been in process for several years to organize such a body.

Craley said that there is great interest on the parts of both the members of the Yap Islands Legislature and the people of the outer islands in the project. Hopefully, Craley said, this interest should be formalized within the next six months so that outer island delegates could attend the 20th session of the legislature, scheduled for November, 1968.

Creation of a district-wide legislative body for Yap occupied the attention of the Congress of Micronesia last summer. A bill sponsored by Yapese Senator Francis Nuuan to appropriate \$7,000 to defray expenses for outer island delegates to attend the November session this year of the Yap Islands Legislature was passed by the Senate but failed to gain House approval. Nuuan had also authored a companion resolution asking the High Commissioner to provide matching funds to the Congress' \$7000.

Another resolution adopted by the Senate urged the High Commissioner to use

his office to expedite the formation and creation of a Yap District Legislature. The resolution was sponsored by Nuuan and Senator Petrus Tun, also of Yap, and said that the process of creation of a district-wide body "has been moving very slowly and needs the impetus of the office of the High Commissioner to see that the goal is speedily reached."

LAND CLASSIFICATION SPECIALIST HERE

Among travelers whose schedules were upset by Typhoon Gilda's disruption of TT air schedules is Tamotsu Sahara, a land classification specialist from the Land Study Bureau of the University of Hawaii.

Sahara traveled to Rota last Saturday as part of an extensive tour designed to take him to most major islands of the Trust Territory during a three week stay in Micronesia. He was stranded there by Typhoon Gilda's arrival Monday morning.

Sahara came to the Trust Territory after arrangements had been made between the University of Hawaii and the TT Department of Resources and Development for him to advise the Trust Territory on the establishment of a land classification program here.

Land classification involves the analysis of aerial photos, soil samples, and interviews with persons living on various types of land in order to determine the optimum use of land. Based on his research, the specialist might recommend that land be used for urban purposes or for specific agricultural purposes. Recommendations would include discussion of what types of crops should or should not be grown on a specific section of land.

According to Assistant Commissioner Paul L. Winsor, the Trust Territory hopes to develop a land classification program which would analyze 21 islands throughout the territory, amounting to a total of 540 square miles. Sahara's current trip will permit him to advise the Trust Territory on how best to achieve that goal.

ADA NAMED ACTING DISTAD

High Commissioner Norwood has designated Francisco C. Ada, assistant district administrator for public affairs of the Mariana Islands, to serve as acting Mariana Islands district administrator during the absence of Distad Peter T. Coleman.

Coleman and his family left Saipan November 10 on home leave. They expect to return about January 15.

Coleman and Norwood also announced that due to citizenship requirements, Dan E. Akimoto, assistant district administrator for administration, will assume the title, responsibility and authority of acting district administrator for U.S. consular functions in the Marianas.



UN DAY CELEBRATED NEAR AND FAR

Observance of United Nations Day this year was not limited to District Centers. The holiday was celebrated throughout Micronesia.

In Guam, Trust Territory scholarship students celebrated with a turkey dinner (photo above). Special guests at the dinner included Professor L. M. Chan of the College of Guam faculty, Commissioner Juan Blas of Yigo village who headed Guam's U.N. day program, and College of Guam student leaders Eddie Arriola, Albert San Agustin and Jose Sanchez. The Trust Territory dormitory staff and their families also joined in the celebration.

In Kusaie, celebrations were held in each of the island's villages. The activities included flag-raising ceremonies and athletic activities.

In Lelu, a Little League championship game was played. Award certificates and service pins were presented to 28 Trust Territory employees by Distad Representative Leo Delarosa.

During the children's races held at Lelu, the Lelu Women's Club conducted a bake sale which netted \$46.00 for the club building fund. The Girl Scouts finished the day's activities in Lelu with two ball games.

Baseball was the featured activity at Malem village, while races highlighted celebrations at Utwe and volleyball was played at Tafunsak.

In photo at right above, the 1967 Kusaie Little League Champions pose after their winning game. Photo below right shows children enjoying soup after the races at Utwe village.



The Headquarters Employees Council has asked the assistant commissioner for administration for a clarification of a Capitol Hill housing regulation issued last December.

Dated December 13, 1966, the regulation stated, "All the vacant houses on Capitol Hill will be reserved for staff members of a rating of GS-12 or above."

The employees council, through its chairman, A. C. Tenorio, issued an open memorandum to the assistant commissioner for administration after its recent monthly meeting. The memorandum asks if the December directive is still in effect, and if so, asks for an explanation "as to how this exclusive arrangement was decided over the more acceptable and equitable point system."

Tenorio's memo continued: "The Employee Council is of the opinion that there is in existence, it seems, an air of unfairness committed, basing it on the tone of aforesaid directive, against a handful of good and loyal Government employees simply because they hold ratings below GS-12.

"Being the representative of all Headquarters employees," Tenorio said, "the Council naturally is interested in seeing that justice prevails for all employees who are entitled to Government furnished housing regardless of GS rating."

The employees council also requested that the personnel officer provide an explanation of the equivalent GS ratings for Micronesian A, B, and C wage scales.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Robert H. Salter has replaced Lorin Anderson as headquarters finance officer. Salter transferred to the Trust Territory government from the Corps of Engineers Honolulu office.

James A. Stanton, formerly district land management officer for Palau, has returned to Micronesia from home leave and is now assigned to the headquarters land management staff as acting chief of lands and minerals.

James Boykin, principal of the Yap Outer Islands High School in Ulithi, has resigned.

According to the Yap weekly newspaper Rai Review, Yap District Administrator announced Boykin's resignation after receiving a letter from Boykin.

In a taped message to the people of the outer islands, Boykin noted that there had been "serious problems at the high school between the Peace Corps teachers and myself," the Rai Review said.

Boykin offered no explanation for his resignation in his official letter of resignation, stating simply "My service with the Trust Territory has been most rewarding, and it is with great regret that I find it in the interest of the outer islands schools and myself to terminate my association with the Trust Territory government."

Boykin had spent six years in the outer islands of Yap District and is often credited with creation of the Outer Island High School.

In his message to the people, Boykin urged them not to judge the Peace Corps "by our recent problems. . . .the Peace Corps has many dedicated and sincere representatives in our islands."

READERS WRITE...

Dear Highlights:

I share you the same emotion and purpose of reality in Highlights. I hope that other fellow students who are receiving Highlights will impress the same emotion and interest with the programs of the Trust Territory Government.

In general, the information is important and interesting to all Trust Territory students who are studying outside the Trust Territory as well as people at home. Since I have read your issue, I learned many function in Micronesia. Thanks a million for your valuable information.

Johnny Alik (Marshall Islands)
Maunaolu College
P.O. Box 267
Paia, Maui
Hawaii 96779



HIGHLIGHTS

June Dena Winham, Editor
Public Information Office

TRUST TERRITORY of the PACIFIC ISLANDS
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950