

# HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS



March 15, 1972

## Maritime Center Receives Navy Vessel



*At left, the flag-bedecked, palm-laden ship YFR-890 rests alongside the pier at U.S. Naval Station, Guam, prior to colorful turnover ceremonies earlier this month. At right, Paul Winsor, TT Director of Transportation and Communications, signs the turnover papers officially accepting the YFR-890 for the TT Government. Rear Admiral Paul E. Pugh and Captain A.J. Kodis look on. More pictures (all U.S. Navy photos) on page 2.*

The U.S. Navy has turned over to the Trust Territory a small freezer ship (YFR-890) for use by the Micronesian Maritime Center. The mariners on the staff of the Center on Dublon Island in Truk District will use the 133-foot long, twin-propellered ship in seamanship training for its 20 students.

The formal turnover ceremonies were held at the U.S. Naval Station, Guam, on March 1, and were attended by officials of both the Navy and the TT Government.

Rear Admiral Paul E. Pugh, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, Representative, Guam/TTPI, conducted the turnover ceremony and heaped praise on Captain Dewey Huffer, Director of the Micronesian Maritime Center, his staff and crew for the commendable job they performed in getting the ship ready for sea. He commented that, "Captain Huffer has forgotten more about ships in his many years at sea than I have ever learned about them."

Accepting the ship on behalf of the TT Government, Paul Winsor, Director of Transportation and Communications, expressed his sincere appreciation for this generous gift on the part of the U.S. Navy. After accepting the ship, it was announced that YFR-890 would

be renamed the M/V Pugh in honor of Rear Admiral Pugh.

Dignitaries present who also delivered brief remarks were Hermes Katsura, Speaker of the Truk District Legislature and Abel R. Olopai, TT Manpower Development and Training Coordinator. Other TT officials in attendance included Boyd Mackenzie, Ponape District Administrator and Max Jones, Director of Vocational Training.

This most recent ship turnover brings to more than 50 the number of ships and boats that have been turned over to the TT since World War II. Seen plying the waters of Micronesia are former U.S. Navy ocean going tugs and light cargo and auxiliary ships. In addition, several Navy landing craft utility boats (LCU's) form the backbone of inter-island logistics within each of the six district centers.

The Micronesian Maritime Center (MMC) has already provided seamanship training for 40 young men through two 26-week classes with each student receiving 1,000 hours of training. The MMC is part of the vocational training program instituted by the Trust Territory Department of Education.

## The M/V PUGH-A New Vessel for the TT



Top left, a student/sailor from the Maritime Center balances himself as he paints the mast of the YAF-890 prior to the ceremonies. Center, RADM Pugh addresses the crew and assembled guests in ceremonies at Naval Station, Guam. Top right, the deck watch stands at attention following the ceremonies. Below, RADM Pugh shares sea stories with seamen students from the Truk school. Below, right, Captain A.J. Kodis, ComNav Marianas Staff Special Assistant for the TT chats with student sailors following the turnover.



### Weital Named CCM Director

Trust Territory Director of Education R. Burl Yarberry announced last week that Daro Weital of Ponape has been named Director of the Community College of Micronesia. Weital replaces Dr. Boris Bogatz, who has been detailed to the position of Advisor to the Director of the college.

Weital has been Assistant Director of CCM since September. He holds two master's degree, one in educational administration and the other in secondary education curriculum. He is a former member of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia, where he was active on committees dealing with education. He was born in Net, Ponape.

Dr. Bogatz, in his new position, will be responsible for the program planning and physical plant structure of the new college facilities at Palikir, Ponape. He had been director of CCM since August.

The Community College of Micronesia, which has an enrollment of 110 students from all six districts, is located on Ponape Island and is the only degree-awarding institution of higher learning in Micronesia. Currently the primary emphasis of this institution is on preparing elementary school teachers for Micronesia. Students who successfully complete the prescribed course of study are awarded an Associate of Science degree in elementary education.

## Yapese and Outer Islanders Celebrate Yap Day



*A marketplace setup in front of the District Legislature Building.*



*Among the traditional products of the subsistence economy, an adding machine and cash box to tally the sales for the day.*

*Chairman of the Yap Council of Chiefs, Andrew Roboman, inspects the facilities at the market.*



*A chance to sit in the cool shade and chat with neighbors.*



*District residents of all ages paused to enjoy the activities of the day.*

The Yap District Center took on a festive air over the first weekend of March as Yapese and outer islanders gathered to observe Yap Day.

In the large open area in front of the District Legislature building, villagers displayed their prize agricultural products and several colorful strings of freshly caught fish. Several dozen foreign residents of Yap and many visitors in Colonia spent the day at the market-place. All of the yams, taro, bananas, coconuts and other produce were sold or traded at the end of the afternoon.

Yap Day is set aside each year in early March as a day during which the people of the district participate in traditional cultural events--it is a day on which to recall the heritage of the people in the most traditionally conservative of Micronesia's island groupings.

This year's observance of Yap Day was the second annual celebration. The events did not include the dance competition among the ten municipalities of the district as last year's program had. The Yap Council of Chiefs had decided that since the observance falls during the Christian Lenten season, that the program of subdued activities this year was more appropriate.



*The Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning heard testimony from headquarters directors and division chiefs in early March. The budget plans for fiscal years 1974 through 1978 were discussed over the course of three days. The Budget Committee then formulated its report and recommendations on the five year plan. Above. Public Works Director Gordon Bradley testifies before the Committee. Program and Budget Officer William Oyler observes.*

## Truk Credit Union Marks Tenth Anniversary

Just ten years ago to the month, former High Commissioner M.W. Goding chartered a credit union known then as the Trukese Government Employee Credit Union; operations began in April 1962.

In those first days the credit union was run from a desk drawer with hand-made passbooks, and membership was barely 100 persons. By 1965 the credit union's savings had risen to just \$20,000. It had been a constant struggle in those first three years even to keep the records straight. The young leadership was still determined to make the credit union a bigger and better association to serve its members. Some of these strong-willed people were almost unknown outside their district then. Now many of them are well-known throughout Micronesia: Tosiwo Nakayama, Mitaro Danis, Andon Amaraich, Sokichy Fritz, Koichi Sana, Sasauo Haruo, Raymond Setik, Keigo Ezra and Nick Bossy. Many of these people still serve as officers; Nick Bossy is President this year.

In 1965, it appeared to some that perhaps the credit union ought to be liquidated; its delinquencies were running high and member confidence was low. It had taken three years to loan a total of \$40,744, to 177 borrowers. But a strong wave of cooperative (a credit union is a financial cooperative) interest is sweeping the Territory. Cooperative Officers were placed at Headquarters and district levels to provide technical support and to develop local leadership skills. This, coupled with the Trukese determination to succeed, began a new era.

Members savings increased each year and payroll deductions for members provided credit union services comparable to other employee credit unions around the world.

Assets grew at an unprecedented rate. In the period 1962 through 1965, assets totaled \$30,000. At the end of 1971, assets stood at more than a half million dollars. Average savings per member jumped from \$390 in 1970

to \$517 in 1971. Payroll deductions every payday now run over \$30,000, more than all of the assets of the credit union built up over the first three years of operation.

Last year, an international audit of the credit union, paid for by the members, determined that the Truk Credit Union is one of the best managed in Micronesia. The officers of the Truk Government Employee Credit Union feel an extra sense of achievement, in as much as they know they have reached these high levels without benefit of military payrolls or unusual local payroll. They have demonstrated what is possible for each district in the Trust Territory by cultivating human resources and local capital.

Presently, well over fifty percent of the loans granted go for home building and improvements. This is a substantial amount considering that more than \$1.5 million dollars have been loaned since 1965. Today less than one percent of all loans are delinquent over six months--a testimony to management control and their officers and staff.

There are 44 credit unions in the Trust Territory. Some are larger than our success-story credit union in Truk, but most are smaller. Total membership of all credit unions, however, is around 10,000--about 10 percent of the population.

Some of these smaller credit unions have had their share of hardships, but all seem determined to provide a kind of "people's banking service," where everyone can learn how to save, how to borrow, and how to manage their money through a democratic institution. The future of the small credit union greatly depends on the quantity of technical assistance and leadership provided in each district; but credit unions are now very definitely a part of Micronesian life.

*This story was prepared by Charles Sicard, Co-ops and Credit Union Advisor, Headquarters Division of Economic Development.*

# Briefly

High Commissioner Johnston has approved the application of Pan American World Airways for a special charter flight to Saipan from Japan on March 21. The flight will be made by a Boeing 707, the largest commercial aircraft to land in the Trust Territory except at Kwajalein. Seats on the flight will be sold to charter passengers for a three-day excursion to Saipan.

Word was received of the recent death of The Reverend Eleanor Wilson, a noted missionary who spent many years of her life working in Micronesia. She died in California at the age of 80. Miss Wilson sailed aboard the missionary ships Morning Star Six and Morning Star Seven through the Caroline and Marshall Islands. She also taught on Kusaie, Ponape and in Truk.

Several communities in Truk District were awarded grants-in-aid this month. Mochon village on Uman island received \$1,110 to help pay for water tanks. Kuttu community received a grant of \$5,548 toward the purchase of eight water storage tanks. And the people of Oneop were also awarded \$3,647 to help purchase eight such tanks.

## Marianas Legislature Praised

Marianas District Administrator Francisco C. Ada has commended the Third Mariana Islands District Legislature, Seventh Regular Session, on their outstanding work during the recently concluded session on Saipan.

In a letter to the President of the Legislature, Vicente N. Santos, DistAd Ada called attention to two actions taken by the Legislature which he felt were particularly commendable.

The first deals with an emergency appropriation to replace the classrooms at Chalan Kanoa Elementary School destroyed by fire on February 25. DistAd Ada stated, "I do not think I can adequately express our gratitude and admiration for the timely, sincere and prompt manner in which the Legislature rose to the occasion, and proved its high level of public spiritedness and concern for the welfare of the people of the Marianas by its very generous and extremely timely appropriation of funding for the replacement of the destroyed classrooms."

The District Legislature had appropriated \$50,000 for the replacement classrooms. The appropriation measure stipulated that the money should come from funds which the legislature has set aside for a new District Legislature building.

The other action taken by the Marianas District lawmakers deals with an appropriation to fund utilities hook-ups to the Puntan Muchot housing areas, requested in the DistAd's State of the District Message. DistAd Ada noted "It will now be possible to immediately install these eagerly sought after utilities into these residences in the Puntan Muchot area and will be a giant stride forward in the improvement of our housing situation and standard of living within this District."

Representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission were on Saipan this month to prepare for a visit to Bikini Atoll in the Marshalls sometime in May. The AEC officials will inspect the progress of reconstruction and rehabilitation programs for the former atomic test site.

The Micronesia Star, a newspaper published on Saipan for the past year, has gone out of existence. The paper will be replaced by the Marianas Variety, a new publication under different ownership.

Marshall Islands magistrates are meeting this week at a leadership conference and workshop. The conference has been funded by the Marshall Islands Nitijela to provide a forum for discussion of government organization and function, the budget and legislative processes, and political status alternatives.

Word has reached Saipan from the Department of the Interior that a bill to raise the ceiling on Micronesia's Economic Development Loan Fund has passed the U.S. Congress. Final approval of the measure came late last week, when the U.S. Senate agreed to certain amendments to the measure made by the House of Representatives. The bill now goes to President Nixon for his approval. The bill would raise to five million dollars the ceiling on the EDLF, thus making about \$3-million dollars in additional funds available for loans to businessmen and economic development projects.



BRIERLY

PENDLETON

The new Military Liaison Officer for the Trust Territory, Lt. Cmdr. Alan R. Pendleton, has arrived on Saipan to take up his new duties. The U.S. Navy officer is from San Diego, California, where he held a staff assignment with the Commander, First Fleet staff.

Pendleton replaces Lt. Cmdr. Roc M. Brierley, who has been on Saipan since January, 1970. Brierley and his family left Monday (March 13) for the U.S. Mainland. Brierley's next assignment will base him in Long Beach, California where he will serve as Executive Officer on a new ship, the U.S.S. Bristol County.

# Palau Opens a Public Library



*From the ground up--Palau High School and MOC students are shown at work on the foundation slab for the new library for Palau's District Center. At right, the finished building, with Librarian Miss Hermana Spesungel in the foreground. The Palau Bookmobile is pictured at the left of the photo.*

Palau District has opened its first public library. The new library, located in the District Center of Koror, was made possible through the Trust Territory's participation in the Library Services and Construction Act. District Administrator Thomas Remengesau and District Director of Education Alfonso Oiterong were among the first to register as library patrons.

The new facility will house over 5,000 volumes and periodicals in addition to a variety of non-print media. The library is expected to serve schools and the community of Palau. The first day of operations drew

some 40 children who borrowed such universal favorites as the stories of Hans Christian Andersen, Kipling's Jungle Books, Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes. Still younger children listened to records of a similar type.

The public library of Koror will also serve as base of operations for Palau's bookmobile.

The public library services of the Trust Territory are a function of the Education Department. Daniel J. Peacock is Supervisor of Library Services.



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**AIR MAIL**