



# RESOURCES and DEVELOPMENT

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston \* Department of Resources and Development \* Wyman X. Zachary, Director

VOL. 1, No. 5

May 24, 1971

## TT Copra Production Drops

Copra, the Trust Territory's top money maker, has dropped to second place this year.

With a TT harvest of 12,000 short tons valued at \$2-million expected in 1971, the projected total represents a 3,600-ton decrease, some \$700,000 worth less than in 1970.

These facts were released following the semi-annual TT Copra Stabilization Board meeting on Saipan this week by Eusebio Rechucher, Chairman of the Stabilization Board.

The price of copra on the world market for TT producers dropped to a low this year of \$176 per metric ton. This meant a loss of income to the Copra Stabilization Fund which maintains the same price to be paid to producers in each district.

Knowledgeable sources feel that the price decreases will continue for sometime, but then eventually rise to nearly \$200 per metric ton. The basic cause of this fluctuation and gradual decline in the world market price is the recovery of Philippines copra production.

Also, some people feel that the decline in copra production within the TT can be attributed to the movement of popu-

lation from outer islands to district centers where there are higher paying jobs, and to marketing problems.

While production is dropping this year, officials of the Stabilization Board noted that the Marshalls District continues to produce 50 percent of the copra marketed in the Territory.



FRANK CASTRO

## Ponape Land Commissioners

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston has announced the appointment of Frank L. G. Castro as Senior Land Commissioner of the Ponape District Land Commission.

The Chief Executive also announced the appointment of Santiago Joab and Johnny Hadley, both of Ponape, to the position of Land Commissioner.

Castro, 40, as the principal authority of the District Land Commission, is responsible to Paul Dennis, Chief of Land and Surveys Division, Department of Resources and Development.

His duties include the acceleration and implementation of the provisions of the TT Land Commission Act.

Castro, a registered land surveyor, was Ponape District Surveyor responsible for the district's entire surveying and mapping operation.

(Con't Page 4)



SANTIAGO JOAB



JOHNNY HADLEY

PER  
PAC  
HZ  
870618  
.190

## A Backbreaking Chore--- Hunting the Evasive Ayuyu

The next time you feast on a Micronesian gourmet dish of coconut crab, please remember that there is a backbreaking Herculean effort behind that plate of delicacy.

Dr. Ernst S. Reese, a professor of zoology at the University of Hawaii, wanted to go on a Saipan coconut crab hunt.

He is one of the foremost expert on the Pacific Coconut Crab and was invited to come to Saipan to offer technical advice on the formation of a crab management program.

Government officials are concerned about the possibility that the coconut crab population on some of the more heavily-populated islands probably already in serious danger due to indiscriminate harvesting of crabs, particularly small ones that have not reached the age of sexual maturity.

So the Saipan coconut crab hunt began at 7:30 a.m. Thursday (April 15). Our guides, 53-year-old Tobias Muna and his 11-year-old son, Edward.

"Me, Number One coconut crab hunter," Muna, a Marianas District Land Management survey crew member, said. "Me guarantee you very big coconut crab."

Muna was all confident he and his son could track the elusive coconut crab in the jungles of Talofofu on the northeastern sector of Saipan.

"Not too many crabs left. Plenty people murder the Ayuyu (Ahzoo zoo). We need coconut crab policeman. We need coconut crab reservation," he told Dr. Reese.

Muna explained that in the old days, a game warden patrolled the island arresting people who violated any fish and game laws.

"Now, we need a coconut policeman very bad. We must protect the coconut crab for the future," he said.

Suddenly, Muna stopped the jeep. He shouted to his son to "Go get 'em".

Young Edward darted like a deer into the jungle.

"You know, my son, he can smell the coconut crab," Muna boasted. "My son can get the crab. I teach him how to hunt. I teach him be smarter than the coconut crab."

Muna lit a cigarette.

"Now we wait. Not long time. Eddie get coconut crab for you," he said.

Ten minutes went by. We heard the boy coming up the slope.

"He get one," Muna smiled. "He get one coconut crab."

Little Eddie came up waving a medium-sized crab.

The jeep started down the trail.

"Stop here," Muna yelled. "Plenty of coconut crabs here."

He carefully explained that it was going to take some three to four hours before he and his son would return.

Dr. Reese and Norman Knott, Chief of Land Resources Branch, Lands and Surveys Division, offered to accompany them on the hunt.

"No you stay here," Muna ordered. "Me and my boy go now."

As they disappeared into the jungle, we heard Muna yell: "Go boy, go. Go boy, go."



Some three and a half hours later, we spotted Muna and his son.

"Very good hunt," he said. "We get six coconut crabs."

And like a seasoned fisherman, he said:

"We miss a very big one. We hunt for him but we miss. Maybe he five pounds."

You could see that coconut crab hunting was no easy game.

The boy breathing heavily, his T-shirt muddy and torn. Muna's thin body was scratched and perspiring.

He spent the next hour talking about the hunt.

"This crab, maybe three to four years old. He no old crab. Big ones smell like old men," he sort of explained.

"You know this mama-san coconut crab same like chicken...make plenty eggs every 18 days. We no can kill this one," he said.

And in typically Micronesian fashion, Muna shook hands with the coconut crab hunting "party", and said:

"We have very successful hunt. Thank you very much."

Only, the hunt belonged to Muna and his son, Eddie.

# Memorial Park Approved

A \$30,000 World War II Peace Memorial Statue and Park is slated to be constructed at Suicide Cliff on Saipan.

The site, at the northern end of the island, is where hundreds of Japanese chose suicide rather than capture.

The project was recently approved by High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston.

It was proposed by Tokui-chi Kuribayashi, 75, a prominent Japanese businessman who, in 1940, headed the Nanyo Kohatsu Kaisha, a major industrial venture which developed the sugar cane empire in the Marianas.

According to present plans, the Peace Memorial Statue and Park will be located on a quarter-acre plot with appropriate landscaping.

The 20-foot Memorial will represent the Christian and Buddhist religions.

# Marine Confab

The Ponape Marine Resources Conference convened April 26 in Kolonia, Ponape, with a wide representation of leaders from throughout the district in attendance.

The chief magistrates from the outer islands were in Kolonia to attend this conference, in order to give their views on how the fisheries of their islands can be improved. Also in attendance was a cross section of Ponapean leaders, including businessmen, politicians, **Nahnwarkies** and government workers.

The conference opened with addresses by District Administrator Boyd Mackenzie and the Trust Territory Director of Resources and Development Wyman X. Zachary.

Coordinating the project are Marianas District Administrator Francisco C. Ada; Trust Territory Government Department of Resources and Development Director Wyman X. Zachary and Norman Knott, Chief of Land Resources Branch, Division of Lands and Surveys.

# Dela Cruz ED Officer



Pedro Q. Dela Cruz has been appointed Marianas District Economic Development Officer, effective April 18.

Dela Cruz succeeds David Q. Maratita who was promoted to District Public Affairs Officer.

"We are confident that Mr. Dela Cruz is fully qualified and will carry out his vital and heavy responsibilities in his new office with a high degree of excellence," Acting District Administrator Dan E. Akimoto noted.

Dela Cruz is a graduate of Western New Mexico University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Sociology. He was a member of the Phi Gamma Mu (National Social Science Honor Society) while at the university.

Dela Cruz and his wife, Geraldine, have two children.

# Credit Unions Loans Total \$2.4 Million

The Trust Territory's 39 credit unions loaned some \$2.4 million during 1970.

Director of R&D Wyman X. Zachary, who reported the credit union statistics, described the growth as "remarkable."

Since the start of credit union activity in the TT in 1964, these self-help organizations, with more than 9,000 members, have loaned a total of \$9.3 million without serious problems is delinquency.

The Marshalls District credit unions have savings of \$636,000 followed by Truk with \$390,000. Marianas is third with \$316,000 and Palau is next with \$269,000; Ponape total \$187,000, and Yap nearly \$84,000.

Zachary praised the TT credit union members for keeping a low delinquency rate. "Their strong desire to repay money borrowed from their own group is most praiseworthy," he said.

The TT government is appreciative of the educational, technical and promotional assistance given by CUNA (Credit Union National Association) International," Zachary said.

Meanwhile, a six-week Co-operative Business Methods course began May 17, in Truk.

The course is sponsored by the TT government in co-operation with the South Pacific Commission (SPC), and the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific.

TT Co-op and Credit Union advisor Charles Sicard is co-ordinating the program.

## Magic of Space Science

# EROS Probing Micronesian Resources

The magic of space science and technology will reach remote Micronesia next year.

The exciting event is the U.S. Earth Resources Observation System Program (EROS) to probe the world's environment and resources.

It is a team effort of the U.S. Department of Interior, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and other agencies.

"We have been advised by the Department of the Interior that the Trust Territory has been programmed into the EROS mission;" Department of Resources and Development Director Wyman X. Zachary, said.

The EROS program is scheduled to start next year.

The EROS mission will benefit mankind through spacecraft and high altitude aircraft photo-bank describing conditions on the earth's surface.

These include photographs detecting water resources and water pollution trends; monitoring crop conditions, farming patterns, impact of floods and drought; forestry; wildlife and fisheries management; weather forecasting and geology.

The techniques developed to place man on the moon

and monitor daily weather patterns around the world are being modified and utilized to study man in his environment.

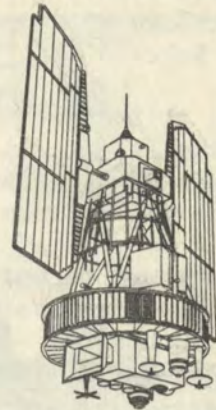
In 1972, the first Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS-A) will be launched by NASA and will provide timely and repetitive photographic information in three bands of the visible and near-infrared spectrum.

"These techniques will provide rapid and repetitive synoptic observations of large areas which can help us better understand our environment," an EROS Program official stated.

ERTS-A is one of the most significant undertakings in space in the 1970's. It is an initial step in the merger of space and remote sensing technologies into a system devoted to the more effective management of the earth's resources.

The primary mission of ERTS is to acquire information describing conditions on the earth's surface.

According to present planning, data from the first ERTS is expected to be available in early 1972, and will provide a reservoir of pictorial and other data for a wide variety of application studies and management.



## Land

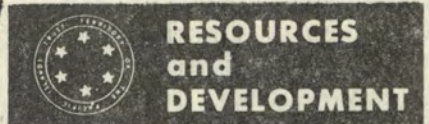
Prior to his arrival in the Trust Territory in late 1959, Castro was employed by the U.S. Department of Defense assigned to the Surveying and Mapping Branch, OICC, Guam.

Prior to his promotion, Joab served as the Ponape District Land Commission as a management intern since 1970.

Before joining the Land Commission, Joab was a school teacher and principal of the Awak Elementary School in Ponape. He was a member of the District Legislature.

Hadley had been serving as the principal coordinator for the 23 Protestant Churches in Ponape District and also taught at the Ohmine Elementary School and the Protestant Mission School.

HICOM EDUCATION LIBRARY



RESOURCES and DEVELOPMENT is published monthly by the Trust Territory Department of Resources and Development. Larry Sakamoto, Editor.  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950