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NEWS OF THE MONTH
(English Version)

MAY - 1954

PONAPE NGATIK NUKUORO GREENWICH MOKIL PINGLAP KUSAI

From: Ponape Island Affairs Office to the People of the Ponape District

Vol. 2 No. 4 Kolonia, Ponape, Caroline Island

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Greetings to you all:

We regret that Mr. Midkiff's obligations in Honolulu has caused him to submit his resignation due to the proposed moving of the Headquarters to Guam. He is most sincere and worked very hard to learn of the many problems of the Trust Territory and its people. Mr. Midkiff is the instigator of the Trust Territory slogan, "Is it in the best interests of the Micronesians?". Needless to say, we will miss him.

We also will miss Mr. Jim McConnell, the Deputy High Commissioner, who has resigned. Mr. McConnell was most active in the formulation of many of our early policies and the excellent job of organizing the Trust Territory at the time of the turnover was due to his unstinting efforts in our behalf.

Headquarters will soon be moved to Guam. We are most fortunate in having appointed to the Trust Territory, Mr. Dell Nucker, who will be the new Deputy High Commissioner. Mr. Nucker has had many years of experience in Washington handling the Trust Territory problems for the Interior Department. He is quite familiar with our problems and I am sure he will develop the same interests of his predecessor.

The transportation committee left me with the impression, although not conclusive, that they would like to have Ponape as a deep water port for Truk and Koror. Large ocean-going vessels could come into Ponape, deliver all the trade goods to Ponape for transshipment to the other districts. The other districts would bring their copra to Ponape where it would be transhipped onto these large vessels which would ply regularly between Ponape and the States. We hope that this will take place, however, it is not definite at this time.

At all times we are searching for ideas and resources to increase the economic stability of the Ponape District people. Recently a man from U told us that there was pearl shell and black shell in great numbers on Ponape and that he thought that we could export it like we do trochus. Mr. Bunting of ITC has obtained a trial order of ten tons of the white shell and ten tons of the black shell. However, upon investigating the beds that the U man showed us, we found that they were not there in exportable quantities. If anyone of our district's islands knows where there are large quantities of these shells, please let us know and we will investigate the possibilities of this export. We did determine that there was enough shell to make handicraft items which would be attractive to the people in the United States, and we shall start this development as soon as possible.

Please observe the trochus regulations this season.

Your District Administrator,
H. M. HEDGES

What do you want your Congressman to discuss in the next session of Congress?

DISTRICT ORDERS

As a result of your Congress resolutions, the District Administrator, with approval of the High Commissioner, has promulgated two new district orders, both to be effective on 1 June 1954. From this date these district orders are the law in Ponape District. Copies of each of these two new laws are attached at the end of this paper for your information and study. Please note that both provide for strong penalties for violators. District Order 1-54 covers the hunting of wild pigeons and animals and District Order 3-54 covers municipal residency. District Order 2-54, which provides for the import tax will be attached for your study next month. Remember that a district order is a law for the entire district, not just for Ponape Island.

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TROCHUS SEASON

In the last issue of the paper we announced that the TROCHUS SEASON this year would be from 17 June until midnight 30 June 1954. A new regulation was also announced: That each fisherman have in his canoe a board with a 3" hole in it. If a trochus shell brought up from its bed will pass thru this hole, the trochus should be replanted in the bed. I.T.C. will not buy trochus under 3" in diameter at the base and if you are found with an undersized trochus you will be prosecuted and sent to jail or fined. Cooperate with your fellow fishermen in conserving this profitable natural resource.

I.T.C. has announced that they will pay 25¢ a pound for trochus shell this season. They will only buy shell 3" in diameter and larger. You must buy the bags for your trochus shells from I.T.C. but they will only charge you their own cost.

The municipal officials of Ponape Island at their meeting on 14 May set the municipal tax on trochus this year at 5¢ based on the following schedule which they will present to Congress at its next session for passing of a resolution to be made the law of Ponape.

When trochus sells for under 10¢ a pound, tax will be 1¢ per pound

When trochus sells for from 10¢ to 14¢ a pound, tax will be 2¢ per pound

When trochus sells for from 15¢ to 19¢ a pound, tax will be 3¢ per pound

When trochus sells for from 20¢ to 24¢ a pound, tax will be 4¢ per pound

When trochus sells for from 25¢ to 29¢ a pound, tax will be 5¢ per pound

When trochus sells for from 30¢ to 34¢ a pound, tax will be 6¢ per pound

This 5¢ tax per pound will be collected by I.T.C. when the trochus is sold to them. You will get 20¢ and the municipality of your registry gets 5¢ for its treasury.

Any person who has lived in one of the municipalities of Ponape Island for a year or more on 17 June is considered a resident of that municipality for trochus tax purposes. If you are from the outer islands and fish for trochus this season

and have not lived on Ponape Island for one year on 17 June you should give your own island as your residence and your island treasury will get the 5¢ tax per pound

REMEMBER - TAKE NO TROCHUS SHELL UNDER 3" IN DIAMETER AT THE BASE.

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What do you want your Congressman to discuss in the next session of Congress?

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AMERICAN RED CROSS WILL HELP SANTA CLAUS

Last Christmas Santa Claus gave more than 2,200 children candy and gifts at the Christmas Party in Kolonia. Santa Claus told this office that he had just heard from the American Junior Red Cross who said that they would again like to help him make the children of Ponape happy at Christmas time. The Red Cross promised Santa Claus they would again send him Christmas boxes of gifts for him to give out at his party this year, because of the affection the American children have for the children of Ponape.

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Are you ridding your land of lantana??

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NOTICE REGARDING LANTANA

Sections 761, 762, and 763 of the Code of the Trust Territory covers the control of LANTANA states that you must uproot and burn all lantana plants on your property and that you must try and prevent any new growths. The Code also states that the Kousapw chief is responsible for enforcement of this regulation.

It is to your advantage to eradicate this treacherous weed which wants to take over your land and kill your productive plants. Are you complying with the regulations of the high law of Ponape?

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Are you fully participating in the Public Works Program for the betterment of your municipality?

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UNITED NATIONS DAY

Last year the United Nations Day celebration was a big success but it can be a bigger success this year if you will all start planning for it now. Municipal committees should soon be appointed and make their plans.

As you know, every year an Agricultural Fair, with excellent prizes, is held each year in conjunction with United Nations Day. NOW is the time to plant your vegetables so you can get a first prize. Have you planted YOUR SEEDS?

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You must buy the bags for your trochus shells from I.T.C. but they will only charge you their own cost

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COCOA

The growing of cocoa in the Trust Territory was advised by Mr. George F. Bowman, who is among the top authorities on the subject. He advised cocoa, not as a one crop agriculture, but as a companion crop for the coconuts already growing.

Since cocoa is to be a joint crop with copra, the work of planting cocoa would not be too great. For good growth cocoa must be kept clean. That is, small bush grass and trees must be cut in the immediate vicinity of the cocoa plants. In most cases copra land is kept fairly clean anyhow so the initial planting of cocoa would not require a great deal of extra work.

Cocoa must have shade. That is one reason Mr. Bowman advised its growing with the coconuts so that the coconut palm would give shade for the cocoa. But, cocoa should not have too much shade. That is the reason all small plants should be kept down close to the cocoa.

It takes about the same length of time for a cacao tree to reach full production as it does for coconut trees. That is, about nine years. But, cacao begins to produce in its fourth year if given good care. In the fourth year only a small number of seeds can be harvested. Not enough to make money. In the fifth year the number of seeds harvested will be greater, giving a small amount of money for the work. From the fifth year production will increase, together with money earned, up to the ninth year, when the tree should be in full production.

Cocoa was not advised by Mr. Bowman as a crop to be grown to make everybody rich. It was advised to increase the income. Since copra and cocoa can be grown on the same land with some extra work, it is understandable why this can be so.

Cocoa is similar to copra in the sense of labor required. The work is scattered throughout the year with the greatest requirement at harvest time. As there are only two times a year for harvest, the demands would not be too great.

One other good point about the growing of cocoa with copra is that cocoa will help to keep the land clean. It is a known fact that grass and small weeds will not grow too well where there is a great deal of shade. The cacao, when mature, provides too much shade for grass to grow among the coconuts. This will eventually cut down the required time spent in keeping the land clean of grass and small bushes.

Some requirements for cocoa:

Shade: Must have at least 50% and not over 60% shade.

Cleaning: All grass, bushes, and weeds must be kept cut for a distance of four feet around the plant.

Planting: When planting the seed you must plant the eye of the seed (where the seed was attached to the pod) down. This is very important and absolutely necessary if your trees are to grow and produce.

Planting depth: Plant the seeds deep enough so that the top part of the seed is level with the surface of the ground.

Transplanting: This should be done not before the young plants have four leaves, but before the roots get too large or begin to bend. When a plant is moved to a permanent location the tap root or main root should not be bent. It should be placed in the hole so that it goes straight down.

Some figures on Cocoa:

1. One family can take care of four hectares of cocoa if nothing else is to be grown except the coconuts.
2. One family can take care of two hectares of cocoa if all other food crops such as bananas, taro, and yams are grown.

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P.M.D.S.P. NEWS
(Translated from the Ponapean)

In our previous article we wrote about the organization of the P.M.D.S.P. the question of the scholarship. The third subject of discussion at April 9, 1954 meeting was that of building of the best possible situation in which we should work together in order to build up or improve the whole education program for Ponape District:

Education when we say it we don't consider what goes in the school building or just the subject taught in a class room.

All different kinds of work and projects we have which apply to the good and welfare of all people, which has been going in the municipalities, sections, families, and in the department of the government.

All these things we believe are very important for the whole education program as well the subject taught in the class room of a school building, English Math, so forth and so on.

This is what the Americans who have been working in the Fundamental Education program and also what the P.A.A. members believe and meant when we say the "whole education program."

So far, P.M.S.D.P. has decided to have meeting four times within a year. The purpose of the meeting will be to bring the problems concerning the whole education program.

It has also proposed to choose a committee. This committee should contain one or two members from each municipality, is to meet in advance of any regular meeting, and these are the ones who should bring in the problems concerning the school program from each municipality ahead of time of the regularly scheduled meeting and put them in order for consideration.

The best time for the regular meeting as decided to be on January, April, July, and October.

As soon as the steering committee is set up, we will let you know the names of the people involved through this Monthly paper. As it was mentioned above that they are the ones who must bring in the problems about the school program from each municipality ahead to the regular meeting.

Therefore, if there is anybody who thinks or knows of any other or better ways to help with the school program, they will be very anxious to hear from, and all of us will work along with your good advice and suggestion to the best of our ability.

Submitted by Leonard Santos
Superintendent, Elementary School

Have you paid your head tax this year?
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SHORT NEWS NOTES

Mr. Arthur Herrman, long time resident, plantation owner and businessman from Kusaie is ill in the hospital in Kolonia. His friends will be sorry to hear this and will wish to visit him at the hospital.

The first year students from P.I.C.S. in Truk arrived in Kolonia on the TORRY on May 24. All their friends were glad to see them. They will go to their home islands for summer vacation on the June field trip ship. The graduates from PICS will arrive in time to go on this field trip ship, also.

Father Hugh Costigan who is now stationed in Matalanim often visits Kolonia on business and all his friends in Kolonia are happy to see him when he comes to the district's center.

Carlos, secretary of Ngatik Atoll, has been in Kolonia for business and to visit. His old friends were happy to see him. He will return to Ngatik on the June field trip ship.

The Air Force Weathermen, on Ponape Island since December 31, 1953 departed on May 19, 1954. They all said they were sorry their work was finished as they liked Ponape and its people.

The Trust Territory Nursing School, with Miss Ruth Ingram as its head, which has been permanently moved to Ponape, will now occupy the buildings in Kolonia where the Air Force weathermen were stationed.

Several Mokilese canoes and whaleboats sailed to Ponape from Mokil recently. It is rumored the men coming to Ponape are here for the June 17-30 Trochus Season.

Import Tax...The High Commissioner has approved the import tax for Ponape District. Effective date of the tax and its provisions will be explained in next months' paper. This tax money will first be used to pay the elementary school teachers throughout the Ponape District. The balance of the tax money will be used for the municipality and atolls' public needs.

Residency Order...The High Commissioner has approved a resolution of the Ponape Congress that anyone who lives in a municipality for more than one year is considered a resident of that municipality and is responsible for taxes and all other duties of a legal resident.

A Group of Scientists from the United States will visit beautiful Kapingamarangi (Greenwich Atoll) this summer for the purposes of making a study there. Masauo, medical aide, and several PICS students home for summer vacation will act as their interpreters.

Mr. Jerry O'Donnell, the "Tallest and biggest man in the district", chief of the Weather Bureau, will leave beautiful Ponape very soon as he has been transferred to be chief of a weather station in the very most northern coldest part of Alaska.

Miss Lela Morgan, popular Protestant Missionary in Kolonia, left Ponape on May 26th. Her many, many friends will miss her.

Reverend and Mrs. Chester Terpstra, and their two sons will return to Ponape District in June after more than a years absence in America and Europe studying and vacationing.

A large group of former Mortlock residents in Jokaj plan on visiting the Mortlocks in June. The Kapinga ship, the LUCKY, will make a special voyage to take Jokaj people to the Mortlocks and back again.

Alena, of Jokaj, is the Police Matron now at the "Calaboose", the District prison in Kolonia. When there are women prisoners in the calaboose, a police matron is necessary on the Constabulary Force.

Remember...50 or a hundred cacao trees will greatly add to your income. 500
producing trees will make you rich!!
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SHIPS

A U.S. Coast Guard ship is in Ponape Harbor to paint and take care of the harbor channel buoys. The TORRY arrived on 24 May on its way to duty as field trip ship in the Marshalls. It brought many needed supplies for the Ponapeans, including rice and flour. Thirteen Marshallese students from Ohwa Mission Training School returned to their homes on the TORRY. On the 13th of June the CHICOT will arrive with more supplies for Ponape, while the Rogue is expected on 8 June for the field trips to the outer islands. The LUCKY travelled to Oroluk Atoll the end of May and after a trip to the southern islands will make a special trip to the Mortlocks with Jokaj people. The CULVER, the Nanpei Plantation schooner started for Kusaie but due to engine troubles discharged her passengers at Mokil and returned to Ponape. Pinglap and Kusaie people left on Mokil will return to their homes on the June Field Trip Ship. If some day you see a big U. S. warship in the waters of your atoll, that is one of the U. S. Navy DL ships patrolling your waters to see that no one is bothering you.

Take no trochus shell under 3" in diameter at the base. It is against the law!
ITC will not buy it and you may go to jail.
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