

# Majuro Times



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Vol. I No. 7

March 26, 1952

Majuro, Marshall Is.

## DISTAD RETURNS

by Donald W. Gilfillan

The recent district administrators conference held at Honolulu was concluded on Tuesday, March 11 and in the next few days the district administrators set out for their respective districts, full of considerable enthusiasm and much tossed green vegetable salad.

My first experience upon arrival in Honolulu was from the comparative cold for, disdaining blankets at night, I shivered the night through with a mere sheet for cover. The conference commenced on Wednesday, February 27 and was sparked by an inspiring and informational address by the High Commissioner, Dr. Elbert D. Thomas. His incredible knowledge of the history of the United States, its role in global affairs, and our overall relationship with the United Nations leading to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands proved a valuable background for the ensuing conference.

### A BABY BOY



Jim and June Hawk just knew it would be a boy; and to prove it they went ahead and ordered months in advance from Sears R. blue blankets, dresses and all the other paraphernalia affiliated with this business of having a baby.

Even right before the big event (March 21, 4:45 p.m.) Jim sauntered about confidently: "He will be called Alexander Gordon Hawk" Then, sure enough as luck would have it, it was a boy; Rose Murphy of Medical broadcasted the news to the community by phone.

The tiny parcel weighed 6 lbs 11½ oz. at birth, and according to all counts, he has Jim's possessive eyes and nose, June's ears and dimples. And

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The entire agenda for the conference had previously been well planned and organized and our first business meeting began promptly at 1:30 of the same day. This and all subsequent meetings were held in a large comfortable room at the Elks Club. Mr. James C. McConnell, the Deputy High Commissioner, Chairman of all meetings, was aided by the Director of Administration, Mr. Al Hurt. All discussions relating to various department functions were led by directors of the respective departments and their assistants.

Almost all subject matter was necessarily confined to discussion from which future action such as policy, directives, field memoranda, may be based. There were many discussions of general interest, indicated by the highlights of a few, as follo

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## INS AND OUTS



## STAFF



People are still traveling. Mr. Robert H. Goodrich, Land Titles Administrator for HICOM was with us for a week and during his stay he saw a lot of Mr. Murphy, Legal Officer and Mr. Kesler, Internal Affairs. Jack Murphy, who spends as much time away as he does here, plans to stay awhile just for a change. Mr. Bill King, the yacht man, put the FRELA into shipshape and then returned to civilized Honolulu. Dr. S. N. Cheer, Medical Officer, spent a week with us inspecting our facilities, and another member of the Medical Department, Mrs. Doyle stopped here for a week's work.

Three new arrivals have joined our community. After much patient waiting and planning Mr. Easley greeted his wife at the air field one sunny afternoon. We hope you will enjoy it here, Mrs. Easley. We also welcomed Miss Hannah Rosenblum who arrived with little advance notice. Nevertheless her presence here is indeed appreciated, for she will be a secretary at the Administration Building. Mr. Williams has recently joined the staff at ITC here. He is in charge of the galley, commissary and hotel; a very important job to say the least.

Another Field Trip is out, this time taking the Eastern cruise, visiting Mejit, Wutrok, Ailuk, Likiep, Wotje, Maloelap, and Aur. Ben Kesler is Field Trip Officer and Keith Smith the ITC Representative.

The Electronics crew has completed in a remarkably short time all the installations at the new radio shack. (See story p. 4) They worked nights in order to finish before the deadline date. Their departure last Saturday was regretted for they are a fine bunch of fellows.

And last but not least, we

Editor-in-Chief..Humphrey Leynse  
 Special Features Editor..Jo Ridl  
 Sports Editor....Richard E. Lahr  
 Social Editor.....Janet Manford  
 Typists...A.Leynse & M. Furtado

### A BABY BOY - Continued

what a grip! Dr. Lahr, who officiated at the ceremony, can testify to that. He was ably assisted by his wife, Marilyn, a trained nurse, Mrs. Manford was also there lending her assistance and keeping a vigil for days afterwards. "Their preparedness in every way was really marvellous," remarked June.

This is the first child born to the American community at Majuro since Interior took over and we, along with Jim and June, are mighty proud.

### EVER GREENER

Snarled in traffic  
 or waiting in line,  
 Crowded in subway  
 to get there by nine;  
 Jangled by buzzers  
 and rings of a phone,  
 Dream you of peace  
 on an island alone?

Out on an island,  
 your wish now come true  
 Close to the palm trees  
 beside placid blue;  
 Free to develop  
 the wants of your heart  
 Your dream is to shop  
 in a huge supermart.

- Abbie Leynse

welcome back our DISTAD, Mr. Gillan. Majuro has missed him. However, the time spent at the DISTAD's conference in Honolulu has proven to be of great value to him and to us.

Although TIME magazine scooped the story about four months ago in the November 19 edition, we feel that our version is somewhat more complete, for the participants in this hair-raising sea adventure have now returned to the Marshall Islands and Mr. Ben Kesler, our Internal Affairs Officer, has spent considerable time interviewing the survivors.

We are talking about the story of a 24' sailboat that spent 102 days in search of land. Seven went, five came back and of these, two have now lost their sanity. Only one man and two boys survived to tell the story. Their experiences once again points to all but the most careful and prodigious sailors that lack of proper equipment and knowledge can be disastrous on the open sea. Those that did come back were lucky to be alive.

The voyage started off as a short run between Kwajalein and Ailinglaplap, a distance of 105 miles. It is nearly a straight line between these two points and the ship should have made it in a few days. But the captain, July, thought he knew where he was going and was obstinate to the point of  
(Continued on last page)

#### FROM THE POSTAL BULLETIN

The Post Office Department will issue a 3-cent North Atlantic Treaty Organization stamp on April 4, 1952, to commemorate the third anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty. Of ordinary size, the color will be purple. The central design depicts a torch, symbolizing freedom and peace, being held aloft by human hands, representing the strength and cooperation of united North Atlantic Treaty Organization members. A portion of the world serves as a supporting base for the arms and torch.

The Intermediate School wishes to make every effort to satisfy the public demand for handicraft but due to limited facilities it is requested that orders for desired articles be placed in advance with Mrs. Anttila. The school regrets that there are no surplus items for sale and hence, cannot supply the casual visitor to our island unless an order has been placed far in advance.

The Intermediate School's summer session will have, in addition to the regular staff, two "guest artists" in the persons of Mrs. Cicely Pickerill, the Principal of PICS; and Miss Ione Rathburn, a supervisor in Honolulu, who taught here in the 1950 summer school.

The Education Administrator's Conference recently held on Truk, recommended an exchange student program for summer school. Under this plan, a student attending PICS would choose the district summer school he wished to attend and then persuade a classmate from that area to exchange with him. The idea back of the recommendation is to give the young people of Micronesia an opportunity to become better acquainted with one another's home islands. As one student at the conference said: "We want to learn more about the culture of Micronesia." Perhaps, sometime there will be an exchange of teachers, too.

Two new commemorative stamps were received at the Post Office last week and are available now.

Air parcel post for delivery through military post offices overseas and to naval vessels are limited to two pounds and size of 30 inches in length and girth combined. These limitations, effective March 15, 1952, do not apply to official air parcel post.

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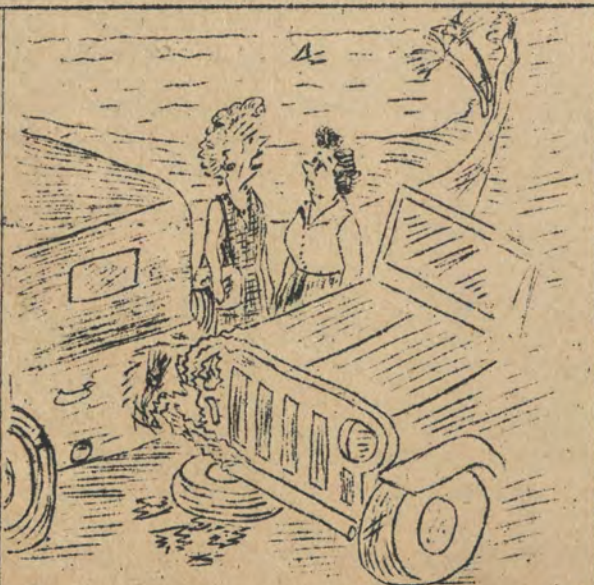
## LOCAL CHANGES

ITC has moved again. Every once in a while they like a change, and this time they have selected the old commissary quonset. Thus the commissary was moved to one of the twin quonsets at the galley. It is actually a wise move, for now the commissary and galley are located together.

The library at the Administration Building is looking better by the week. Books and pamphlets pertaining to the Pacific, sent in occasionally from HICOM, are then catalogued by Mrs. Tubb. She will let you have any number (on loan, of course) for merely a signature.

Have you seen the new boat Mr. Records, of Public Works, has built? It is a snazzy inboard racer which Mr. Records claims can go up to 28 knots. And we are inclined to believe him for the boat speeds across the lagoon as if only a small mud puddle.

The roofs of Majuro are now shiny black for a new roofing compound was recently obtained by Public Works and each house has received a coat. Just in time, too, for the rainy season has begun.



"Honestly, we women drivers"

## PICNIC BY MOON

Saturday night, March 8, was lit by a near full moon. The lagoon shimmered in its reflection. On the beach, torches wave their light on tables decorated with palm fronds, woven baskets of food and happy people sprawled on the sands.

This was the setting of a moonlight Beach Party sponsored by the Club and certain willing helpers such as Marian Furtado, Rose Murphy, Mrs. Tubb, Mrs. Shepherd, and Ken Mosher. They thought of the idea and carried it through. They distributed mimeographed announcements, planned the wiener roast, the salad and even had the electronics crew make up the kerosene torches. After the sumptuous feed, a bonfire was lit on the beach, Jim Manford and Bill Cruz strummed banjo and guitar and the crowd sang old favorites. It was a glorious evening.

## RADIO SHACK

The new Radio Facility installation is now complete. It represents a lot of planning and work, as well as improved communication and working conditions.

Contrary to popular belief, all of the equipment is not new. The location has been changed, and the entire building is new, including power wiring. All new, antennae poles, guys, wires, installed. Four old receivers will be used plus four new ones. Two new transmitters, one a 1000 watt job, and both capable of serving as "homers", have been added to three old ones to make a total of five.

New operating positions, the addition of 500 Kc emergency equipment, the installation of a homer, and an efficient ground, all add up to an efficient and dependable Radio Shack fully capable of "doing the job".

- Jim Hawk

DISTAD - Continued

1. The budget for fiscal year 1953. It has been received favorably in Washington, D. C., and while definite action has not yet been taken, expressions of optimism were given relating to final action, barring unforeseen contingencies.

2. Considerable interest was manifested in our Marshallese Council and considerable additional support towards future progress is expected.

3. Favorable discussion was held regarding possibilities of direct shipment of trade goods and copra to and from districts and world ports. The advantages of such commerce are well known among the people of the Marshalls and are commonly accepted to be of considerable value to all concerned.

4. Regarding our club activities, particular note was made of the Club for Americans and the Marshallese Club at Majuro. Discussions of the manner in which other districts operated their club activities were also given and a general policy regarding such activities will be forthcoming in the future.

5. The necessity of securing movies for additional entertainment was stressed and brought forth many problems to overcome, though action toward meeting these requirements was assured.

6. It is reasonable to expect that districts will take over the operation of commissaries and restaurants in the next few months.

More specific information will be brought to the attention of department heads as soon as the reams of recordings of the discussions are received.

It was an enjoyable experience to return to Headquarters after the first 9 months of operation in the field and also to see the tremendous progress that has been made at Headquarters. The deep interest and wide know-

THIS IS MAJURO

Mrs. Wheat, here from Ponape a few weeks ago, said some fine things about us in her article "Inside Majuro" that appeared in the March 6 issue of Kolonia en Pohnpey. Here are some quotes:

"The club is far better than our club and it offers many more activities in a more pleasant atmosphere."

"The roads of Majuro are certainly worth mentioning too, after being accustomed to the rocky roads of Ponape."

"Swimming is ideal in the real lagoon setting of the South Seas."

"I enjoyed meeting and becoming friends with many of the people based on the atoll and I owe many thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Brown for their superb hospitality the entire two weeks of my visit; to Ben Kesler for all the wonderful times at the club, bicycling, and spear fishing; to Janice Manford for swimming and Jim Manford for the fine banjo and guitar music."

We thank you, Mrs. Wheat.

ledge Headquarters has of our field problems commanded our considerable respect. It was most gratifying to find their efforts being expended in many directions toward aiding us in our mission, our work and our problems. In addition to the successfully conducted conference we will long remember the warm hospitality of headquarters staff and their families. In short, we had a wonderful stay by the time we said our Aloha to Headquarters.

Winging our way homeward, just four weeks after our departure, the pleasant feeling of 'homeward bound' helped to make the trip an enjoyable one. Nevertheless, the greetings at the airport of Majuro will be my unforgettable experience. It was wonderful!

SURVIVAL AT SEA - Continued  
 being reckless. He would lay a course for about five to seven days, then change it. Between the first of August and the middle of October they sailed north, south, east and west, and had even returned to the vicinity of Kwajalein where they saw the lights of Carlos island flickering. And then their luck really vanished for the wind died and the current carried them persistently to the open sea. Here a storm slashed at their helpless boat, the compass was drenched, the food and water fast depleting. July gave up all attempt at navigation, and stayed below where he died. In desperation, one of the other men mixed a concoction of shaving lation, vinegar and sugar and drank it. Four days later they dropped his body into the sea.

When the storm subsided the survivors caught fish, broke the spinal bones and drank the juice. Altogether they speared six small whales and more than 20 tuna. To quench their ever-present thirst they mixed some of the 300 pounds of sugar on board with salt water drank it with no apparent ill effect.

All the while they kept drifting - to where, no one knew. When it rained, they lowered the sails and caught around 20 gallons of water. Finally, one early morning they sighted a green island. It lay directly ahead and as they drew near a channel opened as if in a dream. There in a quiet harbor a steamer lay at anchor and when they were within shouting distance one of the young boys who knew some English cried out: "Is this the Philippines?" "No," came the reply, "this is the island of Epi in the New Hebrides."

Plantation owner Edmund Harbulot, with typical French hospitality took them in, fed and clothed them and then sped them

on to Port Villa where they were immediately placed in a hospital. Here they remained until January when Trust Territory's M/V CAMANO made a special trip to pick them up and return them to Majuro, 1,800 miles away.

This has not been the first time a Marshallese ship has lost its bearings and gone dangerously astray. In the old days, ships were mostly owned by the local kings and they had their trusted navigators who were keepers of the secret Marshallese navigational charts, strips of wood lashed together to form a pattern. These secrets were passed from mouth to mouth only upon the permission of the king.

With the influx of foreigner the common Marshallese people began to want ships too. They eventually got them, although the coveted navigational charts have always remained in the hands of the king's trustees. Thus, many boat owners today sail unknown waters without adequate knowledge. The folly of such endeavors is only too obvious, and in an attempt to prevent the re-occurrence of such tragedies as the one described, Mr. Ben Kesler has initiated a Marshallese navigation class. It began last Monday, the 10th, with over 40 eager registrants.

Before the class could materialize, Mr. Kesler had to receive special permission from the king, who permitted one of his subjects to teach the class. In this manner, Olib (whose life was written up in issues 4 and 6 of the Majuro Times) was selected and he will conduct the first portion of the class. When the students complete this they will then take up Western navigation. Thus, for the first time in the history of the Marshall Islands, the old custom of secrecy toward imparting navigational knowledge, has been broken and gives way to the pressing need for public information on how to survive at sea.