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NEWS BRIEFS

(Very brief because of poor radio reception).

South Africa has withdrawn from the British Commonwealth. Angered by criticism of his country's apartheid policy, President Vrewoerd walked out of the Commonwealth Ministers' Conference in London. Later he made the statement that South Africa and England would continue to cooperate in matters of mutual concern or interest. While some felt this was the beginning of the disintegration of the Commonwealth, Prime Minister Macmillan indicated that he hoped South Africa would return to the Commonwealth in the near future.

Saudi Arabia has demanded that the U. S. get out of its air base at Dhahran. The State Department announced that Saudi Arabia would not renew its air base agreement with the U. S.

Malayan U. N. troops were attempting to rescue two white missionaries held captive by Lumumba Congolese.

President Kennedy is getting support for his proposal that the gasoline tax scheduled to drop from four cents to three cents be kept at the four cent level. Supporters claim that the Interstate Highway system will not be completed in 1972 unless the higher tax is retained.

SIXTH PONAPE CONGRESS OPENS

President Bethwel Henry's gavel brought to order the first session of the Sixth Ponape District Congress early Tuesday morning, and District Administrator Maynard Neas' address to the assembled solons stressed those matters he considers of prime importance: land problems, need for better school buildings, changes in the U.S. presidency and in the Trust Territory's top positions and their effect on the Territory.

Highlight of the District Administrator's address was the exhibiting of what is believed to be the first Homestead quitclaim issued in the Trust Territory. (See page 2 for story).

Treasurer Lutik Santos' fiscal report indicated that over \$32,000.00 in revenues had been realized since July 1, 1960, while expenditures totalled some \$20,000.00. A reserve of \$26,000.00 was also reported. Mr. Neas cautioned against leaving public funds idle for too long a period of time.

Congress is planning its new capitol building, redrafting bills and introducing new legislation. A district-wide copra tax is among proposed new legislation, and
(Continued on page 5)

BIG BREAKTHROUGH IN HOMESTEADING

Kiyooko Sproat is the happiest person in Ponape. She has just received the first homestead title in Ponape District. It is signed by High Commissioner D.H. Nucker. This action provides a valuable precedent for speeding up clarification of the tangled mass of land matters that have plagued local people for many years.

Land Title Officer Kozo Yamada and District Administrator Maynard Neas are almost as happy as Kiyooko. Now they can move faster and with assurance in unravelling the confusion that has piled up as high as Ponape's mountains during the past one hundred years of foreign interference in control of local lands. As rapidly as possible, control of lands will be returned to local people.

Kiyooko has been working and hoping for this day for over ten years. In 1951, shortly after she got back from a forced stay in Japan during the war, and before her marriage, she started work on her home. Her precious land parcel, which contains approximately two acres, adjoins the District Agricultural station. Her plantings even rival the station in variety and beauty. It is a model homestead and a model home. It would fit in well in any well developed community anywhere in the world.

The glad tidings included in the land document signed by the High Commissioner reflect several legal terms dearly loved by lawyers and not quite intelligible to most of us, but the true meaning comes through. The final paragraph of Mr. Nucker's historic document reads as follows: "To have and to hold the above described premises, together with all singular hereditaments and appurtenances therunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, to the said Kiyooko M. Sproat, her heirs, successors and assigns forever." To all who wonder what this means, it means quite simply that Kiyooko owns the land and can do with it very much as she pleases. Furthermore, she can hand it down to her children or to whom-ever she pleases. She can even let her husband live there if he will stay here once in awhile. This is similar to land titles in the United States which are called titles in fee simple.

Successive government officials, over the long ten years, assured Kiyooko she was doing all she should to meet homestead requirements. However, no one recommended final action. Time was running out as 1961 appeared on the calendar. The lease on her land was due to expire in March of this year. As the date approached she became desperate. She became quite apprehensive in view of the fact she might lose the years of back breaking labor and expenditure of thousands of dollars. Land Title Officer Yamada and Administrator Neas reviewed the case and found she had in fact done everything required by the homestead law, even though very little of the record could be located in the Land Office files. The High Commissioner reviewed their findings and recommendation and had no difficulty saying the defects should be waived and title issued at once. Now, she has her precious piece of paper! Congratulations, Kiyooko. --Contributed.

FOR SALE

Anyone interested in buying outboard motors, Mercury, 45 H. P. or 75 H. P., both complete with electric starter. Contact Mr. Garver at 4:30 Club or Room No. 5 Hotel.

FAITH AND B'GOREY

It's St. Patrick's Day again. Inclement weather and mislaid stiff katies prevented the annual parade of the local Irish. Roy and Kiooko O'Hara, the only Blarney Stone Irish on the island, served a green punch at a 5:30 a.m. breakfast. The O'Migvars (lace curtain) both had traditionally green faces as they stepped off the M/V Kaselehla.

St. Patrick is credited with having driven the snakes out of Ireland. There is only circumstantial evidence that he made a side-trip to Ponape.

INSURANCE, B.O.

I've had time to sufficiently recover
From the insurance decisions of before,
Only to unhappily discover
That I now must make a few more.

I took down my books
From their place on the shelf;
And, with cautious looks,
Commenced talking to myself:

"In the Government Wide Service Benefit
Plan
I can't find what I want
For me and my clan.

The Indemnity Benefit Plan offers less
For our special needs
In our moments of stress."

What's this all about?
Well, I'd better go back
To our latest bout
With Condition Black.

It might be easy
For others who get
The message so breezy,
"Well, there's no power yet!"

But for my little group,
I can truthfully say,
It's a real dangerous coup,
A most unhappy day.

So, I hope to discover
Without too much fuss
Some insurance to cover
Injuries received by us.

We've already had some.
True, we're walking yet.
But the faster they come,
The more frightened I get!

When our kerosene stove
Blew up to the sky
It was luck, by Jove,
That we all didn't die.

"What mother", I ask sadly,
"Can look at her kids
Without feeling badly
When kerosene drips from their lids?"

What wife stands the torture
Or has eyes that aren't damp
When her husband gets a scorcher
From a kerosene lamp?

And what woman, for that matter,
When slicing meat in the dark
Likes to have her blood spatter
When the knife misses its mark?

Who likes a burned finger
From a hot candle flame?
Who can faithfully linger
As his family grows lame?

Who likes bruised shins
After hitting a table
Or stepping on pins.
In the dark, who is able?

"So, if someone can find
Black Out Insurance for sale,
Please be so kind
As to share it," I wail.

I'll end this piece
With a bit of advice:
Should our search cease,
And a firm will suffice

That offers Insurance, B.O.
When you write, near or far
Don't let them know
What poor risks we really are!

--D.S.

ABRAHAM HESPAK REPATRIATED

Abraham R. Hespak, former dock foreman, returned to Ponape Saturday before last, having spent the past four years in Salina Cruz, Mexico.

Abraham left his position as dock foreman in 1952 to accept a seaman position on the M/V Chicot. He later transferred to the M/V Roque before leaving FML employment to accept a position of bosun on the M/V Arctic owned by a private company sailing between Guam and Japan. According to Abraham, this company went broke, and he secured a job on the M/V Nautilus with a private owner. This ship was later sold to the MicroNavigation Company. From the Nautilus, he was transferred to the M/V Running Eagle which was in Panama. Abraham and eight others were flown to Panama in February of 1957 to join the rest of the crew already on the ship.

The Running Eagle was to carry scrap from Guam and the Bonin Islands to Japan. While sailing through the Panama Canal, the ship sprang a leak, and instead of continuing to San Diego and Guam, it put in to Salina Cruz, Mexico, approximately 200 miles north of Guatemala for drydocking. The ship remained in port from May 12, 1957, until January 1958, during which time salary payments were very irregular. There was a change of captaincy about six times during this period. The ship was repaired in October, at which time all the crew were flown to their homes except one Spanish crewmember and Abraham, who were requested to remain as the sole occupants of the ship, for security reasons, until some disposition of the ship was made. The men were paid off, and Abraham used a good deal of his salary to repay friends with whom he had become acquainted in Salina Cruz and who had befriended him when he had been without funds. The remainder of his salary he used for the purchase of food and personal expenses after the departure of the crew as the ship's galley was closed.

In January 1958 a Mexican company which had purchased the ship took it over and Abraham and his companion were told they were no longer needed. The MicroNavigation company representative, according to Abraham, advised him that he would be sent home to Ponape and paid off upon reaching home. However, Abraham elected to remain in Mexico and be paid off there, as he felt he owed his Mexican friends something out of his final salary payment. An arrangement was made with an immigration employee for his continued residence in Mexico, so he was able to remain with his friends.

At this time, Abraham organized a group of 16 Mexican fishermen, and with the use of a good-sized rowboat, they fished regularly, weather and seas permitting, off the shore from Salina Cruz. They employed nets, spears, and hand lines, but the fishing was not too good, the catches were small as high seas prevented regular fishing on an everyday basis. This activity occupied the next four years and not a great deal happened to interrupt the daily routine. Life proved to be hard, income small, and Abraham dreamed of the garden island of Ponape. The major crop grown at Salina Cruz, a village of approximately 5,000 inhabitants, consisted of corn, which somehow survived with rainfall spread over a very few days each year, according to Abraham. Some bananas were grown and a few coconuts.

One day in December 1960, however, Abraham visited an old Mexican friend from the ship living at Oaxaca, where he was unknown. Here he was picked up by the police for identification. Without a passport or other identification to authorize his residence in Mexico, he was sent to Mexico City where the immigration authorities held him for deportation proceedings. Approximately 19 others from various

countries including France, U.S.A., and Spain were also held along with Abraham. It was at this point that Abraham secured help from the U. S. Consulate, which advised the Department of State in Washington of the fact that a citizen of the U. S. administered Trust Territory was awaiting deportation proceedings. Some of the others incarcerated along with Abraham hired an attorney and secured their release. At long last, final arrangements were made by the Department of State for Abraham's transportation, via Los Angeles, Honolulu to Guam and back to Ponape on March 4, to rejoin his family who include brothers Lukas of the Carpenter Shop, Moses of Supply, Kiosi in the Power Plant, and brother-in-law Tomisiano Martin who is Clerk of the Ponape Congress.

LET'S LEARN PONAPEAN

This week's lesson is a review of many of the most used verbs and of objects found around the home.

I can walk.
He can run.
Mother likes to sleep.
Daddy likes to fish.
Nan will eat the bread.
Elias is singing in church.
The girl is washing the dishes.
My sister is washing the baby.
We are cooking rice on the stove. (*)
 (*) on the fire
See the table.
I have two chairs.
The mat is dirty.
Close the door, please.
Mrs. Umhoefer went to Guam.
Sharon is sick.

I kak alu.
E kak tang.
Nohna mwahuki meir.
Pahpa mwahuki laid.
Nan pahn kang pilawa.
Elias kokoul nan imwen sarawi.
Serepeino widiwiden dahl (pleit).
Ploi serepein duduhp serio.
Se inihn rice pohn stohp. (*)
 (*) pohn kisiniei
Kilang tehpele.
Mie ahi sehr riau.
Liropo me pwelipwel.
Ritingidi wehnihmw, menlau.
Mrs. Umhoefer kolahr Guam.
Sharon sohmwahu.

Mr. Neas works at the office.
He is the District Administrator.

Mr. Neas doadoahk nan ohpis.
Ih me kepina en Pohnpei.

NEW DELIVERY ROOM CHRISTENED

Rosianna, wife of Timithio of Net Municipality, gave birth to the first baby born in the new delivery room of the Ponape Hospital.

The female infant arrived at 3:00 a.m. Monday, March 6, weighing into the world at 6 lb. 8 oz., which is about average for Ponape newborns. Delivery was accomplished by Graduate Nurse Kesia Pretrick, wife of the Assistant District Director of Public Health.

CONGRESS Continued

the Club Kolonia came under heavy Congressional fire for not paying taxes and not observing the hours prescribed by law for closing of bars.

SFT OUT TUESDAY

The Southern Field Trip will depart from here Tuesday, March 21, at 6:00 p.m., returning March 28. District Administrator Maynard Neas plans to visit Ngatik, Nukuoro, and Kapingamarangi.

TRUSTEESHIP SERIES - 5

Article 77 of the U. N. Charter tells us to which categories of territories the trusteeship system shall apply. These are:

- a. territories now held under mandate;
- b. territories which may be detached from enemy states as a result of the Second World War; and
3. territories voluntarily placed under the system by states responsible for their administration.

The Article then goes on to say:

It will be a matter for subsequent agreement as to which territories in the foregoing categories will be brought under the trusteeship system and upon what terms.

IT'S THE LAW...

Section 621 of the TT Code provides that persons suffering from contagious disease, and persons who have been exposed to such disease, may be isolated and quarantined in accordance with regulations issued pursuant to the Code.