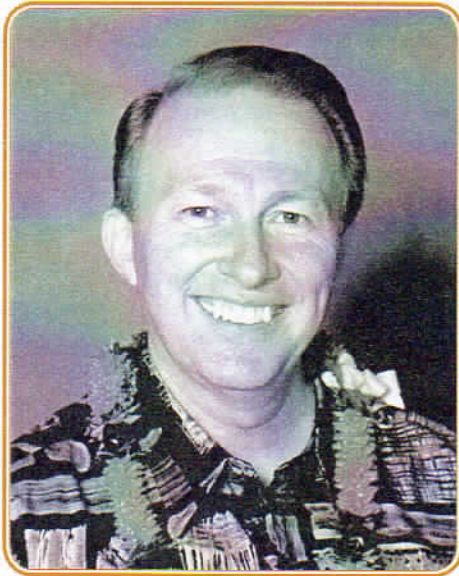


# Imua Polenisia

A Bimonthly Newsletter from the  
Polynesian Cultural Center



## President Orgill: There's always a prerequisite

While the Hawaii tourism industry faces serious challenges, as evidenced by the recent bankruptcy of Aloha Airlines and ATA, the loss of two cruise ships, and the heavy impact of higher gas prices, the Polynesian Cultural Center continues to do relatively well — but we still face our own professional and personal realities:

We have to keep changing, getting better and better at what we do. I hope we understand our Cultural Beliefs and why we strive to make them a description of who we really are and who we're really trying to be. We do all of this so that we can better fulfill our mission more competently, effectively and efficiently than we have in the past.

If you were to recast our Mission Statement, building up the Kingdom of

God is probably a good way to describe who we are, what we're really about, and why we're here.

Yes, this is a place of miracles, and the Lord isn't finished with His miracles here yet, but there's always a prerequisite for the things that the Lord wants to do: It's all about our own spirituality and righteousness.

As we help in the fulfillment of President David O. McKay's vision for the Center, BYU-Hawaii and Laie, there should always be an emphasis on the importance of our living in such a way that the Spirit of the Lord can dwell with us and radiate out from us toward one another, those who walk these grounds and everyone else who's part of this special place.

Absent this, we really cannot fulfill our mission and accomplish the things that the Lord wants us to do, nor are we deserving of the blessings we need when we face challenges like those we face today. It's impossible to overemphasize how critical this is.

We need to live so the Spirit of the Lord can direct and bless us, and operate unrestrained. We need to treat everyone with love and respect, do our duty to the best of our ability and always be temple worthy. Avoid anything that will drive the Spirit away — not giving our best effort, unkindness, disrespect, dishonesty and contention.

The Center is here because the Lord wants it here to accomplish His purposes, but that doesn't happen without great faith and sacrifice. I'm grateful for your efforts to live worthily. Your influence is like the ripples in a pond that go so much further than you can imagine. You impact so many people's lives.

That's what it's really all about. That's why we're here. Yes, we spend time talking about management, organizational structure, processes, procedures and finances. Yet, we're much like the Latter-day Saint pioneers crossing the plains who had to pay attention to the many details that impacted their journey, so they could get where the Lord wanted them to go. He wanted them in the Salt Lake Valley, but they had to sacrifice much and exercise great faith, and pay attention to the million details that impacted their trek west. In that process they also experienced tremendous growth in faith, testimony, diligence and determination. All of this prepared them to better achieve what needed to be accomplished once they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley.

It is precisely the same for us here. We have to pay attention to all of the details because that is necessary for our journey — but those details are not the primary focus, nor our ultimate objective, nor are they the most important part of what we do. They are necessary elements, but what we are really about is accomplishing what the Lord wants done here as found in our Mission Statement

*Continued on next page...*

## In this Issue

- PCC Reorganizes Sales Activities . . . . . 2
- PCC-BYUH teamwork opens Halau Wa'a O Iosepa . . . . . 2
- Summer Events Prove Special . . . . . 4
- Promo Team Keeps Flying . . . . . 5
- PCC Theater Sponsors Poetry Contest. . . . . 5
- In Recognition: Charny . . . . . 7
- Meet the new Missionaries . . . . . 7



and as seen in the changed lives of students, employees and guests who visit here.

Students are better prepared to be future leaders in the Church and in the world. Employees are better examples of Christ-like living, as well as better at their daily job responsibilities. Guests are touched by the Spirit, the warmth and the wonder of this place, and their hearts are opened to the promptings of the Spirit.

It's my humble prayer that we never forget this, that we won't allow the details of our journey — along with the natural challenges and frustrations — to get in the way of becoming who we are supposed to become and doing what we are supposed to do.

Can we please rise above any behavior that gets in our way? Can we be more caring, loving and supportive of one another? Can we treat one another as real brothers and sisters — always, as children of God?

Can we eliminate all backbiting, complaining, finger pointing, and contention that chase away the Spirit?

It is my prayer for each of us that we will act like true children of God, seeking to become like our Heavenly Parents — this day, every day, every moment, in everything we do.

Von D. Orgill  
President

## PCC reorganizes on-site sales activities

To help better meet some of the tourism industry challenges Hawaii faces with rising oil and transportation costs, PCC President Von Orgill announced at the July 25 Team Meeting, the creation of the In-Center Revenue Organization. This new organization will combine Handicrafts, Concessions, the Events Network and Photo Polynesia "partners," and pay-to options, and will be overseen by President Orgill.

"We're going to be testing a lot of different things in the most positive and healthy way



Kealii Haverly - Director of In-Center Sales

we can while continuing to focus on and maintain our mission," said President Orgill, who explained that Elder Gene Powell, a marketing service missionary, will oversee the new organization. He praised Elder Powell for grasping "the essence of what the PCC really is. He's already helped us in countless ways already."

President Orgill also named Kealii Haverly as the transitional director of in-Center sales, to take over the organization when Elder Powell completes his mission in approximately 10 months. Haverly's former responsibilities with Hawaii sales and Internet e-commerce have been transferred to Raymond Magalei, Director of Marketing.

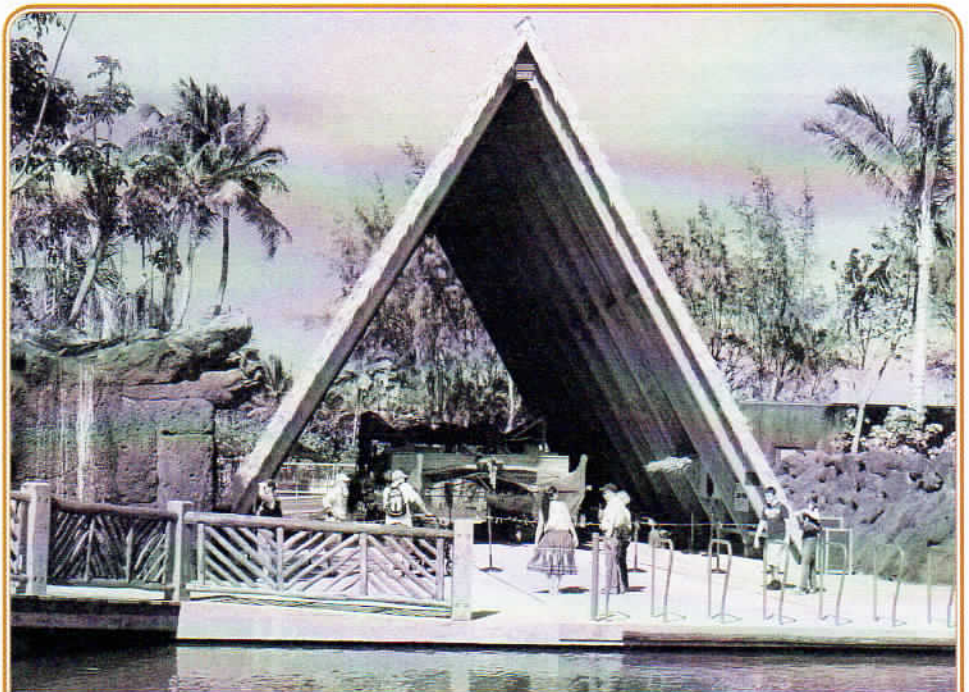
"We ask for your support of the new organization in every way you can provide it," President Orgill added.

## PCC-BYUH teamwork reaches a new high as Halau Wa'a O Iosepa opens in Hawaiian village

Meeting with a small group of invited guests on June 25 in the Hawaiian village, Mark Willes, Chairman of the PCC Board of Directors, dedicated the new Halau Wa'a O Iosepa in the first of three events marking the opening of the recently completed compound that now houses BYU-Hawaii's traditionally shaped 57-foot twin-hulled sailing canoe, Iosepa.

Willes described the halau as a "stunning addition to a very special place" and said it was "evidence of the critical and necessary connection between BYU-Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center." He also said it is an "important place of refuge for a very special canoe; and it is a place, if the Lord wills, where millions will come and be touched by the Spirit."

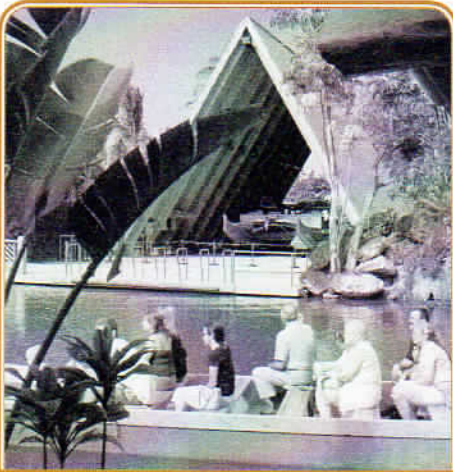
Then, with special permission from Church President Thomas S. Monson, Willes blessed



Halau Wa'a O Iosepa Now Open in the Hawaiian Village



# Iiua Polenisia



Visitors Enjoy the New Exhibit



Hula Dancers at the Grand Opening



Willie K at Family Day



Iosepa Voyaging at Sea



Chairman Mark Willes Dedicating the New Halau

the new halau “as a place of learning, that those who come, as they learn about voyaging canoes, will also gain a greater understanding about the life’s voyage that they take, and will have promptings in their minds and hearts to look heavenward to receive the guidance and direction they need.”

Earlier in the program, William K. “Uncle Bill” Wallace III, Director of the BYUH Hawaiian Studies program and a former PCC leader, thanked Willes, PCC board member Ira A. Fulton and all those “who so willingly gave so that we could have what we have now.”

“We’re excited about having our students here and running some of their classes with the Iosepa, and sharing with the visitors who come to the Center. This is a joint effort between BYU-Hawaii and the PCC,” he added.

On June 27 a larger group of invited kupuna, community members and guests held a larger event and reception for the canoe. Fijian villagers from the PCC danced in honor of the canoe, which was carved from seven large Fijian logs. They were followed by the Hawaiians who performed the hula to mark the occasion; and later a delegation from each

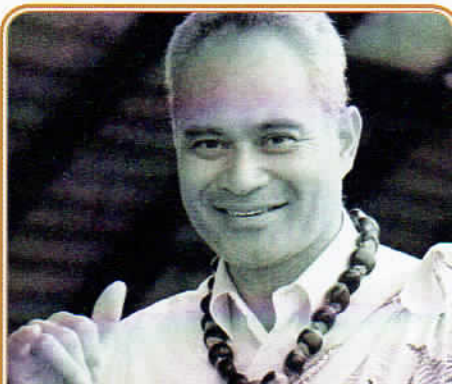
of the other villages at the Center arrived by canoe and paid homage to the new addition.

On the afternoon of June 28 the PCC hosted a free “family day” event for kamaaina — many of whom observed the creation of Iosepa in 2001 and participated in its maiden launching at Hukilau Beach — with special cultural presentations and a Willie K concert.

In addition to the Iosepa, which is now berthed in the Hawaiian village when it’s not sailing, the halau includes a star compass activity and knot tying activities. The Center has also added several new web pages on the new Iosepa attraction at <http://www.polynesia.com/iosepa.html>, including the results of an art drawing contest for school kids grades K-6. “They submitted 8.5”x11” drawings of Iosepa. For example, what is it like to live on a canoe, or using the stars for navigation,” said Hawaii Sales account exec Larie Manutai. She added the PCC gave prizes for each grade level winner plus a Nintendo Wii™ as a grand prize.



Cy Bridges Performs in Honor of Iosepa



Raymond Mokiao Enjoying the Festivities



Contest Winner - Austin Montgomery, Puohala Elem.



## Summer events prove special

As we have every year for the past eight and 16 years respectively, the PCC staged two of our biggest and most colorful special events this summer:



Winner - Chelsea Clement

### Te Mahana Hiro'a o Tahiti fête

PCC's 2008 children's Tahitian dance competition on July 5 featured over 100 tamari'i (ages 3-11) and taure'are'a (ages 12-18) in a lively celebration marked by colorful costumes and skillful moves; and when the



Winner - Jordan Mariteragi



Winner - Shandy Hopeau

Pacific Theater that afternoon, a Honolulu girl and Laie boy had held onto their titles for the third consecutive year in the upper division.

Chelsea Clement of Te'e'a o te Turama dance school and L.J. Mariteragi of Nonosina Hawaii three-peated as the senior girl and boys champions. Shandy Hopeau of the Tiare Ura O Tahiti school, and Jordan Mariteragi of Nonosina Hawaii, won the junior girls and boys division titles.

"It takes a lot for these tamari'i to get up on stage by themselves to perform in front of hundreds of people, and their passion is an inspiration," said PCC Tahitian cultural specialist Raymond Mariteragi, who is also the grandfather of both boy winners.

PCC production specialist David Tiave, who helped with the event, said he was "impressed to see how the kids are trained from a young age. In fact, every year I'm surprised at how very good they are. You don't even see adults doing some of the things some of these kids are doing. Hopefully they'll come and apply to dance for us some day," he added.

### PCC completes 16th annual Fire Knife championship, Samoan Festival

The PCC's 16th annual World Fire Knife Championship, held from May 14-17, was fantastic, and the results featured some now-familiar faces — but in a different order:

» First place in the senior division went to 16-year-old Viavia "VJ" Tiumalu Jr. of Orlando, Florida. The previous two-time junior winner claimed the \$4,000 first prize.



Viavia "VJ" Tiumalu Jr. of Orlando, Florida Celebrates His 1st Place Victory





Waianae Taupou

» Mikaele Oloa, also from Orlando, came in second. Though only 18 now, Oloa won the senior championships in 2005 and '06, then had to sit out a year as required by competition rules. In 2007 he teamed up with Tiumalu to win the first duet championship, as they did again this year.

» Joseph Cadousteau from Papeete, Tahiti, a second-place winner for the previous two years, came in third this year.

» Other winners included Laie brothers Julius and Achilles Tafiti, who won their respective age groups in the juniors division. Hale Motu'apuaka, a young relative of PCC Board member Kalo Soukoup, tied with Achilles.

"This competition just gets better and better," said Delsa Moe, PCC Director of Cultural Presentations. "You would think that can't happen, but they just kick it up another notch each year."



A Hot and Fiery Night in Laie

Logo Apelu, PCC Vice President of Operations agreed. "Even the judges, who are all former dancers and cultural experts, can't believe the quality of the performances that are going on over here," he said.

Meanwhile on Saturday morning of the event, several thousand Samoans and fans came together for the accompanying high school traditional arts festival, which featured an exhibition of songs and dances rather than a competition, and presented each of the five participating high schools with \$1,300 plus all the money donated during their respective taualuga dances.

"We designed this year's festival to build the spirit of fealofani [reciprocal love] among us," Moe explained. "It was always difficult in the past for the judges to pick just one winner."

Of course a little rivalry came through anyhow during the traditional banana peeling, coconut husking, etc. events — when everybody wasn't laughing too hard.

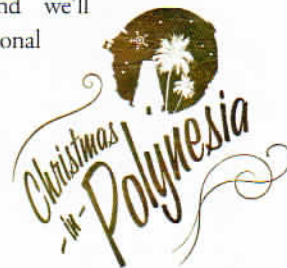
For lots more information, go to  
[http://polynesia.com/tahiti\\_festival/index.htm](http://polynesia.com/tahiti_festival/index.htm)  
 and  
<http://polynesia.com/fire%2Dknife/>



Kahuku Students Perform During the High School Traditional Arts Festival

## Other special events

The 9th annual Maori competition, Te Manahua, featuring adult groups this year, was held August 9; Haunted Lagoon rides in October; and we'll repeat our seasonal Christmas in Polynesia events throughout December.



## Promo Team keeps flying

PCC Theater Director Ellen Gay Dela Rosa reported the Promo Team has recently completed appearances in Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Japan and Chicago.

"Every year there's a big matsuri or festival in Japan, and we were so fortunate to be invited by one of the sponsors. They've already asked us to come back next year," she said of one of the Japan appearances. "It's exciting to see the talent we have here. It's just as good as it was 45 years ago."

## Theater sponsors Cultural Beliefs poetry contest

Dela Rosa also pointed out the PCC Theater Department sponsored a poetry contest in March "to inspire performance according to one of our Cultural Beliefs. We had a lot of responses, from which our Theater management picked three finishers: Legacy by Kara Mataia, 1st place; True Inspiration by Tofamamao Taulogo, 2nd; and It Will Inspire by Ranjit Singh, 3rd.

"It was fun, and everybody from the Theater Department could participate," Dela Rosa said. "Wow, I was surprised at the level of skill, because we required not less than 30 lines or more than 50." See for yourself on the next page:



## Legacy

Another night, as days gone past  
Another crowd; I sometimes wonder if I will last  
The night seems long; I hope to endure  
I hope to have the energy this performance will incur

I silently, patiently wait in the dark  
Listening for the cue; waiting for the start  
I pause to reflect all that I've learned  
And yet I find that still I yearn

I yearn to know all that they knew  
I yearn to say all they could say too  
I desire their mana in each courageous fight  
I wish that I could someday rise to their height

Time stops as I hear words echo through the age  
For a fraction of a second, before I step on stage  
My mind searches my heart and soul  
For the courage it takes to at least play the role

These words and motions are generations old  
I don't know their meanings; but I do what I'm told  
And as I obey; a thought lightens the way,  
I hear them from afar away

I hear the old ones chanting again  
Their devotion sings out like a sacred hymn  
Their story of sacrifice and strife  
For us their children, they gave their life

That they may fulfill the promise through us  
These voices from the dust  
To them we owe our faith and trust  
Our old wise ones who gave what they must

Their commitment begins a wild fire through my heart  
It burns, it consumes; I become lost in the part  
No I know what I must do to keep this flame anew  
I must share their legacy with all who came to view

The lights come on, people's faces appear  
And I am raging with this flame I hold dear  
Through words, actions and pure energy  
I will ignite everyone around me

That they too may share who and what they are  
And of our ancestors who followed the stars  
We too are a part of their legacy  
It is through us that they continue to be  
I desire their mana in each courageous fight  
I wish that I could someday rise to their height

Time stops as I hear words echo through the age  
For a fraction of a second, before I step on stage  
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Through words, actions and pure energy  
I will ignite everyone around me

That they too may share who and what they are  
And of their ancestors who followed the stars  
We too are a part of their legacy  
It is through us that they continue to be

To the world who comes to partake of the vision,  
Who want to know what it means to Be Polynesian  
To be Polynesian is a gift precious and rare  
Because of that we owe it to share

Inspire performance with passion and commitment  
Magnify our legacy; take pride in who we are

HE WAHI MAKANA KEIA  
MA WAENA NO KAKOU  
ME KE ALOHA PUMEHANA  
ALOHA E

— By Kara Mataia





Charntel "Charny" Paki

## Charney: Volunteering in the Theater

A young Maori student whose immigration status changed so she can't officially work at the PCC, volunteered four hours a day in the Theater Department until she graduated from BYU-Hawaii in Exercise and Sports Science in June. She said she "got more out of volunteering than when I actually got paid. It's good."

Charntel [the CH is pronounced as SH] "Charny" Paki came to the PCC in 2003 through the IWES program from Perth, Australia, where her parents migrated from Huntly, New Zealand (near Hamilton), and hopes to teach some day, possibly back home. She initially worked in the Maori Village for nine months, but worked ever since in the Theater, dancing in the night show, canoes and Promo Team.

Though Charny grew up far removed from her Maori homeland of New Zealand, her mother and father encouraged their children to participate in Maori cultural activities. "We always knew about Maori culture, but I found out more when I got here," she said. "My father, who speaks Maori but is not a member [of the Church], is really proud that my twin sister and I have learned more about our Maori culture here." Sister Raquel Chan Boon came to Laie with Charny and also worked at the PCC.

She added coming to BYUH and PCC was an easy decision for her, because a number of her first cousins — the Tarawhitis

— preceded her here, and her mother and two older sisters attended CCNZ.

"I was also on IWES for four years. You're only allowed four years," Charny said, explaining the time limit encourages students to graduate as soon as possible. Because she needed another year to finish required classes, her parents have been helping since then.

"Without the IWES program, I wouldn't have been here. My parents wouldn't have been able to afford it. Being an IWES student in a foreign education also helped us a lot. Basically, they took care of everything and I'm very grateful for the program."

"Recently I got the opportunity to go to Japan with the Promo Team," Charny said of her decision to do volunteer service. "Before that I really didn't get the whole idea that not only are we sharing our culture, but we're also sharing the gospel. We got to do that in Japan where it became very clear to me that we're instruments in God's hands. That really hit me."

"I love it. The job is more meaningful now, being a volunteer. I want to put in more effort because the Lord has done so much for us. I only put in four hours a day, and if I could give more, I would." Charny also volunteers teaching swimming to kids in the daytime.

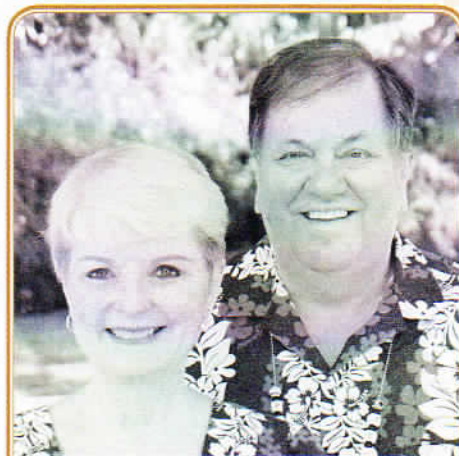
"I want to thank everyone at Theater, especially Aunty Ellen [Dela Rosa] — she really helped me — and Uncle Keith [Awai], for allowing me to volunteer. I can't believe it."

## Meet the new missionaries

Five new senior couples have started serving 18-month missions at the PCC since the last issue of Imua:

### Elder and Sister Akin

Elder Akin, who's been a food and beverage consultant to the PCC for about 20 years, now works in that area as a service missionary; and Sister Akin is assigned to Human Resources quality control. This is the couple's first senior mission, although he served as a young man in Argentina. Both are BYU Provo graduates.



Elder Alan and Sister Peggy Akin from Washington

Elder Akin also worked as an executive with the Taco Times and Kahala Restaurant chains before retiring; and in addition to being a homemaker, Sister Akin owned a performing arts school for 25 years and also taught high school drama and English.

"This is a wonderful place," she said. "We both really believe in the mission of the PCC and BYU-Hawaii. Everyone is so nice, and the students are inspiring."

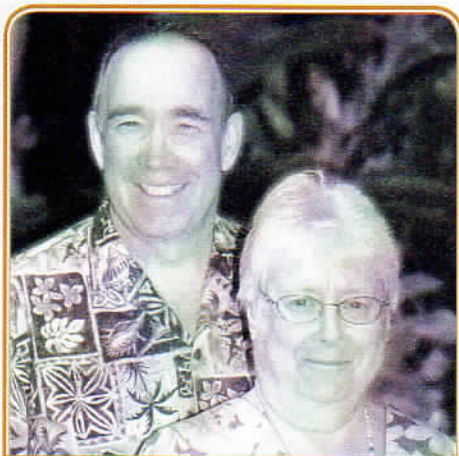
"When I was here as a private consultant, I thought then if I ever serve a mission this is where I want to go. This is a special place, and I was overwhelmed when the opportunity to serve here came up on the 'blue sheet.' I love the PCC," he said. "There's no other place I'd rather be, and I sure feel the Lord has blessed us."

The couple, who hail from Yakima, Washington, have five children and five grandchildren.

### Elder and Sister Dixon

The Dixons, who are serving in Human Resources, came to us from Brigham City, Utah, where he retired as a program manager quality engineer for the NASA Space Shuttle.





Elder Gary and Sister Maren Dixon from Utah

"I'm a chemist by degree," he said, explaining he taught for 10 years — including a stint in Saudi Arabia, from where they visited the PCC on vacation — before joining the aerospace industry. "This is the best place to retire — to be on a mission at the PCC," he added.

"I'm in heaven. This is a beautiful place to live, and I love the people I work with," said Sister Dixon who was primarily a homemaker but also worked in office management and accounting-related fields. The couple has four children and 10 grandchildren.

While this is their first senior mission, the Dixons first met as young people when they served at the same time in the Frankfurt, Germany Mission.



Elder John and Sister Carol Hansen from Utah

### Elder and Sister Hansen

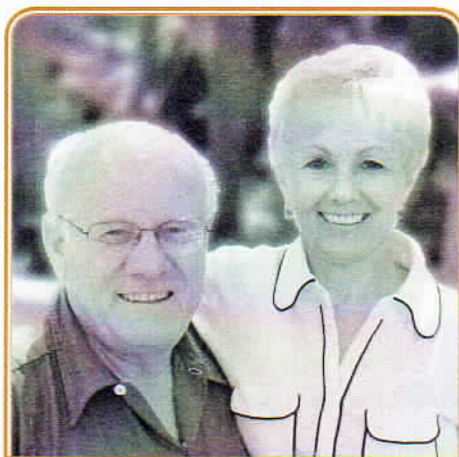
The Hansens, who are from Bluffdale, Utah (near Salt Lake City) have been assigned to the Hawaii Mission Settlement. After he retired as

a Latter-day Saints Physical Facilities supervisor in West and South Jordan, Riverton and Bluffdale, the couple served a one-year records preservation mission in Alabama. He also served in southern Australia as a young man.

Sister Hansen, who was a homemaker and retired after 20 years as an Church custodian, said the couple had previously visited Maui before, but had never been to the Center before arriving on July 8. "We both love the people here," she said.

"It's fantastic, and I enjoy the Polynesian people," he agreed, "although the humidity makes us humble."

The couple has seven children and 18 grandchildren.



Elder Boyd and Sister Elaine Hobbs from Idaho

### Elder and Sister Hobbs

The Hobbs, who come from Franklin, Idaho, are serving together in the Warehouse — but they're no strangers to the PCC: They probably visited here over 20 times when they had a share in the last house at Hukilau Beach and were operating their mink ranch and farm in the northern end of Cache Valley.

"It's a special opportunity to come here and spend more than the two weeks we used to do — to feel the spirit of what's being accomplished and work with the other missionaries," said Elder Hobbs, who also served in Southern California as a young man. This is the couple's first mission together. He added since he can still drive a team of horses, maybe they'll serve a future mission in Nauvoo.

Sister Hobbs, who worked alongside her husband in the family businesses, also said she loves serving here. "It feels wonderful. I look at it as the Garden of Eden." The couple has five children and 21 grandchildren.



Elder Donald and Sister Leah Rieske from Utah

### Elder and Sister Rieske

The Rieskes arrived from their home in Orem, Utah, on July 8. He is assigned to work in safety compliance, and she works in the Human Resources office. This is their first mission together, but he served as a young man in the British Mission.

Elder Rieske recently retired as a Orem City Fire Department battalion chief after more than 30 years on the job, while Sister Rieske was primarily a homemaker but also worked for the BYU Bookstore in Provo for eight years. The couple has four children and two grandchildren.

"We came to Laie for the first time in January and fell in love with it," said Sister Rieske. "I told my husband I didn't want to leave. I love the people and the area. It's all beautiful."

"We are privileged and excited to serve here," he added. "No one is called to PCC by accident, so we feel like there's a purpose for us to be here, and we hope with the Lord's help we'll accomplish that."



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