

# IN PASSING

## HENRY: A MAN WITH A WIDE HEART AND EMPTY POCKETS

by Reg Schwenke

The Cook Islands prime minister, Sir Albert Henry, is as shrewd a politician as any, and has a heart as wide as the Pacific.

Literally.

This is a man who has performed so effectively as Prime Minister of the Cook Islands that his people and opposition party will not let him retire.

The Cook Islands leader recently passed through the Polynesian Cultural Center on a "very special honeymoon" with 68-year-old Lady Henry, who he affectionately refers to as "Mama."

The 70-year-old Prime Minister and his charming wife were in Hawaii for one week celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and the honeymoon they had been planning for 50-years.

And if estatic faces are anything to go by, they had an unforgettable second honeymoon.

On occasions during the couple's VIP canoe tour of the Center, both wept tears of joy.

The aging prime minister, his wife and grandson, were special guests on Air New Zealand's inaugural flight from Rarotonga to Hawaii on Friday, June 3. The service will continue three times weekly.

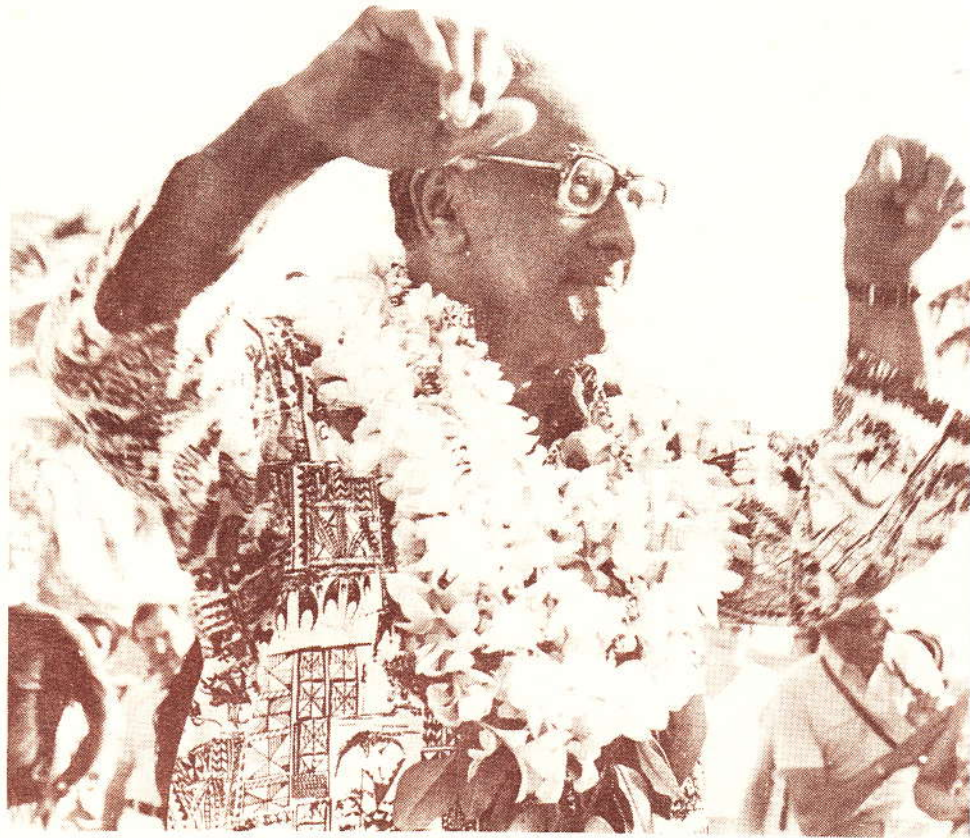
The local manager for Air New Zealand, Mr Raymond Brookes and his wife, accompanied the official party on their tour of the Center.

Sir Albert Henry said he was deeply impressed with the Center and lived to see the day "when a canoe from the Cook Islands will appear on your lake."

"I came here as a politician but you have given me the welcome of a high chief. I thank you for that," he added.

At canoe stops at the Samoan, Tongan and Tahitian villages, the premier joined the Center's dancers with dance movements that looked like a combination between a tamure and Samoan Siva.

A crowd of American and Japanese tourists applauded the prime minister's impromptu performance. The Center's performers roared with amusement.



Mama smiled.

Moved by the generous spirit of each village, he gave each village chief twenty dollars saying: "My heart is full but my pockets are getting empty. Here are some American pieces of paper (referring to ten-dollar bills). If they aren't any good, they are American," he joked to an amused crowd. He handed out \$120 all told.

At journey's end, the prime minister and party were received into the Maori marae with a traditional welcome and he joined in a Maori haka with village performers.

Following this performance, he gave a short address emphasizing the close ties his country had with New Zealand who had pledged protection and financial support to the Cook Islands.

"There are at least three million tourists who visit Hawaii. If we can get one-tenth of one percent to come to Rarotonga, that will almost be too many tourists for our small islands," he said.

And if the people of the Cook Islands are as versatile as Sir Albert Henry, tourists are really in for good times.

The Cook Islands prime minister, Sir Albert Henry in motion.....

.....in action





The official party bordered by Bill Cravens, Carl Fonoimoana, Tom Edmonds.



"Wonder what that glitter is in grandpa's eyes." Sir Henry's grandson seems to be thinking.

"Mama" is all smiles as papa dances.....



Sir Albert Henry is presented with a gift from the chief of the Marquesan village.



# EFI'S ARRIVAL A REAL SHOT IN THE ARM FOR LOCAL SAMOANS

By REG SCHWENKE

The kingly kava ceremony, a traditional ritual rarely-seen outside of Samoa, was performed successfully for the first time recently at the Polynesian Cultural Center.

For the local Samoan community, it was a shot in the arm.

For visiting Taisi Tupuola Efi, the Western Samoan prime minister, it was a memorable cultural experience filled with deep emotion.

Minutes before the arrival of the official party, there was speculation that prevailing rain showers would spoil the mood of the occasion.

Carl Fonoimoana, an executive assistant to the general manager, removed all doubts when he informed an expectant crowd that, according to Samoan tradition, when showers fall before a special occasion it is a favorable sign from the heavens.

It was. The official limousine pulled into the Samoan village at the Center under cloudless skies and excellent conditions.

The prime minister stepped into an authentic recreation of a Samoan village with its neighboring islands of Fiji, New Zealand, Marquesas, Tahiti and Hawaii not miles but yards away.

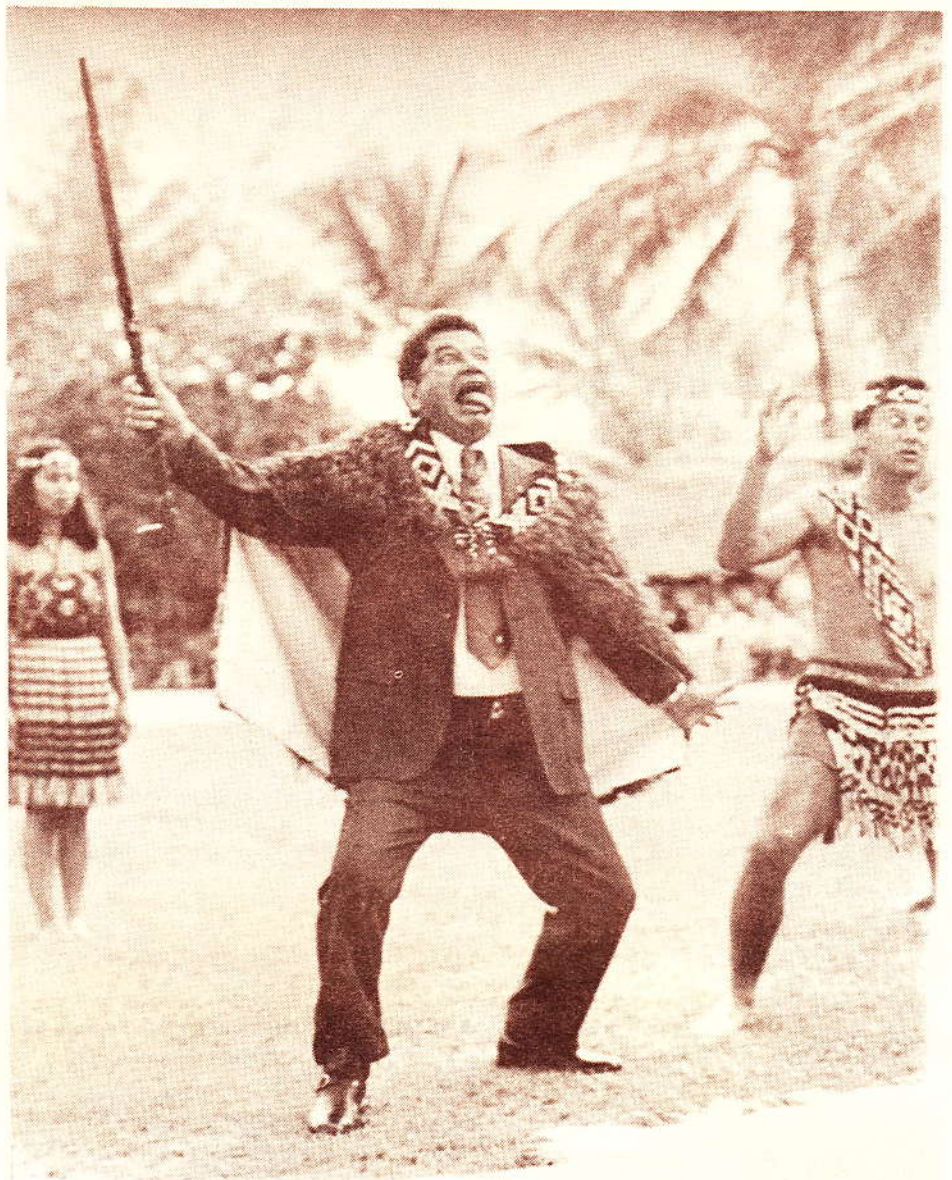
The Center's general manager, William Cravens, welcomed him to miniature Polynesia.

Accompanying the Prime Minister were his wife, Neroni Slade, the attorney general for Western Samoa; Alistair Hutchinson, financial secretary for the island government and Peter Wendt, director of the University of the South Pacific in Apia.

In the traditional manner of the Hawaiian people, assistant Hawaiian chief Bill Wallace chanted the Hawaiian welcome which were followed by several historic dances performed by Hawaiian student-workers.

The ceremony had begun. Samoan oratory exchanges then took place with local chiefs bidding their distinguished visitor welcome in their accustomed and traditional way.

The kava was prepared and presented to the prime minister and other important



Maori chief John Elkington caught in a classic expression as he demonstrates a

haka before Western Samoa's prime minister, Taisi Tupuola Efi. To his left fellow New Zealander Ray Solomon gives the old "eye-ball" routine.....

guests in attendance.

All the individual villages followed with presentations of gifts which included pigs, fruit and carved ornaments. After each presentation each village performed several song and dance numbers native to their cultures.

The Samoan village concluded the festivities with their presentation of a pig and a fine mat -- representations of the highest mark of respect that can be given any distinguished visitor.

The prime minister then spoke in appreciation thanking everyone involved for their kindness and courtesy.

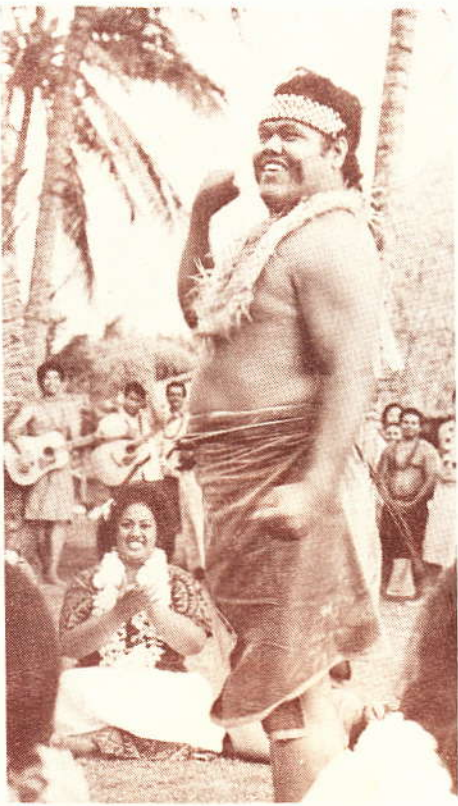
"We did not know what to expect when we came here and we are deeply moved," he said.

He continued: "I cannot return your kindness and generosity but I will always remember what you have done and treasure it in my heart."

And then he left.



Prime Minister Efi quenches his thirst with kava during the solemn kingly kava ceremony held in his honor.



Vatau leads the chorus....



A Samoan taupou



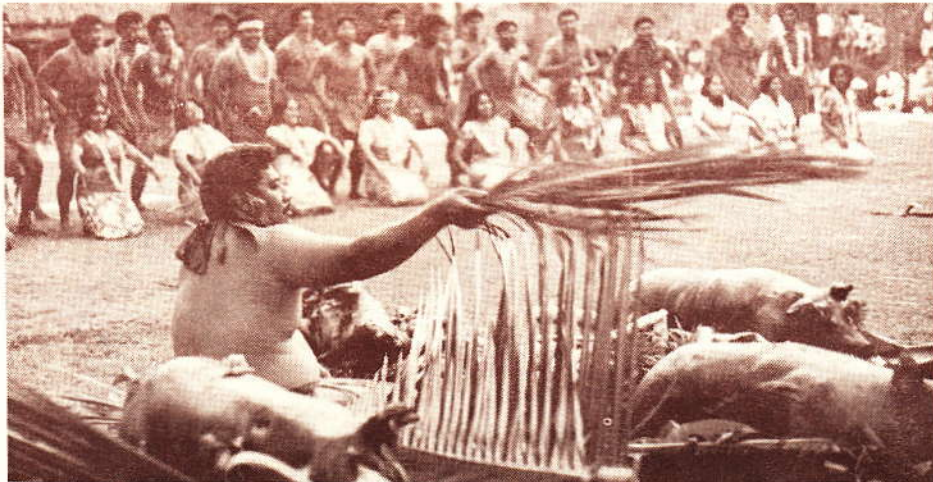
Howard squints at the 'umu.'



Young men preparing their 'umu' for the festivities

PHOTOGRAPHS BY: REG SCHWENKE  
FRANK KARA

Efi in an appreciative address.



While the Samoan group performs, this man fans flies.....



## MOMENTS OF REMINISCENCE MELT AWAY INTO TEARS

Pita Vamanrav gazed for the last time at the Polynesian Cultural Center and wept.

He wept of joy and sadness; happy he was finally going home after 13 years and sad that he was leaving the place he had come to love so dearly -- the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Pita resigned as village operations manager in May to return to Tonga with his wife Seini to assist in a family business.

In his final and emotionally-packed VIP canoe tour of the Center, the couple shed tears on numerous occasions as each village rendered dances and farewell songs.

Several female performers, moved by the emotional impact of the event, wept alongside the couple.

Gifts of appreciation were given by village chiefs along with warm embraces from many of the performers.

The couple had earlier been given a tram tour of the Center with general manager William Cravens. Managers from the various departments at the Center accompanied them on the tour.

Pita said they would return someday to visit the Center and expressed optimism that the Center would continue to grow and become "more beautiful and richer in the cultures of Polynesia."



Pita Vamanrav and wife Seini receiving leis from the Tongan village.

## A GENERATION BACK IN TIME AND A LOOK FROM DOWN-UNDER



Samoana club members demonstrate basket-weaving to visiting students.

More than 350 Samoan students from Hawaii were hosted recently by the Center's Samoan Village for an afternoon of entertaining and sight-seeing.

Sponsored by the State's Samoan Schools Assistance Program, it was for many a second-hand look at their own cultures. Many had been born in Hawaii from Samoan parents who emigrated from Samoa years before.

Polynesian Cultural Center general manager Bill Cravens welcomed the students to the Center. He expressed hopes of their attending BYU - HC, adding that the Center would help provide available employment to support them through College.

The group director, Oreta Mapu, arranged the visit through the educational services department.

Entertainment was provided by the Samoana club. The visiting group watched the canoe pageant and were later taken on tours of the Center.

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CULTURAL  
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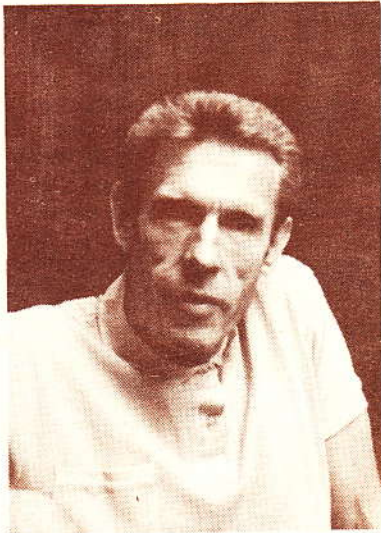
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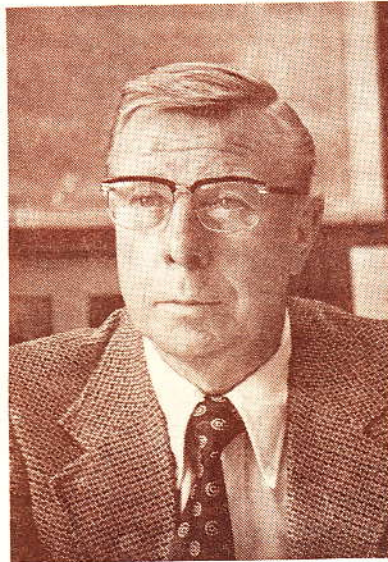
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**RALPH G. RODGERS, Jr.**



**FAAESEA P. MAILO**



**J. WILLARD MARRIOT, Jr.**

## MAILO CALLED TO SERVE IN THE LAND OF HIS ANCESTORS

Former Laie Hawaii stake president Faasea Mailo left several weeks ago to begin his new assignment as mission president of the Samoa Mission.

President Mailo served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Polynesian Cultural Center for over a year before his departure.

Over the years, he has played a major role in both community and school affairs.

At a farewell dinner held recently at the Center in his honor, chiefs from all the villages presented gifts to mark their

respect.

The Samoan village followed customary tradition and presented a large pig—the highest form of respect that can be afforded any person.

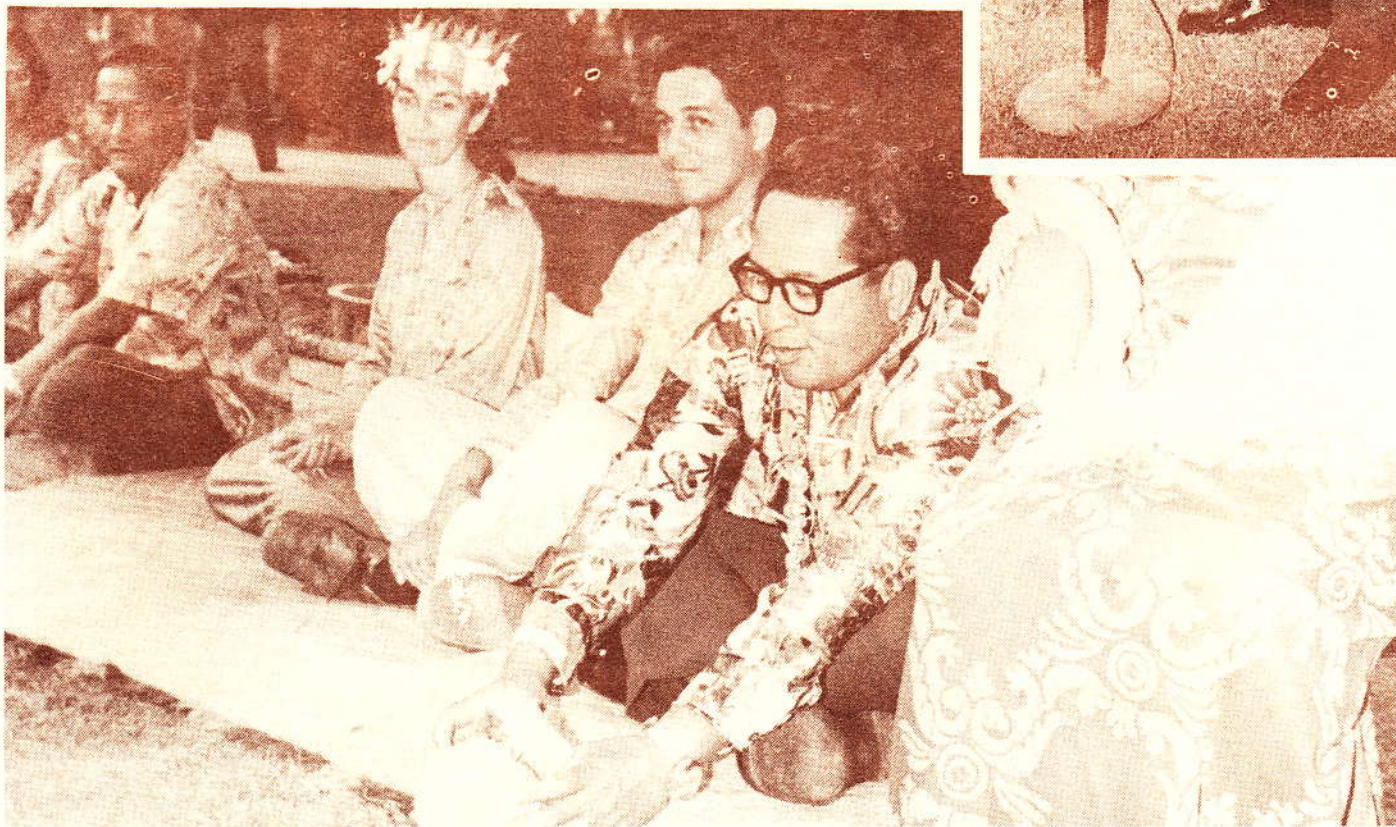
In remarks of appreciation, President Mailo thanked the people he had come to love for their years of friendship.

The feeling was mutual.

The Center's general manager Bill Cravens gave concluding remarks honoring President Mailo for his contributions to both the local community and to the Center



Photographs by REG SCHWENKE



President Mailo accepts tokens of respect while general manager William Cravens and wife look on.

# ON ROCKY OVENS HOT ENOUGH TO ROAST A PIG, THE MEN OF RUKUA WALKED UNSCATHED

For more than one hundred years, the men of Rukua village in the Fijian island of Beqa have walked unscathed on red-hot rocks with temperatures that have been measured at more than 700° Fahrenheit.

Skeptics claimed that the firewalkers' feet had been hardened by not wearing shoes.

But they could not explain why the skin tissue of their feet had not been burned - or even singed.

In an attempt to document this extraordinary event on film, the Center decided to film the event, its history and to find out the secret of the firewalking men of Rukua village.

The firewalkers believe it is their faith -- that they will not be burned. Mr. McGrevey found nothing to suggest otherwise.

His research revealed that the earliest written version appeared in a Fijian language paper in 1885 on the origin of Firewalking.

It reads: "In the village of Navakaiese, in the Sawau district of Beqa, a story-telling was to take place. They storyteller, whose name was Dredre, called for each man to name his present (nabu) in return for the story. In an attempt to outdo the others, one of the young men - Tuiqalita - pledged a great eel he knew was in a pool at Namoliwai.

"When the men went off to get their nabu, Tuiqalita went in search of the great eel. He dug around the pool, finding only what appeared to be some items of children's clothing. Intrigued, he dug with renewed interest thinking he had stumbled on something more special than even a great eel and then his hand broke into a small cave.

The story continued: "Soon Tuiqalita's hand grasped what felt like a small human hand, then an arm. He found a tiny man who, upon seeing Tuiqalita, sat down and clapped his hands in a Fijian gesture of respect. 'O Tuiqalita great chief,' he said, 'spare me and I will assure your success in war, with women, in javelin throwing, sailing or whatever else you desire, for I, Tui Namoliwai, am also a chief to my people and must return to them.' Tuiqalita replied that he did not need success in these things, but would

take the little man as his nabu to the storyteller.

"Tui Namoliwai was somewhat distressed and made one final attempt to gain his freedom. 'May I not exchange my life for a great gift for you -- the power over fire?' Tuiqalita paused, willing to hear more. The little chief proceeded to tell him how this could be done.

"If you have a large amount of masawi roots nearby, let us be baked with them in a earth oven for four days, after which you and your descendants shall have power over fire,' the little man explained.

"The preparations were made and the two were about to enter the oven when Tuiqalita began to reconsider. Perhaps it was a trick, he thought. Tui Namoliwai assured him it was not, but agreed with him that four days was not necessary for a lesser degree of power over fire, so a compromise was reached. They would walk into the oven over red-hot coals and then out again after which Tuiqalita and his descendants would be able to do similarly. Tuiqalita followed the little man over the red-hot stones coming out unscathed as promised. Since that day, the

Sawau tribe of Beqa have been able to do the same.

"In return for having granted this gift to Tuiqalita, Tui Namoliwai was granted his freedom and Tuiqalita returned to tell his tale and no doubt to demonstrate his newly-gained power. Perhaps, since he had the most interesting tale to tell, he took no nabu back to the storyteller for no mention was made of it at all."

Since the legend of Tuiqalita, the firewalkers of Fiji have come a long way and have seen many places; they have traveled to England, Canada, India, New Zealand and Hawaii to demonstrate their unique skill, according to Mr. McGrevey.

Homage is still paid to the legendary Tui Namoliwai before each ceremony is begun.

The 30-minute film on firewalking has just been completed and is being prepared for national viewing.

Mr. McGrevey said that there had been strong interest in the film by television and motion picture people.

Mr. McGrevey added that the Center's management had expressed interest in producing more films of historic value in the various islands of the Pacific.

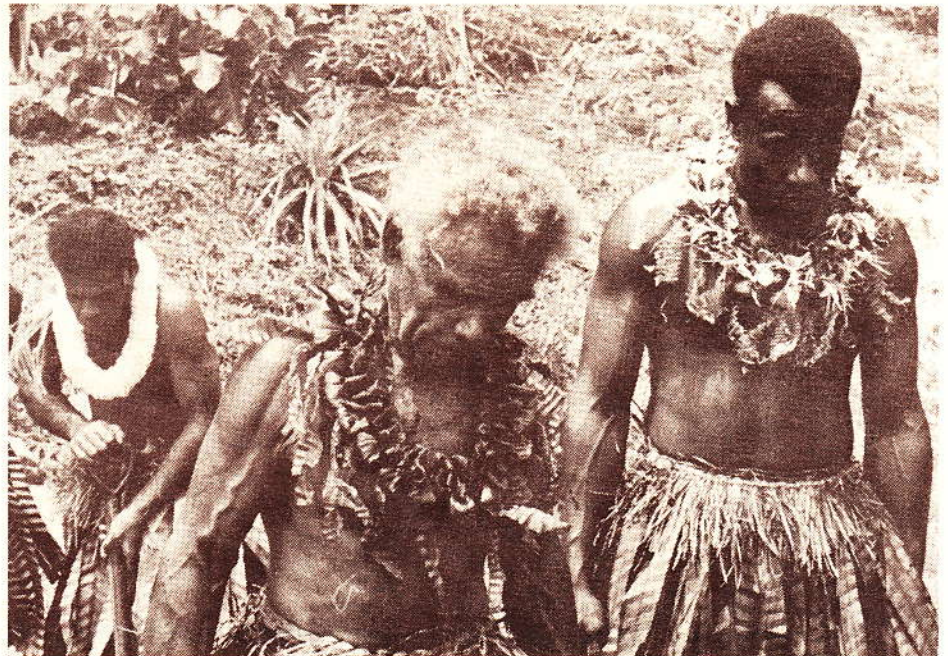


PHOTO COURTESY OF FIJI BUREAU OF INFORMATION



## TO BE OR NOT TO BE -- THAT IS THE QUESTION

The Cook Islands deputy prime minister, Tiakana Numanga, revealed recently that his government were preparing a proposal that would include a Cook Islands village within the Polynesian Cultural Center.

The deputy prime minister accompanied by his wife and President and Sister Strickland, the president of the Church mission in Rarotonga, passed through the Center June 17.

They were official guests on Air New Zealand's second flight from Rarotonga to Hawaii.

In a brief interview, Mr. Numanga said that the Cook Islands leader, Sir Albert Henry, was tremendously impressed with his visit to the Center. So much that he advocated the proposal to his government colleagues on his return.

He said that the Cook Island govern-

ment is so interested in the idea that "we will support it financially if we have to."

Asked for reasons why few Cook Island students look to BYU-H as an alternative for college educations, he said: "It's because we have not fully known about this place and what it offers its students." "I think they are doing great work here in helping to preserve the cultures of the various islands of Polynesia.

"We are now trying to revive many of our old customs and traditions, and we have something like this (center) -- but much smaller," he added.

He anticipates more interest from Rarotongan students seeking college educations will now begin to look more towards BYU-HC and the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Two have already been accepted for the Fall Semester.

## B/BALL CALL

A community-wide basketball competition is being sponsored by the Polynesian Cultural Center.

The competition coordinator Melila Purcell said that teams could participate independently or as PCC departmental teams.

He emphasized that no person or team will be allowed to participate without a complete uniform.

The deadline for submitting team rosters ended yesterday.

He added that no more names will be accepted for teams with the deadline passed.



Cook Islands deputy prime minister Tiakana Numanga and wife; President and sister Strickland on arrival.

# THE MEN WHO BRING YOU KA LEO POLYNESIA



## **PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR:**

Glen Willardson was formerly a member of Ford Motor Company's public relations staff for seven years. He served as international plans manager, as product specialist and as assistant manager of Ford's regional public relations office in California.

Glen graduated from Brigham Young University with his M.A. in 1969. He was editor-in-chief of the Daily Universe in 1968-1969.



## **EDITOR:**

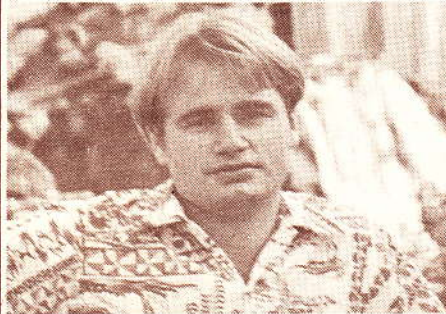
Six years ago, Reginald Schwenke applied for a position as a photographer for a New Zealand daily newspaper, and was hired as a reporter.

He stuck with it. In the years that followed, he was associate editor of the Tahiti Bulletin, a daily English newspaper in Tahiti, chief reporter for the Samoa Times in Western Samoa and managing editor for the Samoa News in American Samoa.

## **ART DIRECTOR:**

Frank Kara is an "old hand" in the advertising game. Thirty years to be precise -- and eight of them at the Polynesian Cultural Center.

At 59, he is responsible for all commercial art and signs at the Center. A photographer for Ka Leo POLYNESIA, Frank was formerly employed for 22 years in advertising agencies in Los Angeles before immigrating to Hawaii.



## **GRAPHICS DESIGN:**

David Nesbit, the most recent addition to the Ka Leo Polynesia staff, brings with him a wealth of experience.

He has worked in various areas of graphics for eight years. During the past school year, he was editor of the Ke Alaka'i, a weekly published news-magazine for BYU - Hawaii Campus.

David has managed a printing company in New Jersey and worked on other publications.

## NOTHING LIKE A CHANGE FOR THE BEST.....

The area of cultural entertainment has undergone a complete change in recent months in an effort by management to improve the quality of the Center's day-time activities.

May 11, 1977, formally marked the beginning of a new department under the reins of Kalili Hunt as program coordinator; Sosene Samoa as canoe and fashion show supervisor and Vendy Oura as supervisor to the musicians.

Kalili says his immediate goals are to screen and isolate people as entertainers to ensure that the best performers were utilized effectively.

Major improvements, he said, have been made in maintaining quality Polynesian music and dances.

The Marquesan canoe, which was withdrawn recently from the afternoon pageant, will be put back into the show when its entire dancing sequence is reorganized.



Canoe pageant performers pose for Ka Leo Polynesia camera.

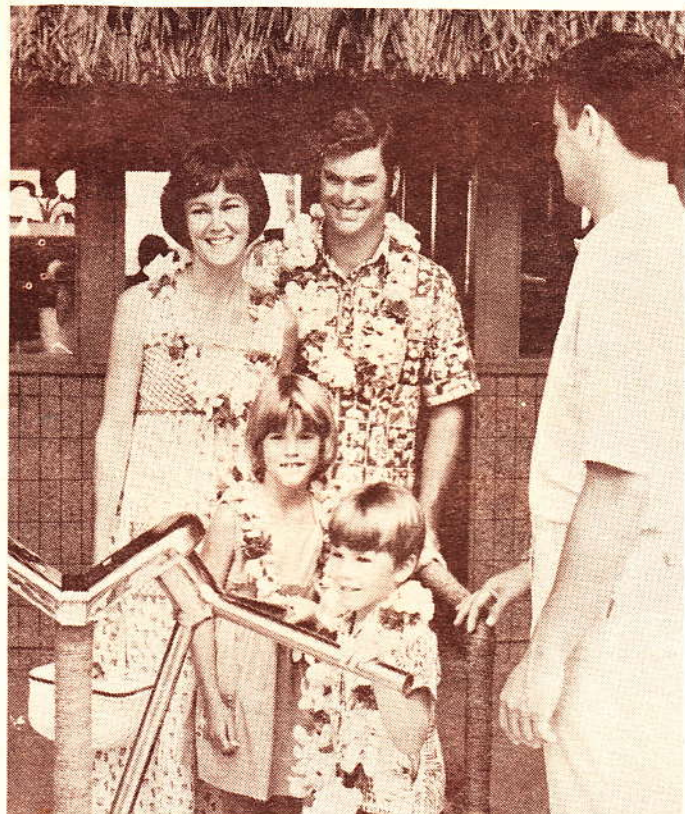


Program Coordinator Kalili Hunt, supervisor for musicians Vendy Oura and canoe and fashion show supervisor Sosene Samoa.

Photographs by REG SCHWENKE



Musicians for day-time activities are pictured here minutes after an afternoon canoe pageant in the amphitheater.



The Alexander family on arrival at the Center

## TOP CULTURAL ATTRACTION IN HAWAII

# MILLIONTH VISITOR HONORED

It took us 13-years to do it.

The Polynesian Cultural Center welcomed last Tuesday its one-millionth visitor -- within a period of 12-months.

The countdown began July 4 last year after the Center's facilities were expanded.

The history-making visitor, Lex Alexander, is a partner with the Peat, Marwick and Mitchell accounting firm in Honolulu. With him were his wife and two children.

The Alexander family were honored with complete complimentary canoe and tram tours of the Center and later dinner with a special invitation to the Invitation to Paradise show.

The Center's vice president and general manager, William H Cravens, said that "the increase in attendance year after year has demonstrated an increasing interest on the part of people from all parts of the world to learn more about the culture of their own ancestors and of other people."

The Center was opened in 1963 on a 12-acre site. It took more than six years before the first million visitors entered the gates. Within the past 12-months, one million have seen the seven villages and more than 640,000 have seen the evening show.

In 1975, the village area was expanded to include the new Marquesas village and enlarged Hawaiian and Tahitian villages. During 1976, several new buildings were added -- including a new theater, new pavilion and new box office and entrance building.

The Center now spreads over 42 acres, which include 12 acres for parking facilities.

# VIEWPOINT

BY DAVID NESBIT

It's up to you.

Whether or not you use one of the most unique opportunities for missionary work available to us is totally dependent on you.

It is our actions, what we say and do that will frame the life-long opinions and thoughts of visitors about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Polynesian Cultural Center.

I come from the eastern portion of the United States, where Church members are few and far between. I was reared to be very missionary minded and jumped at every chance to visit and fellowship recent converts and non-members. It is, then, not surprising that I view the Polynesian Cultural Center as an immense missionary tool. A year-round Hill Cumorah pageant with a Polynesian accent, so to speak.

Here we have this great missionary tool within our grasp, but what do we do with it? Is there more to it than an adventure into Polynesia for visitors? Sadly, a great many people leave the Center with only that thought.

As emissaries of our Church and cultures, we need to communicate the gospel to these people. Of course we don't openly push people into a situation they do not want, but we can constantly leave the people with a special feeling for us and the Church. We need to communicate to them with our spiritual selves and explain the purposes of life through example.

Let visitors leave the Center with that warm feeling that has proved so effective in opening doors to missionary work and helping them on their search for truth.

Good examples and our generosity should be the goals of each employee at the Center. Whether we realize it or not, when we accepted a job at the Center we automatically accepted a missionary call of sorts to represent the Church.

Think of the millions of tourist who visit Hawaii each year. After spending a fortune to come here they are surrounded by the fervor of the atmosphere of Waikiki and Honolulu. For only a day, visitors are given a real feast in discovering Polynesia and for many, possibly their first spiritual experience.

This experience comes in many forms. It could come from the heart-felt feelings as a Laie Tour student-guide bears her testimony that she knows the Church and the Book of Mormon are true; or it could come when a Japanese couple find themselves listening to a young man tell how he learned Japanese on a two year non-paid mission call to their homeland. A spiritual experience could be expressed when a lost camera or wallet is returned by a village worker to the owner. Often it comes with the admiration from visitors towards students who are actively engaged in seeking and education and working hard for it.

The Church has provided a way, but it's up to us.

