



# EMPLOYEE UPDATE

Polynesian Cultural Center ☐ October 3, 1980

## Fiji to celebrate cultural day next week

Chief Timoci Sigavata is leading his Fijian villagers into the final week of preparation for their cultural day celebration on Saturday, October 11.

A devotional in the Fijian village at 9:30 a.m. (open to all employees) will start off the special events.

This year's Fijian Cultural Day festivities also will include demonstrations such as "tapa" (bark) cloth printing and the making of coconut oil, sennit rope and "lauhala" baskets, headbands and bracelets.

Also scheduled is a traditional kava ceremony in the village at noon. Anciently, kava, a drink made out of the roots of the yaqona, was served to visitors in Fiji as a refreshment after their tiring sea voyage. Today, as a ceremonial tradition, it is served at all important Fijian occasions.



A memory from last year's Fijian Cultural Day celebration -- warriors performed the exciting "Wesi," a spear dance telling of the "veli" or legendary elf.

Highlight of the day's activities will be a formal program of songs and dances at 1:45 p.m. in the open area near the Tongan village. Fea-

tured will be both traditional and modern Fijian songs and dances including a few numbers by men from the cable ship "Enterprise," which is in port from her home base in Fiji.

### *PCC employees can win kau kau in Kau Kau Snack Bar drawings*

Feel lucky? Submit an entry form at the Kau Kau Snack Bar and become eligible to win some yummy meals.

Here's how it works. Next time you're at the Kau Kau, ask the supervisor on duty for an entry form. You'll be required to fill out your name, department, and the PCC extension number where you can be reached during working hours.

All the forms are put into a

barrel and drawings are held every Monday morning. There will be three winners selected at each drawing.

Only PCC employees are eligible to participate in the drawing. Also, you may only submit one entry form per week. And, if you're a winner, you must claim your prize at the Kau Kau sometime during the week that your entry was drawn.

### BYU--H Calendar

#### Saturday, October 4

- General Conference session broadcast over KITV from 6 to 7:30 a.m.
- Priesthood session broadcast, 3 p.m. Priesthood holders should report to either the Stake Center or the BYU--H auditorium.
- Movie, "Gone With the Wind," auditorium, 8 p.m. to midnight.

#### Sunday, October 5

- General Conference session broadcast, over KITV from 6 to 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon.



## Interesting Islander

Seventy-seven-year-old William Sproat is spending his retirement years doing what he enjoys the most — talking to people about the Hawaii he loves.

Sproat, affectionately called "Pop" by his fellow workers, is chief of the Hawaiian village at the Polynesian Cultural Center. Visitors to this popular attraction on Oahu's North Shore can usually find him in the village's *Hale Wa'a* or canoe house. Here, Pop Sproat spends most of the day sharing stories about old Hawaii and his three prized koa canoes (two are over 200 years old), which he has generously allowed the Center to exhibit.

Born and raised in the Kohala district of the Big Island, Sproat is almost half Hawaiian with Spanish and Dutch strains in his blood. His father came from pilgrim stock (his ancestors came to America on the Mayflower. His mother was of Spanish and Hawaiian origin.

In spite of the growing missionary influence, Sproat's great-grandfather made certain that all the young ones in his family learned old Hawaiian traditions. Sproat's mother raised her children the same way, teaching them about their Hawaiian heritage at home. Today, Sproat is one of only a few people who can write and speak the Hawaiian language fluently.

Sproat worked for 40 years as a supervisor for the Kohala Ditch Company, a subsidiary of the Kohala Sugar Company on the Big Island. Upon his retirement in 1968, he served as a missionary on Kauai and Maui for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon).

He joined the Polynesian Cultural Center in 1972 as chief of the Hawaiian village. Since that time, Pop Sproat has been greeting visitors to the Center with a warm smile and welcome... "Aloha! We're happy that you've come to Hawaii! Let me tell you a little bit about our way of life in the old days..."

## Aloha, Pop Sproat

As President Cravens put it, the Center is losing one of its strongest canoe paddlers, but our journey must continue.

William "Pop" Sproat, chief of our Hawaiian village for more than eight years, has announced his retirement from the Center. He will soon be returning to his beloved birthplace, Kohala on the Big Island, to live.

Brother Sproat's ties with the Center will not be cut off all at once, however. He will serve as a cultural consultant to PCC for a year or so. Temporarily taking over his duties in the village is acting chief William Kama, formerly Brother Sproat's assistant.

The feature story reproduced at left appeared in a recent issue of *Spotlight Hawaii*, one of the major tourist publications distributed in Waikiki, before news of Pop Sproat's retirement was made public.

We share it with you at this time as a tribute to Pop Sproat for the love and knowledge he always so willingly gave.

## PCC dancers share talent

Representatives from Polynesian Cultural Center Properties, Inc. (a subsidiary of PCC), Western Airlines, Budget Rent-a-Car and the Hyatt Kuilima Resort will be conducting seminars on the Mainland during the next few weeks to promote their cooperative North Shore vacation package.

PCC Properties, Inc. began selling the package tour to Hawaii in August. The package includes roundtrip Los Angeles to Honolulu airfare via Western Airlines, four days and three nights accommodation at the Hyatt Kuilima Resort, Budget Rent-a-Car sub-compact for three days (or bus transfers from Honolulu International Airport to the hotel) and a full day's program at PCC, including a second day's admission ticket so that the guest may return to the Center at no additional admission charge.

General Manager Bill Cravens said that "creation of the tour package and the subsidiary was brought about because people have expressed an interest in spending more time on Oahu's North Shore and the Cultural Center."

President Cravens is accompanying the PCC Properties, Inc. group which includes travel consultants Betty Kuehl, William Bucasas and Blanche Soga.

Promotional seminars on the North Shore package will be held for travel agents in Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. In addition to a slide presentation and question-and-answer Kalae Puhi, Bonnie Jean Keawe, April Kaluhiokalani and a few members of our halau, who were selected to accompany the PCC Properties, Inc. group on the promotional tour.

Those who will be sharing a part of Polynesia through song and dance are Cy Bridges, Malcolm Kanahele, Keith Awai, Kalae Puhi, Bonnie Jean Keawe, April Kaluhiokalani and Haunani Kaanaana.