

Polynesian Cultural Center

UPDATE '90

Employee Newsletter

Friday, December 21, 1990

Melveen Helps Center Celebrate Christmas!



Left- Pulefano presents Melveen with a special lei. Upper right - Our hostess for dinner was Mildred Cashman. Lower Right - The prime rib station was the "in" place at this dinner party!



The night of December 15, 1990 will be a night long remembered by Center employees. The annual PCC Christmas party took on a new look this year as employees were hosted for a prime rib dinner and a special Christmas Concert by Melveen Leed.

Dinner started approximately 8:00 p.m. By the size of the crowd waiting you could tell that they were hungry.

On the menu for this festive evening was Baked Potatoes, Rice, Corn on the Cob (a rare treat), and the headline item: prime rib. As you can see from the photo at the upper right, the prime rib table was the center of attention at this affair.

For those who still had room for more food there was a table with many different kinds of food. And for those lucky ones who attempted to add even more to their experience by going for dessert, they found a lovely ice carving of a dolphin jumping out of the water.

The Concert was a special treat. Melveen definitely won the hearts of the audience as she performed several cultural numbers, bringing a loving response and sometimes even dancers down from the audience. Favorite among her numbers included: "Feliz Navidad", "Paniolo Country", a special rendition of "God is Watching Us" and an operatic number, 'Ave Maria. In all it was a special evening of sharing; Melveen shared her talent and spirit with us and she definitely felt the warmth, respect, and love from the audience.

A crowd of almost 2,000 gathered for the 10:00 concert. It was a great Christmas present to receive from the Center. Mahalo to all those involved, especially to the Stage, Lights, and Technical crews who worked so hard and to the workers at the Gateway for doing "double duty" and preparing such a fine meal. Mahalo also to Special Projects for organizing and planning this fun event.

Memories of a Quilter



Lily Kama (Grandma Lily to those who knew her) passed away Tuesday morning, December 18 at her son's home. A long-time employee of the Center who retired in 1989, Lily was and continues to be best known for her quilting skills.

Lily began quilting in the Hawaiian village when her husband Bill became the chief there. When the Shop Polynesia Marketplace was renovated, she and her fellow quilters were moved there for a time after which the quilting display was transferred to the Mission Home where Lily was happy, active and busy until her retirement.

Mele Huakau, a student quilter, remembers Lily's devotion to quilting and her sense of humor. When Mele would help her to the bathroom, Lily would always try to matchmake her with one of the Samoan boys on the way.

Logo Su'a remembers Grandma Lily's generosity and thoughtfulness. One time after she helped Grandma to the Hawaiian Village, Lily tipped her with some money to buy a cool treat. Although Logo refused the tip Grandma kept insisting until Logo relented.

Fouono Valfale, chief of the Samoan Village, remembers Lily's endurance. "Who can forget," he reminds us, "seeing Lily with her crutch

bravely making her way to and from work. She was a strong woman with a good heart."

Lucy Unga, who worked closely with Lily for many years, will always remember her good friend and companion who taught her how to quilt. "Lily will always have a big space in my heart," she reveals. "Her generous spirit helped many people. She loved to treat her fellow workers to the Employee Lunch. She enjoyed sharing her experiences with everyone and was interesting and funny. She loved talking to the Center guests. Her face would light up when she shared the art of Hawaiian quilting. She often kept us cheerful and sometimes laughing for long periods of time with her entertaining stories. I will miss her very much."

Keith Awai and Kalani Kanahale of the Hawaiian Village whom everyone teased about being Lily's sons and sometimes "boyfriends" will always cherish their special relationship with Grandma Lily. "She was an independent lady with an absolute confidence in the goodness of the people of Laie," they recall. "When she was ready to come to work she would just go out into the street and flag someone to bring her to PCC or to take her to the bank or to the post office at the shopping center. In her seventies she was living with college girls and enjoying herself. She would still be working here were it not for the fact she got so frail. She loved to bring special treats--especially doughnuts--to share with her co-workers. It was no secret the doughnuts were given to her by an admirer. Lily had many admirers and Kalani and I are proud to have been two of her best admirers. We were happy to be of service to Lily and she will always be remembered as one of the Center's golden treasures."

Rubina Forester, Lily's former supervisor acknowledges that Lily's contribution to the Center will be long remembered: "Lily not only personifies solid values such as service to others, generosity, and hanging in there, but she will also be remembered for her beautiful singing voice, her ability to share funny stories, and her love for Hawaiian Quilting. *Lily, we will miss you.*"

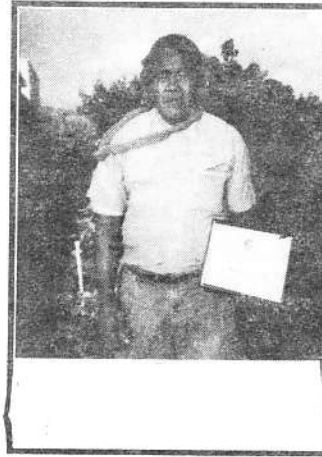
Village Auxiliaries Celebrate Christmas

A beautiful Christmas Devotional was held Wednesday morning, December 12, at the Mission complex Chapel honoring the workers of the Village Auxiliaries during their cultural week celebration. With the theme, "As Bethlehem Is A Light To The World As The Birthplace Of Jesus Christ, So Are Each Of Our Birthplaces A Light To Us", each of the employees assigned to speak expressed the importance and significance of their birth villages and cities ranging from Lifuka, Tonga; Salelologa, Savaii, Western Samoa; Magna, Utah; Auckland, New Zealand; to Oahu's own Honolulu.

Starting a little after 10:00 am the program featured special musical numbers, particularly a moving "Mary's Lullaby" sung by all women of the Village Auxiliaries. A medley of Christmas songs was also sung by Pulefano Galea'i. Featured speakers besides those working in Village Auxiliaries included Center President, Jim Christensen and Staff Vice President over Cultural Presentations, Cy Bridges.

The Chapel setting was perfect with its decoration of garlands, wreaths, Christmas lights, and a fresh, uniquely decorated Christmas tree. Those in attendance not only enjoyed the surroundings but the spirit conveyed by the speakers. Particularly stunning were the Village Auxiliaries employees decked out in their new uniforms colored pale green with pink quilt designs.

Following the devotional was a luncheon held in the Schoolhouse where a delicious meal was served by 4 volunteers: Ailini Tuikolovatu, Meliame Huakau, Tufaina Vaiaoga, and Suvania Pula. Special mahalos are extended to these 4 girls. Background music was provided by Keoni Ah Quin and Tipa Galea'i. The entertainment by all those in attendance who performed according to their cultural backgrounds. Rubina Forester, supervisor of the Village Auxiliaries, would like to extend gratitude to her people for their continuing support and to all those who contributed to make their Cultural Day a resounding success. Faafetai lava!



The Maintenance Construction Department is pleased to announce that **VAIOLA TAUILILI** was chosen as their Employee of the Month for the Month of November.

Vaiola is well deserving of this award. During the month of November we had many projects going on in preparation for the opening of the Hawaiiimax®, Vaiola was scheduled to go on vacation and gave up that "break" to work long hours on this project. He is our only "skilled painter", and we are lucky to have him working with us.

He began working for the Center in 1976. His wife, Soifua, works at the Gateway Restaurant. He has one daughter, Sina, who has worked at the Center in the past.

Viola works hard every day and his supervisors are always pleased with his work. He is quiet and never complains. He is also always willing to complete any assignment given to him.

We congratulate him on this award.

Village Auxiliary workers show us their new uniforms



Congratulations to **SOONAFAI TIATIA** of the Grounds department for being chosen the November Housekeeping Department Employee of the Month. She has been a full-time Groundskeeper since September 1988. You can see her working hard in beautifying the grounds around the Old Admin. building and the Gazebo areas. Her co-workers enjoy working with her as well as her cheerful personality. Congratulations again to Soonafai Tia-tia for being chosen the Housekeeping Department's November Employee of the Month!



Hawaii Film Festival Gets Sneak Preview of "Polynesian Odyssey"

Preparation took months. In the following pictures you will see some of the many people who worked to help prepare for the President's Sneak Preview of the HAWAII-MAX theater. The lucky group to get this honor is the Hawaii International Film Festival. We were part their opening activities.

As many as 400 film festival patrons came by car and bus from Waikiki to have the opportunity to get a "first look" at the islands only IMAX® theater.

From their reaction, they were not disappointed. As mentioned before, much preparation took place before the event. Here are some of the preparations.



Village workers had to get into the lagoon and trim some of the plants to allow for a good canoe ride.

At the same time many had to prepare small gifts.

Small stone Moai from Easter Island had to be unwrapped, boxes had to be folded and prepped, the Moai were then packaged, and tied up in preparation for the event.



Many Mahalos to the Gateway gang who looked great in their "hot" uniforms



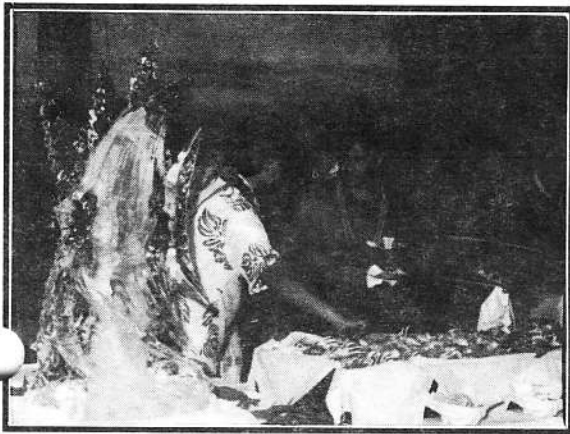
The next step involved kukui nut leis which all had to be tied together, to make them double, and the village ladies all pitched in to tie the ilima-orange ribbon that was to adorn each special lei.

After all these preparations the guests arrived to be welcomed by costumed greeters. They were escorted into the village for a semi-traveling buffet of pupus throughout the villages. At each village guests were treated to different presentations and different foods.

Just before 8:00 PM our guests were directed to the theater for an opportunity to meet Keith Merrill, the film maker, and see "Polynesian Odyssey" for the first time.



Some of the guests gather with Film maker Keith Merrill, his wife, and VP Mike Foley



Some of our own enjoy the delicious food provided by our Gateway crew. Notice the beautiful ice carving in the foreground.



The following letter was received just a few days after the *sneak preview*. All who were involved deserve big mahalos for the extra effort that was put forth. We have provided a great experience for Hawaii Film Festival group and the results are still coming in.

HAWAII VISITORS BUREAU

November 28, 1990

Mr. James P. Christensen
President
Polynesian Cultural Center
Sales & Marketing
2301 Kalakaua Ave. Suite C-304
Honolulu, Hawaii 96715

Dear Jim:

Thank you very much for inviting Sally and me to the world premier of your "Polynesian Odyssey". It was one of the most delightful evenings that we've spent in a long, long time. I'd like to congratulate you and all of your people at the PCC for making us feel very wanted and welcome.

As an organization that has a little experience with planning and executing such events ...We want you to know that the entire evening, from canoe ride ride to pupus in the villages and the mixing with the villagers was beautifully choreographed and expertly executed.

The highlight of the evening, of course, was the Polynesian Odyssey. On the long drive back to town, my wife and I had the opportunity to review and discuss what each liked about the picture. Our consensus was that it is a beautiful portrayal of the various cultures that make up Polynesia and done with obvious pride by those cultures.

Again, thank you very much for a truly memorable and adventurous evening which launched our holiday season into a very festive tempo.

Aloha,

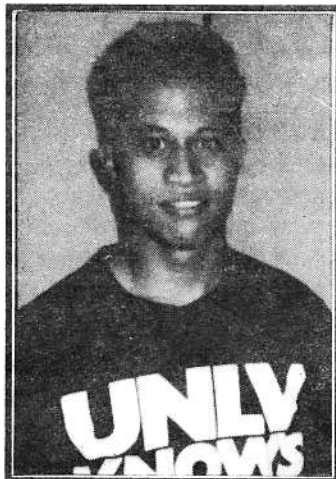
Eugene T. Cotter
Sr. Vice President
of Marketing

Missionaries Called to Serve Throughout the World...

Garret Tilini, Son of Peni & Pat Tilini, has been called to serve in the Vancouver, British Columbia Mission. Garret will report to the MTC on January 23rd, 1991.



Samuel Kekuaokalani, Son of David and Verdetta Kekuaokalani, has been called to serve in the Japan, Okayama Mission. Sam reports to the MTC on January 2, 1991.



Maintenance Corner Employee of the Month



The Maintenance Construction Department is pleased to announce that **VICTOR DAGUIO** was chosen as their Employee of the Month for October.

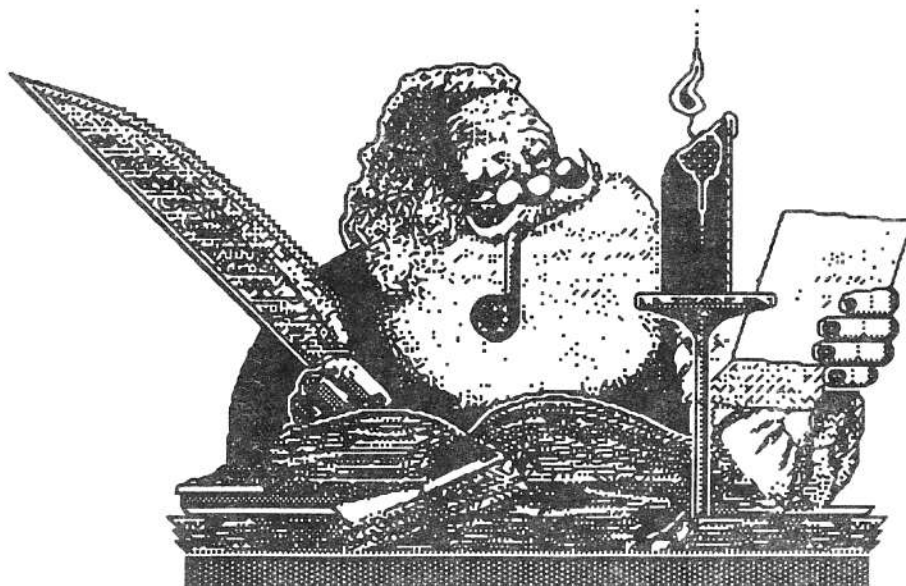
Victor has worked for the Center since 1982. He started out as a Groundskeeper and in two years he was promoted to be a Groundskeeper Supervisor for the Village areas. The following year he was again promoted to the position of Landscape Gardener.

For the past 3 years, Victor has been partly responsible for all the landscaping work that has been done at the Center. He most recently is working on the landscaping for the HawaiiMax Theater.

His past and present supervisors/managers have commented that Victor is an exceptional worker who is hard working and very reliable.

Victor resides in Kahuku with his wife Terisita and a 17 year old daughter, Marites.

The Maintenance department congratulates Victor for this well deserved award!



TODAY!
Is The Last Day To
Pick Up your Christ-
mas Bonus Turkey!
(Full-time
Workers Only)

Come To The Ware-
house today between
2:00 -4:00 to see
If Santa Still Has
You On His List!

Security Corner

Employee of the Month

Sue Ann Pualoa has been chosen for the December Employee of the Month. Sue is married to Richard Pualoa who is a former PCC Employee.

She started working at Security in January of 1984 as a Security Dispatcher, she was then promoted to be a Security Guard. She has been a very dependable person and so efficient when it comes to handling emergencies at the Center. She is a all around person who accepts all assignments willingly. She is also a great asset to the department and the company. Congratulations on a job well done!

** Sue was on vacation so there is no picture .

Theater Corner

PCC Promo Team

Performs in Australia!

On a recent four day blitz, our Promo team (6 members) flew down on a Friday and returned on Monday. While there they did an all Hawaiian show in Cairns, at the Australian Incentive Association Covention.

Leading the group was Gaylene Nikora, Ellen Gay, Ha'a Heyer (Sales Rep.), Bill Tenny, David Tiave, Aurie Kekauoha, and Cathy Teriipaia. Many mahalos to this group for their great representation of PCC while "down under".

Theater Fall Semester Graduates

Ah yes! The sweetness of a successful final curtain call has arrived for three veterans of the theater: Gladys Nautu, Gace Tautu, and Nephi Prime; also taking his final walk was Steven Crowell of our Technical department staff.

As our performers depart- we bid them bon voyage. You came, you succeeded in your classes & dancing your way through college, May God continue to bless you now, in your next phase of life!

New Computer At MIS



It's Here! Last weekend, the MIS staff assisted with the replacement of the Center's main computer system. The new computer (shown above) gives the Center more computer capability and speed.

Some of the "techie" details include. The memory was doubled. 32 more ports have been added. Increased disk capacity from 1 gigabyte to 1.5 gigabytes (A gigabyte is a billion characters of information).

Okay, now we know the nuts and bolts, what is it gonna do for me! Here are the responses of some of our users to just such a question:

"The new ticket system kills the waiting line, our guests don't have to wait for the computer as long." -Mona Aumavae, Waikiki Reservations Office.

"Some payroll processing taking 3 - 4 hours on the old system now only takes about 30 minutes with the new system." - Tulsu Ram, Payroll

"Processing ticket sales for our guests is much faster now." - Kamaka Tuia, Laie Reservations

"Most of our processes are being executed 2-3 times faster now than before.." -Gail Heffeman, Business Office

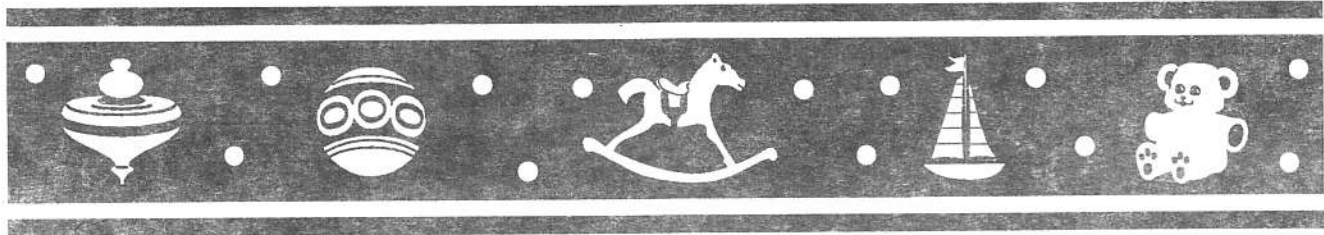
"Our processing and inquiries are much faster now." - Larry Yuen, Business Office

"Reports taking 2 hours before now only take 30 minutes". - Teri Montgomery, Waikiki Sales Office.

"Our theater timesheet report used to take 5 minutes to run, now it only takes 15 seconds." - Phyllis Peters, Theater Department

December 1990

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					21	22
23	Christmas Eve 24	Merry Christmas PCC CLOSED 25 	26	9:00 PSI FYI.NB (Mailbox) 27	28	29
30	New Year's Eve 31	Happy New Year 1	2	3	Pay Day! 4	5



Christmas Trivia!

There are two parts to this special trivia.
First, name all of Santa's Reindeer:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Second, color Santa's special hawaiian helper!

Just color this little elf, cut him out and send him to SPECIAL PROJECTS.

The winner of this special trivia will receive an equally special prize.

