

UPDATE '85



Elder Hunter Honored During Visit to PCC

This week the Polynesian Cultural Center was honored by the visit of Elder Howard Hunter of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Elder Hunter also attended the Brigham Young University — Hawaii Campus 1985 graduation where he received an honorary doctorate.

Elder Hunter served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Polynesian Cultural Center during its first 12 years. During the time he served on the Board, the Polynesian Cultural Center went from a small group of dancers and musicians to become one of Hawaii's largest tourist attractions as well as one of the Church's top missionary efforts.

Elder Hunter was honored at a fiafia in the villages and was presented with gifts and native dancing from the villages and the theater employees. Thanks to everyone who welcomed him so warmly.

CALENDAR

Friday, June 28

BBQ Chicken, steamed rice, buttered corn, drink

"Samoa I Amerika" AUD. 7:00, 9:30 pm

Saturday 29

Sloppy Joe, steamed rice, toss salad, drink

Movie, AUD. 6:30, 9:30pm "Sting II"

Monday, July 1

Deep fried chicken w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned corn, drink

Tuesday 2

Beef tomato, steamed rice toss salad, drink

Chinese Hand Puppet Show, AUD. 8:00pm

Wednesday 3

Italian spaghetti w/ meatballs, garlic bread, toss salad, drink

Movie, AUD. 6:30, 9:30pm "Trail of the Pink Panther"

Thursday 4

Swiss beef liver, steamed rice, buttered mix veg., drink

Friday 5

Teriyaki pork, steamed rice, buttered corn, drink

Movie, AUD. 9:30pm "Last Dragon"

The Even Greater PCC Trivia Marathon

Sam Langi was last week's winner with 8 points.

Here are this week's questions:

1. What name did the Tahitians call themselves anciently?
2. What great French artist arrived in Tahiti in 1891 and died in the Marquesas in 1903?
3. What is the Hawaiian name for the hook pendant necklace which translated means "lei or neck ornament of whale tooth"?
4. What was the Samoan word for the "sky-bursters" or white-men whom the Samoans had believed had burst through the clouds with their ship?
5. What in Samoa originated as a result of bad language, irritating songs, jealousy, quarrels relating to women, murders, political rivalry, old feuds or pride?
6. In Fijian what is a "A tamata ulunitoa" or "A person with a fowl's head"?
7. What Polynesian staple is the "Artocarpus incisa"?
8. What did the Fijians believe would happen if there was a large ring around the moon?

Here are last week's answers: 1. An ethnobotanist studies the interrelation of man and plants. 2. The Aloha State 3. shark skin 4. kauila 5. Hang a reed (kaho) on it. 6. Marquesas 7. Fiji 8. Copra

Mr. Rodger's Neighborhood

by Ralph Rodgers

In August 1852, only five years after the first pioneers reached the Salt Lake Valley, President Brigham Young called the first Latter-day Saint Missionaries to labor in Asia. Of the missionaries assigned to Asia, nine were sent to India in Calcutta. President Heber C. Kimball, grandfather to Spencer W. Kimball, gave a direct charge to the missionaries:

"I say to those who are elected to go on missions, go, if you never return; and commit what you have into the hands of God, your wives, your children, your brethren and your property. . . The missions we will call for during this conference, are generally not to be very long ones; probably three to seven years will be as long as any man will be absent from his family."

Of the missionaries above mentioned, three of the four missionaries called to China reached Hong Kong April 17, 1853. Brother Hosea Stout was celebrated as the first missionary to China. He tried unsuccessfully to move into the surrounding territory from Hong Kong but found that the great Taip'ing Revolution had cut off all avenues of successful missionary work. Brother Stout reported that they looked for other ports in China but that Hong Kong was the only safe place, and since there was no resource perceivable for sustenance, he concluded that they should return home. The mission was called a failure.

In a statement of the First Presidency in 1854, it was stated: "The China Mission is mentioned with the observation that the elders had left no impression on the Empire."

In 1921, President David O. McKay, with Elder Hugh J. Cannon, made a world trip for the Church, and one of the principal purposes of the tour was a visit to China where he was to dedicate the land of China if he felt so impressed.

They traveled to Peking (Beijing) China, and to Korea and Manchuria. Brother Cannon wrote as follows: "It had been 67 years since holders of the priesthood had been on assignment in China, and the first time they had been into the interior.

"The special missionaries found the great wall of China one of the marvels of all time. A British engineer figures that enough material was used to build this wall that if placed in a wall six feet high and two feet thick would reach around the world at the equator."

Peking was the city selected in which they would dedicate the land of China. This was the "forbidden city" -- the former home of emperors and nobility. They walked through shrines, pagodas and temples, fast falling into decay. Finally they came to a grove of cypress trees. A reverential feeling came and a presence seemed to be upon them. They were sure that unseen holy beings were directing their footsteps. There at Peking, in the heart of the most populous nation in the world, undisturbed by the multitudes, they offered the dedicatory prayer, President McKay being the mouth.

The work has gone forth in parts of China and we have brought some wonderful devoted members into the Church of Chinese ancestry. For the most part however, the land of China still lacks the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful and thankful to the Lord for the changes that I have seen coming upon this great Asian nation during the past two years.

In January of 1984, Premier Zhao Ziyang became the first leader of China to visit the United States and he chose the Polynesian Cultural Center as his major stop here in Hawaii on his way to Washington, D. C.

And now we are honored by the news that His Excellency Li Xiannian, President of The People's Republic of China, will visit the Polynesian Cultural Center as the major stop in the islands of Hawaii on his visit to the United States of America.

In April of this year we had a visit from a delegation representing the China International Cultural Exchange Center from Beijing, China.

Sister Rodgers and I have just returned from a very interesting and rewarding visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the government of that country.

We saw Beijing, where David O. McKay dedicated the land for the preaching of the Gospel.

We witnessed the great wonders of that country with its rich cultural heritage. We walked the Great Wall and marveled at the wonders of the Forbidden City. We thrilled at the sight of the marching terra-cotta soldiers guarding the tomb of the First Emperor of China at Xi'an. We were moved by a performance of a Dance and Drama Company in that same city and afterward were invited to talk to them onstage where we all danced to "American music" (Yankee Doodle Dandee) played by a folk band "rocking and rolling" to the music while neither they nor we could say anything, but where hearts were touched and smiles crossed all of our faces.

We stared, long into the night, as our train raced across Northern China's endless rice paddies, wheat fields and orchards being cultivated by the tens of thousands of bodies bent over the earth coaxing every morsel of food possible from the soil.

We gave seminars and lectures at the request of the government to try to help the people cope with the oncoming crush of tourism from around the world.

We were honored to be given a state banquet in the Great Hall of the People in Tian An Men Square. A building of more the 561,800 square feet where presidents and kings have been honored. The banquet was hosted for us by Mr. Peng Chong, Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress.

Now, after all the days in China, we return so filled with memories of a land seething with change. Having met a people wanting assistance and help - training and ideas. A land that even though old, is like a little child taking important steps along a new road of destiny.

We have been asked to assist that land with tourism and cultural exchange. We have asked ourselves "why - why would they ask us?" But upon return to Laie and our wonderful Polynesian Cultural Center we know the answer. It is because of you - our fellow workers and thousands of devoted workers before you who in twenty-two years have made the Polynesian Cultural Center the visiting place of kings, rulers, emperors and common folk. You who have made the Cultural Center one of the most successful cultural offerings on the earth today. You - each of you - have brought to us these experiences and these opportunities and for this Sister Rodgers and I thank you.