



July 1, 1983

update 83

Polynesian Cultural Center



Steve Ashton

Joins PCC Administration

A recent key administrative appointment was the announcement of Steve Ashton by President Ralph G. Rodgers Jr. as the executive assistant to the general manager.

As a management consultant to PCC for the past twelve months, Steve Ashton is no stranger to the Center. Over the past ten years, Steve has owned a travel and leasing company, and was managing partner for a real estate firm in Utah. He completed his graduate degree (MSW) at the University of Utah, and is currently working toward a Ph.D. degree in social psychology at Brigham Young University in Provo.

As administrative assistant to Brother Rodgers, Steve will function under his supervision to assist with upgrading and refining of all phases of Center operations.

Steve and his wife, Wendy, have seven children.

Update joins the Center's employees in welcoming Steve Ashton and his family to Laie and to PCC.



NEW APPOINTMENT

Village Operations recently announced the selection of Sophia Turaga as the Fijian Village supervisor. With this new appointment, Sophia's life at PCC goes full circle and returns her, as a leader, to the place where she was first employed at the Center.

Way back in the dark ages in 1965, Sophia danced for the Fijian Village as she worked her way through the Church College of Hawaii. She was eventually the village coordinator under Ratu Loveni Lovo and became an assistant to Timoci Sigavata, the previous village chief, before she transferred to Production and Handicrafts. Prior to her new appointment, Sophia was the Center's Weaver's supervisor. She has represented the Center and Hawaii in several overseas promotional tours including the Eaton Shores promotion of Hawaii in Toronto, Canada in February 1981.

A woman of great leadership qualities, Sophia was the first female student body president of the Church-owned Liahona High School in Tonga. She is from the islands of Rotuma in the Fiji Group, and with her husband Meleki, she has four daughters.

As the supervisor, Sophia will be responsible for the scheduling and programming of village personnel and activities.

Said Sophia, "I've always loved the village—it's good to be back."

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Shop
Polynesia

Cussana Boon is Shop Polynesia's Employee of the Month for May 1983. Cussana is a 'New Zealand born Samoan' (as she describes herself) and was raised in the township of Tokoroa. After graduating from the Church College of New Zealand in Hamilton, New Zealand, she came to Hawaii to attend BYU-H.

She is also a nightshow performer and lives now in Hauula.

Says Cussana, "I love it here at the Center; it's a great place to be young and single."



Village
Operations

Tauroa Mariterangi is Village Operations Employee of the Month for May 1983. Tauroa is from the island of Tahiti, and she has been working at the Center since 1973. She was recently transferred back to the village of Tahiti from the wardrobe section where she worked so that more people would have a chance to appreciate her mastery of the Tahitian ukulele and song. Congratulations Tauroa.

The 10th Annual King Kamehameha Traditional Hula And Chant Competition

On Saturday, June 18, the Cannon Activity Center was once again alive with the spirit of Old Hawai'i. The occasion was the Tenth Annual King Kamehameha Traditional Hula and Chant Competition. Devoted entirely to ancient hula, the competition was divided into two sections, chant and dance. Our own PCC Hui Ho'oula Aloha placed second in the men's section and second in the mixed section. Ellen Gay De La Rosa, PCC night show performer was co/winner of the chant division.



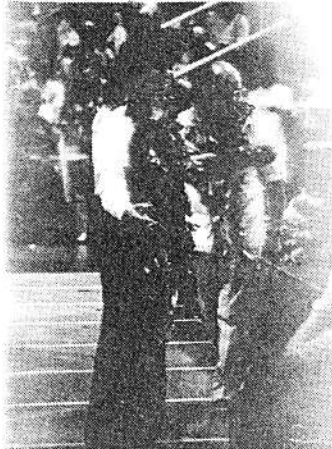
The halau as we know it today has its origins during the Cravens administration. Cy remembers that in 1978 a group of five men from the Center entered a competition in Kapiolani Park where no one had even heard of them -- and took 2nd place. Working closely with Bill Wallace, Keith Awai, and others, Cy developed our halau and watched it grow.

Cy commented that "The Halau has bought much credibility for the Center in the community. I remember our first Merrie Monarch competition. When we arrived people were making all kinds of cracks, like,

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In a recent conversation with Cy Bridges, Kumu Hula for the PCC halau, the Update learned some interesting facts regarding the group. The costumes that were printed by Ken Coffey and Joel Nakila were created by Cy with a specific design -- "Na pua luia o ho'oulu aloha." The design is representative of the maile pods which, upon reaching maturity, break open with a burst and scatter the maile seeds in all directions. The halau members are much like these seeds, for when they leave the group, whether as graduates, or missionaries, they too will scatter far and wide taking the seeds of cultural learning that they have gained from their dance experience.



The Halau's name, Hui Ho'oulu Aloha, expresses the halau's goal as a group, to continue always to grow together in love; love for each other, love for their dance, love for the Spirit of Aloha.

It should come as no surprise that the PCC Halau took honors at the competition. The Center has been instrumental in the Hawaiian hula revival that has been taking place over the past few years. In fact, as long ago as 1962, the hula kahiko -- ancient men's hula -- was being danced in Laie. Under the direction of Wylie Swapp, men like Patoa Benioni and Ishmael Stagner were dancing ancient hula for the Polyneesian Institute.



NEWS



photo by Rob Olson

Aloha Oe Liu, Luo, Tian, Wei, Chun and Yan

MAINLAND CHINA STUDENTS RETURN HOME

In all the years that PCC has been involved with East Asian and Polynesian students of BYU-Hawaii, the arrival of Yannan Wang, Zhang Zhi Wei, Tien Wei, Chun Fang Wang, Luo zhen and Liu Yu Fa marked the first time that students from the world's most populous nation have worked here at the Center.

Following a fact finding tour to BYU and PCC by Vice Premier Geng Biao of the Peoples Republic of China back in 1980, and after much official correspondence between the respective governments and BYU-PCC these six students were handpicked by their foreign office to work and study here. The choice of school and workplace, according to Ke Alakai, was not accidental. The touring Chinese officials were impressed with BYU's clean-cut image, and, with the intention of building a thriving tourist industry back home, were most aware of the Center's long success story.

Liu, Luo, Tian, Wei, Chun and Yan, fit easily into the P.C.C. flow. They were accepted into the Cooperative Education Program, and their progress was quite simply, phenomenal. Luo and Chun graduated Summa Cum Laude; Liu, Wei and Yan Magna Cum Laude.

They returned to their Mainland China homes last week after two educational and, surely, memorable years at the Center. Chun, Lui, Luo and Yan have waiting spouses and children. For Tien the homecoming would be most special; his wife gave birth to their son shortly after he arrived here.

It's refreshing to know that in the vastness of Mainland China, we have at least six friends who will, no doubt, tell of their experiences here with us at this crossroad of many cultures, and of B.Y.U.-H and of course the Polynesian Cultural Center. And the Church.

QUESTION: What is your most humorous experience at the Center?



SHERRI MYERUS
I was slightly embarrassed when a couple walked up to my Dee-lites stand the other day and proposed to me on behalf of their son. It was an offer I almost couldn't refuse.



JOHN CORNILEZ
Coming into area three during canoe pageant one time, I was dancing my heart away on the Hawaiian canoe when in front of everyone my malo (loincloth) came apart.



LEIMOMI KALAMA
The other day at the 'poi' stand in the Hawaiian Village, a little boy took a taste and then really acted like he was poisoned to death in front of some wide-eyed guests, who naturally refused to taste the poi thereafter.

CORRECTION

In the previous edition of Update, two persons were mis-titled. Update apologizes for any inconvenience.



Riana Mahe



Patti Kekoolani



A Center Lecture in Review

by Dr. Dale Robertson

This month's contribution to the Center's excellent lecture series was presented by Rubina Rivers Forester. Her research presentation, entitled "Coming of Age Fa'a Samoa: A Polynesian's View of the Mead/Freeman Theories," used the current Mead-Freeman controversy as a starting point for her own "long overdue" refutation of Coming of Age in Samoa.

Sister Forester's objections have their origins in her own childhood in a traditional Samoan village where she saw a very different Samoa from that reported by Margaret Mead. That Dr. Mead characterized the Samoan culture as simple, particularly offended Sister Forester. Anthropologists of Mead's time looked to understand "primitive" cultures as a stepping stone to understanding the complexities of the Western world. This is an example of naivete found in the twenty-three year old Mead that was scorned by the Mead as a senior scholar. In fact, Mead was a pioneer of anthropology, doing much in her career to dispell such ethnocentric absurdities as the "simple" culture.

Modern Samoans, including the lecturer, are rightfully indignant about some of the descriptions of Samoans. For instance, a major point of the book is that Samoan youth grow up in a sexual paradise where all fantasies are fulfilled and

no guilt is felt. The Samoa of Sister Forester's youth was not permissive but rather obsessed with sexual morality. The lecturer also aptly and entertainingly addressed errors in the characterization of wives as being generally unfaithful, children being passed from family to family, families lacking bonds, and fales as being simple structures with disheveled interiors.

How could Mead have been so wrong? Freeman and Forester suggest that perhaps she had her mind made up before she arrived, and then merely saw what she wanted to see. This point is convincingly argued by Freeman in the first part of his book where he discussed at length the paradigm development in anthropology. The intellectual puzzle of the time was are people what they are because of genetics (by nature) or by their upbringing (by nurture)? Freeman's contention is that Mead was sent out by her mentor, Franz Boaz, to prove the latter. She, therefore, sought a peaceful, happy society resulting from a non-stressful childhood, so that is what she saw.

Mead's attackers also contend that her field research was careless, distant, and short. She had a poor command of the language; she relied on superficial interviews with young girls who were inclined to tell her what she wanted to hear; and her stay lasted only nine months. Defenders would say that her anthropology was equal to or even ahead of the practices of researchers of the time.

Dr. Margaret Mead is dead. She will have no chance to answer the charges of her critics. While most anthropologists have recognized the errors in her observations, they have chosen to ignore her mistakes and proceed with their work. Dr. Freeman believes that such an approach is anti-scientific, leaving room for errors to be built upon errors. Sister Forester's objections are more personal. Admitting that her bias is "that I always want the Samoans to appear in a good light," she documents the mistakes in Coming of Age in Samoa from her observations, her experiences and from her heart.

PCC BLOOD DRIVE



The Blood Drive, held in the old Conference room was quite a success for the Center this year. About 75 of the 100 booked turned up to donate their blood, led by our General Manager Ralph G. Rodgers Jr. and of course the regulars Elliot Ozu, John Muaina and Les Stewart of the business office who participate every year. Tele Hill R.N., First Aid Manager, expressed her gratitude to everyone who gave blood at the Center for being such good examples and good sports.

Everyone who gave blood received a free pen holder and information on blood donations. Next year the Center plans to give a prize to the department that donates the most blood. Dona-

tions of this precious liquid are very important to the state (which at this time is in short supply of blood). The drives can be very interesting and educational. Donors can find out their blood type, and even check if there is anything wrong. Some of us may be scared of the needle, but as one Center employee, Ben Orrego, found out, he has a very rare blood type. If he should ever need blood in the future, the Blood Bank will be able to help him.

Altogether, the Blood Drive was quite a success for the Center this year and with your support it will be even more successful next year.

NEWS

Congratulations!

Kaleo Reguilman of the Night Show, Matinee, and Canoe Pageant, and his lovely bride Shaunna Thorne were married in the Hawaii Temple on Saturday the 25th of June. Update, on behalf of the Center's employees wish the new couple many happy days together.



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Kamehameha Hula

'How come you came? No tourists around here'. This year when we went even the most exhalted of the Kumus acknowledged our presence."

At a time when so much of the world is faced with the turmoil of cultural transition the PCC is fortunate to have the Hui Ho'oulu Aloha to retain for us the beauty, strength and wisdom of a time past. Certainly as the dancers performed that night in the Cannon Center the spirit of Ancient Hawai'i was there with them.



“It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore.”

John Adams
(1735-1826)
Letter to Abigail Adams, 1776

