Polynesian Cultural Center Employee Newsletter

Friday, July 12, 1985







This week the UPDATE spotlights the employees of the Fijian village. These individuals represent the crossroads of the Pacific cultures of Polynesia and Melanesia. Using the best of both worlds, they have succeeded in making the Fijian village fun to visit. Says Chief Apimeleki Turaga, an employee of twenty plus years, "The group of kids we've got now is one of the best we've ever had." The daily work that they do consists of teaching crafts and culture, dancing, singing and instrument playing and, of course, their infamous wielding of spears. Once proud and fierce warriors, the Fijians today are some of the friendliest people around. The UPDATE extends a "Vinaka Levu" to these members of the Fijian village: Savenaca Kama, Fatu Stevenson, Alex Lobendahn, Pita Rakuita, Ratu Apimeleki Turaga, Sophia Turaga, Lawrence Fong, Savea Metusela, Kasanita Nalumisa, Lusiana Tawaga, Laisane Kinikini, Naomi Rakuita, Ilaisane Kauvaka, Ailine Naitoko, John Aniu, Enele Ogo'ogotau, Jale Ceinaturaga.



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Elder and Sister Marvin J. Ashton... ...An Important Ingredient to PCC's Success





Every six months or so we seem to notice several familiar faces at the Polynesian Cultural Center. We recognize them as the PCC's Board of Directors who meet here in January and July. From time to time the UP-DATE has honored them in appreciation for their contributions to the Center but sometimes we fail to single out perhaps the two most important individuals of the group -Elder Marvin J. Ashton and his wife, Sister Norma Ashton. Since Elder Ashton was appointed to be the Chairman of the Board in 1968, the Ashtons have lead the Cultural Center into becoming Hawaii's number one paid attraction and one of the Church's biggest missionary tools. Elder Ashton has been influencial in improving the business aspect of the Center which now is able to contribute several million dollars every year for educating students and providing better facilities for BYU-Hawaii Campus.

Sister Ashton has also contributed much to the Cultural Center, although it often goes unnoticed. She is very supportive of the Center and her husband and as long as anyone can remember she has attended every board meeting and function which her husband does. Sister Ashton probably knows the names and jobs of the employees at the Center as well as many of the people who liver and can often be seen calling to friction in each of the areas of the Center.

This week the UPDATE and the employees of the Cultural Center extend a special "Mahalo Nui Loa" to Elder and Sister Marvin J. Ashton. We appreciate their support and contributions and hope they will continue to be a part of us for many years to come. **above left:** Elder Ashton presents the Premier of China, Zhao Zhyang, with a well known LDS statue on January 7th 1984 **above right:** Elder and Sister Ashton enjoy being entertained at the Polynesian Cultural Center



Polynesian Cultural Center's Board of Directors: (From Left) F. W. Gay, J. Willard Marriot Jr., Ralph Rodgers Jr., Jeffrey Holland, Fred Baker, George Q. Cannon, Elder Marvin J. Ashton

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