

# UPDATE '85

## Tahitian Village Celebrates Bastille Day

Saturday, July 20, 1985, was an important and exciting day in the Tahitian village. It was the annual celebration of Bastille Day. The Tahitians celebrate this French holiday every year, which marks the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789. In France, it is a celebration of the start of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity for the French people. The Tahitians inherited the holiday by virtue of French Government in Tahiti, but for them it has come to symbolize celebration, competition and fun.

Celebrated every year at the Polynesian Cultural Center, Bastille Day provides a day for competitions in the village and for special demonstrations and costumes. This year the village sponsored a Tahitian dance competition in which several girls vied to win the title of Miss Tiurai. The prize was won by Patricia Wilson, with first runnerup Sylvanna Tahauri, second runnerup Eliza Kahawaii and third runnerup Tauriki Numanga. The headband making contest was won by Papa Pu followed by

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# Mr. Rodger's Neighborhood

## By David Rodgers

If you were to visit Salt Lake City this week, you would be visiting one of the biggest celebrations across the United States. Every year on July 24, the local people of that valley celebrate Pioneer Day. The day is filled with one of the largest parades in the nation, dancing, eating, traveling, and traditional fireworks displays in the evening. No matter where you drive you will see children in their front yard swinging sparklers or lighting Roman Candles in celebration of this day. For some people it is just a day to be off work, but for the majority of those living in the valley it is a day to remember the sacrifices of their ancestors.

Early L.D.S. Church history tells us of a group of saints who were driven from their homes and forced to travel a thousand miles to a place where they could worship the way they wanted. They were killed by Indians, died of diseases, bitten by poisonous insects and reptiles, suffered from starvation and attacked by wild animals, just to name a few trials. When they reached the valley, they suffered from cold winters with no food, lack of shelter, their crops being eaten by crickets and other pests, no medical facilities, no water and no men, due to the Spanish—American War. All these hardships were endured to bring one thing — the freedom to worship God the way they wanted and to insure that freedom to their posterity. It's no wonder the present day Mormons celebrate their heritage.

This idea of honoring those who have given their own lives to insure freedom to their children is not a new idea. The Jewish people have been celebrating the Passover for thousands of years, the people of the United States have made the fourth of July an incredible celebration, The Samoans celebrate their Independence Day, the Maoris celebrate Waitangi Day and in this UPDATE we have spotlighted the Tahitians celebrating Bastille Day. It seems that one of the greatest accomplishments one can make is to dedicate his energy to help his people and his posterity. These people are our heroes. They are they to whom we build our biggest monuments and our greatest shrines and to whom we owe our lives.

On July 31st of this year, the Polynesian Cultural Center will host the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Li Xiannian. Everyone is excited and anxious for the day when we can show him what we have here. Perhaps the most exciting part of his visit is that with it he brings the confirmation that the Polynesian Cultural Center is recognized around the world for its excellence in portraying Polynesian culture. This visit confirms again that we are not only Hawaii's number one attraction, but the finest example of cultural preservation in the world.

As we contemplate where we are now and where we have come from twenty-two years ago, we need to honor those employees who have made this possible. Everything we have at the Cultural Center is here because a small group of Laie saints began the Cultural Center back in 1961 under extreme criticism from the Hawaii tourist industry and the press. They put in extra hours and literally gave all that they had to build the Center into what it is today. We honor them, we revere them and we thank those who still remain among us.

Twenty or thirty or forty years from now, maybe the leader from Russia, or the King of England, or the Prime Minister from Israel will visit the Polynesian Cultural Center to see this world-renowned attraction. What will the employees of the Center have to show? Will they be able to look back on us with the same pride which we feel for our predecessors? Will they honor us and thank us for our dedication and hard work? The finest honor we can pay our predecessors is to do all we can to continue the great tradition which they left us. Let us each strive to do what is necessary to make the Cultural Center better, finer, and more an example of what that original group of performers had a vision of when they went out on stage that first night twenty-two years ago.

### The Legends of the Pacific

From the Institute for Polynesian Studies

#### A Tahitian Legend

Turtles were born to a Ra'iatea man and his wife who also brought forth fowls. One day a turtle and a fowl were contending for supremacy for his kind. The turtle told the fowl that fowls would be known as food for women and children, while turtles would be sacred to the gods. While the dispute raged, a strong man chanced upon them. The fowl flew off, but the

great heavy turtle was caught and carried off by him to a chief who directed that this new find should be sent to the marae (sacred place) for offering to the gods. Soon, as he had said, the turtle became a sacred creature to be eaten only by priests and chiefs. As for the fowl, he was caught trying to dive into the sea as he had seen the turtle do, but only being able to get his head into the water, he was easily caught by some women who took him to the village and tamed him. He ended up as the turtle had said: food for women and children.

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Chris Budo and Adele Mapuhi. Congratulations to all who participated.

The day also included a morning devotional, special demonstrations which were narrated by Vandy Oura and a bigger-than-usual fashion show demonstrating traditional Tahitian clothing.

For everyone who attended, the day was exciting and fun. The UPDATE congratulates all who participated and helped fill the village with singing and dancing. We look forward to Bastille Day again next year.

## CALENDAR

### Friday, July 26

Roast pork, brown gravy, French baked potatoes, buttered corn, drink  
Movie, AUD. 9:30pm  
"The Rear Window"

### Saturday 27

Chicken stew, steamed rice, seasoned peas, drink  
Movie, AUD. 6:30, 9:30pm  
"The Rear Window"

### Monday 29

Hamburger steak w/ gravy, steamed rice, seasoned mix veg., drink

### Tuesday 30

Beef broccoli, steamed rice, seasoned corn, drink

### Wednesday 31

Deep fried chicken w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned corn, drink  
Movie, AUD. 6:30, 9:30pm  
"Fiddler on the Roof"

### Thursday, August 1

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

### Friday 2

Beef tomato, steamed rice, tossed salad w/ dressing, drink

The UPDATE is an employee newspaper of the Polynesian Cultural Center and is issued as a training tool of the administration of the Center. The UPDATE staff consists of:

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