



# EMPLOYEE UPDATE

Polynesian Cultural Center ☐ August 22, 1980

## Niko: sixteen years of cherished memories

When Vaiolini Niko retires from PCC at the end of this month, it will be as though she's leaving one of her beloved children.

Vaiolini has been with the Center since its infant days. She was here when PCC consisted of just a few huts and buildings spread over 12 acres, when visitors to Laie were sparse and many said the Center would never survive.

In her 16 years with PCC, Vaiolini has seen it struggle, grow and develop into what it is today -- one of the most popular visitor attractions in the state.

Vaiolini joined PCC in January 1964, just a few months after it opened to the public. Her first job at the Center was in the Reservations Department, where her duties included selling tickets for our evening show at a booth right outside the theater. Our old theater seated just 1,000 people and the evening show was then performed only a few nights a week.

Vaiolini next spent several years working in the Tongan and Samoan villages, doing everything from weaving demonstrations to thatching roofs.

She recalled with pride being selected as the first narrator for the "Pageant of the Long Canoes" when that show was started at PCC in 1964. She also was a singer and musician for the group that used to provide all the music for the canoe pageant.

Vaiolini remembers that time as the highlight of her years at PCC because it gave her the opportunity



Vaiolini Niko decorates the Information Booth near Hale Kuai with fresh flowers and a happy smile. Vaiolini will be retiring on August 29 after working more than 16 years at the Center.

to help visitors relax and enjoy themselves.

Most recently, Vaiolini has been working in the Information Booth near Hale Kuai. Visitors who stop at the booth for assistance are sure to be greeted with Vaiolini's warm smile, friendly demeanor and skilled demonstration of Samoan-style lauhala weaving -- one of her favorite pastimes.

Every job move at PCC filled Vaiolini's life with memorable, choice experiences and a deeper love for her heritage. "In every department I worked for, there was an interest in Polynesian culture," Vaiolini said. "There's a link among all the Pacific groups and it was so wonderful to be able to learn from

others at PCC and then share what I knew with our visitors."

In her contact with tourists, Vaiolini tried as much as possible to "talk about the Church so they would understand the purpose of the Center. Once they knew about that, the tourists really got more interested and excited about what they'd be doing and seeing here."

Vaiolini was raised in the Mormon faith. Her parents were converted to the Church in Samoa. When they came to Hawaii in 1922 to work as missionaries at the newly-built Hawaii Temple, Vaiolini was only seven years old. She was brought up in Laie and educated at schools on Oahu.

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## Aloha, mahalo to a longtime friend

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When she retires, Vaiolini plans to do a lot of traveling. She hopes to return to Samoa in the very near future to visit relatives and would like to tour the Mainland, where her son now lives.

Vaiolini also is working hard on a journal about her life, family history and culture. And she hopes to devote more time to her great-grandchildren and weaving projects.

ects.

Busy as she'll be, Vaiolini won't be completely severing ties with the Center. "I'll still be living in Laie right across the street from PCC," she said. "Part of my heart is here. I've seen it grow, been here through all the changes. I love the Center. If I had the chance to do what I've done here all over again, I would do it exactly the same way. I wouldn't miss a thing!"

## PCC golfers fit winners' shoes to a 'tee

Congratulations to the following employees for placing tops in PCC's recent golf tournament, which drew more than 40 participants.

### NET SCORE (best score after subtracting handicap)

1. Tele Hill -- 61  
First Aid Department
2. Vigi Purcell -- 63  
Samoan village
3. David Fillmore -- 70  
Cash Room

### GROSS SCORE (best score before subtracting handicap)

1. Taeli Aloii -- 75  
Maintenance
2. Panesi Afualo -- 81  
Cultural Presentations
3. Elliot Ozu -- 84  
Controller

For capturing first place honors, Tele and Taeli won a 50-pound bag of rice. Each of the other winners received a 10-pound canned ham.



## Notes from the Personnel Office

Discount coupons for Knottsberry Farm, one of California's most popular visitor attractions, are now available at the Personnel Office at no charge to PCC employees.

These "Adventurers' Club" tickets, not offered to the general public, entitle you and your family to special low admission rates to Knottsberry Farm through December 31, 1980.

If you're planning a vacation trip to California before the end of this year and would like to visit Knottsberry Farm, stop by the Personnel Office and pick up your Adventurers' Club ticket soon!

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If you've moved, married or changed your phone number recently, it's important that you report these changes to the Personnel Office as soon as possible. As the "record-keeping" department for employees at PCC, Personnel needs to have current information in your files at all times.

## BYU--H Calendar

### Friday, August 22

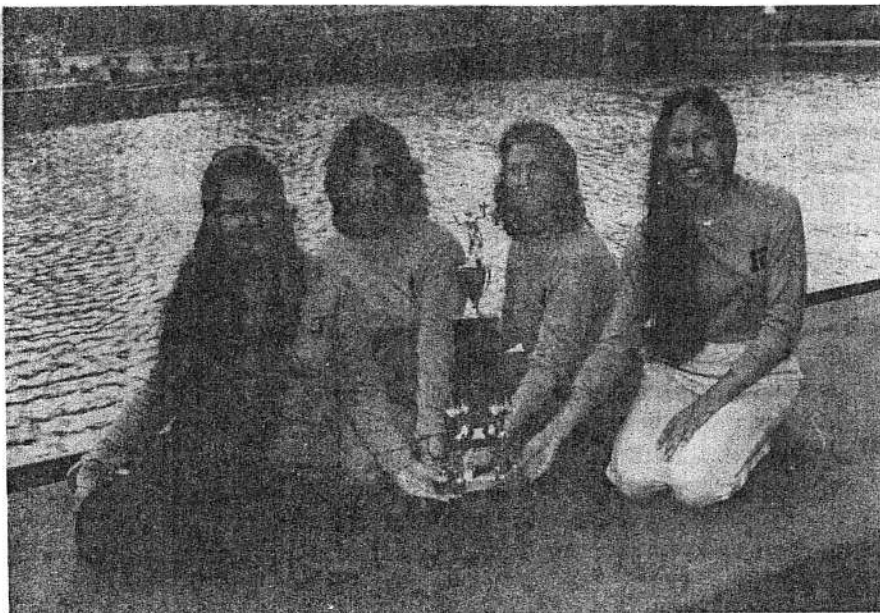
● Stake Night, 9:30 p.m. Contact your ward Young Adult representatives for more information.

### Saturday, August 23

● Movie, "My Side of the Mountain," auditorium, 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.

### Wednesday, August 27

● Movie, "Joe Panther," auditorium, 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Admission charge.



A few members of our women's volleyball team show off the second-place trophy they helped to win for PCC in recent travel industry league competition. From left to right are Sianini Sibbett from the Maintenance Department and Kahea Auelua, Tracey Carr and Grace Dinsbach, all from Shop Polynesia.