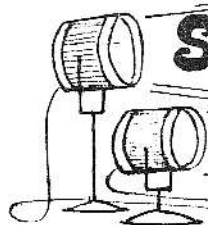


THE Villager

EMPLOYEE NEWS SHEET OF THE POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER



14 November 1975



SPOTLIGHTS

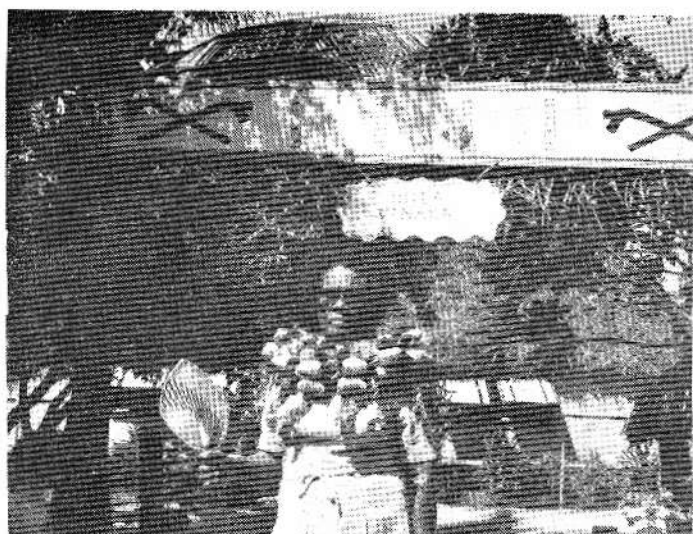
on the Fijian Village

The Polynesian Cultural Center graciously welcomed a very special visitor last month, the Radi Ni Waimaro also known as Adi Litiana Maopa. A lady of royal descent, she has made Hawaii her first visit ever away from Fiji.

This issue focusses on the Fijian Village and its Cultural Day festivities held on Saturday October 25, 1975. (Our guest feature writer is Noel McGrevy, Director of Cultural Research.)

Fijian Cultural Day

As is customary at the Polynesian Cultural Center in the Fijian Village during October each year, this year the Fijian Village had its Fijian Cultural Day. This year, however, was very special because of the presence of a distinguished guest from Fiji, Adi Litiana Maopa. The Fijian title "Adi" signifies a lady of royal and noble ancestry. Adi Maopa indeed fills these designations.



Adi Maopa at the entrance to the Fijian Village

First of all, Adi Maopa is doubly descended from the great Ratu Cakobau who on October 10, 1874 ceded Fiji to Great Britain. Her paternal grandfather was Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Cakobau's second child, while her maternal grandmother was Adi Asenaca Kakua Vuikaba, Cakobau's third child, who married the Tui Nayau, the Paramount chief of Lau. In addition, Adi Maopa is a first cousin of Fiji's first great soldier and statesman in modern times, the late Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna; also second cousin to Ratu George Cakobau, the Governor-General of Fiji, and aunt to the present Prime Minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamisese T. Mara and his wife Adi Lady Lala. Adi Maopa's late husband was the Tui Waimaro, the Paramount Chief of Waimaro. (She is also the aunt of Lulu Sigavata, the wife of our village chief, Timoci Sigavata.)

In accordance with Fijian custom, she was honoured with a veiqaravi vakaturaga, or chiefly welcoming ceremony, as well as the yaqona vakaturaga, or chiefly kava ceremony. Following these ceremonies, Adi Maopa delivered a brief speech in English and Fijian in which she expressed her appreciation for the honors and ceremonies accorded her. She also urged her audience not to forget their cultural background. (The full text of her speech is printed elsewhere in this issue.) When Adi Maopa finished her speech, it was warmly applauded by the crowd assembled around the rara or village green.

The entertainment which followed was exceptionally good, Epeli Ligairi, having worked very hard not only to rehearse the group but also to produce a couple of new items he had composed, one of which - "Soli kei Viti" was particularly appropriate for our celebration because it commemorates the ceding of Fiji to Great Britain by Ratu Cakobau, on October 10, 1874.



Laie, Hawaii Stake LDS President and Sister Faaesea Mailo with special guest Adi Litiana Maopa.

Festivities were concluded with a magiti or feast of suckling pig, kokoda (raw fish), and other delicacies. Thus a very enjoyable and successful Fijian Cultural Day was spent, Adi Maopa having enjoyed everything very much.

(The Fijian Villagers wish all Tongans, Samoans, Hawaiians and others who assisted them on this day to know that their contributions are sincerely appreciated.

VINAKA VAKALEVU!)



PCC guests become involved in Fijian music

person to person

(Adi Litiana Maopa, a Fijian lady of rank, is at present visiting the Polynesian Cultural Center. She came principally to represent the people of Fiji at the Fijian Cultural Day celebrations held on Saturday October 25. She was chosen by the Fiji Government because of her knowledge and appreciation of traditional Fijian customs and ceremonies. Her illustrious genealogy is outlined in the Cultural Day article).

In Polynesia, size is usually a characteristic of rank. Adi Maopa, however, is not distinguished for her size, but rather makes up for this with a natural dignity and great kindness of character. I interviewed her both in the Fijian Village and in my office.

When asked her reason for visiting the PCC, she replied.... "My most important purpose in coming here is to encourage the Fijians who are here to do their best to



Bale Taginoa, an attractive village guide

represent their people. I can help them in many ways. Also I want them to know that their government and chiefs are interested in them."

Born in 1906, Adi Maopa can still remember carriages being driven in Suva and how difficult transportation was out of town. Education was minimal then. She attended school at the age of ten and was taught some English by the Methodist missionary sisters on Bau. She is pleased that education is universal today. However, since independence in 1970, she has noticed a change in the attitude of the young people toward their elders and parents. "...unfortunately they forget to reverence their parents and elders on many occasions."



Jope Lewenilovo anxious to entertain guests

As an example of obedience by the young people of her days to their elders and parents, she recalled the memory of her marriage arrangement.

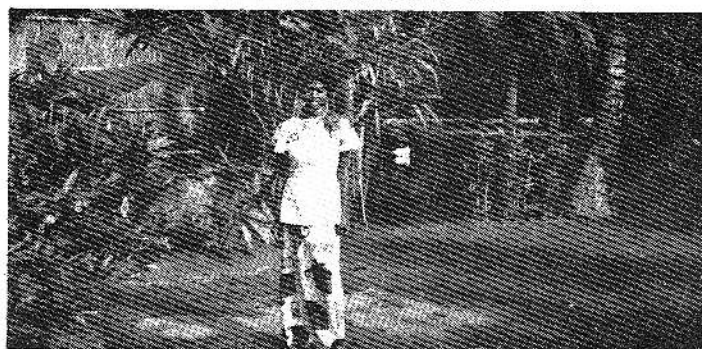
"Over a hundred years ago now," Adi Maopa remembers, "My great grandfather Ratu Cakobau was helping Christianize people in the interior. On one of his expeditions, he was surrounded by some Namosi people who were in alliance with my husband-to-be's people--all non-Christians. Knowing Ratu Cakobau was the most important chief of Bau, my husband-to-be's grandfather, the Tui Waimaro, pledged that Cakobau's life would be spared if one of his daughters would be given in marriage to one of his sons. Cakobau agreed and was set free. I suppose about fifty years had

passed when my first cousin Ratu Sukuna was visiting the Tui Waimaro's people and he had heard their complaint that Cakobau's debt had not been paid. Upon Ratu Sukuna's return to Bau, a council was held for six months to decide who would be sent to marry the new Tui Waimaro. I was chosen and sent to be his wife."



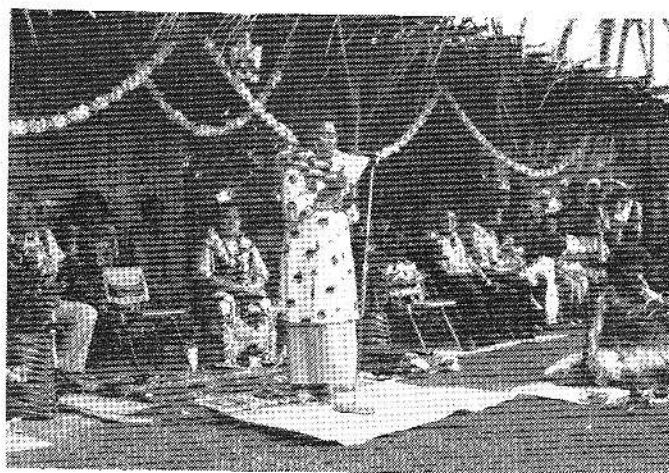
Fijian Village Coordinator Timoci Sigavata and lovely wife, Alanieta

I asked if she had any advice for the Fijians at PCC and her answer was, "Only that they be proud to maintain their respect for their heritage. They have a clean attractive village to work in. I hope they show the best of their culture there. It would also be good to have more Fijians here."



Mere Racule adds dignity to the Village

I thanked her warmly and as she left my office, I thought how lucky we are to have a lady of her age and distinction with us. As the Radi Ni Waimaro, she is the first lady of her area, and her recollection spans almost 69 years. She is able to teach our young people much about the old ways and how to adapt to the new without losing their identity.



Adi Maopa's Speech

I am honoured to be invited to be present on this very memorable occasion--Fijian Cultural Day. Had it not been for these celebrations, it is possible that I may have never ever left my homeland shores of Fiji. This is my first visit abroad and it is my good fortune that I have come to Hawaii, although part of the great country of the United States, it is very much a neighbouring Pacific Island. Hawaii has a culture closely linked to the culture of other Pacific territories and it is indeed significant that she should be host territory to perpetuating the cultures of other Pacific nations.

Fijian culture is as old as the hills, it has has to be modified in certain aspects to accommodate the changes in this modern world. That is not harmful, what is dangerous is to forget completely in what form and shape our customs existed, even though it may not have any bearing to the practical way of life in which we live. What culture and custom offers to us today is an appreciation of the finer points of life, the quality of life which we tend to brush aside for material considerations. Today is an example of keeping alive something that we as Fijian people treasure. The full chiefly ceremony is symbolic of our heritage, let it not be lost. May God be with us in this act of service, to remember His creation of culture and custom in the Pacific and in particular to bless: Fijian Cultural Day!"