

Week in Review

SUMMARY OF NEWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Prepared by Micronesian News Service

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3/27/73

Saipan, Mariana Islands

March 12-16, 1973

PONAPE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN EGG PRODUCTION

Ponape District has become the first district to achieve self-sufficiency in egg production, according to a report from the Department of Resources and Development March 14. Eusebio Rechucher, deputy director of the department, made the announcement following the return to Saipan of Harry Tsutsui, TT Poultry Management Specialist, who had been visiting the eastern districts of the territory for the past seven weeks, surveying poultry projects. Tsutsui reported that poultrymen in the Ponape District are selling about 2,000 eggs a day to local stores, ships, hotels and households. He said the success of the Ponape program was made possible through the cooperation of district agriculture officials, Headquarters personnel, and individual poultrymen.

Eight commercial-type projects are in operation in Ponape, involving more than 4,000 birds, Bermin Weilbacher, Chief of the Agriculture Division at Headquarters, reported. In praising the success of the poultry project in Ponape, Weilbacher listed some immediate benefits which residents of the district have already realized. "For one thing," he declared, "Ponape residents are paying less for their eggs, because they do not have to depend on imported eggs. Another benefit is that with the cheaper prices, more Micronesians can now afford to eat fresh eggs."

The Department of Resources and Development said Yap District is currently involved in a large commercial project and is expected to achieve self-sufficiency by the middle of this year. And by the end of this year, Weilbacher said, Truk is expected to be able to supply all local egg demands. Four large projects are currently underway in Truk.

The success of the Ponape project and the expected success of projects in Yap and Truk have led Resources and Development Department agriculture officials to predict that by the end of 1974, all districts of the Trust Territory will be producing enough eggs to supply Micronesian demands.

The TT poultry project began in early 1971 when Tsutsui was recruited to Saipan from Hawaii, where he was involved in the poultry business. Besides working for many years in Hawaii and Japan, Tsutsui has authored books and papers on poultry breeding and egg production.

MARSHALLS NITIJELA IN SESSION

The Marshall Islands District Legislature, the Nitijela, met in Majuro March 12 for the opening of the 20th regular session. Senator Amata Kabua spoke during the opening ceremonies. He spoke of the need for immediate action

in economic development, specifically in the promotion of tourism and the development of fishing in the district. He singled out the planned Del-Monte Marshalls undertaking as a project that should have the solid support of the district legislature and the Marshallese people as it will be a public corporation open to all Marshallese. The Senator stressed that rapid development can also be dangerous, and that people should be properly prepared to face the challenges of industrial development.

Incumbent Speaker Atlan Anien won the seat again by receiving two-thirds of the votes cast. Laurance Edwards was re-elected Vice Speaker.

MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ENDS SESSION

The first session of the fourth Mariana Islands District Legislature adjourned February 28, after a twenty-day session on Saipan. Out of a total of 29 acts and 84 resolutions passed, 16 acts were appropriation measures, totaling more than 146,000 dollars. The largest of these was a 50,000 dollar appropriation for supplemental budget support to the Marianas Political Status Commission. The major part of the 84 resolutions dealt with land problems. One resolution requests the DistAd and the land advisory board to expedite the settlement and issuance of homestead lots and permits to residents in need of land. DistAd Francisco Ada has thirty days from the date he officially receives the measures to act on them.

MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS DECISION QUESTIONED

A Marshall Islands family whose death claim was the first to be decided under the Micronesian Claims Act of 1971 does not like the decision, and intend to appeal. This response from the Marshallese family came as a surprise to Claims Commission officials; the Commission had issued a press release, arranged for a photographer, and planned a ceremony to mark the presentation of the first decision to a claimant.

According to Marshall District Public Affairs Officer Tony DeBrum, Minniah and Harvey Melong of Majuro, along with Don Melong of Namorik are the beneficiaries of a claim for the death of Melong Laitak during World War II. They had filed a claim for 11,000 dollars, but the Commission had decided to award them 4,400 dollars, based on a sliding scale of payments depending on age at the time of death.

Ben Greer, Chairman of the Claims Commission, said on Saipan that any claimant whose award is less than the amount claimed or whose claim is denied, can appeal the decision to the Commission.

STATE DEPARTMENT VISITOR GRANTS

Four Micronesian citizens active in the field of public affairs have been selected to participate in a group tour of the U.S. under the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Grant Program, formerly known as the Leader Grant Program.

Anthony Yinug, Yap District Legislative Liaison Officer; Sylvester Alonz, Palau District Legislature secretary; Lawrence Edwards, Majuro radio station WSZO manager and vice-speaker of the Marshall Islands Nitijela; and Eskiell Malon, Truk District Public Affairs Officer will depart in late May for a thirty-day visit, which will concentrate on public affairs-type activities of government agencies in the U.S.

International Visitors Grants are awarded each year to non U.S. citizens who are leaders or potential leaders in various fields in their own countries. The purpose of the trips is to enable the individuals to become more familiar with the U.S. and its government.

MARIANAS MEAT EXPORTS

Mariana Islands meat exporters and inspectors are reminded of regulations governing meat exports to Guam, according to a memorandum by Dr. William B. Smith, Chief of Animal Health Service, Agriculture Division, Department of Resources and Development.

All meat for export must be slaughtered in accordance with chapter 10, Agriculture Regulations Governing the Inspection of Meat Prepared for Export from the Trust Territory.

In order for meat - 50 pounds or less - to enter Guam, the shipper must obtain an import permit from the Government of Guam Agriculture Department. No TT inspection or certificates are required. For amounts over 50 pounds, the meat must be processed in an approved slaughterhouse on Rota, Saipan or Tinian and be accompanied by a TT Certificate of Inspection. The shipper must also obtain an import permit from the Government of Guam Agriculture Department. Import permits from the Guam Department of Agriculture may be obtained through the mail. Blank copies are available at Dr. Smith's office on Saipan.

DEPUTY HICOM RETURNS

TT Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman returned to Saipan during the week of March 12, from an extended trip, during which he visited American Samoa, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C. attending a number of meetings of importance to the Trust Territory.

In American Samoa, Coleman represented the TT at the Pacific Islands Development Conference, which consists of the chief executives of Guam, Hawaii, American Samoa, and the TT. The primary item discussed at the Conference was the ways in which the marine resources of the four member areas can be exploited to the benefit of all. Another area of mutual cooperation discussed was tourism. A recommendation that local participation in tourism development is necessary for the success of the industry was introduced.

From the American Samoa meeting, Coleman traveled to Honolulu for a lengthy meeting concerning the rehabilitation of Marshall Islands' Eniwetok Atoll; the cleanup of the atoll and the preparation of an environmental impact statement on that cleanup.

In Washington, D.C., the Deputy HiCom met with Interior Department officials and with officials from other government departments. He discussed further the Eniwetok rehabilitation project; he met with Agriculture Department officials on the question of obtaining permission to export TT pork products to Guam; and he also met with staff members of the U.S. office of Management and Budget concerning the ceiling on the Trust Territory budget for fiscal year 1974.

NOW, BRIEFLY, HERE ARE SOME OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST WHICH MADE NEWS DURING THE WEEK:

A brush fire almost swept through the entire island of Pagan in the northern Marianas, damaging about 75% of the island's staple crops. The fire began March 11 and because of lack of fire fighting equipment, it was allowed to burn itself out, which it did March 14. The island's only village was not affected by the fire.

Water barges may be soon obtained from the Navy in Guam. The barges would be used to haul water to TT districts suffering from severe water shortages.

Truk's Farmers Exhibition Day, scheduled for the latter part of March, has been cancelled, because of lack of rain in the district had resulted in scanty farm crops.

A study grant has been awarded to a Honolulu consulting firm for the development of the Yap Airport Master Plan. The grant is TT Government, Federal Aviation Administration-funded.

The Captain and two of the sailors from the M/V Pacific Paul have filed an appeal with the TT High Court on Saipan to reverse a decision handed down about a year ago in Palau District. The sailors charge that the decision of the case is invalid, since the alleged crimes were committed on the high seas, and therefore no TT court has jurisdiction.

A Masters Degree Program in Public Administration sponsored by the University of Oklahoma for TT Government employees and other interested individuals has begun. Those TT persons participating in the Program will be taking the course at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam from March 26th through March 31st. It is planned that a center be established on Saipan, so that Micronesian students need not leave the TT to undertake the program.

The third Pan Am charter flight direct from Tokyo to Saipan landed at Saipan's Kobler Airfield March 12, carrying 149 passengers. The 707 jet, the largest to land in the TT, will return to Saipan March 16 with another Japanese group.

The TT Personnel Board met on Saipan for three days to review the results of hearings conducted in the various districts regarding employment procedures.

A select committee of four, chosen by the Executive Committee of the Marianas Popular Party, plans to study and revise the constitution and by-laws of the Popular Party. The committee will also study the possibility of changing the party's name.

The periodic conference of district communications officers and district station chiefs is scheduled to begin on Saipan during the week of March 19. Attending the conference will be Mike Willett and Esikar Haimin of Truk; Simsak Jack and Magoto Kishigawa of Ponape; Kodep Iyong and Saburo Antonino of Palau; Lloyd Griffiths and Javier Kubney from Yap; and Ridolf Aliven and Earl Inks from the Marshalls.

TT Department of Resources and Development Director Wyman X. Zachary underwent minor corrective surgery March 12 on Saipan.

The Office of the High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston has received a total of 26 house bills and 32 senate bills as of March 15. To date, only one bill has been signed into law of the 63 bills passed during the 1973 regular session of the Congress of Micronesia.

Tobias F. Aguon, Communications Operations Supervisor, Saipan; Austin Albert, Supervising Nurse, Kusaie; and Tatsuo Adachi, Statistical Analyst presently working on the 1973 Trust Territory Census have been selected as the latest recipients of Trust Territory Government cash incentive awards for outstanding work.