

Editorial

That War Park.....

Everytime there is a new announcement out of the Marianas Political Status Talks about a plan, or a policy for the Northern Marianas, there is also a few raised eyebrows on Guam. It may be partially envy, because the people of Guam never had the opportunity to sit down and discuss these things with the U.S. government. It might be partially a feeling of good-will towards our northern neighbors, to see they are coming out so well on the negotiations for their political future.

The latest item to surface was the United States' disclosure that it would like to develop a World War II memorial park near Saipan's harbor area. This commemoration of the war dead reportedly was envisioned as a "living memorial" centering around creation areas, pools, an arboretum and tropical gardens—all open to the public.

The site for the proposed memorial park is part of a 640 acre parcel of U.S. military retention land, half of which the U.S. offered to return for the new Marianas government for harbor development. The park would encompass the bulk of the remaining 320 acres although few details have yet been given. During the previous round of talks the Marianas delegation strongly objected to the U.S. keeping this area for contingency military purposes. It was even suggested by the Marianas delegation that the park idea could be a "compromise" for the Saipanese having lost the nearby Micro Beach to the new Continental Hotel. A suit critical of the T.T. administration for having leased that public beach is now set for an appeal hearing before the U.S. ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Jan. 16. However, other observers have pointed out that the hotel, nearing completion, is far enough back from the beach that it won't be "lost" to the Saipanese at all.

While we on Guam think that the war park idea is an excellent one, especially if it includes recreational areas, pools, arboretums, and tropical gardens, we recall that the U.S. Parks Department has been talking about a War In the Pacific Park on Guam for many years—and that it has never got beyond the talking stages.

It is worthwhile—even necessary—to preserve these battleground sites, especially in view of the fact that most of the visitors to the islands are Japanese. Hopefully, it will be a continuing reminder of the futility of war, and a fitting memorial to those who died there. Americans, Guamanians, Micronesians and Japanese. Look at Gettysburg as an example of a battlefield monument, or the popularity of the Arizona in Pearl Harbor as a tourist attraction. But more than just a place for visitors to congregate, we think it is important that the war parks be developed to commemorate the idea of peace in the Pacific for ever.

We will watch the U.S. proposal for the war park in Saipan with great interest, while prodding the U.S. for some sort of equal attention towards the proposed Guam park. We're starting to get that orphan complex—and maybe it's about time that we stopped thinking in terms of what mother U.S. can do for us, and decided to do something on our own terms.

Voice Of The People

Dear Editor:  
*An open letter to Carlos G. Camacho, Governor of Guam*

I am fed up and sick and tired of walking around cars parked on sidewalks and being forced to walk in gutters and vehicular traffic at risk of life and limb, due to your negligence and your failure to properly enforce the laws of Guam you swore to uphold.

You replied to me over three years ago, on October 22, 1970, in response to my written complaint to you of September 30, 1970, concerning cars parked on sidewalks:

"You are indeed correct in stating that Section 23132(9) of the Government Code of Guam prohibits the parking or leaving of a vehicle, whether attended or not, on a sidewalk.

"By a copy of this letter I am asking the Director of Public Safety to remind his department's officers of this law and to seek compliance with it."

By such a wishy-washy request and reminder — and since when are laws and orders enforced by reminders and requests — it is understandable why the violation has persisted through 1971, 1972 and 1973, despite scores and scores of complaints filed in the Department of Public Safety, by telephone and visits to its office during the past three years.

All big things begin with little things. Ten dimes make a dollar,

—on both sides of Third Street, West, in front of the Metropolitan Press and at the side of Moylan's Auto Co. and its Hernan Cortes Street sidewalk used as a motor repair shop.

— on Soledad Street, in front of Quan's Apparel, the Hong Kong Hotel, the Jonton Enterprises.

— on Martyr Street, in front of the Guam Power Authority, the sidewalk at the rear of the Bank of America, in front of the Chase Manhattan Bank, the Pacific Daily News.

—on Fifth Street, West, at the side of the Agana Theater, despite its large parking area in the rear of the building.

The parking on sidewalks is not due to lack of parking spaces in the vehicular rights-of-way. In almost every instance, there has been available within twenty or thirty feet of walking, a space to park a car, but some people are just too lazy to walk that distance. It is impossible to believe that anyone holding a valid driver's license has the temerity to drive up to an establishment's front door and park. But you are the one to blame, Governor.

In response to complaints, Desk Sergeants have replied, "I'll send a patrol car right over," evidently immediately forgetting the issue, and the violations continue. Again, Governor, you are to blame.

In a walk to town this morning, a white sedan, license number 14961 was parked on

and parked adjacent to the yellow curb, another violation, and soon all over Agana every day.

Perhaps the fact that the island appears crumby — and there's no disputing that — gives license to parking cars on sidewalks.

It's all a vicious circle, just as, an individual remarked a few days ago at the Metropolitan Press, regarding his car parked on the sidewalk, "Moylan parks his cars on the sidewalk, so why shouldn't I?" Do those who work for the Government of Guam have executive clemency?

It takes perhaps fifteen minutes for a patrol car to get to a car parked on a sidewalk and serve a citation. A few of those during one week would, no doubt, teach the violators the purpose of sidewalks. Or a directive to the public in your weekly or monthly column, whichever it is, in the Pacific Daily News.

When is this simple public safety procedure of clear passage on sidewalks to begin, as the first step to halt the rampant crime?

The only hope today seems to be in looking forward to the arrival of Herbert Hoover who may be able to understand fully the problem and to do something about it. God speed the day!

Very truly yours,  
/s/ Janet K. Goodwin

Dear Editor:

I would like to inform the public, especially parents whose