

PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, Thursday, March 14, 1974

New Hotel Opening In Saipan

SAIPAN (MNS) — The newest, largest, most expensive hotel in the Trust Territory, the Saipan Continental, will open to the public Friday at 8 a.m., following a brief, inter-denominational blessing and ceremony.

Although not yet fully completed, the multi-million dollar hotel will be ready to accommodate guests in 84 of its planned 184 rooms, said general manager Hank Hickock. He said the restaurant, called the Kili Terrace, and the Trade Bar also will be opened Friday. Each can seat about 200 people. Live entertainment, featuring performers from Hawaii

brought in for the occasion, will be offered in the Trader Bar.

"We will be using the period from March 15 to June 30 both to finish the hotel and to train our staff," Hickock said. "We will also train people for the grand opening of the Oceana Room, the main dining room, which will open in June."

Hickock, who formerly worked with the Palau Continental, said tours of the new hotel will be offered to the general public beginning Saturday. Persons interested in seeing the "behind the scenes" operation may call the main desk in the lobby anytime between 7 a.m. and

10 p.m. to be scheduled for a guided tour, including a ride in one of the buildings' elevators. The Continental has found the elevators to be of great interest, since they are the first on Saipan. The seven-story hotel is the tallest building anywhere in the Trust Territory.

The Saipan Continental has hired about 105 Micronesian employees so far. Hickock said the target is between 190 and 200 employees by June 30 making the hotel one of the largest private employers on Saipan.

The hotel has its own electrical power generators and water desalinization plant, capable of producing 30,000 gallons of

fresh water a day from the ocean. A 150,000 gallon storage tank is also part of the facility, and Hickock said the hotel is completely self-sufficient in both power and water up to about 80 per cent occupancy.

Hickock said there are no special plans for the opening. He said the official grand opening in about three months will include a formal celebration.

The Saipan Continental is seen as the "flagship" of the Continental Airlines hotel chain, which includes smaller hotels in Palau and Truk Districts in the Trust Territory, a hotel on Guam, and an interest in a hotel in Hawaii.