

DAILY BULLETIN

OFFICE OF SAMOAN INFORMATION

PAGO PAGO

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ASO FARAILE, FEPUARI 17, 1967

"POTENTIALLY DAMAGING" EARTHQUAKE NEAR TONGA

Reports from Apia and Washington, D.C., this morning indicated that there was a "potentially damaging" earthquake last night about 660 miles south-southwest of Samoa near Tonga. Phillipp Muller, observer-in-charge at the Apia Observatory, pinpointed the area as just west of the Tonga-Kermadec Trench between the islands of Ata in the Tonga group and Ono-i-lau in the Fiji group.

The earthquake tremors registered on seismographs around the world at 11:13 p.m. (Samoa time). No information has yet been received from the area, but the National Earthquake Information Center in Washington said the quake was "potentially damaging."

Muller said the tremors from the quake would have barely been noticeable in the Samoan islands, even if a person were on an ideal foundation at the time. But he said the Apia Observatory seismograph registered "strong tremors" for the area of the quake. The National Earthquake Information Center said the quake registered 6.5 on the Richter Scale and was probably centered deep under the earth's surface.

WALLIS ISLANDS PRINCESS SAYS U.S. HAS "EVERYTHING"

Princess Asipau Mulikihaamea, a comely 22-year-old princess from the Wallis Islands, is spending a few days in American Samoa before returning to her home after a six-month visit to the United States. She said she liked the U.S. very much, primarily because "it has everything."

The princess, who is staying with Acting Governor and Mrs. Owen S. Aspinall, was interviewed yesterday by Information Officer Tom Kaser. Mrs. Ruth Wicker, a French teacher at Fia Iloa High School, translated the princess's French to English.

"In the Wallis Islands, my friends call me just Asipau, not Princess Asipau," she said. "My father, Leone Mulikihaamea, is the king of the Wallis Islands, and I am the oldest child in the family. It is possible that someday the crown will pass to me and I will become queen, but that will depend on many things."

Princess Asipau said she is the only Wallis Islander who has ever been to the U.S. She has an adopted American brother, and she was visiting him near San Francisco. "There are many people and many cars in the United States, but I like it there very much," she said.

She explained that the Wallis Islands consist of a main island of Ouvea (Uvea on most maps) and several small islets about 350 miles west-northwest of Pago Pago. The Wallis Islands are a French territory, and they were administered from New Caledonia until 1959. Today, there are French administrators on the islands, but the island government also includes representatives of various districts of the territory.

Princess Asipau said there are about 5,000 people in the Wallis Islands. All of them are Roman Catholic, and French is the only language taught in the schools. (Mrs. Wicker said Princess Asipau "speaks the purest French I've ever heard.")

Princess Asipau will leave here Sunday to return to the Wallis Islands via New Caledonia plane connections.

COMING THEATER ANNOUNCES TRYOUTS FOR NEXT PRODUCTION

The Island Community Theater will present "Teahouse of the August Moon", April 14 and 15 at Lee Auditorium. The production is under the direction of Keith Gordon.

Tryouts for parts are scheduled for next Monday and Tuesday February 20-21 at the auditorium, and they are open to anyone, according to Sally Nelson, publicity chairman.

"Teahouse of the August Moon" is a comedy about the post-war occupation of a Pacific island by the United States Army. Because the play requires a large cast, the producers urge a good turnout of candidates for the 8 o'clock tryouts.

Volunteers are also needed for sets, lighting, props and music.

"OBSERVATION DAY" AT LEONE MIDKIFF SCHOOL FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

Seventeen junior and senior students from Leone High School, all members of the Future Teachers' Club and Senior Teachers' Aides, participated recently in "Observation Day" at Leone Midkiff Consolidated School.

Each student was assigned to an elementary teacher and helped with the classroom instruction. The students were selected on the basis of their desire to learn about the teaching profession.

All of the elementary teachers at Midkiff volunteered to have an observer-assistant, and the day's activities were planned by Mrs. Sulu A'asa, advisor of the Future Teacher's Club.

Some student observations heard at day's end were: "It was fun, but I didn't realize teachers worked so hard," and "I'd like to become a teacher. I think it is wonderful to help others learn."

Comments and questions concerning teaching as a vocation were discussed at the conclusion of the program by Principal Steven Fiet of Leone Midkiff, Principal Jack Stoltz of Leone High School and Mrs. A'asa.

NU'UULI MAN INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

A 25-year-old Nu'uuli man is in satisfactory condition at the Hospital of American Samoa after a car which he was driving struck a telephone pole in Nu'uuli Wednesday.

Tikeri Uikilifi was taken to the hospital by ambulance and was admitted shortly after noon. He suffered multiple scrapes of the left knee, according to Harold Bernshock, hospital administrator.

NEW INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL FOR TAHITI

NEW YORK (UPI) -- A new Polynesian-styled hotel operated by Intercontinental Hotels will be built in Tahiti, it was announced by Jean Sicurani, governor of French Polynesia, and John B. Gates, chairman of Intercontinental Hotels.

The French government, Pan American Airways and the French UTA Airline will help finance the \$5 million hotel, which is to be built on ten levels down the side of historic Taharua Point where Captain Cook landed in 1767.

Intercontinental will provide technical advice with respect to the design plans, and will supervise the interior design.

The architectural firm for the new hotel is the same which designed the Hotel Intercontinental in Pago Pago.

The new hotel is scheduled to open in 1969.
