

**DAILY
BULLETIN**

OFFICE OF SAMOAN INFORMATION

PAGO PAGOTHURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1967
ASO TOFI, APERILA 6, 1967GALE FORCE WINDS LASH MARATHON RAINSTORM INTO FRESH FURY

Gale force winds lashed Tutuila's marathon rainstorm into a fury last night, disrupting electric power and communications lines, tearing loose tree branches, along with raising havoc in general.

Despite the strongest winds to hit the island in six months, weather officials saw no likelihood the storm would mount to hurricane strength.

U.S. Weather Bureau Director John Hertel said that last night's winds averaged 23 miles per hour, gusting up to a peak of 44 miles per hour at 1 o'clock this morning.

Hertel said the winds fell in the category of gale force, but far below the 70 miles per hour figure of hurricane strength. More than three inches of rain fell yesterday and up to eight o'clock this morning at the Tafuna weather station, Hertel said. This raised the official total of the almost continuous rain since last Friday night to 10 1/4 inches.

Hertel said that figure would likely run much higher in the bay area, where rain gauges have been installed on an experimental basis at the foot of Mt. Alava and at Faga'alu Reservoir. He said that not enough data had been compiled to make a meaningful comparison between the bay area rainfall and rainfall in the outlying Tafuna area.

Public Works Department Director Al Pratt said the most serious power failure came at 7:50 p.m. in the "Pago Pago-Fagasa power circuit, cutting all power from Pago Pago west and north to Fagasa.

Two other minor power failures occurred, but power was quickly restored.

Meanwhile, Pratt warned that unless the public ceases making needless and abusive phone calls to the night telephone operator during power failures, a communications crisis could result.

Pratt said that after 4 p.m., trouble desk calls are automatically referred to the night operator. The night operator has instructions to log routine trouble calls for appropriate referral in the morning. However, all emergency calls are promptly referred to Maintenance and Operations Director Jim Lee or to Pratt.

Pratt said the night operator was inundated with a barrage of telephone calls, most of them senseless and needless, to the point where someone with a genuine emergency call could not get through to her.

"We are anxious and willing to restore power as quickly as we can, but we must have the cooperation of the public," Pratt said. "This venting of frustration on a woman telephone operator accomplishes nothing and conceivably could cause severe harm."

Pratt said the longer power failure in the Pago Pago-Fagasa leg could be explained by his refusal to send crews up the mountain in the dark, and in the face of blinding wind and rain. He said a workman could stumble across a downed line and be electrocuted.

TV FOR TONIGHT; CHANNEL 2: (7:00) Friendly Giant (7:15) News (Samoan) (7:31) McHale's Navy: "One of Our Engines" (7:57) Soifua Fa'a Samoa (8:22) Wide World Of Sports

CHANNEL 4: (7:00) News (English) (7:16) Friendly Giant (7:31) Lucy Show: "Lucy Is a Soda Jerk" (7:57) People: "John Hanning" (8:17) Bonanza: "Half a Rogue" (9:07) N.E.T. What Happened Up There? (10:00) News (English).

GOVERNOR LEE FIELDS QUESTIONS FROM LEGISLATURE

Governor Lee appeared before the Legislature of American Samoa yesterday and today to field a number of questions that have obviously been on the legislators' minds for several weeks.

The governor prefaced the question-and-answer period with general remarks about American Samoa's role in the Pacific Air Routes Case. He recommended that the Legislature authorize an additional \$10,000 for continued American Samoa representation in the case by a U.S. Justice Department lawyer currently on leave.

"If we fail to substantially increase air service to, from among the Samoan islands, Samoa will wither on the vine economically," he said.

The questioning included an inquiry about the possibility of lowering electricity charges. Governor Lee said the only hope for doing this would be in lowering the expense of fuel oil, which is needed in abundance to drive the electrical generators.

He said the government has aggressively looked into the possibilities of having another oil company in American Samoa, to compete against Standard Oil. He said several companies are interested -- and most of them could provide oil at a cheaper price, but it would be difficult for them to get started here.

"Standard Oil is very well established here, and these new companies feel they would have to overcome some very large initial obstacles before they could settle into a competitive position with Standard Oil," the governor said.

Governor Lee stressed the need for a 60-room addition to the Pago Pago Intercontinental Hotel. "This body should consider whether the people of American Samoa want to raise the initial equity," he said. He added that financial help is available in the U.S.

The governor also requested that the Legislature consider appropriating at least \$25,000 for additional tourist promotion. The funds are needed, he said, "if Samoa is to win its share of the tourist industry."

"REPORT TO PEOPLE" TONIGHT WILL TELL ABOUT WEATHER TRAINING PROJECT

A special television "Report to the People" program on the meteorological technician training school project will be broadcast live tonight at 8 o'clock.

An explanation of the planned project to train eight Samoan weather technicians to replace palagi technicians at the U.S. Weather Bureau Station at Tafuna will be given.

Appearing on the program will be John Hertel, director of the weather bureau at Tafuna, and John Norris, regional director of the Environmental Science Services Administration in Honolulu. Norris is here to coordinate details of the weather training project.

"Report to the People" will be shown on both Channels 2 and 4, following McHale's Navy and Lucy Shows. The live program will be presented both in Samoan and English.

PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN WINS 30-YEAR SERVICE CERTIFICATE

A longtime employee of the Public Works Department now has two citations framed in his file at Nu'uuli. General Foreman Leo Tafua of the Construction Division was presented a 30-year service.

Deputy Director Matt Oliver made the presentation to Tafua in the presence of the latter's supervisor, Dick Melcher, assistant director of public works for construction. Ten years ago, Tafua received a 20-year certificate.

Both executives extended their congratulations and expressed the warm gratitude of the entire department for Tafua's long and loyal service.

Tafua joined the PWD as a \$324.48-per-year laborer in 1934 and has been with the department ever since except for a two-year interval.

The Nu'uuli man steadily gained promotions, and on July 24 of last year was promoted to the position of general foreman.

Tafua is married and has two children, one of whom is going to college in San Francisco, California.