VOL 43 NUMBER 72

SEPT. 16, 2003

THE KWAJALEIN HOUR GLASS

Special Archaeology Issue

Researching Roi's relics

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(Photo by KW Hillis)

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Writer goes to the past and back again
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U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands
www.smdc.army.mil/KWAJ/Hourglass/hourglass.html

Roi trip takes writer into past; desecration brings her back

As I stepped off the plane I felt my self being transported back in time. This was my first visit to Roi-Namur and suddenly everything turned black and white; I could hear gun fire off in the distance and the roar of planes as they passed over head.

As I glanced around I could see Japanese running for cover and American amphibious vehicles storming the beaches.

I was momentarily transported back to Jan. 31, 1944, the invasion of Roi-Namur.

Roi-Namur, the battle for control of the Kwajalein Atoll marked the turn of the Japanese influence in the south Pacific.

This was a place of fierce fighting and a great loss of life. Yet now amidst the calm trade winds and swaying palm the only signs left from the battle, stand silent, waiting to tell the story of what happened within the crumbling walls of what was once a Japanese strong hold.

Bunkers, Quonset huts, the Japanese Commander's Headquarters, the last remnants of a battle waged almost 60 years ago.

As I stood in front of the deteriorating, Japanese Commander's Headquarters I was overwhelmed by what must have taken place there, and yet now the building's crumbling walls will take with them the secrets of what happened on Roi-Namur.

Next to the headquarters stands a bunker, riddled with the long past assault.

As I stooped to enter the bunker the damp stale air filled my nostrils and again everything turned black and white. I could hear soldiers' screams as the American air attack pounded the island.

As I looked around the bunker I could hear the whispers of the dying soldiers as they gasped for breath in the confines of what was soon to be their tomb.

Suddenly, I was thrust back to reality by a single item lying on the floor – a beer can on the floor of the bunker. This wasn't remains of soldiers fighting for their lives this was a rude awaking of modern day litter.

I was filled with a sense of disgust at the desecration of a piece of history.

As I left the bunker, I traveled on to the next piece of standing history, a gun turret, placed in a strategic location, intended to hold off invading forces. I bent to view the inside and again I was confronted with the desecration of yet another tribute to the war.

Teak paneling covered the walls as late as 1994. Only concrete remained, and there on the floor, yet another beer can.

Does anyone realize that men fought and died for what they believed in, inside these walls, and yet someone thought so this little of this piece of history that not only would they use it for a garbage can but strip the walls of the original materials?

As I traveled from one historical building to another I was inspired by what must have happened within the walls so many years ago, but also enraged by the vandalism and looting.

Words spray painted on the walls, like "bunker," names scrawled on the walls, pieces of history torn from the walls, garbage strewn around the floors.

What are people thinking? What would drive them to desecrate a piece of history, our history, for not only Japanese, but also Americans and Marshallese who died within these walls.

It culminated in a wave of anger, frustration and sorrow when there in the jungle, rising out of vines and debris stands a magnificent building where men from the Japanese and later the American military lived, worked and rested. Spray

(See HISTORICAL, page 3)

Marshallese Word of the Day

maat — gone or no more

The Kwajalein Hourglass

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Public Affairs Officer ...LuAnne Fantasia
Editor .....Jim Bennett
Assistant Editor ..... KW Hillis
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The *Hourglass* is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb 4, 1944.

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Buckminster and Friends

by Sabrina Mumma

Author learns of war and humanity on Kwaj in 1945

By KW Hillis
Associate Editor

Memories of learning how to survive in the Navy on a boomerang-shaped island in the middle of Pacific during World War II, of growing up in Illinois and Japan, and of meeting the enemy face-to-face and becoming lifelong friends, all rub elbows in the new novel "Spam Cans, Rice Balls and Pearls, Snippets of Memory from World War II."

"That experience changed my life to the extent that I tend not to criticize other cultures 'until I walk a mile in their moccasins', as the Indians would say," wrote author and WWII Navy veteran Bruce Muench in an Aug. 6 e-mail.

This novel, part biographical and part fiction, is simply, "a story of two young men from opposite sides of the Pacific, how they happened to meet and what they said to each other," Muench writes in the prologue.

But it isn't a simple story and it definitely isn't a blood and guts story of war heroics. The story covers Muench's life and the life and family of Japanese WWII Navy veteran, Akio Yamazaki, with the emphasis being the two, former enemies, meeting on Kwajalein during the war crime trials in 1945.

As punishment for being out of uniform when reporting to an officer, Muench was assigned to accompany Yamazaki, a former Japanese sailor pressed into service as an interrupter, back and forth from Carlson Island for the trials.

Before the characters meet, the reader is introduced to each as they grew up on different sides of the Pacific. Muench fills the reader in on the main characters, their families, friends and the mood and happenings of the time leading up to WWII.

Although this flow of events does make the reader re-check the last chapter's when and where more than once, understanding how the main characters change is enhanced by forays into the social customs and restrictions they were subjected to as children. This technique works to build the central theme, the maturing of young men who are growing into a more complete understanding of war, humanity and friendship.

"The central theme of the book is the 'coming of age' of an American teenager during the war, including my acquiring a larger vision of what other people, who we regard as foreign, are really like," Muench wrote.

The title of the book refers to Muench's memories. The "Pearls" refers to Yamazaki family business, while "Spam Cans" refers to the main food sailors ate on Kwajalein. Then they used the cans to collect shells on Kwajalein's beaches.

"I'm convinced [collecting shells] was great therapy and a prescription for our mental health," he said in the book. "It helped to keep me from going 'rock happy' with boredom on this remote island to which we had been abandoned for what it seemed was becoming an eternity."

While the events were biographical and most of the book's inhabitants real, some of the characters, especially Akio Yamazaki and his family members, are amalgamations of Japanese people Muench met over the years.

"I did meet a real, live Japanese interpreter while on Kwajalein during the war crimes trial being held there," Muench wrote. "His name was not Akio, but he did go to the University of California. Much of what I discussed about Akio is actually from correspondence with another Japanese man, who was a Christian and served in the Japanese military during WWII.

"When I discussed Akio from his standpoint, [it] was what would likely have happened to my counterpart if he were serving in the Japanese Naval Intelligence," he wrote. "Much of what happened to 'Akio's family,' actually happened to other Japanese people with whom I have corresponded [with] over the years."

Muench wrote the book, which was published in 2002, when "I heard on TV that over half the veterans of World War II were gone … and that we should record our experience for our progeny."

Although he hasn't been back to Kwajalein since he left in 1946, he has been in touch with others who have lived here.

"I would like to go back to Kwaj to see what it's like after 55 years," he wrote. "I would especially like to talk with the natives in a one-on-one basis."

As to what he learned about war, Muench said, "War and military service is not heroics. It's boredom and drudgery mostly. That's my considered opinion. Most movies and war books are misleading in that respect, except for a few."

A professional aquatic biologist, Muench is also a member of the Rockford Writers Guild and the National Writers Association. He has written many magazine and newspaper articles and two other books, "Stick Your Head Under the Surface" and "A Place to Look and See Yourself." Between 1997- 2002, he had 32 poems published and won a Silver Award for his poetry and has won awards for his photography.

Muench lives with his wife in Roscoe, Ill. He has four children and eight grandchildren.

Historical buildings represent endangered resource ...

(From page 2)

painted on the front, "Roi Painters."

What would we think if someone desecrated the Lincoln Memorial or the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or a hometown cemetery, yet the thoughtless acts of vandalism, littering and looting of these crumbling World War II historical buildings seem to be normal, acceptable behavior?

What is left in the Kwajalein Atoll of the Japanese occupation and the WWII battle is slowly losing ground to not only the elements but the destructive behaviors of mankind.

The buildings, and historical artifacts, which surface from time to time, are a limited resource. The buildings will not replenish themselves; they will not reproduce. This is a part of history that will someday become extinct.

The buildings will ultimately meet the same fate as their builders, but they should be able to go with dignity, not cluttered with 21st century litter and tagged by some overzealous spray-paint artist or torn apart as a personal collection.

This is our history. This is our past.

Do we remember our fallen heroes with respect or reproach?

Archaeologist studies Roi's historical sites

By Jan Waddell
Reporter

The Japanese Commander's Headquarters, located on Roi-Namur, was once an emblem of strength, leadership and pride, but time, age and elements are quickly wiping it from the landscape.

"The buildings have substantially deteriorated over the past 10 years," said Leslie Mead, environmental scientist-archaeologist. "It (the Commander's Headquarters building) will collapse in five years." Mead said, "The salt and sea-spray are detrimental to the buildings. The columns will go first and then the roof will just fall in. Two years ago there was only one missing pillar."

Mead has been interested in archeology since she was six-years-old, going on her first dig at 17 and studying at Washington Unviersity and Boston University. This is her second time in the Marshall Islands. She worked for the Republic of the Marshall Islands in 2000 and 2001.

The demise of the remaining pieces of history on Roi-Namur started on Jan. 31, 1944 when the 4th Marine Division carried out Operation Flintlock, which was the U.S. invasion of Roi and Namur.

In the three-day battle 3,472 Japanese along with 190 U.S. Marines lost their lives.

What remains today are a few of the concrete structures which the Japanese erected during their occupation of the Marshall Islands and some of the American Quonset huts erected after the U.S. forces took control of the islands.

"The ground-battle was preceded by over-whelming airpower," Mead said.

The second largest non-atomic explosions happened when the Americans hit a torpedo storage facility on Namur, according to Mead. The crater, left from the explosion, still mars the landscape, even though the local foliage has reclaimed and obscured some of the crater.

The Japanese Commander's Headquarters is one of the few remaining structures which will soon become just a memory in history. This building became the American headquarters, after the Japanese were defeated on Roi.

The battle scars have aided to advance the corrosion of this building, allowing the elements to corrode what is left standing.

When the rebar is exposed to the elements it then starts to rust and corrode. The corrosion process continues within the concrete walls, even though the rebar is not exposed, and then the concrete starts the spalling process in which pieces of concrete pop-off around the corroding rebar.

This would be the first building set for rehab if possible, said Floyd Corder, Roi-Namur Operations manager.

Corder has been actively preserving the history or Roi-Namur. He has digitized pictures, many of which were taken from the Roi battle, and enlarged them, hanging them on the airport walls, as reminders of the battle history. He also has documented stories from many of the Marshallese who had family members in the battle.

"We are losing a lot of the history because the older people are passing away," Corder said. "The history and the stories from the elderly Marshallese and veterans make these structures. Without one the other is less."

(Photo by KW Hillis)

Archaeologist Leslie Mead views the Japanese Headquarters that could deteriorate and cave in within the next five years.

Mead's current projects, on Roi and Kwajalein, are to evaluate the historical structures and document historic artifacts on both islands. She is currently documenting the spalling of the structures and mapping structure-cracks.

"The commander's structure can't be restored," Mead said. "Every single large structure (on Roi) needs to have a fence around it. They are extremely dangerous to go inside. They could go at anytime."

People shouldn't be climbing around the structures, said Corder. It is extremely dangerous to either be on them or enter them, he stressed.

Plants can act as protection, but if the plants begin to grow into the building surface or on the top of structures then this adds to the deterioration of the structure.

According to Corder all attempts are being made to keep the plants from encroaching into the buildings.

"All we can do is keep the area clean and let nature take its course," Corder said.

Mead recommends a vegetation-screen be placed about 20 feet from the existing structures. She explains, it will help with slowing down the deterioration process, but not stop it entirely.

"All I can do is completely document the structures deterioration and then let them rot," Mead added.

"The buildings cannot be restored with concrete patches because modern concrete is not compatible with the concrete that the Japanese used," Mead said. "What happens is the modern patch forms what is called a cold joint with the Japanese concrete. This patch will fail within 10 years. The cold joint will allow water to seep in. The patch will gap away from the older Japanese concrete, often taking the original building fabric with it. Essentially, at best it is not a long-term solution and at worst it will make the situation worse.

"The fact really is that the concrete the Japanese used in the construction of the buildings was essentially a preservation, ticking, time bomb," Mead said. "The salt water used in the mixture along with the beach sand and coral are all salt-laden. Salt is an enemy of concrete. Without serious continuous maintenance,

since the day they were built, these structures cannot survive in the corrosive environment of the Marshall Islands. Given the battle related damage to the structures, it is highly unlikely that even if continuous maintenance had been performed, since battle, the structures might be in slightly better condition, but they would still be deteriorating at an accelerated rate."

Another structure which is very unstable is the Seabee Headquarters, which is also referred to as the "Underground Hospital."

The structure is a series of interconnected semi-subterranean Quonset huts. This is a very unstable structure, due to the fact it is semi-buried; this adds to a very unstable environment. These structures may appear to be stable but they could collapse at any minute.

"The Japanese structures are my high priority," Mead said. "We do not know when they will go."

Currently Mead has located 120 structures, both Japanese and American. She estimates it will take about 10 years to document all the cracks in the current known structures, but adds that she finds new structures all the time.

According to Mead the structures are deteriorating at such a rapid rate documenting them will show the progression of deterioration when they are again assessed in the future.

Archaeologist Leslie Mead and *Hourglass* reporter Jan Waddell inspect a bunker.

(Photo by KW Hillis)

(Photo by KW Hillis)

Archaeologist Leslie Mead looks inside a bunker where concrete has broken away from the rebar frame.

Mead said it takes one to three hours to do a condition assessment on one building. She is trying to complete a condition assessment on each known building by the end of the year.

The second stage she will have to complete is a Historic Structure report which is more detailed. This report details every crack and documents the entire history and archeology of each structure and the surrounding grounds. Each structure takes about two to three weeks to document at this level.

"My goal is to have at least three done by the end of this year," Mead said.

Another one of the major problems which Mead faces is vandalism of the structures.

"Moisture and vandalism is the basic demise (of the structures)," Mead said.

In one of the 13mm gun turrets, the inner walls were paneled with teakwood. According to Mead the paneling was still in the structure in 1994 and now it is gone.

"Unless the looting stops what is going to happen is the sites will be fenced off or buried," Mead said. "A tremendous amount of history will be made inaccessible."

The Archeological Resource Protection Agency, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll and the RMI protect historical sites.

Removing items from or vandalizing historical sites are strictly prohibited by USAKA regulations. If historic items are taken out of the Marshall Islands the RMI can impose a $10,000 fine and/or jail time in Majuro. It is also a U.S. violation to enter the United Sates with artifacts.

Mead said, if anyone has any artifacts, she will advise them as to how to handle it.

"What I am after is not the artifact," Mead said. "What I am after is the information. There is so much I want to know about the island and its history. Every single person who PCSs off this island, whether they left with a collection (artifacts) or not, they left with information," she added.

Mead said if anyone has found artifacts she will accept them or at least would like the information about where they were found.

"People need to be more educated about archeological resources," Mead said. "I want the information badly. I am interested in information and I will give advice. The 'Roi Rats' probably know where all the buildings are."

Mead not only documents the structures on Roi-Namur, but enjoys the historical element which these structures add to the landscape.

"There are two machine gun emplacements on the beach," Mead said. "I love them. They represent the Japanese era and the American era in the history of Roi-Namur. They are incredibly beautiful at sunrise and sunset."

Mead also said that if anyone is interested in seeing the historical structures on Roi or Kwajalein she would be glad to take them on a tour.

"There will never be another (WWII) battle of Roi-Namur," Mead said. "This makes it a limited resource. Is it OK that I take the last remaining trace?"

HELP WANTED

KRS has the following on-island job opening. Unless otherwise noted, call Alan Taylor, 55154:

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER. Provide supervision and instruction in the absence of the regular classroom teacher. Organizational skills and structure are a prerequisite. Teaching certification preferred, but not required. Childcare clearance.

CAFE PACIFIC NUTRITIONIST. Plan, organize and implement nutritional policies and guidelines for all Food Service Operations. Provide nutitional input for menu production and recipes, monitor and maintain proper sanitation in accordance with TB Med 520 guidelines, oversee production of salad room and perform other related duties as required. Four years of experience and a BS in nutrition is needed.

SUPPLY CATALOGER. Originate and maintain catalog records in MIMS. Includes screening of Requests for Stockage, assignment of Item Name Codes, creating standardized item names based upon Auslang nomenclature discipline, developing item descriptions and colloquials, researching manufacturer part numbers, identifying standardized units of purchase, defining units of issue; implementing initial inventory control levels and strong customer support and interface. Other duties as tasked. Marshallese and English fluency is a plus.

CYS ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. Part time. Perform duties under the general directions of the youth activities director. Serves as an assistant youth director with responsibility for operation of the youth center and other youth activities programs. Requires childcare clearance.

CYS HOMEWORK CENTER LEAD. Part time. Serves as lead associate in the SAS homework center. Develops relationships with parents, school and other CYS program associates. Plans homework center program and supports classroom teachers. Requires childcare clearance.

CYS TECHNOLOGY LAB ASSISTANT. Part time. Serves as assistant to the CYS technology lead. Conducts activities under the lead's direction. Must have good working knowledge of computers and be able to assist in troubleshooting hardware, printers and software. Requires childcare clearance.

MS/TEEN HOMEWORK CENTER ASSISTANT. Part time. Serves as assistant to homework and technology lead. Supervises the middle school/teen homework center and program. Works closely with school staff, parents and other CYS associates. Plans appropriate activities under direction of leads. Requires childcare clearance.

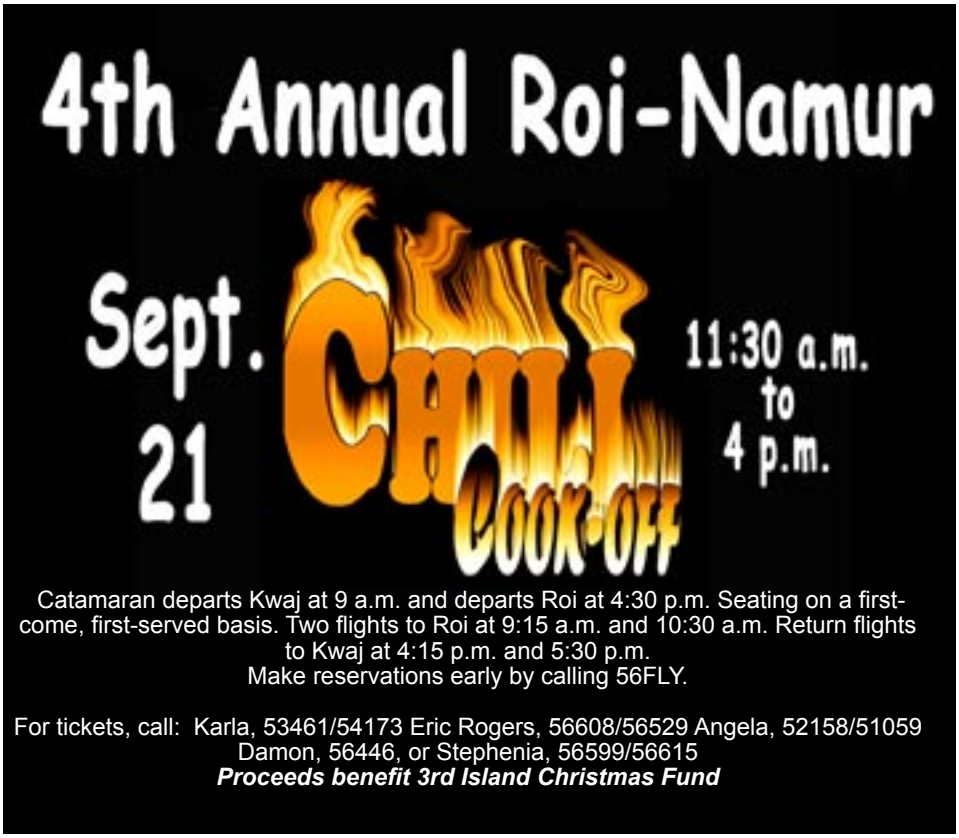
USAKA/RTS has the following job vacancy. For job information, call Cris Foster, 54417. Access on-line at http://www.cpol.army.mil.

INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT Specialist, G-1103-13, USASMDC Contracts and Acquisition Management Office, Contracts Site Operations, with duty station Kwajalein. Announcement No. SCBK03367907. Open Sept. 4-18.

The following job vacancy is part time. For job information, call Linda Hinote, 58086 before noon.

BARTENDERS needed for the Vets Hall. Call Linda at 58086, before noon.

A WATER OUTAGE
is scheduled for Sept. 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. along Lagoon Road from 8th street to the Small Boat Marina. The existing 8" underground water line that crosses the New Cold Storage Driveway needs to be rerouted and adjusted. Work will be coordinated to the authorizing agency involved.
Sorry for any inconvenience.



WANTED

BASS, BRASS and back up vocals for SASS, Kwaj's only girl band. If you are female and interested in fun music, call Sheri, 52725 or Mary, 52771.

COLOR TV, 20" or plus. Call 52308.

SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR, HP 32S II handheld. Call Dawn, 52515.

LOST

WIRE RIM PRESCRIPTION GLASSES in black case. Lost during a trip to Roi-Namur, probably in the terminal or on the metroliner. Reward. Call 50734.

BOY'S SLIDES SHOES, blue with three white stripes, at the Cub Scout meeting at the family pool. Call 52654.

LADIES PRESCRIPTION GLASSES with brown frames, Sunday night. Call 54169.

CHILD'S PRESCRIPTION eyeglasses, tan, metal-framed in hardshell case. Second empty case lost at the same time, Monday, Sept. 1. Call Mary, 51031.

SCOOTER. Aluminum with red wheels and the name "Beckler" on the bottom. Taken from a three-wheeled bike basket parked at the dock bike parking lot. Please return to Tr. 706 or call 53633. No questions asked.

FOUND

PRESCRIPTION GLASSES in West Marine eye glass case found on Lagoon Road. Call 53511.

FOR SALE

CRYSTAL DECANTER, nine ounce tumblers, electric make-up mirror, child's bike helmet, size five prom dresses, Samsonite hard-sided suitcase, soft-sided carry on. Call 52197.

LOVESEAT, beautiful chenille fabric, excellent condition, $300. Call 54322.

LA-Z-BOY ROCKER recliner, only used to watch Monday football, brown, mint condition, $400. Call 52594, leave a message.

NIKON D1 with lens, commercial professional digital camera with new battery, charger and 256K flash memory card, good condition, will sell for $2000. Call Tim, 52643.

PORTABLE DISHWASHER, new in box with butcher block top, $500; two bar stools, $25 each; child seat for bike, new in box, $45; child's helmet, size up to 15 months, new in box, $25; Medela 2003 Pump-in-style breast pump with battery pack, $125. Call

Toy sale

Sept 22-27

10% off all toys

AT MACY"S
STARTING MONDAY

51175.

BLOCK TOP DISHWASHER, good condition, $200; assorted plants; chest freezer, $300. Call 53633.

PHOTO SCANNER, brand new, Epson Perfection 1660, $90; boy's 24" bike with basket, fenders, custom paint, never used, fully assembled, $150; carry-on roller suitcase used one time; brand new 20" low rider bicycle with many extras, very unique, $225. Call 52306 after work or leave a message.

AQUARIUM, 55-gallon with stand and accessories, $750; two chaise style plastic patio chairs, $20 each. Call 53364W or 52295H before 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

NEED RETAIL ITEMS? Have a comment about Ten-Ten, Macy's, Macy's West, or Gimbel's? E-mail *Retail@kls.usaka.smdc.army.mil.*

INSURANCE ID CARD required from patients at the time of serivce by Kwajalein Hospital. Card must be presented in order to file claims with your insurance company. Due to the high volume of denied insurance claims, we must have proof of insurance. Patients can expect to pay for medical services if proof is not supplied.

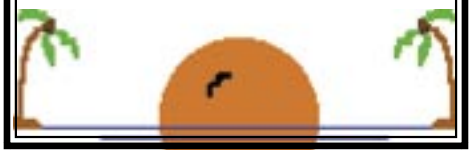
SHAVING CREAM SOCIAL is Friday Oct. 21 at the family pool for kids grades kindergarten through 12. We will provide the shaving cream. Kindergarten through 12th grade, 4:15-4:45 p.m.; third through sixth grade, 5:00-5:30 p.m.; seventh through 12th grade, 5:45-6:15 p.m.

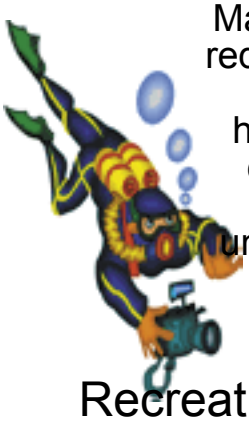
Cafe Pacific

Hawaiian Luau Sunday Brunch

Sept. 21

Kalua Pork & Cabbage - Hawaiian Lau Lau
Chicken Long Rice - Charbroiled Mahi Mahi
Teriyaki Beef Steak - Lomi Lomi Salmon
Spam Fried Rice - Poi
Manju - Haupia





Due to Marine Dept. requirements, the hyperbaric chamber is unavailable.

Recreational diving is ***limited to 50 feet***, through Sept. 22.

KIDS COSTUME CARNIVAL is Monday Oct. 27 from 4-7 p.m. in the CRC Gym. All kids up to eighth grade are invited to come to the annual Community Activities Kids Carnival and Contest. If you would like to volunteer to help with the carnival, call Kathy, 53331. More details soon.

MANIT DAY is on Sept. 29 at the Cultural Center. We need volunteers to help. If you want to get involved and learn more about Marshallese traditions call Cris, 52935. More details soon.

THE SNACK BAR is scheduled to close at 1 p.m. on Tuesday Sept. 23 for a monthly maintenance. It will open on Wednesday at normal hours.

PARENTS AND TEACHERS, the next PTO meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. in the elementary school music room. Questions? Call Lora, 54186.

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD COUNCIL public meeting Sept. 17, 7 p.m. in the elementary school music building 342. Agenda includes introduction of new staff and SAC members, presentation of Child and Youth Services program, and approval of the current special education and home school policies for the 2003-2004 school year.

ATTENTION ALL POTTERS. It's clean up time at the Hobby Shop. Please come and claim all your bisque ware, clay, glazed pieces, clothes, shoes and tools.

LIBRARY PATRONS, from now through Sept. 29, help choose the McNaughten books ordered this month for adults, young readers, and children's books. Request forms are available at the front desk.

OUTER ISLAND CHRISTMAS DROP meeting, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. in CRC room 5. Anyone interested in helping out should attend.

RMI SHOPPING DAY is Saturday, Sept. 27. Macy's, Macy's West and Gimbel's store hours are: 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

FAMILY CHILD CARE informational meeting, Sept. 25, 7 p.m. in the elementary school music room. Stop in to find out about this opportunity. Call 52158 for details.

See you at the movies!

Wednesday

Chicago (2002, PG13) Two would be stars battle for headlines and fame from newspaper headlines.
Adult Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m

Saturday

The Hunted (1995, R) An American computer salesman becomes a marked man after witnessing a murder, while in Japan.
Yokwe Yuk Theater, 7:30 p.m.

The Good Thief (2003, R) An American thief, living in France, has the opportunity to steal a fortune in rare paintings, from a Monte Carlo casino.
Roi Namur, C Building, 7 p.m.

Lilo and Stitch (2002, G) A young Hawaiian girl befriends an unusual creature in this animated comedy.
Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday

Analyze This (1999, R) This is a comedy about a Mafia King-pin who seeks advice from a psychiatrist.
Yokwe Yuk Theater, 7:30 p.m.

House of 1000 Corpses (2002, R) A group of teens visit Captain Spaulding's museum of oddities and become obsessed with uncovering the mystery of a legendary local maniac known only as Dr. Satan.
Roi Namur, C Building, 7 p.m.

Stitch! The Movie (2003 G) This is the further adventures of Stitch with his surrogated Hawaiian family.
Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Monday

The Hunted (2003, R)
Yokwe Yuk Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Lilo and Stitch (2003, G)
Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

PRESCHOOL

PARENT WORKSHOP

"Disciplining the Heart of the Child"

Sept. 18, 7 p.m.
Elementary School Music Room
Call 52158 for details.

Archaeologist spends majority of time in research mode

By KW Hillis
Assistant Editor

Tattered, yellowing, plastic-sleeved documents, lay on a binder full of World War II-era black and white photographs on Leslie Mead's desk. The stack includes an "Arsenic and Old Lace" USO program signed by Boris Karloff, a November 1944 *Hourglass* two-page issue with an article questioning if turkeys would be available for Thanksgiving and a scanned copy of the D-Day landing instructions for Roi-Namur.

"My screen-saver says 'Indiana Jones lied," environmental-scientist and archeologist Mead said with a smile. Screen character Jones made gathering artifacts as the "be all and end all of archeology … [instead] it is about 20 percent field work and 80 percent laboratory work and documentation."

Laboratory work and documentation is definitely taking up at least 80 percent of her time. The scope of USAKA's collection is from January 1944 to the present, she said, even through everything discovered at USAKA, even if it is before that period has to at least be listed or accessioned. If the items are Marshallese artifacts and belong to the RMI, then they can be de-accessioned or taken off the list.

Mead is focused on the daunting task of first coming up with a plan for the collection scope; then assessing, researching and eventually cataloging every previously discovered, USAKA artifact, whether it is a single piece of paper or a large structure.

Although an inventory or simple listing of items exists, there isn't a catalog or complete descriptive listing of each item available which makes identifying each artifact difficult without a lot of additional research into field notes. The bulk of the history of the piece is lost when there isn't any background information.

That happens when people anonymously drop off artifacts. Sometimes she finds a pile of artifacts piled up at the beach shack she uses on Roi-Namur.

"Somebody felt guilty," she said, explaining that someone left about six WWII-era bottles and a battered canteen and bowl, part of a mess kit. She will add the items to her inventory list, but there is no background information to add, so a lot of the history the finder could provide is lost.

Instead of having one more WWII-era bottle or artifact turned in anonymously, Mead said, she would rather have the information of where it was found and what was around it. Better still would be for the finder to take her to the find and she can record it.

"[An archeologist] doesn't even need the artifacts," she said. "It is about the stratigraphy or how the site is formed and the layout of the site that yields the most information. That information is put in the field notes and if those details are not documented then much of the history is lost."

Working against time and decay to get the entire collection — there are 70 deteriorating boxes full of artifacts in a local warehouse — stored properly and then documented is interrupted with new finds.

Many days she is called to investigate and assess newly unearthed artifacts found on both islands by workmen digging at one of the myriad construction projects.

Some items pop up from unexpected sources.

The copy of the 4th Marine Division landing instructions stamped with the admonishment "RESTRICTED, NOT TO BE TAKEN ASHORE ON D-DAY," was brought to her by Julie Balter, a friend of a resident who did not want to be identified, who found and purchased it on the Ebay Web site.

Each soldier was given a copy of this before the invasion began on Jan. 31, 1944, Mead said. On the front of the document is a map of Roi-Namur and on the reverse is a list of questions which each soldier needed to know the answers to before the invasion. Question number 18, "What security conditions will exist at night?" has the following handwritten comment: "Remain in position. No firing. Only bayonet fighting. Complete blackout."

"It is interesting to read what the actual instructions were for people going to shore [that day]," she said. "It puts a personal face on the event."

One of the 70 boxes recently yielded most of the photos and documents on her desk, she said. But even the documents and photos require research.

Looking at the binder full of photos of places, buildings and people on Kwajalein and Roi just after the Americans took over the islands, she said she wanted to get in touch with Bruce Muench, author of "Spam Cans, Rice Balls and Pearls," or someone who was here at that time to help her identify some of the subjects in the photos.

"I'm in the position of adding to the database of knowledge of the installation," she said. "I'm interested in talking to people who have first-hand knowledge of what life was like on USAKA 15 years or more ago."

Residents with the requested first-hand information can call Mead at 58867.

Weather
Courtesy of Aeromet

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers.
Winds: Northeast to east at 7-15 knots.
Tomorrow: Partly sunny with a chance of showers.
Winds: East-northeast to east-southeast at 7-15 knots with higher gusts near showers.

Temperature:	Tonight's low	80°
	Tomorrow's high	88°
September rain total:		3.62"
Annual rain total:		60.68"
Annual deviation:		-3.67"

Call 54700 for continuously updated forecasts and sea conditions.

Sun • Moon • Tides

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set	High Tide	Low Tide
Tuesday September 16	0639/1849	2238/1040	0650, 4.6' 1900, 4.9'	0050, 1.1' 1250, 1.3'
Wednesday September 17	0639/1849	/1218	0710, 4.2' 1930, 4.6'	0120, 1.5' 1310, 1.6'
Thursday September 18	0639/1848	0009/1309	0740, 3.7' 2010, 4.2'	0150, 2.0' 1330, 2.0'
Friday September 19	0639/1847	0100/1402	0250, 2.4' 2130, 3.9'	1410, 2.4' 2400, 3.5'