



1961

CRUISE

JANUARY 1961

BINNACLE

The BINNACLE is a monthly publication of the California Maritime Academy, Vallejo, California. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Corps, Administration, Faculty, or our staff. All newsworthy items must be submitted to the Editor no later than four days prior to publication.

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TAHITI



The five main groups of islands that constitute French Polynesia are the Society Islands, including Tahiti and Moorea; Tuamotu Islands; Gambier Islands; Austral Islands; and Marquesa Islands. A colony of France, French Polynesia occupies an area of 1,520 square miles. Tahiti which has about one half of the total population is about 600 square miles in area. The population of Tahiti is 30,500 and about one half of the people live in Papeete (pronounced Pa-pay-ay-tay).

The colony is administered by a French appointed governor who is assisted by a Deputy of the French Chamber of Deputies, a local Assembly of 25 members, a delegate to the French National Union, and a Council of Government elected by the Assembly.

The principal exports of Tahiti are phosphate, copra, vanilla, and mother-of-pearl shell. Bananas, oranges, and sugar are grown on the islands. Many vegetables common to the temperate areas are also grown on the higher land. Tourism can also be considered a major industry.

The discoverer of Tahiti is said to be Captain Wallis, an Englishman, who took possession of it



in 1767. However, the following year formal possession was again claimed by Bougainville, a French Navigator. Captain James Cook visited the island in 1769. Captain Boenechea, a Spaniard, tried unsuccessfully to form a colony in 1772. The infamous Captain Bligh in H.M.S. BOUNTY visited the group in 1788 and other men of the sea followed. A London Missionary Society mission reached the islands in 1797. But it was not until a French Roman Catholic mission was established in Tahiti in 1837 that a change took place, for in 1842 Admiral du Petit-Thouras formally took possession of the Society Islands in 1842 for France.

Tahiti remained largely isolated until after World War II when the first international air link was established by the Tasman Empire Airways in 1951. Customs officials check baggage on arrival and departure. Cameras and typewriters are allowed to be taken in duty free. One may also bring duty free four hundred cigarettes, fifty cigars, or one pound of tobacco. One bottle of alcoholic liquor of any type is also permitted. However, the usual liquid refreshments are readily available on the island.

Tourist information of all types is happily given at the offices of the Tourist Bureau (Syndicat d' Initiative) or the Air Tahiti Travel Agency.

The local monetary unit is the Colonial Pacific franc. Each franc is equivalent of 100 centimes. The rates of exchange at the time we go to press are as follows:

U.S. dollar (currency) is equal to 86 francs

U.S. dollar (drafts) is equal to 89 francs

All exchange transactions must be made through La Banque l'Indo-Chine (The Bank of Indo-China.)

The official language of the Europeans residing in Tahiti is French, although most residents, including the Tahitians and Chinese use English as well. Lingual differences should not be a hindrance to the visitor.

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The Tahitian language is a beautiful, softly flowing one which is very musical. One of the most beautiful words in this language is LA ORANA (La-ora-na) which means "hello" or "good morning."

There is no regularly printed newspaper, but a French four-page mimeographed news-sheet is written daily. Regular newscasts in French and Tahitian are broadcasted daily on Radio Tahiti.

One will find many unusual customs in Tahiti. One of the favorites of all tourists is the Tahitian hula which is entirely unlike the Hawaiian hula. Much of the tourists' time is devoted to watching the exotic dance performed.

The Tahitians love feasts, and one will begin for any reason. Not only food but music and dancing are enjoyed. Tahitian food is unusual but very delicious. For example, one of the greatest delicacies is marinated raw fish.

Life in Tahiti is actually very cosmopolitan. The habits and customs of French, English, American, and Chinese are practiced at various times and places. This in itself lends charm to Tahiti.

The climate of Tahiti is ideal. Rainfall is irregular. January and February are the hottest months with the high of about 90 degrees. Since the humidity is seldom high, the heat is of a dry variety. The nights are always cool like Vallejo.

Tahiti is noted for its informality. One can be clothed in as little as possible, and no one will look askance at a Bikini swimsuit.

Tahiti can boast of five major hotels all of them excellent. The Grand Hotel Faugerat is situated on the waterfront in Papeete. It is a modern concrete building boasting a bar and restaurant located on the roof garden which offers an excellent view of Papeete and the surrounding environs. Meals average from 100 to 150 francs for breakfast, and 200 to 300 francs for lunch and dinner.

Les Tropiques, located on the shore of the lagoon, is one and one half miles from the center of Papeete. The hotel's chief attraction is an open-air dining terrace. There is no beach, but excellent swimming facilities are available. Meals cost about the same as at the Grand Hotel Faugerat.

The Royal Tahitian Hotel is located two miles from Papeete and has an excellent bathing beach. The Royal Tahitian has an attractive terrace and a Samoan dining room. Meals are served a la carte.

The Hotel Tahiti is situated on the lagoon. This is the newest and most modern hotel on the island.

On the island of Moorea, the Hotel Aimeo is located in Paopao. This hotel is strictly in the luxury class. The island of Moorea is considered to be the most beautiful island in French Polynesia.

The most popular restaurants in Papeete include the Yacht Club, Manava, Waikiki, Vaihiria, and Le Croissant. These restaurants have an international cuisine.

The TAMAARAA or Tahitian feast is something to behold. It often lasts all night long with singing, dancing, and feasting. Exotic foods prepared

in the Tahitian style are its main attraction. Raw fish marinated in lime juice, spices, and coconut milk for three hours is truly delicious. Small suckling pigs roasted in a HIMAA or fire pit along with red bananas, taro, and breadfruit is another feature. Perhaps one of the most delectable desserts is one called POI. This dish is made of cooked papaya, pineapple, bananas, vanilla, and coconut cream. Other island delicacies are curried fresh water shrimp, tiny wild pigeons, raw oysters, and clams.

Papeete offers the best shopping center of the islands. French, Chinese, and Tahitian shops are located here. Exploring the shops can be a pleasant adventure. The stores range from small shops to a huge department store. Native souvenirs like necklaces, brooches, rings, and other jewelry can be purchased. All the better known brands of French perfumes can be purchased here cheaper than in most parts of the world. Swiss watches are also very cheap in Tahiti. Pareu cloths in cotton, silk, or synthetic fabrics are also for sale.

American, English and French cigarettes are also sold in Tahiti. Tahiti abounds with good painters, and their works are readily available. The Studio Mackenzie, Sylvain, and other photographic establishments sell excellent views of the natives and the islands. All in all, the goods available in Tahiti range from local souvenirs to imported items from all over the world.

Nearly all the tourists make Papeete their headquarters. Shops and offices open at 7:00am but close from 11:00am to 1:00pm daily. The cheapest means of transportation other than foot is the bicycle. Taxis are available for short journeys on long-term hire. The normal rate is 15 francs per kilometer of 24 francs per mile. Rates between midnight and 6:00am are double. Fares from Papeete to the following destinations are as follows:

Les Tropiques — 90 francs
Royal Tahitian Hotel — 110 francs
La Fayette — 210 francs

A standard taxi tour of the island costs about 1700 francs. One can rent a car without a driver with unlimited mileage for about 600 francs per day. Cars can be obtained from Hertz American Express, Rampart Garage, Papeete. Their telephone number is 471. A United States driver's license is good in Tahiti.

A real adventure is to go by bus or "le truck" as it is called by Tahitians. Passengers pack themselves into "le truck" on wooden benches and stack their belongings on top along with the pigs and chickens. There is always room for one more on "le truck". This is an experience that one should not forego.

The most widely known of Tahiti's cabarets is Quinns. By day and by night it is the gathering place for everyone in Tahiti. At night well dressed visitors dance and mix with barefooted natives. Other night spots are Au Col Bleu, Lafayette, and Bar Lea.

Music for dancing is provided nightly at Les Tropiques Hotel terrace restaurant and occasionally at the Royal Tahitian Hotel. Sometimes a floor show featuring Tahitian dancers is offered at the latter.

Swimming from Tahiti's beaches is quite safe, but it is advisable to wear bathing shoes to protect the feet from the star fish found in the sand beneath shallow water and the coral which is abundant.

Marine life around Tahiti is abundant and underwater swimming a favorite sport. For the non-underwater swimmer, a box with a glass bottom can be obtained to observe marine life.

Nato, the Tahitian trout, is found in the fresh water streams. A light fly rod, a minimum of clothing, tennis or rope soled shoes, and a basket are all that a fisherman requires. The best fly for catching NATO is "Olive Quill" mounted on a No. 10 or No. 12 hook. The lagoons are also richly

stocked with fish which can be either speared or netted. The natives usually fish at night with torches using spears, nets, and hand-lines.

The mountains of Tahiti are beautiful and easy to climb. Guides can also be hired.

Tennis is a sport played throughout the year, and public courts at the Parc des Sports and Feipi are excellent.

A coastal road over a hundred miles in length encircles most of the island. This route is very scenic and tourist-wise is a trip well worth making.

The Museum of Tahiti is on the Rue Brea. It houses relics of many types and also an excellent South Seas' library.

What one does in Tahiti depends entirely upon one's tastes and what one seeks in Tahiti. Tahiti is everything and anything. Whatever you seek in the South Seas you will probably find in Tahiti.

Bicycles can be hired in Suva and other parts of the island.

SIGHT SEEN - The local taxi is a small motor vehicle.

GOLF AND TENNIS - There are several tennis facilities in the island.

BOWLING - There are several bowling clubs in the island. For more information, contact the Bureau.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The capital, Suva.
2. The market, Suva.

FIJI ISLANDS



The Fiji islands are a British Crown Colony. This Colony consists of over 300 islands, the largest being Viti Levu. Suva, the capital of the Colony, is located on Viti Levu.

The islands were discovered by Abel Tasman in 1643. Missionaries played a very important role in the establishment of the European settlement of the island. The first British consul arrived in the Islands in 1858, and in 1874 the islands became a British Crown Colony. Today Fiji is recognized as the most important crossroad among the islands of the South Pacific, because of its strategic location in the Pacific.

The population of Suva is about 40,000. The population is made up of many different nationalities.

ties of these the most pronounced is English and Indian. There are three languages which are most commonly used. English, Fijian and Hindustani.

The local unit of currency is known as the Fiji pound. There are 12 pence to a shilling and 20 shillings to the pound. Denominations of notes and coins are as follows:

NOTES: Twenty pounds, ten pounds, five pounds, one pound, ten shillings, and five shillings.

COINS: Two shillings, one shilling, sixpence, threepence, penny, halfpenny.

Five pound notes can be very easily confused with notes of higher value, so be careful when making transactions with this currency. Currency exchange can be made at any of the various banks in the colony.

The principle exports of Fiji are sugar, copra, coconut oil, gold, and fruit. She produces rice, manganese, coffee, maize, tapioca, peanuts, timber, and tobacco. The Fijians are employed in both agricultural and mechanical skills.

The rainy season of the Islands is between the months of December and April. The average temperature is 77 degrees; during this period, the tourist trade is at its low because of the climate.

The manner in which each Midshipman spends his liberty depends on his individual interests. The following paragraphs will give many different facilities for enjoying your liberty.

AQUADATIC INTEREST - Information concerning launch trips, skin diving, swimming and fishing can be obtained from the Fiji Visitors' Bureau (check phone book for address). There are a few resorts a few miles from Suva which can be reached by taxi.

TRANSPORTATION - Automobiles, bicycles, and taxis can be hired at very reasonable rates.

American States under the protection of the Interior Department, southwest of New Zealand. Ta'u, Olosega, Samoa Group.

The South Pacific Islands, while their climates are variable, the temperature is moderate in March. Temperatures are moderate with the humidity.

The United States Samoa through the Wilkes in 1842. was placed under the Navy and when its administration of the Samoa Group.

The local ancestry. They are quite white and are quite white and love of

Bicycles can be rented at N.P. Mistry, Marks St., Suva and autos from the Fiji U-Drive Co. located in Suva.

SIGHT SEEING TRIPS can be arranged through the local taxi companies.

GOLF AND TENNIS — There are many golf and tennis facilities throughout the Colony.

BOWLING — Bowling facilities are very good; for more information contact the Fiji Visitor's Bureau.

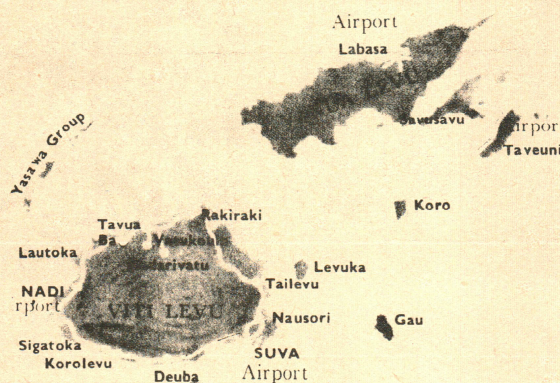
POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The capital grounds
2. The market (in the morning)

3. Watch a cricket and football game played by the Fijians.
4. The tropical gardens of Suva.
5. The 10-mile scenic drive (ask local taxi driver for information.)
6. Trips into the interior of the island.

SHOPPING — Shopping is the same in the islands as it is in this country. Tailoring is done very fast and is very reasonable. One will find more tailor shops than any other type of shop. Many souvenirs are sold and are very cheap. The shops are located all about town.

HAVE A GOOD TIME IN THE FIJI ISLANDS!



SAMOA

American Samoa is a possession of the United States under the administration of the Department of the Interior. It is located about 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii and 1,600 miles northeast of New Zealand. The islands of Tutuila, Aunu'u, Ta'u, Olosega, Ofu, Suains and Rose comprise the Samoan Group. Their total area is 76 square miles.

The Southeast Trade Winds blow from May to November, while during the other months, the winds are variable. The rainy season is from December to March. Temperature ranges from 70 to 90 degrees, with the humidity almost constant at 80 percent.

The United States first became interested in Samoa through a report made by Captain John Wilkes in 1842. In February 1900, American Samoa was placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy and remained as such until July 1951, when its administration was transferred to the Department of the Interior.

The local population is mostly of Polynesian ancestry. They are a friendly and generous group, and are quite well known for their excellent physique and love of ceremony. Their language is quite

flowery, extensive, and very descriptive.

Even with the influence of the Western world, the Samoans have clung to their ancient traditions and social organization. Most villages are composed of 30 to 40 families, all interrelated. Each village is headed by a "matai". The local political structure differs from the prevalent Polynesian society in that it is not strictly autocratic. That is, almost anyone may aspire to, and achieve, to become the "matai" of his village. This position is not necessarily hereditary.

Agriculture is the primary source of income on the islands, while exportation of copra, cocoa planting, native handicrafts, and the local fish cannery supplement this income.

The native handicrafts include wood carvings, tapa cloth, shell beads and purses, tortoise shell jewelry, and woven goods such as floor mats, place mats, and baskets.

There are several small "general stores" to serve the needs of the local populace.

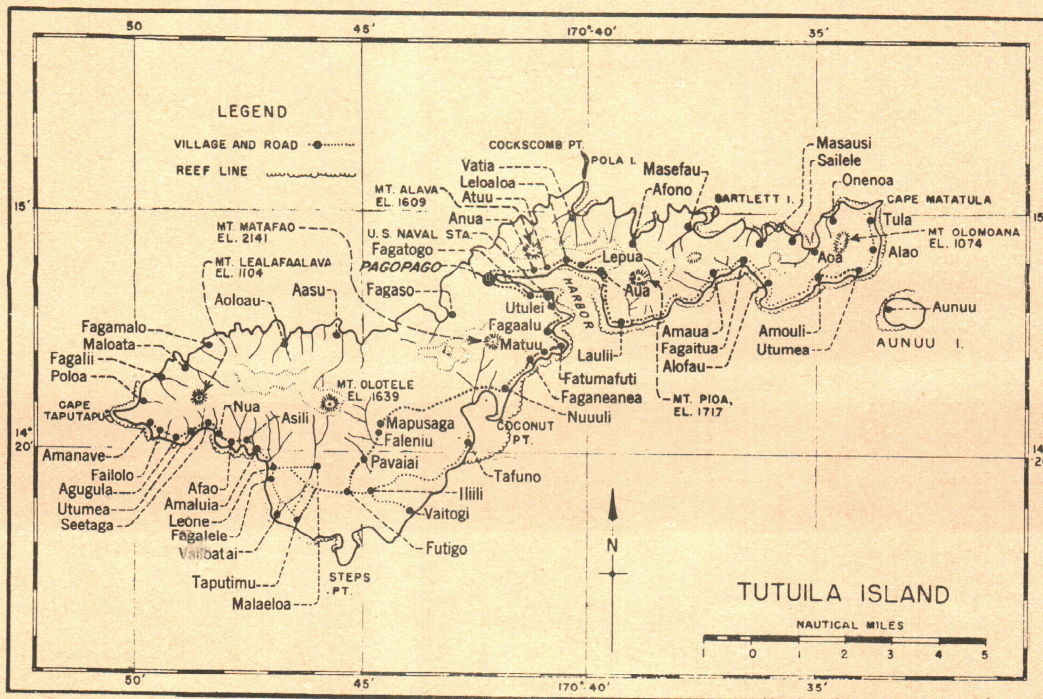
The United States owns and operates a communication station on a 24 hour basis for both offi-



cial business and private communiques. There are some smaller stations for inter-island communications, while the more remote villages are reached by runners. There are buses and taxis for transportation about the island. Once a month, a ship arrives from New Zealand, while a Matson liner stops

at Pago Pago (pronounced Pango Pango) every three weeks on its way to the States. Pan Am provides a weekly air link with Honolulu, while Samoan Airlines provides air transportation between American and Western Samoa.

The only American bank in the South Pacific



BINNACLE

is the Bank of Pago. United States Bank of exchange.

Samoans educational needs. of 47 elementary schools, senior high schools, training colleges, the islands. students annual examination.

Education 9th grade or above.

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is the Bank of American Samoa located in Pago Pago. United States currency is the official medium of exchange.

Samoans are quite conscious of their educational needs. The public school system consists of 47 elementary schools, 5 junior high schools, 1 senior high school, 1 nursing school, and 1 teacher training college. There are 7 parochial schools in the islands. The senior high school accepts 110 students annually. Admittance is by competitive examination.

Education is compulsory for all up through the 9th grade or age 16.

For those interested in attending churches, there are both Protestant and Catholic churches within easy walking distance of the dock area. There are no scheduled tours of the area, but one can make his own arrangements and travel by foot, taxi or bus. There are no state-side operated night clubs or restaurants in Samoa, however, there are several bars in the bay area. Also there is one hotel, The Rainmaker Hotel, that offers limited meal accommodations upon advance reservations.

Statewide and foreign merchandise is slightly higher in price than in the states, while the na-

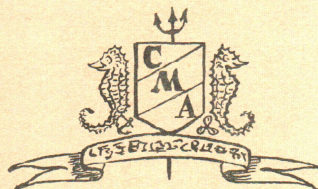
tive market offers curios and Samoan handicrafts at moderate prices.

NATIVE VILLAGE

Mr. Peter T. Coleman, the Governor of American Samoa has offered to make necessary arrangements for the Midshipmen to visit a Samoan village where the Samoans will present singing and dancing. There is a small charge by the natives for this. The charge will include transportation to the village. As soon as more information is received, a sign-up list will be placed on the bulletin board along with additional details.

Mr. Coleman also stated that softball, volleyball and basketball teams are available for competition with teams from our ship. If there are enough interested parties, get together and let's put up a good fight.

To quote Mr. Coleman, "While American Samoa does not have extensive recreational opportunities, we feel the island itself will provide a source of relaxation and we extend best wishes for a nice trip and safe arrival in American Samoa." Thank you, Mr. Coleman.



BINNACLE EDITORIAL

During the last year the California Maritime Academy made many steps forward. The purchase of a mascot, the establishment of a name in water polo, and the arrival of the largest third class in August were among our achievements. The delay of announcing the cruise itinerary has been our one big disappointment.

During the month of August the Binnacle received a news letter from the Maine Maritime Academy. This letter contained an article concerning Maine's 1961 cruise which takes place concurrently with ours. This article stated the full itinerary. Their itinerary was published four months before their departure date. Why can't the Midshipman of the California Maritime Academy learn the itinerary of their cruise four months before departure?

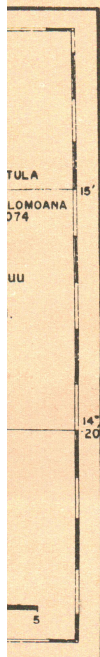
In this issue of the Binnacle the staff tried to give a run-down on part of the ports of call of the 1961 cruise. These articles are by no means complete. WHY? On November 19 the staff learned the itinerary of the 1961 cruise. This gave the staff 60 days until the departure from San Francisco in

which to prepare this issue. Correspondence with the ports of call takes about 30 days; the Binnacle must go to press one week before the issuance date; during this period the academy had a week of finals. As a result it was not possible to give the Midshipman a good description of each port. If we, the staff, could have known the itinerary in September we would have been able to give a better description of the ports of call for the cruise of 1961.

The cruise is a direct concern to the Midshipman; therefore, it is our opinion that the Midshipman should be notified of the itinerary before it is released to the public. This year the Corps learned the cruise itinerary through many Bay Area newspapers before it was officially released to the Corps.

It is the wish of the Binnacle staff that this one disappointment be corrected before the 1962 cruise. As the staff looks forward to 1961, we feel that the new year has the makings of the greatest year the California Maritime Academy has ever had.

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