

# In the Land... Natives Pay High Price On Wives

By Marjory Bush

Two hundred dollars may sound like a lot of money, but that is just the average price that a Palaun native pays for a wife. If he wants a woman from the upper class, the price may go over the ceiling and up to \$500, besides the usual native money required in such a transaction.

So reports Dr. H. G. Barnett, associate professor of anthropology, who returned last May from a nine-month research trip in the Palaun Islands. Dr. Barnett and Allen Murphy, a graduate student, made up one of forty teams of researchers sent out by the Navy through the Pacific Science Board to study the Micronesia area in the South Pacific.

Women are still subordinate to the men there, Dr. Barnett reports. They do the hard work in the fields besides raising a large family, while the men fish and order their wives around.

"I had pictured the islands as something quite different," he said. "I had expected a worse climate and more severe diseases. Instead we found the 6000 natives, on the whole healthy, and rain 'only' from June to December. The average temperature was about 87 to 90 degrees. The people were friendly, but we found the chief difficulty in contact with them is learning their language."

The main purpose of the trip was to study the customs and beliefs of the people and the effect of 50 years of rule by outsiders. The islands are now mandated to the United States by the United Nations. Previously they were ruled by Japan, and before that by Germany.

Dr. Barnett and his assistant lived in the native village, Ulimang, which had a population of about 100 people. The typical house is made of salvaged steel and is quite substantial. The old type wood house with thatched roof was largely destroyed by bombing during the war. Some of the ancient men's club-houses still stand in the villages. They are large and elaborately carved and are strictly for men only.

Chiefs still rule the people, Dr. Barnett said, but all are under U. S. jurisdiction. Natives teach the schools in all the 14 districts. The natives make their living by farming, fishing, and selling coconut oil and copra to the Americans. They also sell buttons made from the trochus shell.

Transportation is still primitive. There are no horses or vehicles, but the scattered villages are connected by beautiful, shaded stone paths, according to Dr. Barnett. The people used to have seaworthy canoes, but the Japanese destroyed all of them during the war. The natives, with a typical progressive attitude, he reports, now wants nothing but gasoline boats.

The natives are supposedly Christian, says Dr. Barnett, but still retain many of their old superstitions. They have no musical instruments whatever, not even drums. However, he pointed out, they can sing difficult songs and some very interesting dances, resembling the hula.

In summing up the results of the trip, Dr. Barnett concluded, "We learned a lot and got much valuable information. It was a pretty pleasant year in all respects."

However, he doesn't advise pleasure-seeking Americans to head for the Palaun Islands. The islands are closed to all but those on official government business, they are 6,000 miles away, and there are no luxuries.

Dr. Barnett has completed his

# Phi Sig's Dream Girls



MOONLIGHT GIRL FINALISTS: top row, left to right—Mary Handelin, Alpha Phi; Molly Muntzel, Kappa Alpha Theta; Martha Cleveland, Gamma Phi Beta. Bottom row left to right—Jeanette Houf, Alpha Chi Omega; Jeanne Merrion, Gamma Hail; Leona Anderson, Alpha Delta Pi.

# Oregon Band To Play Tonight

The University of Oregon band will perform in the Cottage Grove high school auditorium tonight at 8 p.m. under the direction of John H. Stehn, conductor.

Sponsoring the program will be the Cottage Grove Business and Professional Women's club.

Among numbers to be presented are the "Oberon Overture" by Weber and "Andante" from the "Symphonie Espagnole" by Lalo.

# Agent Will Help Befuddled Public

To assist taxpayers in preparing their state income tax returns, a state income tax agent will be at the Eugene Court house from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. on the following dates: March 14 to 18, March 21 to 25, March 28 to April 1, and April 4 to 8.

# Former Student Transferred

William Belton, a former student at the University, now a Foreign Service Officer, has been transferred to Ciudad Trujillo, Peru, as second Secretary and Consul. Mr. Belton, a resident of Portland, has been in the foreign service since July, 1938.

Steve Loy  
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# Campus Calendar

(Notices for Campus Calendar should be turned in, in typewritten form, to the Emerald News Editor's office by 3 p.m. of the day preceding publication. Notices will not be accepted on Saturdays or Sundays.)

## Emerald Feature Staff

All Sophomores petitioning for Sophomore Class Vice-President and Secretary are reminded to turn in their petitions today by the five o'clock deadline. They should be given to either Herb Nill of Theta Chi or Don Smith of Campbell Club.

## Tennis Correction

Applicants for general chairman of the tennis intramurals need not be members of WAA as announced in yesterday's Emerald.

The position also does not necessarily entail knowledge of the game, but stresses executive ability. Girls interested may get petitions at Emerald hall and turn them in to Bep McCourrey, president of WAA, by Thursday, February 3.

## ISA Meeting Today

The Independent Students Association will hold a regular meeting today at 6:30 p. m. in Room 105 Commerce.

John Chaney, newly elected Freshman Class President, will be introduced to the Senate. All Independent students are welcome to attend the meeting.

## Westminster Dinner

Westminster will have a pot luck dinner Thursday evening at 6 p.m. Admission is either food or 40 cents. Everyone is welcome.

200-page report on the culture of the islands and will send it to the Pacific Science Board, which will forward it to the U. S. Navy Department in Washington.

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