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OMESODEL TIA EL BABIER

Tia el babier a mo meng ongeuang el babier el ultebedellel a Palauan History Development Project el nga er a Palau Community Action Agency. Ng mlotobed el oltiraki er a kengei el mlengai er ar derta el Obekul Belau, el tir a mloturk e ng mengai a llecheklir ma cheldechederir e ng mechederoder el mo ta el cherrungel el babier el okiu a rechedal tia el urreor el ngaa er a Palau Community Action Agency.

Se el taem el lebo ltobed tia el babier, ea rebebil er tirka el rubak a locha mla mo dibus er a delongeled e ngar ngii a rebeches el mo mtechei er tir er a deruchellir. Aki oumerang el kmo oua tia el blekeradel a diak a ngera el letemellii, ngbai mekltkid er a ungil el omerellir are mle rubak meng diak dobes. Tia el babier a diak dil tiakid ele merkong. Aki mo melasm el omekbeches a ika el cheldechoduch ma llecheklir a rubak er a nga er medad el klebesei.

Aki kmal olengit a ungil el uldasu el mo sebechel el kudmeklii tia el urreor el mo ungil.

Katharine Kesolei
June, 1974

P R E F A C E

This booklet is the fourth publication of the Palauan History Development Project of the Palau Community Action Agency. Permission to photograph and print pictures of the traditional chiefs was obtain by each one. Likewise, the biographical datas were either narrated on tape or written by them and finally with their permission were allowed to be printed.

By the time this publication is distributed to the public, some of the traditional chiefs may have passed away. It is our hope that that will not be the case. However, in the event that it is, we hope the succeeding chief to the position will not take offense. It is our belief that the pictures and the biographical information will serve to enlighten the young people of some aspect of Palauan History.

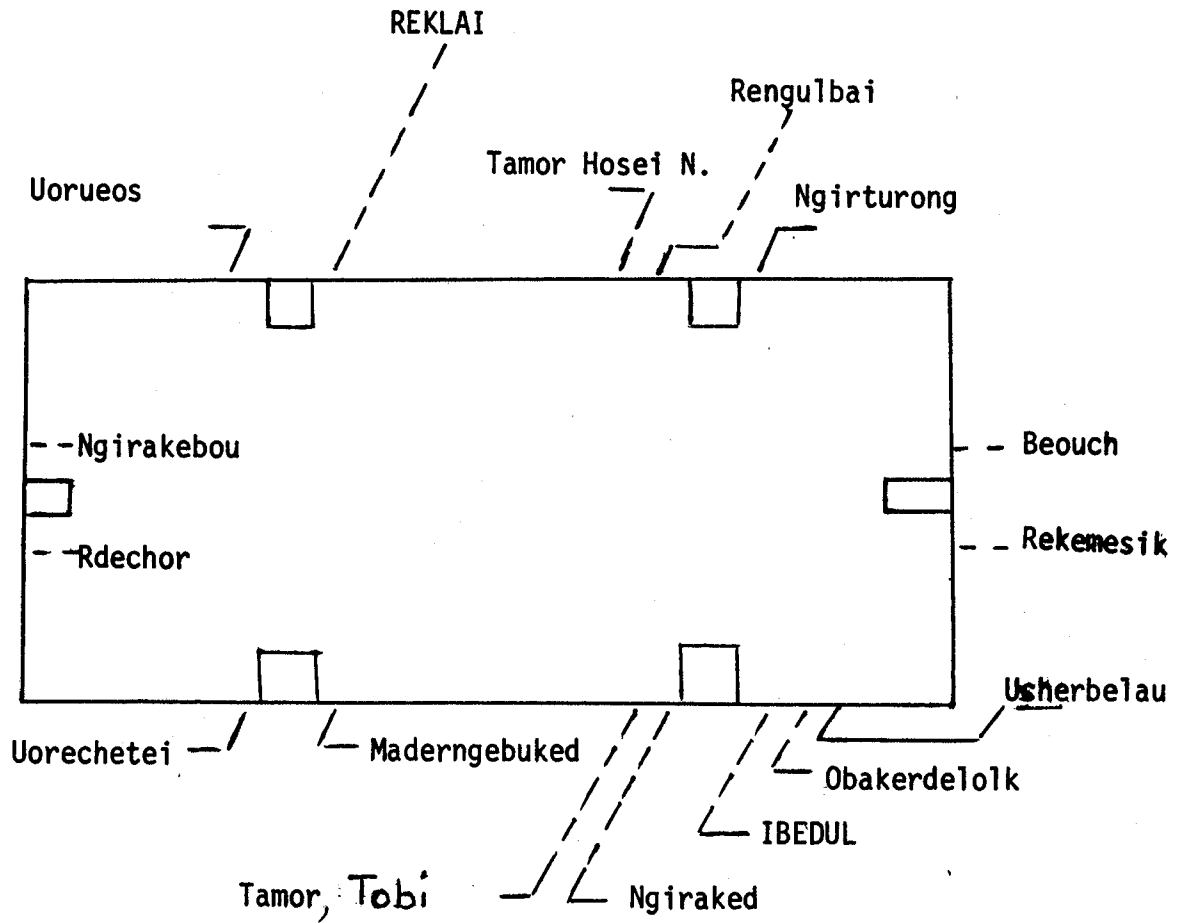
This is not the last publication of this nature. It is our aim to update this booklet in the near future.

We solicit your opinions and comments in improving this booklet and the project.

Katharine Kesolei
June, 1974



BELDEKLIR A RUBEKUL BELAU ER A CHELSEL A BAI
 (Tia el bai a dechor el chemau a ungos)



BITA EL IANGED ER BELAU EL CHEDERDELLEL A IBEDUL

1. OREOR
2. NGEREMLENGUI
3. IMELIIK
4. IRRAI
5. NGERDMAU
6. NGETPANG
7. BELILIOU
8. NGEAUR
9. TOBI
10. MERIR
11. PULO ANA
12. SONSOROL



MARINO FITIGANG ---TOBI



TAMOR, Marino Fitigang
(Tobi)

Ngak el Marino Fitigang a mlo truich ma elolem a rekik e mlo er a skuul, me ng mle ede el rak el knga er a skuul er a rechad er a Siabal. Ak di mlo er a ongede el rak e tuobed e mlo oureor. Ma kmle er a Oreor e mo bechiil e liluut el mo er a Techobei. Mak bo er a Techobei e a kmlo oureor er a kombalii el mela ringko. Ak ulureor el mo lmuut er a lomo a ongeru el mekemad er a beluulechad. Ise e a kombalii a mirrael er uche er a lomo a resoldau er a Siabal.

Teme a resoldau e remiid e dimlak a ngodech el urerek. E se er a 1940 e ngak a mlo nguu a kingall el Tamor er a Techobei, el miltutk er a Mohumuhura el ngii a mle merredel er uche er ngak. Me se ikid e ak mlo oungerachel a rokui el mo lmuut er a omengelir a rechad er a Siabal el mla er a beluak.

E a 1945 e a resoldau er a Merikel a kmerd er a Techobei. Me se ikid e a resoldau er a Merikel a dilu er a rechad er a beluu me te mekedcherur a kekere el stoang e olterau a ulkar el ngikel, ma bedues, ma itabori. E se er a 1947 e ngak a mlo chad er a Olbiil er a Kelulau el mer chelechang.

I was sixteen years old when I first attended the Japanese school. I spent three years and graduated and went to work. I came to Koror, got married and went back to Tobi where I went to work excavating phosphate. I remained in the company until the arrival of the Japanese military force which was the beginning of the Second World War. And that was the end of the company on Tobi.

After the departure of the Japanese military force on the island, I had no other employments. However, in 1940, I was chosen to hold the chieftainship of Tobi by Mohumuhura who was the chief before me. All responsibilities of the village, even providing food for the Japanese occupants were in my hands.

In 1945, the United States military men landed on Tobi. Fortunately, the construction of a small store was suggested by the military men, and soon it was constructed. This store profited the Tobians by selling their products of dried salted fish, copra, and handicraft articles in exchange for money. In 1947, I became a member of the Palau Congress which is at present the Palau Legislature.



FRANCISCO XAVIER --- MERIR



TAMOR, Francisco T. Xavier
(Merir)

A Merir el beluu a miltemall er a daob, e ng di betok el chad a silobel. Se er a 1905 er ak sal kekerei el buik e ng mla er ngii a diall er a Dois el Esther a ngklel el ngilikemam el me er Belau. Ma kimef er Belau ea Ibedul, el bla kubes er a ngklel a ngilikemam el mo kiei er a Ngerbodel. Ma kikiei er a Ngerbodel el obengterir tirka el chad er a Merir. E sola e te kmal betok el chad a mlad, ma kmlo er a Chechol e kiei el kmeed er a rechad er a Bul.

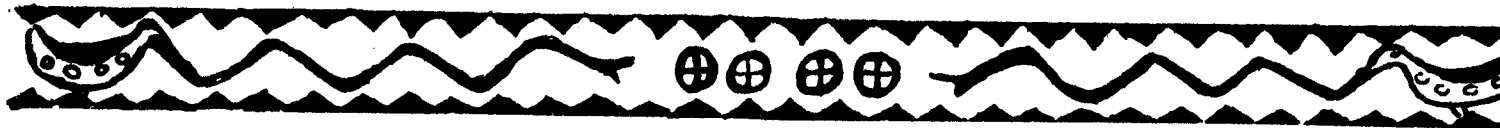
Ng teruich a rekik e mlo soiseb er a skuul er a Dois. Me tirke el becheleleu el chad el kudengelterir a mle Badrei Salvador ma Sister Natalia. Se er a taem er a Siabal e ng dimlak bo er a skuul le cheiuk a mle mekekemanget ea resensei el chad er a Siabal a dimlak el sorir el olsiseb er ar mekekemanget a chirir el mo er a skuul. Ng dimlak kungimd le siukang er kemam a diak el sebechem el mengimd asekum kemesuub a rolel a bekall er a daob le lsekum kekuimd a cheium ea rechad er a blim a mad. A uriul er a lemada rechad er a blik ea kmlo merredel er a Merir. Ise el taem e ng locha bekord okedei a rekik.

A uriul er a bo el mesisiich a Merikel er a rechad er a Siabal ea ki milngai er a Ngemlis el mo ra Beliliou. Ngak mar chad er a blik a liluut el mo er a Ngeaur e ngar sei e me er tia el Echang. A kmle chad er a Niyak el kmal betok el taem e mengudel a ududek el omechar a skulir a rengelekek. E chelechang ea kmal mla mo chuodel me ng diak kuruul a meringel el urreor, ma kdi nga er a blik e meruul a mekekerei el urreor er omelasech.

Merir island was hit by a tidal wave and fortunately it didn't carry most of the natives away from the island. In 1905, I was still a young boy and a German ship named Esther brought us to Palau. In Palau, Chief Ibedul provided us a home which was in Ngerbodel. So I lived with the rest of the people of Merir in Ngerbodel until the time came when many of them lost their lives. I moved to Chechol and lived close to the people from Pulo Ana.

At the age of ten, I enrolled in a German school. The only foreigners I knew were Father Salvador and Sister Natalia. During the Japanese time I didn't attend school because my hair was long and the Japanese teachers could not allow students having long hair to enroll in their school. I didn't have hair cut because in our custom a boy learning navigation must keep his hair long, otherwise his parents would die. After my parents death I became the chief of Merir. I was then about thirty years old.

When the Americans were in power over the Japanese, we were taken from Ngemelis to Peliliu. Then my family and I moved once more to Angaur and from there we came to Ngerkebesang and settled in Echang. I was stevedore most of the time, saving some money for my children's school tuition. Now I am too old to do heavy work, so I just do a little carpentry work at home.



JOE YANGAOEMAU --- PULO ANA



TAMOR, Joe Yangaoemau
(Pulo Ana)

Se er a taem er a Siabal e ngak a mle ua klungel a Francisco, (a Francisco a locha teruich a rekil) ea mle urerek er isei el taem a omeliich el lius. Uriul er isei e ak mlo er a Meriil e mlochu er a Sungesol. Ak mla er a Sungesol el mlo oikab el betok el rak e mlochu er a Bul. Ak mla er a Bul el meketeket ea rechad er a Merikel a mlei e ngoikak el mo oureor er a Ngeaur el nga er a Belau.

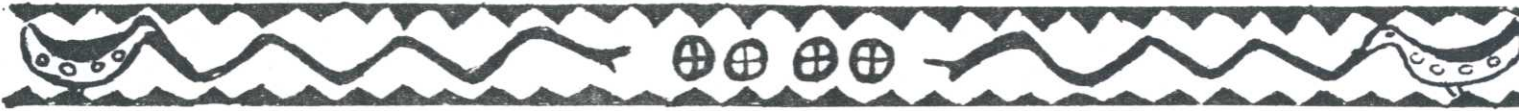
Ma kbo er a Ngeaur ea kuluureor er a kombalii el Pamroy a mle ngklel el mirruul a blai. Ak milluki el mo er a Beliliou el mo meruul a kelir ar soldau er a Captain Manehen. Ngak ma Alfred a dilak el oureor. Utiul er isei ea kliluut el mo er a Ngeaur e ngilasech er a diall el mo er a Sunge-sol. Tia mle uriul er a mekemad, e ngak ma chobekuk er a Albis a ririid er a Sungesol el mo er a Bul. Aki mlochu er a Bul ma kibong ea remeklou el chad a kmul kmo, a Albis a mo rubak el eng klou el chad.

E ng di Albis a mlo er a Belau e dimlak el luut el mei ma kmlo rubak. A rurek er chelechang el taem a cholengeseu er ar chad er a beluu el ole-ngeasek er a cherellel a rekas el kiei er a delomeklochel; tia el urreor a dirk ultaut. A kidi mla rullii a rael el melobech er a chesel tia el delomeklochel. Ak dirrek el nga er a chei, e meruul a chimadech, e dirrek el meliich a lius.

During the Japanese time in Micronesia, I was as old as Francisco (He is about 10 years old). My job at the time was making copra. Afterwards, I went to Merir and then to Sonsorol. I spent a couple of years on Sonsorol until I came back to Pulo Ana. I was in Pulo Ana for some time when the American soldiers came to bring us to work in Angaur, Palau.

In Angaur, I worked for the company called Pamroy whose project was to build houses. Then, I moved to Peleliu and worked for Captain Mahehen cooking food for his soldiers. Alfred and I were working together. Later on, I went back to Angaur and boarded an American ship and we sailed for Sonsorol. That was after the war. Albis, my older brother, and I departed Sonsorol on one of the trips to Pulo Ana. We finally got to Pulo Ana and our elders told us that Albis was going to be the chief for he was older.

But, Albis went to Palau and never came back to Pulo Ana, so I replaced him. At present, I help my people trying to slow down the birth rate of the mosquitos living in the pool like swamp; yet, we are not finished. Our only progress is the road we have fixed which crosses the pool. Furthermore, I fish, make tuba, and also make copra.



JOE NESTOR --- SONSOROL



(Sungesol)

Ngak a Joe Nestor el meluchel er a dui el Nurap (kot el nga er bab el dui er a Sungesol). Ak mlo tuchelii tia el dui er seral mad a demak el Tamor (merreder) Nestor Moses er sera September 22, 1973.

Ak milechell er sera February 20, 1942. Ak mla er a skuul er a Sungesol Elementary School, Koror Elementary School, Mindzenty School e tilobed er a Xavier High School el nga er a Ruk er sera 1963.

Uldimukl er a urerek ma omerrederek er a beluu ea ika el mla momerek el elolem er rak e ak makisteret, e dirrek el mla bulis er a beluu e dirrek el mla tal chad er a cheisei, e chad er a radio, e chairman er a municipal council, e dirrek el mengetmokl a babier er a beluu.

Chelchal Knurap e ak melasem el loureor el kerekikl meng diak el mengai a ika el siukang er kemam e oldubech er a mesisiich el budech er a chesel a beluu. Chelechal kurreder er a beluu er a Sungesol e a kuungerachel a ike el rokui el chutem er a beluu, e dirrek el Knurap er ngak a uchul e ak chetengakl el ta er a chedal a Olbiil er a Kelulau. A kot el meklou el mondai er a beluu er a Sungesol, a ngelsonges er a school, chetituokel el rolel cholidiul, ma ngelsonges er ar redil el sebechir el longechebiall.

A ngar medemam el klebesei a diak kimodengeli. Ak di oureng el kmo ulukum eng sebecham el mo ileakl el diak kimsal louspech er a Oreor el meruul a kiram. Ng kmal somam el di kemam el mengedereder er kemam, kemam ma ike el ingsele a Beluulechab el siukang er ngii ma tekoi er ngii a diuaia tekingam ma Techobei ma Meriil, ma Bul a kibomdak eng kmal sebecham el mebi a kmal mui el mesisiich el beluu.

Ng somam a ungil el skuul el diak el ua skulam er chelechang el di chimong el delemerab e ngarngii a kot el mo er chongeai el skuul, e di chimong a sensei er ngii el ngii a chad er a Sungesol. Ng somam tiang ma rengelekam a diak el dilmekekerei el bol cheroid er a siukang er a Sungesol el ngii a milketmokl er a irechar el mer chelechang. Ak mla cholengit mel bor ngii a Peace Corps Volunteer el mei er a Sungesol mel bol ua luchelel itia el urungulam el kirel a ngarbab el deruchelel a skulam.

I am Joe Nestor and I now hold the title Nurap (the highest chief of Sonsorol). I took my place among the islands Tamors (chiefs) on the death of my father, High Chief Nestor Moses, who passed away on September 22, 1973.

I was born on February 20, 1942. I attended Sonsorol Elementary School, Koror Elementary School, Mindzenty School, all in Palau and finally in 1963 I graduated from Xavier High School in Truk.

Aside from my preparation and duties as Sonsorol's traditional leader, I have **served** my people as magistrate for the past six years. As magistrate, my contemporary duties, in addition to my traditional duties, include enforcing the Trust Territory code, acting as a police officer and a sanitarian, overseeing radio contact with Koror, overseeing local election, acting as chairman for the Municipal Council, and keeping all Municipal records.

As Nurap, I must try to preserve our customs, take care of my people and make sure they live in peace. I also take care of all public properties for the whole community, and as the traditional leader of Sonsorol, I am an honorary member of the Palau Legislature.

I see Education, Transportation for any venture, and the lack of marriageable women on the island as Sonsorol's greatest problems.

The future is uncertain. I hope we can be more independent, depending less on Koror, We must have more voice on our own affairs. Perhaps a coalition with the outer islands of Yap, whose people are not Yapese, but the same culture and language as ours, plus Pulo Ana, Tobi, and Merir would be best.

We want to better our school (presently a one room schoolhouse with a native Sonsorolese teacher for grade one to eight). Then we will not have to sent our kids out of our culture so early for education. I have requested for a Peace Corps Volunteer to be sent to Sonsorol to teach as the first step in upgrading the school.

And we would like to develop fishing and copra here, and want guidance in looking into other economic ventures to develop Sonsorol.