

THE PAPUAN VILLAGER

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Christmas.

ONCE again we are preparing for our Christmas. It will be here very soon, and we hope it will be a very happy one for all the people in Papua, even though our country is passing through a bad time just now.

You all know that Christmas Day is a Holy Day because it is the day on which Jesus was born, 1933 years ago, in the town of Bethlehem, in the country that is now called Palestine. All through the centuries that have passed since then, the birthday of Jesus Christ has been kept as a Holy Day by all Christians, as it will be kept during the centuries to come.

All good Christians go to Church on Christmas Day. In all the Churches there will be special services with special hymns. On every Mission Station in Papua the people will sing the Christmas hymns and listen to the sermons of their Ministers—and it will be the same in every Christian country all over the world.

Christmas is also a holiday, a day when work is laid aside and everybody feasts and makes merry.

Christmas Eve.

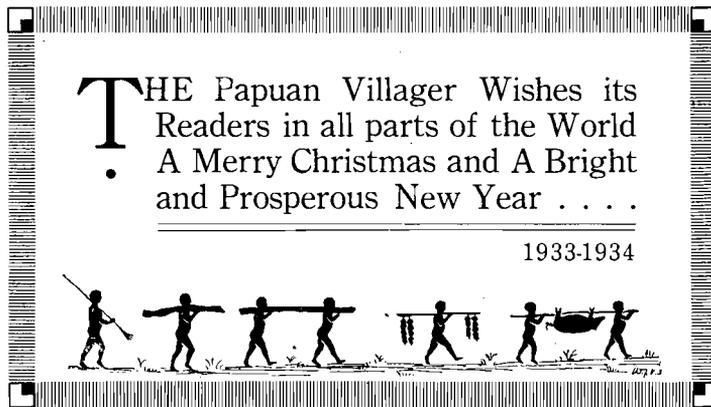
The day before Christmas is always a happy one, for it is then that you

get together the presents that you have provided for your wife and children and friends. It is always a very busy day for the people who work in the stores, for many people often leave the buying of their Christmas goods until then. At night people go from house to house singing Christmas hymns, or "carols" as they are called, and it is the custom

a big white beard, a long red coat, a hat or a cap trimmed with white wool, and a big bag in which he carries the toys and all the other presents that he brings for the children and their people. Wherever there is a Christmas Tree, you will find Father Christmas working hard, taking the presents off the tree and handing them to the children and their friends. We don't

quite know how Father Christmas manages to travel about Papua, but we think he uses an aeroplane; when there were only a few white people in Papua he made his way about the coast in a canoe, but now, with so many more places to go to, we think he flies his own machine. In the cold lands of Europe, North America, etc., Father Christmas travels over the snow and the ice in a cart without wheels, a sledge it

is called, which is pulled by a team of reindeer. We have no reindeer in Papua, but we have some deer (you may have seen them on the grasslands near the Laloki River) behind Port Moresby, though they are not as large as reindeer. However, whichever way this jolly old man travels about Papua, he is always able to visit the children in every part of Papua on Christmas Eve. And when you see him beside your Christmas Tree, just remember to give him a very hearty welcome, to let him know that you are not only glad to see him



for the master or the mistress of the house to meet these singers, lead them inside, and offer them something to eat and drink. It is a very, very old custom, and we hope it will continue, for it is a very good custom.

Santa Claus.

On Christmas Eve the children hang up their stockings, often with little letters in them saying what they want, for Santa Claus (he is also called Father Christmas) to fill them with presents. Many of you have seen Father Christmas, so you will know that he is a jolly old man with

but also grateful for his kindness in bringing you your Christmas presents. Father Christmas loves everybody, so everybody should love him too. We don't know what Christmas would be like without dear old Father Christmas. Good luck to you Father Christmas! May you always be with us!

Boxing Day.

The day after Christmas is called Boxing Day, because it is the day on which we give Christmas presents, or Christmas "boxes," to our relatives and our friends. This is another very good custom that should not be allowed to lapse, for it is a fine thing not only to give presents but also to receive them. It does not matter a bit how small the present is that we give or are given; it is the kindly feeling, the goodwill, that goes with the gift that counts so much to us. But if you are unable to give a present, it does not matter at all, for you can make up for its absence very easily by wishing your friends all the good things he wishes himself, of which the very best are good health and happiness all his life. And if you do this, you are doing what every Christian does at Christmas; for the Spirit of Christmas is good-will—peace and good-will towards all.

The New Year.

A week after Christmas comes the end of the year. We go to bed on the 31st December, 1933, and rise, next morning, on the 1st January, 1934. New Year's Day as it is called is the day when many people make good resolutions for their life during the new year. A very good resolve for the new year is to promise yourself that you will be good to all your people and your friends during the year. Another good resolve is that you will behave yourself properly, that you will not do anything that will make your people and your friends sorry for you. Some people make no resolves, but if you happen to make a resolve, do not forget to try and keep it *all* the year.

This is the last issue of *The Papuan Villager* for the year 1933, so we wish all our readers "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year." Papua is going through a difficult time just now, because of the low price of

copra and rubber, but we hope that this hard time will soon pass away and be replaced by many years of prosperity, which we trust will be shared by all the people of Papua.

A Visit to the Kunimaipa Country.

(Concluded.)

We climbed over a shoulder of Mount Yule, crossing at about 8,000 feet. The air here was cold and bracing, and the trees were covered with moss. Lovely ferns and green grasses grew everywhere; they were so cold that when we held them for a little while our fingers and hands became almost numb. And the track was awful, steep and slippery, every foot of the way to Kuefa Village, which is built on a spur that is about 4,500 feet above the sea. We pitched camp in pouring rain, the ice-cold rain of the highlands, and we were soon inside our blankets, trying to get warm again. The carriers started big fires blazing, so soon everybody was feeling warm and cheerful after a hot dinner.

Next day we entered the Gerebi country and made our base camp at the village of Zazuau, from which we had a fine view of the great valley of the Kunimaipa River. The country around Gerebi, and also Iverupu, further up the valley, is very rugged; it is just a mass of huge mountains, very steep ranges covered with dark-green grass, with silver streams and waterfalls tumbling down the slopes. The creeks and larger streams are fringed with high forest. The Kunimaipa River winds along the valley floor, its foaming flood glimmering white through the branches of the huge pine trees that crowd its banks; in the still night we could hear the waters thundering over the boulders that stud its course.

In this high country, towards evening, the clouds settle down on the mountains and heavy rain sets in; sleety rain that makes the air very cold. In the early morning it was so chilly that we had to keep slapping and rubbing our hands to keep them warm. As the sun comes over the towering peaks, the clouds lift and you can see every detail of the ranges in the clear air. Mount Yule's lime-

stone summit, crowned with white clouds, stood out from the maze of peaks around it; Mount Turu, another tremendous peak, was also another height that came into sight when the mists frayed away after sunrise.

We saw very few birds in this high country, except birds-of-paradise and white cockatoos; the latter were so numerous and so noisy that we found them a nuisance, for they announced our arrival to the whole country-side. They swarmed in the native gardens, and as we moved about they would rise, screaming like mad things, and the people we were in search of, hearing them, would evade us.

We crossed the Kunimaipa River, wading up to our chests in its icy water, and visited the villages of the Iverupu people. These villagers are great gardeners. Unlike the coastal natives, more especially those in the Port Moresby district, the Iverupu plant only one thing in each garden. The coastal people grow bananas, yams, manihot, corn and other foods all in the one garden. But the Iverupu have a garden for sweet potatoes, another for corn, and so on. Their gardens are very well made, the ground being properly cleared of the trees and shrubs, and then enclosed with a strong fence to keep out the wild pigs, which are very numerous in these mountains. They grow corn, sweet potatoes, bananas, tomatoes, french beans, cucumbers, pumpkins and yams; sugar-cane is the only thing they plant with their other foods. The seeds of the tomatoes, beans, corn and pumpkins very possibly came to them from the missionaries in the Mandated Territory, the boundary of which is not far to the north of Iverupu.

The weapons used by the Iverupu are bows and arrows, spears, stone-clubs that resemble a pineapple, and steel axes; the latter they probably got in trade with the natives of the adjacent territory. Some of these axes are of the fan-tail shape which, I am told, were used by the Germans for trade with the New Guinea natives.

The Iverupu are fine singers. Before entering their country we often heard them singing at night. Their voices are extremely soft and tuneful; heard from a distance, their

choruses sounded to me like the music of a great organ. I cannot give any description of the Iverupu people, because we did not come in close contact with them, although we heard and saw many of them at a distance. The few who joined our party and went with us to Kairuku were men about five feet in height with muscles very prominent on their bodies and limbs.

On our way back from Iverupu we saw many villages, some of which were large, further up the Kunimaipa Valley. If we had had the time, we would have visited them, but as we had done the work that we had to do, we had to return to the base camp at Zazuau. Again crossing the cold stream of the Kunimaipa, we climbed back to the camp, collected our baggage and, after two months' of hard work in this interesting and very beautiful part of Papua, we made our way back to the coast and on to Kairuku.

—L. James O'Malley.

Buried Word Competition No. 2.

Twenty-eight entries were received for this Competition, many of them being sent in by people who do not subscribe to *The Papuan Villager*. These non-subscribers, of course, had no chance of winning the prize. One entry was not signed by the person who sent it along. Some people sent in words that are not in Lesson 4 ("The Calendar") of the *Papuan School Reader*.

Nearly all the answers were correct, so the prize was given to the neatest-written one. This was received from Loega, a schoolgirl at London Missionary Society's School, Mailu, so she is the winner. Loega's answer was beautifully done, and we congratulate her on her success. May you win many more prizes, Loega.

The buried words were:—

JOURNEY, GRASSES, SOMEHOW,
CALENDAR, SATURDAY, SEEING,
COMING, DIVISION, EXCEPT,
SEASONS, PICTURES, FEBRUARY,
TWENTY, MONTHS, DIVIDED

and they are all in Lesson 4 ("The Calendar") of the *Papuan School Reader*.

Some Good News for Papua.

We said last month, in our article "Hard Times in Papua," that, from the 1st November, the Government would not be able to keep on paying full salaries to the white members of the Service. This "deduction" from salaries was to be a ten per cent. one, i.e. £1 from every £10 of the salary. We heard, just after the article was printed, that the Government had decided not to make this "deduction," as the Commonwealth Government had granted Papua some more money—£6,000—to assist our Revenue to meet the expenditure for the present financial year, which ends on the 30th June, 1934.

This is very good news for the Government people and for everybody else here. But, even with this extra money, the Government will still have a lot of worry to keep everything going properly; and, unless things improve a good deal during the next six months, it may still have to consider a "deduction" of, say, ten per cent. from the pay of its employees, to keep the expenditure within the revenue.

However, we hope the New Year will bring us a big rise in the price of copra, rubber and all our other exports, and thus give Papua a lot more money, both for the Government and for everybody else.

Annual Conference of the London Missionary Society.

The Annual Conference of the London Missionary Society was held at Metoreia Station, Port Moresby, during November. Seventeen missionaries attended, and greetings were received from several others who are absent from Papua.

The session opened on Saturday, 11th November, with a Communion Service conducted by the Chairman, the Hon. Rev. R. L. Turner, M.A.

As usual the Conference dealt with a lot of business; we mention a few of the principal matters which occupied the attention of the members.

Reports from the various districts show that steady progress is being made in the work of the Mission.

It was decided that a permanent memorial be erected on the site at Metoreia where the pioneer missionary, Dr. W. G. Lawes (Misi Lao), built his house—the first house built by a white man in Papua—in 1874.

The Rev. D. L. E. Ure, formerly in charge of the Daru district, has now been placed in charge of the Port Moresby district; he and Mrs. Ure will shortly take up their abode at Metoreia. During the interval between the departure of the Rev. R. Rankin, who has been in charge at Metoreia since Mr. Percy Chatterton left for England, the Rev. O. G. Parry, B.Ec., will remain at Metoreia.

The Rev. C. F. Rich, of Isuleilei, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

A son of the Rev. H. P. Schlenker (Seneka), who spent very many years in Papua before he took up work in Brisbane, Queensland, is to take over the Daru district from the Rev. Ure. The Rev. Harold L. Schlenker will shortly arrive from Australia; he will be in Port Moresby for a few weeks before he goes to Daru.

Prince George May Visit Australia.

It is very likely that His Royal Highness Prince George, the fourth son of His Majesty King George the Fifth, will come to Australia next year, on board *H.M.S. Hood*, to open the Melbourne Centenary celebrations. Prince George's brothers, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and H.R.H. the Duke of York, have already visited Australia, but this is Prince George's first visit to the Commonwealth.

Melbourne will be one hundred years old next year, for it was in 1834 that the first white man landed on what is now the site of this great city. The centenary, as it is called, will be a very great affair, and it is indeed a great honour that His Majesty the King is conferring on Melbourne in permitting Prince George to visit it and preside at the celebration of its hundredth birthday.

We hope, some day, Papua will also have the great honour of welcoming a member of His Majesty's family.

Buried Word Competition No. 3.

A Prize of 2s. will be given to the winner of this competition.

We choose 15 words from Lessons 5 and 6 of the *Papuan School Reader*. But some of the letters are missing. They are shown by "dashes" (—). You must look through the lessons and find the right word, and fill in the missing letters in this way:—

— E — R I — O — Y
T E R R I T O R Y

Here are the buried words you must look for:—

— U — — E — T — O —
— — A — — B — A — D
C — — C — — F — — E — C —
S — — S — — R —
— U — — H — — T
M — D — — G — —
Q — — R — E — S
— — W — Y S
S — I — N — — G
— O — T — M
F A — — E — E —
— T — A I — — T
T H — — S A — —
T — R — — N G
— U — D — E —

Only subscribers to *The Papuan Villager* can win the prize.

If more than one answer is right, the one which is written most neatly will win.

Answers must reach the Editor before the 10th February, 1934.

We have received answers to this competition from people who are *not* subscribers to *The Papuan Villager*. This is a pity, for their answers cannot be considered unless they are subscribers. We mention this, in case somebody, who sends in the correct list and does not win the prize, may not understand why the answer was not a winning one.

About the Cricket Match.

Samarai versus Port Moresby.

This was a game between Papuans, and it was played on Port Moresby Oval. The scores were printed in last issue of *The Papuan Villager*.

The two teams ask me to thank the Captain and all the members of the Port Moresby Cricket Club for their kindness in letting them play on the Oval, also for the loan of mats, wickets, etc. The native cricketers are glad about this, and they thank the white cricketers for the great help they gave them.

Other European Kindness.

We thank the Hon. E. C. Harris for the help he gave the teams and for his friendly interest in the match; also for getting knives and forks on loan from Steamships Trading Coy., Ltd., for hire fee of five shillings. To Mr. J. Spychiger we also say thank you for helping us get plates, cups and spoons. Mr. Spychiger is Choir-master of the Poreporena Choirs. And we thank Mrs. McGrath for making the farewell puddings, also for jam roll and roast potatoes she let us have for the small charge of 2s. 6d. a dish.

We have to thank the Hon. H. W. Champion, Hon. A. P. Lyons, Hon. E. C. Harris, Mr. E. G. Baker, Mr. W. M. Dupain, Mr. J. R. Clay, Mr. L. Tracey and Mr. J. G. Boileau for giving the members of the Port Moresby Team who work for them the holiday for the match against Samarai.

And the Samarai Team ask that we express their grateful thanks to His Excellency Sir Hubert Murray, K.C.M.G., the Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, for giving them free passages by m.v. *Laurabada* to Port Moresby.

The Game.

Samarai was captained by Mazeppa Bacca, Port Moresby by Rea Mea. Samarai won the toss and went in to bat. John Guise got 74, Mazeppa Bacca 47, Sikini 32 and Situ Solomon 11, but the other men only made a few runs. There were 36 sundries. The innings put up 220. The bowling averages you have already seen in last issue.

Port Moresby did very well with the bat. Heni Heni was batting 4¾ hours for 41, Kohu Dogodo scored 163 with many fine strokes, Rea Mea made 146 in fine style, Heagi Gavera got 46, Hila Tutuhi 24, Hitolo Hekure 36, and Willie Gavera 26, the other men did not score. There were 52 sundries. It was a great innings for

534 runs. The bowling of the Samarai team was good, but the Port Moresby batsmen were able to play it without trouble.

Samarai made 165 in the second innings. Mazeppa Bacca again batted very nicely, his score being 51. Sikini played well for 28, Paul Sigamata put up 28, and Popoka got 27. There were only 10 sundries.

The bowling average was in last issue. Port Moresby won by an innings and 149 runs. The Samarai men played well, and we soon saw that some of their men are very good with the bat. And their bowlers also did well, but they had a good deal of bad luck through missed catches.

We hope we will have more matches like this one, for we think it is a good thing for us to have these friendly games. Next time it may be Samarai's turn to win. Cricket is a good sport, and we hope to play it as well as the white people do in Australia and in England.

The Farewell to Samarai Cricketers.

A farewell party was held on Wednesday, 8th November, at Metoreia. Many friends of the teams came over to see the moving and talking pictures, which were a new thing to some of them. The singing and dancing and the music was very nice. The dinner was held about 9.30 p.m. All the heart's troubles, or anything else that tired us, were all gone for that night. We all enjoyed the dinner, both the home team and the visiting team being all joyful smiles. After the dinner we had a short meeting to talk about future games. The party finished about 10 p.m.

Presents for Best Batsmen and Bowler.

Mavara Hekure, Hon. Secretary of Gabi Cricket Club, promised to put ten shillings away for the player who put up the top score for Port Moresby. Kohu Dogodo won this with his 163 runs. But Mavara got more joy in his heart, so he also gave five shillings to Rea Mea for making 146 runs.

The Captain of the Port Moresby Team gave six spoons to Hitolo Hekure because he got the first three Samarai wickets.

General.

His Excellency Sir Hubert Murray, K.C.M.G., honoured the game with

his presence on Tuesday afternoon, 7th November.

A great crowd of people from Poreporena and other villages also came to see the match.

Rea Mea, Captain, P.M.N.C.C.

Farewell Dinner to the Rev. W. J. V. and Mrs. Saville.

On the 16th November the Rev. W. J. V. Saville and Mrs. Saville were the guests of honour at a dinner which was given them by the Staff of the London Missionary Society and their friends. The dinner was in the Papua Hotel, Port Moresby. The Hon. Rev. R. L. Turner, M.A., presided. Those present, besides most of the members of the Mission Staff, were His Excellency Sir Hubert Murray, Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, Rev. Henry Matthews, Rector of St. John's Church of England, Port Moresby, the Hons. H. W. Champion and H. L. Murray, Messrs. C. Abel, W. M. Dupain, E. G. Baker, C. H. Brough and E. A. James. Apologies for their unavoidable absence were received from the Rev. M. and Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Moir-Smith and Mr. R. F. Whitten.

The speakers included His Excellency Sir Hubert Murray, the Rev. H. L. Short, and Mrs. Rich, all of whom said how sorry they were to know that Mr. and Mrs. Saville were shortly leaving Papua to go and live in England. They mentioned the many years of hard work that these two good people had spent in Papua, teaching and training the Papuans to be better people, and they wished Mr. and Mrs. Saville many years of rest and happiness in England.

The Rev. W. J. V. Saville thanked His Excellency and the other speakers for the kind things that they had said about Mrs. Saville and himself. It was very hard for them to leave the work that they had been doing in Papua for over thirty years, and also to part from the good people, both brown and white, who were their friends all this long time. To them all he said "Thank you" for the many kind things they had done for Mrs. Saville and himself, and both Mrs. Saville and himself wished them all every happiness in the future.

[The *Papuan Villager* takes this chance of thanking Mr. and Mrs. Saville for the friendly interest they have always taken in this little paper, and also to express appreciation of the assistance which Mr. Saville has given the Editor at all times.]

Government House News.

His Excellency Sir Hubert Murray, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, left Port Moresby, on the 20th of November, to visit the Gulf, Delta and Western Division. After calling at Kairuku, Kerema, Kikori and Daru, the *Laurabada* will proceed to Thursday Island, where His Excellency will go on to Sydney in the steamer *Tai-ping*, to spend three months' vacation leave.

The Hon. H. W. Champion, Government Secretary and Senior Official Member of the Legislative Council, will be Acting Lieutenant-Governor during Sir Hubert Murray's absence on holiday.

Air Travel in Papua.

November was a busy month at the Port Moresby Aerodrome.* On the 8th, two Guinea Airways Junkers passenger aeroplanes arrived from Wau, in charge of Pilots O. Denny and H. L. Ross. In addition to the mail for Australia, they brought 11 passengers. The two aeroplanes then left for Garina, on the Upper Waria River, with Mr. C. H. Lampo, 13 natives and 3,000 lb. of cargo. After landing Mr. Lampo and his party and stores at Garina, the machines returned to Wau the same afternoon. Next morning Pilot Denny flew back to Port Moresby with 7 passengers who, with 10 of the other passengers from Wau, caught the *Macdhui* for Sydney next day.

The *Montoro* arrived from Sydney, on the 10th November, with 30 passengers for Wau and Salamaua. Pilot Denny made four trips from Port Moresby to Wau with most of these people; and Pilot Ross also took some of them to Wau, besides 2 mining engineers whom he landed at Garina, from where they will accompany Mr. Lampo's party to the Tinai Valley Gold Dredging Company's property at Tinai, Papua.

*Aerodrome: A place where aeroplanes land. Ed.

DISTRICT NEWS

(From our own Correspondents)

DARU

(Correspondent—William Tabua)

Mr. Hall, Acting R.M., W.D., went to Lake Murray last month. He went in the *Vailala*, and Dr. Vernon, Major J. Loynes and Rev. D. E. Ure were with him. The *Vailala* was away about three weeks on the trip.

In the middle of October a Mabudauan man was so badly bitten by a shark that he died shortly afterwards. The shark bit him on both legs, and he lost so much blood from the wounds while he was being taken by his two mates to the hospital, that he died before he reached it.

KAIRUKU

(Correspondent—Leo Aitsi Parau)

Dancing and Feasts.

October and November have been full of dances and feasts, and the villagers have been inviting one another to come and partake of the foods they have had for their feasts. There have been feasts and dances in most of the Mekeo, Waima, Kivori, Roro, Nara, Hisiu and Kabadi villages, and there will be many more festivals later.

Gardens.

We have had a good year with plenty of rain, so all the gardens are very green and bearing plenty of food. The new gardens have been planted with yams, taitu and other plants, so we expect a good crop next dry season. Our Station garden has given us a good quantity of food for the prisoners. The Mekeo people are all busy clearing and burning off patches of land for next year's rice crop. We had 290 points of rain in October, and 338 points in November.

Patrols.

On the 2nd October, Mr. J. G. Hides, Patrol Officer, went to Kambisi to take charge of the Police Camp there.

Mr. W. H. H. Thompson, A.R.M., Kairuku, left on the 4th October, in the *Minnetonka*, to patrol the Hisiu and Kanosia districts; he was away for eleven days.

On the 23rd November, Mr. Hides came down from Kambisi with prisoners from the Gollala district. He returned to Kambisi four days later.

Mr. Thompson, A.R.M., went to Kubuna, on the 15th November, to see how the prisoners, who are working on the mountain road, were getting along with it.

General.

The *Laurabada* arrived from Port Moresby on the 20th November, and His Excellency Sir Hubert Murray held Central Court. That afternoon His Excellency went on with *Laurabada* to Kikori, Daru and Thursday Island. His Lordship Bishop de Boisment and Rev. Father Coltre went with *Laurabada* to Thursday Island.

PORT MORESBY

(Correspondent—Igo Erua)

Gardens.

We have had plenty of rain this month, and all our gardens are very nice and green. A few people have gone to Laloki River to do some clearing in their old gardens. They had no time to do this before, because they have been busy making large gardens on the lands near the old gardens. All the new gardens have been planted with yams, taitu, manihot, etc., so we hope the people will get plenty of food next year.

"Lakatoi" Away West.

Nine *lakatoi* have sailed away to the west, to bring back sago from the villages in the Gulf. Porepprena sent one, Kila Kila one, Porebada three, Boera two, Lealea one, and Kido one. Some of them went away when the wind was not good, so the people are anxious to know that they had a safe passage to the Gulf villages.

RIGO

(Correspondent—Lohia Toua)

Result of Hard Times in Rigo district.

Last February I mentioned the hard times the Rigo district people were having because of the dry weather, and how the Government had helped them with rice. During the drought, when food from the gardens was scarce, some of the people left their villages and went to other villages where the dry weather was not so bad. They made their homes with these people, and also made gardens on their land. Now that the rains have come and all the gardens are growing well again, these Rigo people have returned to their own villages. And the people with whom they stopped while the drought was on are now demanding payment for supplying them with food while they were with them, as well as claiming the gardens that they made on their land.

I wish to put this question to the readers of *The Papuan Villager*: "Are the people of these villages right in asking payment from their friends for the food they gave them during the dry time?" I think it is not right for them to do this, because in times of famine and hardship we should help one another; not seek payment for any kindness that we have given our friends.

Native Contributions

How Fire First Came to Papua.

Now one day I called a very old man (his name was Torea) and I asked him how fire first came to Papua.

Well he told me there was one coast village called Iasa, and no one lived there. And there was another place, an inland village called Barasaro, and in that village there were some people living. Well, the old man said that the people who lived in that village of Barasaro used to eat their food raw, and even when

they caught fish they dried it in the sun, and afterwards they ate it. They used to eat raw food and raw fish often times until they got tired and their mouths smelt. So one day a man called Iasaipa sent a bird and told him to fly and to find something for them so that they could eat their food better than eating it raw. The bird flew right across to Manawete.

How the Bird Found Out the Fire.

In that place (Manawete) there were no people; it was only a desert place. So the bird tried to find something better for the people; while he was searching for it he saw two big trees standing together (the Fly River people called those two big trees *Sinibi* or *Tako*). Well these two big trees were twisted together; so whenever the wind blew, the trees began to rub each other as if they file themselves, until the trees got hot. And the smoke suddenly came out of it, and the trees began to burn from top to bottom.

So the bird saw it and said "Ah this is the very sort of thing I am looking for!" So he picked it up and flew back. While he was flying the fire seemed to burn his beak, and he cried out because his beak was sore, so he called out and said "Ia, Ia!" That means he was calling Iasaipa, the man who sent him, and to let the people know he had brought something. Then he came to Barasaro, and Iasaipa took the fire from him, and they were all very glad.

This old man, Torea, said "That is why we got fire: only by those two big trees."

The bird that brought the fire is called *Kapia* in our language. He is a fine bird and grey coloured, with red beak, like the parrots; but the parrots' beaks are black, and he is bigger than a parrot.

I'll tell you why those birds (*Kapia*) have red beaks: it was by bringing the fire. Fire, you all know, looks red. That is why they have got red beaks.

That it is the end of my story.

[By Samson M., Samari, W.D., Teacher. This story wins 5s. prize.]

Round Fish ("Kuru") and Magpie ("Tikere").

This round fish (*kuru*) and this magpie (*tikere*) both of them built a raft as a double canoe. Both of them got into the raft and paddled away from the coast going up a river.

Round fish (*kuru*) was paddling, the magpie (*tikere*) was dancing away. The fish said to the bird, "Why don't you help me in paddling, the tide is very strong to go against?" The bird answered saying, "What are you? You big belly, you paddle yourself!"

While they were going again far in, the fish said to the bird again, "Why you skinny legs like to dance rather than to help me?" The bird said to the fish, "Why! you jealous of me? you cannot dance: you can only eat and make your belly as big as the world."

When they were quarrelling a fruit (it is called *area*) was floating out from the river. They both of them saw it and the fish said to the bird, "Jump for the fruit, quick. You are only dancing, you thin legs. Quick!" The magpie shouted saying, "*Kuru*, go for the fruit, you know how to swim better than I do." So *Kuru* jumped in the water and got the fruit and ate it himself. *Tikere* was asking him for some, but he would not give it to his friend (they must be bad friends to each other).

As he ate and finished it *Tikere* saw one more fruit coming, and said to *Kuru*, "There is one there; please get it and give me half."

But *Kuru* said "O! I had enough: go and get it for yourself if you want it."

So *Kuru* went up in the raft and after a few minutes *Tikere* jumped and got the fruit and came back. When he came to the raft *Kuru* said to him, "Give us some please, my dear friend, give me some."

"Oh ho!" *Tikere* said, "Remember when I asked you first dear friend you did not give me a taste?" Then he said, showing him the fruit in his hand: "Here, big belly!" At that very moment he ate it up.

As they were going on they saw the tree of the fruit. So they landed, tied the raft to the tree, and the two of them climbed up the tree getting the fruit with joy and dancing. They were letting the leaves fall also.

The owner of the tree was an old woman with her two granddaughters. They were working in the garden, and one of the leaves was blown by the wind to the garden. One of the little girls found it and showed it to the grandmother, "Oh!" she said, "It is the leaf of our fruit tree. Let's go home quick."

As they came home the grandmother saw the two fellows stealing the fruit, "Aha!" she said, "I got you fellows."

Tikere, the magpie, flew off the tree and got in the raft and got away saying, "I joke with the fish. Aha! good joke, good-bye dear friend *Kuru*, good-bye."

The woman came. As *Kuru* was trying to escape he fell in the mud. The woman called her two granddaughters, and found the fellow in the mud and got him out, and brought him to a pond to be washed. And *Kuru* hegged saying, "Please don't hold me tight, the liver in my belly may be full of mud. Bring me to the deep water." On that very second *Kuru* slipped from her hand and got into the water and was saved.

[By Sam Kolu of Hula, c/o, Burns Philp & Co., Ltd., Bulk Store, P.M.]

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