

WHAT'S NEW IN HANGAROA

Elections were held on the island at the end of October. Hangaroa's Mayor for the next four years is Pedro Edmunds Paoa who was re-elected by a landslide vote. The five town councilmen for the next four years are: 1st Concejal: Enrique Pakarati Ika; 2nd Concejal: Alberto Hotus Chavez; 3rd Concejal: Marcelo Pont Hill; 4th Concejal: Dr. Rodrigo Noran-bueno Marchant; and 5th Concejal: Claudio Cristino F.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso for 20 August reported that a young Rapanui islander was shot and killed by a Chilean guard who tried to prevent his escape from the Easter Island jail. The Intendente of the Fifth Region, Hardy Knittel, said that the Islander was being held in jail on misdemeanor charges including damages, injuries and forced robbery. The charges were being investigated by the Court of Letters of Easter Island. He was shot by 1st Corporal Amado Valenzuela when he and some others tried to escape. The shooting occurred at 3:15 a.m. while the Corporal was guarding an annex of the Easter Island prison. At that moment some prisoners tried to escape, among them the victim, Esteban Edison Tepano Pakarati, age 19. Intendente Knittel lamented the situation saying that "We are speaking of something that is strictly a police matter, but we certainly consider it very unfortunate. . . ."

FALSE ALARM OF TSUNAMI IN EASTER ISLAND, read headlines in *El Mercurio*, reporting on an earthquake with an epicenter located 670 km (406 miles) from the Island. At least four telluric earth movements of a magnitude close to 7.1 on the Richter scale occurred between 04:14 and 09:46 EDT in the ocean floor northwest of Easter Island. Because of the seismic movements, the island's satellite telephone system went out of service, raising alarm on the continent because no reports were available from the island. The Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Chilean Armada noted that the quakes were not large enough to generate a tsunami. When communications were reconnected, Governor Jacobo Hey reported to the Region's Intendente that "all was tranquil" on the island.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 6 September 1996

An expenditure of more than 5 billion pesos (US\$12.2 million) that permitted the rehabilitation of the Mataverí Airport runway pavement and the completion of the first asphalt road on the island was celebrated on August 28th by the Ministers of Defense, Edmundo Pérez Yoma, the Minister of Public Works, Ricardo Lagos and the Commander in Chief of the Air Force, General Fernando Rojas Vender. These projects cost US \$12.2 million.

The work was finished three months ahead of schedule. The resurfacing of the runway at the international airport of Mataverí was carried out in three stages so that there was available some 1500 meters for the Boeing 727s of Lan Chile and the C-30 cargo planes of the Air Force to land. At 3,353 meters long and 45 meters wide, Easter Island has the longest runway in Chile.

The largest part of the investment was spent on the road from Hanga Roa to Anakena, some 4.881 million pesos (US\$11.9 million). The work, executed by the Department of Roads, extends a total of 16 kilometers, passing through the central part of the island in the North-South direction.

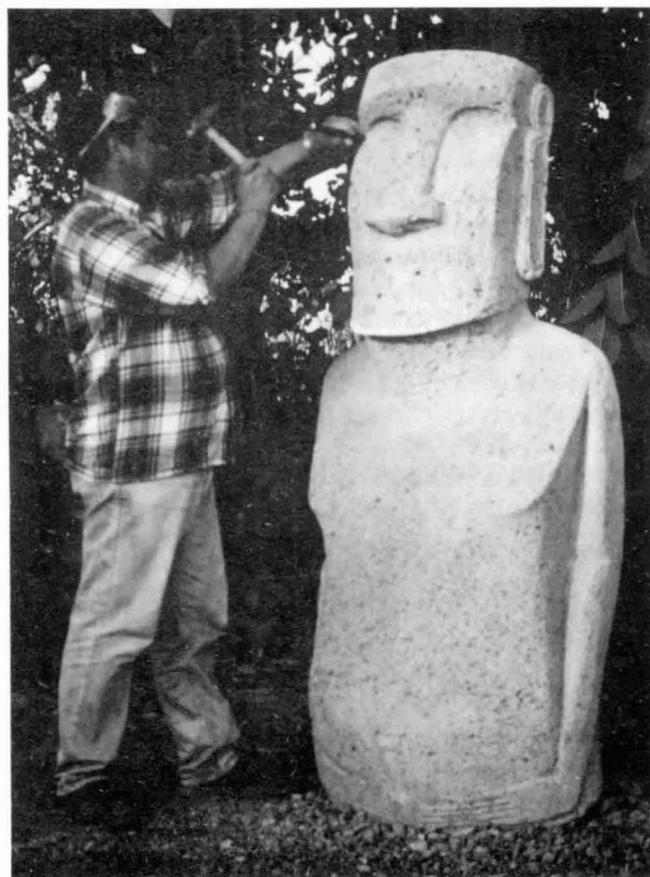
The Navy supply ship *Maipo* sailed on August 30 for Rapa Nui, carrying relief crews of Navy Infantry Guard for the military station on the island, as well as cargo. It arrived to the island in order to take part in the activities commemorating the 108th anniversary of Chile's taking of possession of Easter Island. For the anniversary, Commander in Chief of the First Naval Zone, Contra-admiral Hernán Couyoumdjian Bergamali, flew to the island in order to take part in the celebration.

The cargo included some vehicles and containers with general supplies for the island population. Also on board: a doctor and an orthodontist to provide medical and dental care for the population.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 27 August, 1996

Arte Cultural Rapanui

Sculptor Rafael Rapu Haoa, one of the more widely known sculptors from Easter Island, has recently completed a two-meter high basalt *moai* under a commission by a private party from Costa Rica. This *moai*, of a size often used for placement on an *ahu* in the past, is made from some of the best basalt material available on Easter Island rather than the



Rafael Rapu with his recently-made basalt *moai*.
Photo by Joan Wozniak.