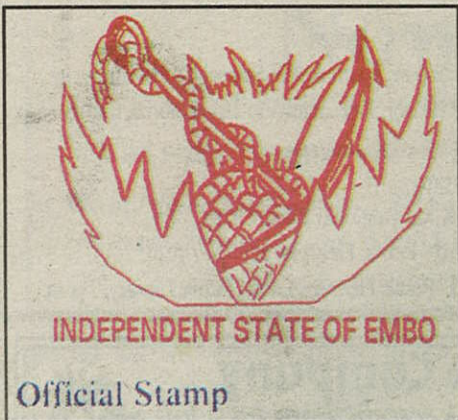


SOVEREIGNTY DECLARED

It is official - INDEPENDENCE has been declared and confirmed by the - Yes, the Queen



Yes, independence became a reality and the Queen herself sanctioned the long-awaited event. With officials and dignitaries from around the world on hand to mark the great occasion, the media on the spot to give worldwide coverage of the historic act, and local residents waiting to celebrate - the transfer of power too place. Truly, an earth shattering event and one which is still remembered by those who took part in one of sovereignty's greatest moments.

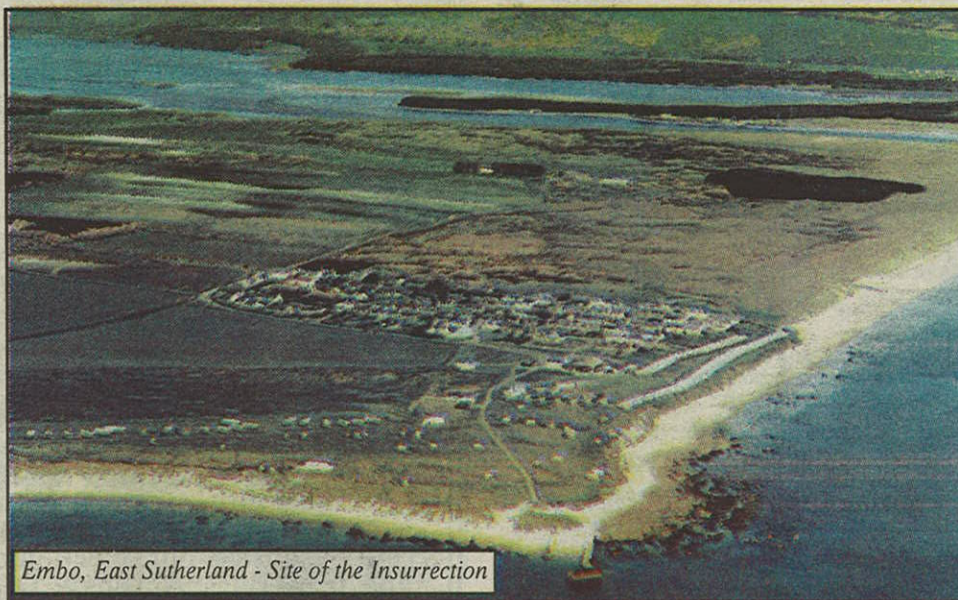
To get this in-depth and authoritative story, *The Dispatch* went to the sources - those who led the independence movement in the first place. Well, to be perfectly honest, they came to us - right here on Moloka'i. With open hearts and great aloha, a delegation of two traveled half-way across the world - just to tell their story - one with an island connection - READ ON!!!!

All right, so you want to know all about the sovereignty movement, so here it is. Oh, in case you wonder - we're not talking about Native Hawaiians, but they might like to note how it was done so successfully. (To let you in on their secret - weapons and the ingredients that pulled it all of - it was wit, humor & FUN!)

What we are describing was secession from the empire and the birth (for 1 day and 1 day only) of the Independent State of Embo. Embo, Scotland, that is.

Ok, so where is Embo any way? Answer - way up at the tippy-top of Scotland. So far off the beaten path that only tourists who love swimming in icy waters and frequenting its gorgeous golden sand beaches know of it. "Twitchers" and "Tweeters," also known as bird-watchers also love the area and come in droves to its forest reserve. As for Embo

Sovereignty Declared - The Full Story



Embo, East Sutherland - Site of the Insurrection

itself, in ancient times it was a fishing village. Today, its main attraction is the Clynelish Distillery located in Brora just up the road. As all Scots know, their 12-year old single malt whiskey is - "ono!"

Back to the sovereignty movement - listen up. As we heard it from Liz and Streuan Robertson when they came to "talk-story" with people in their twin-city (and *The Dispatch*), it all started in about 1986 when Liz and her sister, Christine Gill, were looking for a way to raise funds to restore the old

the fun and excitement. Looking back now, and from the shores of Moloka'i, Liz said, "It was so successful - it frightened us!"

THE DAY was July 16, 1988 and will live in infamy. To ensure that Embo's nationhood had all the trappings of the real things, instigators (also known as "activists") went to great lengths to be the real thing - a country. From "Independent State" currency, entry documents, their own flag, national anthem, and Parliament Buildings (the local pub and the Clynelish Distillery), to taxes - Embo had it. It should be noted that those alien visitors



Currency - "One Cuddie" = a Free Whiskey (Clynelish, of course) with donation to the fund-raiser

primary school that the town of approximately 300 wished to turn into a community center. Thinking big, they decided to seek permission from Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to become "independent for a day." Not only did it happen - but the entire world took note. TV crews flew in from France and journalists from the U. S and Australia got caught up in

who tried to smuggle in illegal materials (lemons, said to sour the visit, and polo mints, claimed to spoil the taste of the whiskey), - "Diplomatic Immunity" could be arranged - with a donation to the fund-raising cause. Gallows were provided for those not behaving - law enforcement provided by "Guard" in full regalia - hula skirt for the Hawaiian Chief and kilts for his Scottish compatriots. Not to be out-done, they even held their very own Olympic Games.

When asked if the Queen or a "Royal" came for the gala, the answer was no and "that was her loss." Maggie Thatcher was there - sort-of. It was Liz who took on the awesome responsibility for the day and who collected exit taxes from departing non-residents. She was helped along the way with a band of "other instigators" - including a Prime Minister ("he resembled a honcho from a Banana Republic"), and two foreign ambassadors from afar - Hawai'i to be exact. Never fear, The Minister of Health & Welfare (also known as Minister of Drink) was on hand as was Embo's famous "Ambassador to anywhere" - Liz's sister.

So why do we care, other than the fact

that this is our April Fool's edition and an attempt to try to laugh at ourselves and WITH others?

This is where things get interesting. Yes, it was our own Will (who also happens to be one of Embo's cribbage champs) and Hannah Johnston (both are part-time residents of Embo) aided in the secession movement. Armed with leis ("actually, we had to pinch flowers from neighbor's gardens," Hanna admitted), hula skirts (made from tall grasses found at nearby Dornoch Firth), and, in Embo tradition - plenty of whiskey (NO DRIVING AT ALL ALLOWED for anyone even trying the latter!!!!) - they set out on their dastardly deeds - aiding and abetting the revolution.

(Editors Note: As for the rumors that the Johnstones will soon be named as Ambassadors to France following the death of Pamela Harriman, Hanna's immediate response was, "no comment!")

But, it is what resulted in post-liberation times that really counts and where Moloka'i fits in. Why we care is that Embo is Kaunakakai's "Twin City." As of 1990 - the two were forever twinned. Quoting official sources, "The Hawaiian councilors who all voted "Aye" to the "Certification of Adoption Of Embo" were: Linda Crockett Lingle, Goro Hokama, Patrick S. Kawano, Howard S. Kihune (vice-chairman), Alice L. Lee, Richard Medina, Wayne K. Nishiki, Velma M. Santos, and Joe S. Tanaka. Approving the legality of the bond was Howard M. Fukushima, deputy corporation counsel for the County of Maui at Moloka'i, Hawai'i, United States of America. With lots of "WHERE AS's" the proclamation denotes such similarities as: "traditional ties with the ocean and its bounty," "tourism," "the desire of residents to preserve their cultural heritage and their individualities." It was thus that Maui Mayor Hannibal Tavares and the Honorable Chief Executive of the Sutherland District Council, Dornoch, Scotland, United Kingdom signed off. Oh, not to forget the WHERE AS that states that all involved, "have expressed the desire for mutual friendship, cooperation, and exchanges between the people of Molokai and Embo."

A tall order to be sure - especially given that Embo is in the process of planning another insurrection - a 10th Anniversary of their first successful uprising. Just maybe this time around, someone from The Friendly Isle can cover it - how about it Ambassadors?



Official Committee of the "Twins"

