

Hypotheses

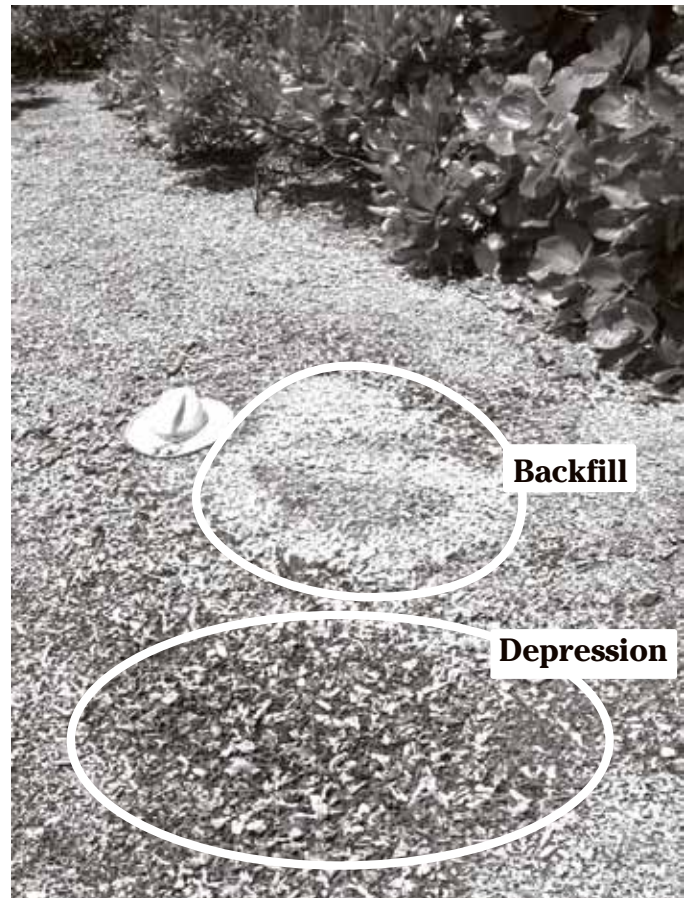
THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE Seven Site was where the bones and campsite of a castaway were discovered in 1940 and that a fairly exhaustive search, involving the clearing of a substantial amount of beachfront vegetation (supported by a temporary rainwater collection and storage system) was conducted in the fall of that year. The area just inland from the lagoon shore appears to have been the site of an experimental coconut planting operation, carried out probably in the spring or summer of 1941

The site was known to later administrators and attributed directly to Gallagher on maps delineating land holdings for coconut agriculture until at least 1954. Periodic maintenance of the plantings (“feeding” the saplings with “mange”) could account for the cleared vegetation reported by Laxton in 1949. By 1959 not only was the demarcation of land at the Seven Site dropped from the maps but other previously delineated lands at the extreme southeast end of the island were removed. One explanation might be that by that time the experimental plantings at the Seven Site had failed and the hope of developing those lands abandoned.

An Answer to the Mystery of the G Feature?

The deliberate pattern of small white pieces of coral we call “the G feature” (see “Mysteries of the Seven Site,” *TIGHAR Tracks* Nov. 2001) is on top of the backfill from what we now suspect was a coconut transplant hole. It would seem, therefore, that the G feature itself is not associated with the castaway and may be associated with the experimental 1941 coconut planting operation. Maybe it is, in fact, a G and maybe it stands for Gallagher or Government.

Next month we’ll review what has been learned to date about the objects we’ve recovered from the Seven Site, how they may fit in this multi-layered jigsaw puzzle, and which of the artifacts may provide clues to the identity of the castaway.



The “G” feature and a possible explanation.