

YAP



LAT. 9° 30' N LONG. 138° 8' E

Yap Island Loran Station located on Yap Island in the Caroline Islands is unique in that for many years the only form of money used by the people was large round stones. The stones looking much like wagon wheels come in all sizes and can be found lying all around the Island. Departing from our normal procedure of landing the cargo boats in the town and driving seven miles to the loran station the KUKUI (with the help of her bulldozer) was able to build a landing site only two and a half miles from the station and thus keep cargo moving much faster. Things were running smoothly when one of the trucks didn't quite get off of the M-boat and onto the beach and got stuck in the water. The load shifted and broke loose (55 gallon drums filled with aggregate). After pulling the truck up on the road it was necessary to clear the drums from the water as they were blocking the path of the cargo boats. With the help of some scuba tanks and a crane the drums were lifted from the water and a majority of the aggregate was saved. The whole salvage operation took about one day and shortly thereafter the KUKUI, 380 tons lighter, headed for Palau.